

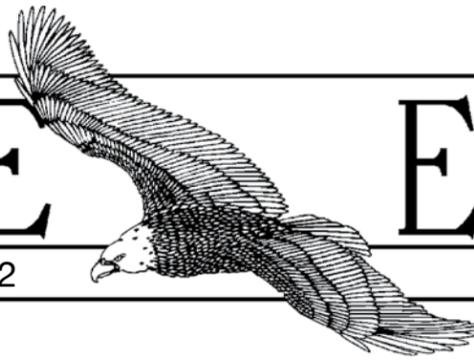
# The CRESTONE EAGLE

Crestone, Colorado Volume 28, Number 12

December, 2017 \$2

28 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley

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Cerro Paine Grande and Cuernos del Paine as stunning backdrop to Lago Pehoe in Chilean Patagonia. Reflection in small pool filled by waves. Photo by world renowned Crestone photographer Bill Ellzey who will be hosting the 18th annual Ellzey Studio Art Show on Dec. 9 & 10. See the feature story on the cover page of our special Holiday Section. To see this photo in color and more, visit our website at [www.crestoneeagle.com](http://www.crestoneeagle.com)

## Renewal Energy Systems completes construction of the Penitente Solar Project in Saguache County

Renewable Energy Systems (RES), a leader in the development, construction, and operation of solar, energy storage, wind, and transmission projects across the globe has announced that it has completed construction of the Penitente Solar Project, a 3MW installation in Saguache County providing power to the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (SLVREC).

RES developed, constructed, and will operate and maintain the distributed solar photovoltaic system in south central Colorado. AEP OnSite Partners owns the solar installation and provides the output to SLVREC through a long-term contract. SLVREC is the second-oldest electric cooperative in Colorado and is headquartered in Monte Vista, CO.

Penitente Solar is a ground-mounted project equipped with a single-axis tracking system and is in-service. SLVREC purchased the output from the facility to serve customers residing in its service territory, which includes Saguache, Rio Grande, Costilla, Alamosa, Conejos, Mineral and Hinsdale Counties. The expected operational

*continued on page 17*



The lighted Mercantile tree signals that the holidays are here. **See our Shop Locally & Holiday Events special section!** photo by Lori Nagel

## Eyesore no more! Unfinished Golden Ave. building in Crestone has been SOLD!

The large unfinished "Adli Building" on 253 Golden Ave. in Crestone has finally been sold. The new buyer is Heather Wyss. Hailing from Ohio, Wyss is a licensed medical massage therapist and her fiancé, Rocky, is an exterior contractor. They have decided to make Crestone their home and to complete construction on the building.

Their intentions for the building are to operate a Wellness Center in a "professional building" setting while providing rental/lease

space for complimentary wellness service providers.

They will also be housing a MAS (moving arts studio) provided by Lars Skogen of Crestone.

Says Heather Wyss "We are truly looking forward to embracing this project and bringing a distinct appeal to the community and the many visitors that frequent this lovely and most unique part of the world."

The Adli Building has sat unfinished for several years after Pari Adli died while the building

was under construction. It had become a fire hazard and the Crestone town government had been pressuring the owners who had inherited the building to remedy the situation. They are relieved to see plans for finishing the building moving forward.

Wyss wishes everyone "a Happy Holidays to you and yours." With their purchase of the building, they've already given the town a reason to be very happy.

The *Eagle* will have a more in-depth feature in a coming issue.

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## The Crestone Eagle

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

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Deadline for copy: 18th of the month.

Letters to the Editor must be 300 words or less.

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



## Unconscious

Dear Editor,

There are dozens of spiritual centers here in Crestone along with hundreds of Crestoners who came here seeking peace, quietude and natural beauty. It's about developing inner awareness and consciousness, while also enjoying nature and the wildlife.

In the Grants last October on an otherwise peaceful afternoon, a herd of elk was seen running in panic and gathering tightly together for safety. It was being pursued by a drone! Millions of years of evolution had not prepared the elk for a human toy being misused. Fear was unleashed by someone engaged in a mindless pastime. This is abuse of the wildlife we share this land with. Just how unconscious can someone be?

Vince Palermo

## Fan mail

Dear Editor,

I absolutely love receiving *Crestone Eagle* in the mail. As soon as it arrives I run for my recliner for a couple hours of grand reading!

I especially love the articles about local residents written by Lori Nagel. This past month's . . . about challenges. I am learning about the community because I hope to move there one day down the road.

Thanks for all your hard work and inspiration!

Valerie Gordon

## . . . & a response

Dear Valerie,

Thank you so much for your support of *The Crestone Eagle* and your appreciation of my column. I think I get more out of my column than anyone else. It's allowed me to connect with many in this community in such a unique way. I love that this column can be used as a tool for people to break down barriers and get to know things about their neighbors they otherwise may never have known. And I hadn't even thought about those out there like you, Valerie—those who hope to one day join us.

I'd also like to say a *huge* thank you to all my participants, past and future—it couldn't be what it's been without you. Literally!

With much gratitude,

Lori Nagel (Lori Sunflower)

## Library success in 2017

Dear Editor,

As the year winds down, I want to take the opportunity to thank you for your support of the Baca Grande Library in 2017. It has been a sincere pleasure serving you this past year, and we appreciate each of the nearly 17,000 (!) visits we've had since January.

This past year has seen many improvements to the the Baca

Grande Library, including the new ADA-compliant ramp, new flooring in the front room, new storage cabinets and circulation desk, new bench and tree outside, and motion sensor lighting and exhaust in the restroom. We've also hosted wonderful programs, such as the Geezers into Geeks technology assistance evenings and the Summer Reading Program for children. It's been a good year, and we owe huge thanks to the Board of County Commissioners for the grant assistance to make many of these projects happen, the Friends of the Library for their unwavering support and assistance, and, of course, to the volunteers who spent many hours working beside us to improve the library.

Our eyes are always on the future and the possibility of a new library in town, but in the meantime, we will continue to strive to serve you the best we can where we are. Your suggestions and feedback are always welcome. We wish you all a happy holiday season, and look forward to serving you in the new year!

Sarah Koehn Frey, Director  
Northern Saguache County  
Library District

## County Commish hours resume in Crestone

Dear Editor,

In the September issue of the *Eagle* Saguache Commissioner Anderson wrote a letter telling folks that the Saguache County Commissioners needed to find a new space for office hours in Crestone.

The Commissioners are happy to let you know that has happened and office hours will resume beginning in December. This practice was started about three years ago with the idea that one of the advantages of a county with such a small population is that access to your elected officials should be easy, that it is your elected officials' job to find you rather than the other way around. With that in mind please note that Commissioner office hours will be held in Crestone on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, 10am to 2pm at the Crestone Museum, 199 Alder Street, next to Town Hall. The Commissioners rotate on the second Monday between Crestone, Saguache, and Center so you will be able to speak with each of them. On the Fourth Monday, office hours are with the Commissioner from your district. Please note that office hours can be subject to change due to scheduling conflicts.

The Commissioners would also like to thank the Crestone Town Board, along with Jim McCaLpin and Mary Lowers of the Museum, for making this possible.

—Jason Anderson

## Thoughts on Tract I

Dear Editor,

Last night (11/13) I and some twenty others attended a Town Hall meeting sponsored by members of the planning committee for the Tract I Crestone Master Plan and the POA. This was the third of three scheduled meetings seeking input from the community and the first I'd been to. I think it accomplished what I imagined was the intent of the Town Hall meeting format,

championed by POA Board member Sugandha Brooks.

There was an opening presentation by Elaine Johnson (who grew up in Crestone) emphasizing the historic (inter)dependence of the town of Crestone with the area now comprising the Baca Grande and the importance of this relationship for future developments on many lines. Burt Wadman followed with a very well composed slide presentation extensively summarizing the Master Plan as it now stands. There was too much information to wholly ingest, but the overall plan was very well received by much of the audience.

Insofar as the project lies entirely within the boundary of Crestone, mostly in proximity to the Charter School, there would be no need for rearrangement of the governance of Crestone or the Baca. However, POA Board President Steve Dossenback reminded us that specifics of POA involvement in the execution of the Master Plan, in general, would require approval of the Association's members. Of course, the participation of the POA in the project is premised on the involvement of the Charter School, library, safe paths for kids to travel from the Baca to school and the possibility of many other cultural assets for the larger community which is the Baca Grande plus Crestone. Certainly the more entities signing on to the Master Plan the more attractive it will be to potential funders of the project. The fifty-year plan as presented could be a beautiful cultural addition to our community.

At least one member of the audience didn't see the Plan through the same rosy glasses. She mostly wanted such development as was decided on to be in the town proper. That made me wonder, What are the reasons we want change here? It seems obvious and highly desirable to me that our community not be an enclave of retirees in the Baca whose needs are provided by the Crestonites. That was, in fact, the historic arrangement, where the huge Baca Grande ranch was attended to by Crestone workers who were otherwise not allowed on the property.

Elaine Johnson in her introduction offered that there is little for youths to do here that is not unsavory and implied that the Master Plan could set about to provide healthy and stimulating foci for our young people. But I wonder just what that might be. What do larger communities or cities successfully offer as interesting and challenging options for their youth? What has been the input from citizens attending grade school? High School? I guess I want to say that I strongly want to include youth in our effort at civic betterment, but I'm doubtful that just building a beautiful campus will accomplish what seems to be anticipated.

Many people observe that there is a remarkable abundance of "amazing" individuals here. Most of these amazing people do not participate in many community affairs, like reading our wonderful *Eagle*, going to concerts, galleries, meetings of the POA, Town Council, or others. Will creating the proposed infrastructure (up to 75,000 sq. ft. at buildout) reverse this? Are we mainly stay-home introverts who've

## Editor's Notes

### Beginnings

December 1, 1989 marked the publication of the first *Crestone Eagle*. Over the past 29 years we've seen many big changes in Crestone. What was a very, very small town next to a large but thinly populated subdivision has grown and changed and evolved.

The *Eagle* has been a big part of the creation of our Crestone/Baca. Telling its stories, promoting its endeavors, protecting its environment. Making Crestone visible. People would drive into town, see hardly anything here, and wonder what the fuss about Crestone was. Then they'd pick up an *Eagle* and see what was hidden here. Tucked away were spiritual centers, healers and teachers, thinkers, artists and creative builders.

As we move into our 29th year, we still make Crestone visible—to ourselves, to visitors, and to decision-making governing agencies.

We print the news—local, county, state—as it affects us, as accurately as we can get it. We inform the public and promote our region's well-being. We are environmental activists. The *Eagle* is a platform for seeing who we are, what we are doing and why we should care.

A small town's newspaper is a precious thing. It often binds a community together and gives it a voice.

*The Crestone Eagle* is going through a change now. We are trying to finalize becoming a non-profit media entity. It's how the *Eagle* will survive. But it needs community help to make this happen. As we proceed we are going to need funding, and ideas, and new programs that expand the *Eagle's* role.

If you wish to be part of this new endeavor, please contact me, kizzen@crestoneeagle.com.

Wishing you all very happy holidays! Let's wish for snow!

—Kizzen

chosen this beautiful place and our few close friends over the outgoing, gregarious buzz of the big city? Maybe one good way to improve our capacity to enjoy and share this unique place is to ease the stress of making a living (more jobs) and that of lonely living (more common activities and social gatherings).

More Town Hall meetings, please.

Bill Sutherland

## Real Love

Real Love, more commonly known as unconditional love, is often recommended, seldom given or experienced, leading many to believe it is not even possible. The definition of Real Love is caring about the happiness of another person without wanting anything in return. With Real Love, people are not disappointed or angry when we make our foolish mistakes, when we don't do what they want, or even when we inconvenience them personally. Real Love is unconditional, it fills us up, makes us whole, and gives us the happiness we all want.

When I use the word happiness, I do not mean the brief and superficial pleasure that comes from money, sex, power, or the conditional approval we earn from others when we behave as they want. Nor do I mean the temporary feeling of satisfaction we experience in the absence of immediate conflict or disaster, nor is it the feeling we get from being entertained or making people do what we want. However this is what most of us fill ourselves up with to help mitigate the pain caused by the lack of Real Love. We could refer to these as forms of imitation love and the behaviors we use to get them, "getting behaviors", and to protect ourselves from more pain, "protecting behaviors".

In Crestone, a group of us meet weekly which helps us feel unconditional love and find ways to bring this into our lives on a permanent basis. We learn to identify our getting and protecting behaviors and see how self-sabotaging they are to our deeper quest of finding deep peace and happiness. We begin to see how many times a day we lie, manipulate, judge, attack others, react out of fear, try to control others, blame our anger on others, play the victim, run, respond with passive-aggressive behavior, and a

myriad of other fear-based behaviors. These have become so common we often call them "normal" but they are actually destroying our relationships, our families, and our societies.

This work for me has been the most profound thing in my life since I met Shri Babaji and I would be happy to share it with you. You can pick up a book at the Ashram on Real Love or go to the website [www.reallove.com](http://www.reallove.com), or give me a call at 719-480-5514 and we can discuss it further and I can tell you the day and location of our meeting. I offer this so that you too can experience a deep and lasting sense of peace and fulfillment that deeply satisfies and enlarges the soul and doesn't go away when circumstances are difficult but actually survives and even grows during hardship and struggle and when we share it with others.

—Ramloti

## Sen. Gardner votes for the rich

Dear Editor,

Colorado Senator Cory Gardner just voted for a budget that will cut Medicare by nearly \$500 billion, Medicaid by \$1 trillion, and affordable housing, medical research and education programs by \$800 billion while providing trillions in tax cuts to the wealthiest 1% of Americans and increasing the federal deficit by \$1.5 trillion over the next decade. How many families here in the San Luis Valley will benefit from that budget? Not many. I'd like to see Mr. Gardner start doing the job he was elected to do of protecting the lives and well being of all Colorado citizens, not just his wealthy donors. If you think the same, give his office a call at 202-224-5941 or 719-632-6706 and let him know. Colorado needs a Senator who works for all Coloradans and not just the wealthy minority.

Sincerely,

Jan Foster Miiller

## Amazing work

Dear Janet and Kizzen,

I am sure you are super busy with the December issue, so you will shake your heads to hear that I just read the digital November issue, almost cover to cover (I did scan now and then). Great newspaper. You certainly cover every possible aspect of Crestone, neighboring areas, and beyond. For me, having recently visited you and been chauffeured around, your news is somewhat anchored in my memories. It is hard to imagine all the details you have stuffed in your heads. Putting out a paper like *The Crestone Eagle* is amazing work.

Love,

Martha Scoppa

Liberty, New York

# Saguache County Sheriff speaks out

by Mary Lowers

I was able to get our busy sheriff, Dan Warwick, to do an end-of-the-year roundup of his concerns as the head of law enforcement in Saguache County. One of the biggest challenges to authorities everywhere in the state this year is the "pot gold rush." I asked the Sheriff if the story in the *Center Post Dispatch* quoting him as saying there are a hundred illegal marijuana grows in Crestone was accurate. He explained that in reference to these grow operations he is talking about the town of Crestone, the Baca Grande subdivision, and areas on the east side of the county not including the town of Moffat. In this large an area it is possible there are that many marijuana grows not in compliance with the law.

Sheriff Warrick warns growers to "get legal, that's what we are asking citizens that grow to do. If they do this they will only need to see Deputy Wayne Clark the Code Enforcer and law enforcement a few times." You can start the process of becoming a legal grow by talking with Wendy Maez at the County Land Use Office in the Saguache County Court House.

Despite the need for deputies to help deal with the marijuana grows, and the increase in other crime in the county, the Saguache County Commissioners reduced the number of deputies by one this past year. Sheriff Warwick told me, "As with any office in county government, we would like to have additional personnel. This would make for a quicker response time and more deputies patrolling the county."

The Sheriff's Office and jail complex in Saguache are too old, small and out of shape for current law enforcement needs in Saguache County. Our jail is one of the oldest in the state. According to the Sheriff at the time of this interview in early November, "Our jail has twenty-one beds and they are all filled. We have six prisoners housed in other jails. The cost to house a prisoner is \$270 per day, which is the lowest cost in the state. Some jails cost much more. There have been many occasions during the year where we have housed twenty-five inmates in our jail and still needed to house prisoners in other jails. If I house an inmate in another jail for an entire year it costs taxpayers over \$16,000, which is a waste of County funds." The fact that the County has no mental health or detox facility means that drug addicts and the mentally ill who break the law wind up taking space in the jail.

"A new Sheriff's office is needed because the current space has been outgrown for years. The current evidence room is grossly undersized," Sheriff Warwick says. "Calls for law enforcement are up without funds for this increase." We need to empower our hard working Sheriff's Department to meet our needs.

## Saguache County Crime Report

by Mary Lowers

The advent of cooler weather seems to have put somewhat of a damper on crime in Saguache County. Now, by this I mean the day-to-day violations of the law we are all guilty of, such as speeding, are down in number. Every day I see folks fly through Crestone, not stopping at a stop sign or signaling when turning a corner. These offenses are not only against the law but unsafe for pedestrians, other motorists, pets and wildlife.

On the night of November 6 the Saguache Post Office was broken into. A postal driver discovered a broken window and the rock used to break it early on the morning of December 7, Election Day. According to a report on Colorado Public Radio, while the PO was closed all day to complete the investigation, County Clerk Carla Gomez was able to collect the six remaining mail-in ballots from law enforcement at the scene. The Colorado election officials had been willing to extend the election past 7pm if necessary to make sure all Saguache County ballots were counted. The thieves tore apart some letters and packages in the PO and apparently stole a set of keys for the PO. A citizen told investigators he had observed two men in dark hoodies walking toward the PO on the evening of the robbery. Evidence including a hair sample, blood and a cigarette butt found at the scene has been sent to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation for analysis.

In other news a Fort Collins woman, 29, was jailed in Saguache on failure to appear and failure to comply with a warrant charges. Her bail was set at \$500. A thirty-year-old Thorton man went to jail on failure to appear charges with a \$350 bail set.

A Moffat man, 47, went to jail for habitually driving with a suspended license. He was jailed with a \$250 bail amount. A Monte Vista man, 43, with no charges listed on the booking form, was jailed with \$500 bail listed.

Everyone take care and have a safe holiday.

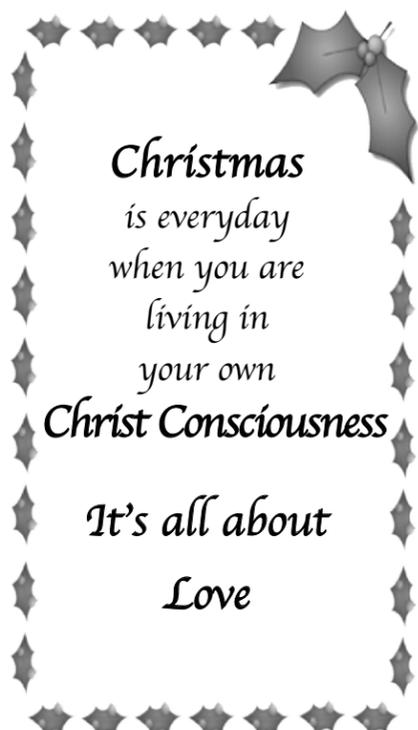
## Auto hit & run

by Mary Lowers

On Friday, November 17 at around 6pm on Silver Ave. in Crestone near the Brewery, Elephant Cloud and pizza shop, the car of an elderly man, which he leases to a single mother, was hit while parked. The rear end of the car has serious damage. Eye witnesses say

the car was hit by a Dodge 2500 long bed pickup truck with an aftermarket bumper. The Dodge is probably a 2003 or 2005 model. The truck was driven by a white male with blond dreadlocks. He fled the scene, peeling out and taking off.

If you have any information please let Kira Rose Riley at the Crestone Brewery know.



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# Spotlight on opioids: You can handle the truth

by Sandia Belgrade

Marijuana continues to be a hotly debated topic in our county commissioner meetings five years after becoming legal. The discussions regarding the feasibility of a moratorium are reminiscent of both alcohol prohibition and the Nancy Reagan “Just Say No” era. We can take some lessons from that history while being aware that we cannot get stuck in the past and ignore the most alarming present day danger: opioids.

In the 1930s the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (FBN), used a drug scare to bring money into the new agency. The campaign featured the propaganda film *Reefer Madness* with the message that cannabis use would lead to insanity or sexual promiscuity. Sounds laughable now but for some of that generation the message has stuck and they still see marijuana as a dangerous drug. Facts show that pot is not a gateway drug to cocaine or meth or opioids. In fact crime hasn't increased but remained fairly stable where marijuana is legal. In Denver violent crime and property crime have actually decreased since Colorado's recreational pot law took effect. Marijuana-related DUIs increased 3%. Unfortunately traffic fatalities involving THC, a component of marijuana, increased 44%—but the numbers were quite small in comparison to those that involved alcohol.

According to the *Denver Post* and a myriad of sources, moratoriums allow the black market in cannabis to flourish. Moreover, the size of the marijuana black market in some areas is exaggerated. According to a recent study on the nation's cannabis industry, Colorado had the smallest rate of black-market cannabis transactions by far compared to other states, at 27% of total spending. There will always be friends buying from and selling to each other, often relying on those who have access to medical marijuana. It's a mini black market or, as some call it, the gray market, not huge cartels. With a moratorium a county forfeits sales and tax revenues that could benefit it. Even if a moratorium were enacted, Amendment 64 allows for the local governments to regulate the marijuana industry. Colorado municipalities and

counties have the authority under Amendment 64 to prohibit or allow recreational marijuana within their jurisdictions.

### Grim facts

Residents come in to meetings and complain about marijuana grows, but there's no mention of opioids. Singling out marijuana turns a blind eye to the most deadly addiction our county faces: opioids. Opioids have reached such a crisis situation that President Trump declared the epidemic a public health emergency. Opioids are drugs that act on the nervous system to relieve pain. Continued use can lead to physical dependence and withdrawal symptoms. Many opioids are legal. They are prescribed so much that an epidemic of colossal proportions is swirling around the country and our state, especially in rural southern Colorado. Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of accidental death in this country, up 11% last year to more than 50,000. They kill more Americans than either car crashes or guns. This deadly epidemic saw nearly 91.8 million people—more than one in three U.S. adults—use prescription opioids in 2015, with more than 11 million of them misusing the drugs, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. 33,000 people died from opioid overdoses that year. Since 1999 more than 560,000 people in the United States have died of drug overdoses, a death toll larger than the population of Atlanta. Nearly two-thirds of drug overdoses were linked to opioids such as Percocet, OxyContin, Vicodin, hydrocodone and oxycodone, heroin and fentanyl.

The current opioid crisis demonstrates the total failure of the war on drugs. After trillions of dollars have been spent, drug deaths are at an all-time high. Prohibitionists have used the argument that marijuana is a gateway drug. As it turns out, it is legal painkillers that have become the gateway drugs.

### Spotlighting Colorado

The nation's drug epidemic kills someone in Colorado about once every 9 hours and the leading driver is prescription opioids. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released a county-by-county study showing that the opioid addiction epidemic has hit rural areas hardest. County Public Health Director

David Daboll presented a state map showing we are in Region 8, which leads other parts of the state with nearly double the state average. Each of the six counties in the valley has a high overdose death rate from opioids according to data from the CDC. Colorado itself has the second-highest rate of prescription abuse in the country.

The reason for this epidemic is the overprescribing of prescription painkillers. The pharmaceutical industry has not been regulated properly and it profits from the crisis because of the lack of sufficient oversight. In the last 15 years, the amount of pills being prescribed on an annual basis has been multiplied by four, and the number of people dying of an overdose of opioids has been multiplied by six.

### User profile is changing

Once marijuana was thought to be used by the seedy shadow side of the population. That's also been the view of opioid users. Yet many are seniors who have been prescribed opioids for arthritis. The profile of prescription painkiller abusers includes a broad spectrum of society: seniors, farmers, business leaders, people representing all strata of social institutions regardless of marriage, religion, employment and often members of the upper middle class. 100 million Americans suffer from chronic pain and are dependent on opioid painkillers such as Vicodin, or are addicted to street opiates including heroin. Addicts are using a deadly combination of opioids, mixing drugs like heroin, cocaine, Percocet, OxyContin, fentanyl and carfentanyl, which is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and is used as an anesthetic for elephants.

### A supreme irony

Opioids are legal drugs being foisted on America for pain relief while CBD or Cannabidiol, derived from cannabis, decreases pain without addictive side effects. Multiple studies have shown that in pro-medical marijuana states there have been fewer opiate deaths reported. There are no deaths related to a

marijuana overdose on record. Drug makers are taking their first steps toward developing marijuana-based painkillers as alternatives to opioids. Cannabidiol is one of at least 113 active cannabinoids identified in marijuana. It is a major phyto-cannabinoid, accounting for up to 40% of the plant's extract. Cannabidiol doesn't get one high, but it affects the receptors in the brain. Thus medical marijuana might have a larger role in curbing drug abuse than previously thought.

Its potential uses are actually threefold: to treat chronic pain, to treat acute pain, and to alleviate the cravings from opioid withdrawal. People are already replacing opioids with marijuana for chronic pain. A handful of observational studies have also found correlations between states legalizing medical marijuana and a drop in painkiller prescriptions, opioid use, and deaths from opioid overdose. In 2016 Daniel Clauw, a Professor of Anesthesiology, Medicine and Psychiatry at the University of Michigan and his colleagues published a survey of patients with chronic pain who started patronizing a medical marijuana dispensary. They cut their previous opioid use by two-thirds. But marijuana-derived drugs could take longer than usual to hit the market as the federal government considers marijuana a “Schedule 1” substance.

### What can be done

U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton announced that Colorado will receive a \$7.8 million federal grant for opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery services. Colorado has initiated a \$5.7 million Good to Know marijuana awareness campaign to teach about using marijuana safely and responsibly.

When the Director Of Public Health showed a map delineating the extent of the opioid crisis in his report to the Saguache Board of County Commissioners, his remarks received little more than heads bobbing. But active leadership on their part would drive others to do more. Some Colorado county commissioners are suing drug companies. Boulder Commissioners have set up an advisory group. Still others are facilitating joint discussions with public health and social departments. Arapahoe County Commissioners hosted a town hall meeting on the opioid epidemic. Other Colorado commissioners are implementing round tables with agencies and citizens to talk about strategies to combat the crisis. As one Colorado County Commissioner said, taking a leadership position will make a difference.

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**A TIME TO GROW, MON. 1-1:30 PM**  
Guidestone staff will explore agriculture in the region, bridging the past to a future of local food production and a healthy and resilient community.

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**FAST FORWARD REWIND, SAT. 7-10 PM**  
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# Saguache County News

by Sandia Belgrade  
County rescinds access fees

The Commissioners have responded to complaints about the road access fees being excessive. During several public comment periods, Kyle Grote of Chokurei Ranch registered his opposition to the \$5,000 access fees for all businesses, which he felt were inequitable. Driving to Sargent he noted the difference between the many trucks going in and out there compared to the relatively little traffic on his ranch: 2 cars going in and out a day, the same as when he grew vegetables. Questions arose as to whether it is a footprint fee for impact on the roads or whether the fees were based on square footage and building structures. Cultivators were not paying it. Jason Anderson said when some businesses pay at one rate and others pay more, it raises questions. The Commissioners seemed divided on the issue. Commissioner Tim Lovato said they're not trying to gouge growers. The Commissioners (BOCC) voted to discontinue collection and refund all fees. There will be a flat fee of \$100 until the issue can be reconsidered and updated. Reimbursement of access fees will go back to 2016.

## Sheriff's report

Sheriff Dan Warwick said that the patrol car Deputy Wayne Clark was driving is no longer usable after an accident. He was informed that another vehicle is coming for the Department. One piece of good news is that the Department has hired one new person and they expect that another in the academy will come on board.

## Clarifying Clark's status

Currently Wayne Clark is part time a code enforcement officer and part time a deputy in the Sheriff's office. Come spring they may need him instated as a full-time enforcement officer out in the field. Warwick countered, saying Clark can arrest people since he's on the Sheriff's staff—don't coerce him to be with the County. Commissioner Tim Lovato stated we're not trying to take him from the Sheriff's Department. Clearly they need a cohesive policy and will modify the Land Use Code to indicate code enforcement duties.

## Putting more teeth into code enforcement

Clark is good with people and they listen to him, but he ran himself ragged last summer. The Coun-

ty will be doing more. The District Attorney will now prosecute. Clark brought in a packet stipulating violations to the marijuana regs. This will allow for immediate enforcement and provide better information since lots of folks don't understand their constitutional rights nor how they can be in compliance.

## Budget hearing Dec. 4

Lyn Lambert County Co-Administrator has posted a notice of the hearing for the proposed budget which has been submitted to the Saguache BOCC for the year 2018; a copy of the proposed budget has been filed in the office of the Saguache County Clerk and Recorder, where it is available for public inspection. The Commissioners will hold a public budget meeting to be held in the Commissioners' Room at the Saguache County Courthouse on December 4, 2017 at 10am. Any elector of Saguache County may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget. Final budget adoption will be considered at the regular meeting of the BOCC to be held in the Commissioners' Room at the Saguache County Courthouse on December 5, 2017 at 2pm.

One resident said that the Sheriff's Department should get more funding. The Commissioners noted residents voted down an increase and a new jail. They do not get mileage yet attend many meetings. Commissioner Jason Anderson said it's easy to define problems but suggestions for a solution based on facts is harder. It appears that only a 3% cost of living will happen. Some departments like Road and Bridge would be able to give pay and merit increases, but in order not to anger other departments they too will give just a 3% increase. Jason said the budget pie is only so big. Legislatively, all elected officials get a raise together—if you raise one you have to raise them all. There is tension between having a reserve and expending that reserve, and the failure to do so results in employees being paid less than elsewhere.

## County Treasurer tax lien sale

Connie Trujillo, County Treasurer, gave a very positive update on the tax lien sale. The online auction sold 100% and brought over \$8,000 into the County coffers. Though she initially was criticized by a local for going "high tech," Trujillo was quick to see the trend could be more efficient and profitable and made the most of it. There were bidders from all over, including Canada. 70% of the bids were for land in the Baca. Kudos to Trujillo for fulfilling the Department's mission to provide revenue for the County.

## County Clerk & Recorder retiring

Carla Gomez announced her retirement effective January 2 of next year. She said she appreciated serving the County, and the Commissioners thanked her for her service. Her replacement will be Trish Gilbert whose work ethic Carla praised. However, Gilbert has accumulated a lot of overtime—217 hours. The County policy states 60 hours is the maximum and should have been reckoned with at that

point. The BOCC will have to figure that out. Gomez stated the November election went very well, in part due to the new equipment. In fact, Saguache was the 9th county to certify their election. The State congratulated them on their audit. Unfortunately only 30% of the voters in Saguache County voted. There was a burglary at the Saguache Post Office that week but Gomez was able to collect the remaining six mail-in ballots from law enforcement before the deadline.

## Public Health report

Director David Daboll brought in a map indicating the opioid overdose death rates across the state. Saguache County is in region 8, which has nearly double the state average of deaths. Saguache is offering a needle take-back program.

## Road and Bridge violations

Douglas Ikenberry, engineer with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, cited Saguache County Landfill for six violations per the Compliance Advisory as of last June. No further action is pending and Road and Bridge is still in compliance.

## Commissioners' new office in Crestone

This is a large county and it's not easy for the average resident to be able to have time one on one with a commissioner if they have a problem they want addressed or to discuss an issue. The Town of Crestone has made the town museum available as a space where residents can meet with their county officials. New office hours at the museum will be the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The museum is located on the corner of Alder and Galena in the Town Hall building.

## Rio Grande National Forest Draft Plan

Many of us in the west are concerned about access to our public lands and how they are being used. Mike Blakeman, Public Affairs Officer for the Forest Service appeared before the Commissioners to explain the process of revising their 1996 Rio Grande National Forest Draft Plan. The forest plan is the overarching document that guides all management decisions and activities on the entire Rio Grande National Forest, including wildfire management, grazing, timber production, recreation, and firewood cutting. They are seeking public feedback on proposed plan. There are four alternatives:

A: no action; the plan stays the same though it may not reflect the reality of the last 20 years.

B. Creates 2 new management areas and 59,000 additional acres for wilderness.

C. Increases acreage for multiple use including areas suitable for timber harvest and more developed recreation opportunities.

D. Emphasizes less active management while providing more opportunities for primitive non-motorized recreation; more solitary experience, increased special interest areas; adds one research natural area, and recommends 285,000 acres for designated wilderness.

You can review the plan at fs.usda.gov and email your comments. This land is your land . . . make it so.

Randy Collister, who lives on County Rd. 55 in Saguache, appeared with others to comment on

the deplorable road conditions. The road is littered with rocks that are sharp black slate and has ripped his tires and those of his family and neighbors numerous times. He said he is carrying two sets of spares to make the trip home. The washboard condition was so bad it blew his suspension. Ernest Ramos, a neighbor on the same road, concurred. He has appeared twice to report that traffic is heavy with harvesting trucks. Supervisor Randy Arredondo hasn't seen what Collister is seeing but clearly something is going on. Tim Lovato said the County will take care of it, but Arredondo pointed out, again, that Road and Bridge is down 4 people.

## Land Use

Diamond Way Buddhist Retreat Center appeared for its yearly review. They have been diligent and addressed a neighbor's concerns about the road. The Center has installed cisterns, put in a water meter, a septic system, a utility line, a 50-gallon propane tank, electric and drain lines. A disgruntled neighbor voiced concerns about the access road. A flood—a hundred-year event—washed out roads up there. Road and Bridge and Kenny Skoglund fixed the damage which Mother Nature created, not the Center. The BOCC did a site visit, and their review was approved.

Paul O'Connor, representing Oakhorn, LLC, appeared for a Conditional Use request for cultivation on the south side of Road T. He proposed a metal building growing plus 6 greenhouses. Both the Planning Commission and the BOCC approved his application.

Delmar Dean and Gwen Ellen Groen requested a Conditional Use request for turning the Boy's Ranch into a Bed and Breakfast. It was approved.

## Personnel changes

David Daboll, Public Health Director, reported that Iris Garcia, the Prevention Coordinator, has resigned and they are interviewing new candidates. Garcia, who is now the Saguache Town Clerk says there is a good group there and feels the Town is moving in a positive direction. The Tourism Council recommended Yon Iaccio as a new member appointment. He is from Sargent and was approved. The Council welcomed him and representation from the western part of the county.





Sun rising over Kit Carson Peak.

photo by Kate Steichen

## POA Camper Village rates to rise sharply; POA member survey to be mailed out

by John Rowe

The POA Board held its monthly meeting on Thursday, November 16 at 6pm. All five Board members were in attendance as well as fourteen audience members. An hour long executive meeting preceded the public portion which lasted from 7pm until almost 9pm.

This was a quiet and non-contentious meeting where a long slate of small issues were moved through efficiently without incident. In the executive session, the Board discussed six cases of Land Use violations that rose to the level of seeking injunctive relief (a solution through the legal system when all normal POA methods have failed to bring a landowner into compliance). It was decided to send one to the attorney and try to resolve the others within the POA again. Insurance was approved that went up to \$80,000/yr, up from \$65,000 last year.

Member Forum revealed that a new version of the community outreach person that was tried briefly last year is being formulated right now. The new position will be called Director of Communication, and the job description is being talked about presently. Stay tuned for more soon.

The POA Board has no official comment on a circulating petition purportedly having over 300 signatures to disband the POA. They are in process of putting out information on why they think having the POA is essential to the viability of the community and will continue this for some time. They are beginning with an article by Board member Sugandha Brooks in this month's *Eagle* detailing their position. Other information is to follow. The Board also has no public comment at this time on a cease-and-desist order that was filed here locally in October. It alleges that the POA is violating fair housing statutes with all the new land use regulations by making it too difficult for low-income people to build here. Explaining the POA's position on these issues and others will likely become the province of the new Communications Director sometime soon.

Camper Village rates are thought to have become too low and almost all the spaces are being taken up by Baca non-residents as

we have become about the cheapest place in the valley to park your trailer or RV. Monthly rates are rising from \$320/month to \$450/month immediately. Baca residents will still enjoy a substantial discount and will be asked to pay \$300/month, as the POA still wants to encourage staying at Camper Village throughout a member's building process.

\$1300 was approved to sent out postcard mailers to the entire membership to find out what they would want in a new website. An effort will be made to get as many email addresses as possible so sometime in the future mass emails to all members can take place for virtually no money.

Crestone Performance Inc. had a \$1250 debt from last year's festival forgiven as CPI has fallen upon hard times and is being restructured.

A minor but interesting issue came up concerning the renewal of the Kit Carson Rod and Gun Club lease. Many locals may not even be aware that there is a shooting range on the northern edge of the Baca and has been for some time. They have had a 25-year lease consisting of 35 acres and are seeking another one. The National Rifle Association (NRA) provides the insurance cheaply for the range and requires that all voting members of the club be NRA members. This was somewhat controversial with a couple of Board members until they were told that to go elsewhere for the insurance would be cost-prohibitive. The Board will review the lease and make a decision in the near future.

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### POA NEWS

How & why the POA functions

by Ayla Hoervers,  
POA Executive Director

The Baca Grande Property Owners' Association is a viable, growing/evolving, legal, non-profit corporation whose overriding objective is to protect property values, which is not limited solely to monetary value. Specifically, from Article 1A from our by-laws: "to protect property values for the benefit of all Owners within the Community, to enhance health, well being and safety in the Community, to preserve the natural environment, and to encourage the protection of environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, wildlife corridors and stream beds."

For the POA not to exist is basically impossible. Not only is there nowhere to go but who would manage our administrative needs, maintain our roads and offer the services of fire protection and emergency services?

Considering the following points, one can see why the BGPOA is legal, viable, strong.

CCIOA is the Colorado Common Interest Ownership Act, a state revised statute which governs the formation, management and operation of HOA/POAs formed after 1992. (BGPOA was formed before 1992 but CCIOA still applies to much of our governing). If you want a two-page non-partisan summary of this law, visit our website ([www.bacapoa.org](http://www.bacapoa.org)), click on Document Center, and then Policies/Guidelines/ Rules and Regulations/Forms. The document is titled "State Law Regarding Homeowners' Associations". The web address is: [https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/state\\_law\\_governing\\_homeowners\\_associations\\_-\\_issue\\_brief\\_8162017.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/state_law_governing_homeowners_associations_-_issue_brief_8162017.pdf)

The POA has a well-qualified HOA/POA lawyer and a POA consultant who, between the two of them, have over 45 years of experience in HOA/POAs. They offer valuable insight and support to us: our Members, our Staff and Board.

Our Executive Director is required by law (Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies) to have, and has, a Community Association Manager License (CAM) Not

only is she licensed but our Land Use Administrator and Accounting Administrator both have the CAM licenses and the Certified Manager of Community Association (CMCA) designation.

In order to change our Covenants a quorum of 50% +1 of members in good standing is needed to vote on such changes. The POA has over 3,000 members. The exact figure from year to year changes due to lot consolidations and Members who do not pay their assessments and are therefore not Members in Good Standing and are not eligible to vote.

However, the Board can and does introduce and make policies and resolutions per the Association's by-laws. Many of our Covenants are devoted to Land Use (for instance, establishment of the Environmental and Architectural Committee, minimum square footage, time to "substantially complete" a home) but the Board has the right (and duty) to make policies and resolutions to ensure these requirements are met. The intention is to mitigate possible violations before they begin for both the benefit of the builder and the POA. The Board (both past and present) has also made other policies and resolutions ranging from "Director Conflict of Interest" to "Policy Regarding the Adoption and Amendment of Policy and Rules." All of these policies and resolutions are on the POA website.

Your Board of Directors is made up of volunteers who were voted in and live here. They too want this to be the best possible place to live. And let's not forget all the Members in Good Standing who are abiding by the rules and are doing their part to contribute beneficially to this community.

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by **Allyson Ransom,**  
**Crestone Town Clerk**

The November 13 Board of Trustees meeting began at 9:31am and adjourned at 4:04pm. The Trustees approved the following motions by unanimous vote:

- To no longer accept any pass through grants or administer grants for other organizations due to limited staff resources and extra costs associated with staff and auditor hours.

- To return the Crestone Creative District's funds by January 1, 2018 that had been held in the Town's General Fund account and were previously administrated through the Town.

- To have Water System Manager Ann Bunting represent the Town by attending the Rio Grande Water Sub District meetings and communicating information from the Board and the water attorneys about working with them and trading water credits as part of the State-mandated water augmentation process.

- To approve Nathan Good's request to host a bonfire and fire-spinning event and close part of E. Silver Ave. near the park plaza for three hours during WinterFest under the condition that Nathan would be responsible for the fire, remain present during the entire event, and wear a distinguishable fire jacket or uniform.

- To approve Lindsey Dueber's project for a Storywalk through town and that the location placement of posts and story boards would be presented to the Board for approval before any final installations take place.

- To accept Judge Powell's resignation as the Town's Municipal Judge, effective immediately.

- To appoint Attorney Chris Friesell as the Municipal Judge on a part-time and as-needed basis at a rate of \$150 per court appearance.

- To direct Attorney Farish to compose and present a resolution at the December Board meeting to place a referred measure on the 2018 municipal election ballot for the purpose of increasing the mu-

nicipal sales tax by 1.2%.

- To direct the Clerk to post job openings for part-time code enforcement positions.

The Board also voted to direct Attorney Farish to compose a lease agreement for fifty years for Cottonwood, LLC regarding land bordering their gas pump removal project area at the corner of E. Silver Ave. and S. Cottonwood St., and Trustee Byer recused himself from voting due to a conflict of interest.

**Reports & discussions**

Treasurer Busby presented detailed information during her financial report on the budget and stressed that the Town was still overspending every month, even with the staff economizing. The Town had overspent \$21,781.50 to date in 2017. Overspending examples included the beautification grant which went over budget by \$4,573.00.

The Board discussed the need to increase revenues, and strategies for doing so were debated, such as: increasing the mill levy versus increasing the municipal sales tax.

The Board decided to try to increase the sales tax rate instead of the mill levy by placing a question on the April 2018 ballot and asking voters to approve an increase in the municipal sales tax by 1.2%, thus changing it from the current rate of 3.0% to 4.2%. If this should pass, a much-needed increase in revenue for the Town would result without placing undue hardship solely on property owners as in the case of a mill levy increase. Tourists and visitors would help the town via a sales tax increase.

**Clerk Ransom reported the following:**

The unfinished building on W. Golden Ave. has a new prospective owner who plans on wrapping the building with a low combustible wrap to protect it from further weathering and to reduce the fire hazard until the spring when the exterior will be completed and the parking will be located across the alley in two nearby lots.

As per the Board's request, business licenses were sent to B&Bs and businesses who have never paid



Vendors and shoppers alike enjoyed this year's Holiday Bazaar, held on Nov. 24 & 25 in downtown Crestone at the Sangre de Cristo Inn. Happy people are Enid, Jandi, Michael and Sweet Thunder. photo by Lori Nagel

their annual license; the staff had only received 2 payments back.

Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District finished cleaning out the sewer lines in town as per a maintenance agreement, and the town will receive a full assessment report in the next month.

Road base and minor improvements were being made to Lime Ave.

Attorney Chris Friesell introduced himself during the Attorney's Report and gave information on his legal experience, and the Trustees asked several questions including his views on enforcing the law and restorative justice.

Attorney Farish asked questions of Trustee Byer, who is one of the members of the 200 Cottonwood, LLC, regarding a lease agreement for removal of the old gas tanks and advised the Trustees to reserve a utility easement on the Town right-of-way in case it should be needed in the future.

The gas station will be closed from mid-December to mid-January for construction, and the owners will be posting notices to remind residents while asking their patrons for patience during the process of improving the town's much needed and only gas station.

Business owner Lonny Roth was on the agenda and voiced his concerns over his property being discussed at the July 2017 regular Board meeting and not having been informed. He stressed the importance of transparency in all levels of government and wanted the Board to ask the attorney's advice on this matter. The Trustees thanked him for his input and verified that his property was only mentioned in a brief side conversation in passing and in a positive way. Later in the meeting, Attorney Farish stated that it was permissible to mention someone's name or speak about their property during conversations at meetings, and it would only be considered an issue if some action was being taken about a person or their property without having been notified.

Some months back and at the request of the Trustees, Attorney Farish sent an intergovernmental agreement to the Saguache County Sheriff's Department for their review but Farish stated he had never received comments back. The Trustees expect to continue working on having a stronger code enforcement presence, specifically by hiring more part-time employees for the duties.

**Other news**  
Saguache County Commis-

sioner Jason Anderson requested the use of the museum space one or two Mondays each month to visit with constituents when the museum was closed. The Board approved by consensus, and the Commissioners will be responsible for posting and taking down any announcement signs.

During the Citizens' Comments period, local residents Fred Bauder, Brandon Bussard, Chris Botz and Michelle Beelendorf commented to the Board on a variety of topics ranging from code enforcement and dog parks to sustainable community templates and municipal judges.

**Correspondence**

Judie Rose sent information to the Board regarding a skate park grant she has been working on and a request for a suitable location such as the Tract 1 or the Charter School property off of Lime Ave.

**Miscellaneous information**

Monthly brush clean-up takes place during the first Monday of each month. Please leave your weeds and brush piles in one pile next to the road for pick up. If residents need to dispose of any trash, old appliances, batteries, lumber scraps or recyclables please contact the Saguache County landfill and recycling center at 719-221-1956.

There is the ongoing nuisance of someone dumping household trash bags in our town parks; please help keep our town clean and report any dumping to Town Hall.

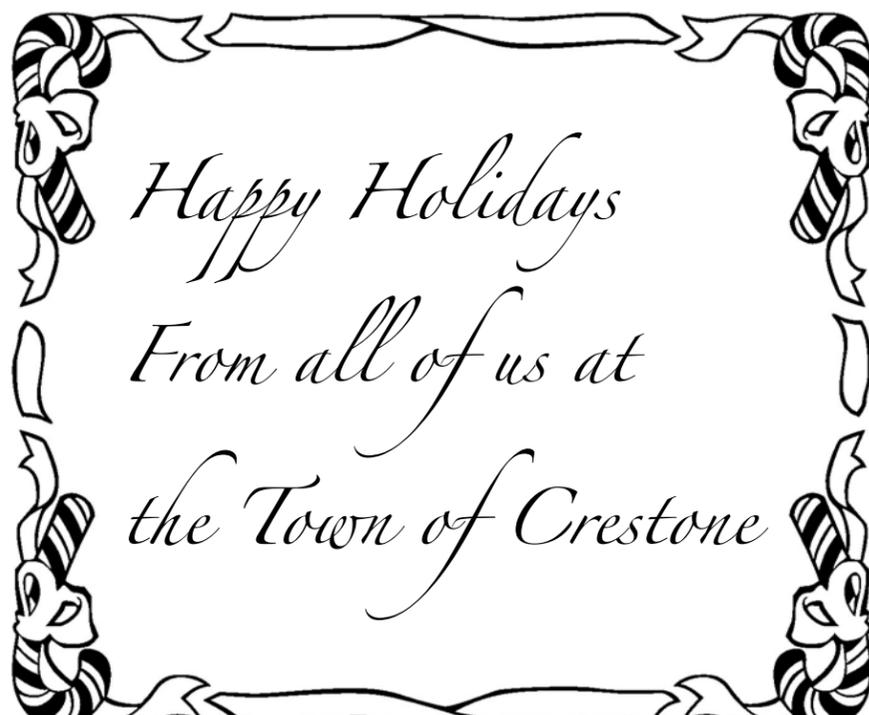
Town Hall office hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm. The office will be closed on December 25 and 26 for the holiday.

Regular Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 9:30am in the Town Hall meeting room at 108 W. Galena Ave. Contact the town clerk at least a week in advance to be placed on the agenda and/or to submit any documentation. Presentations must be kept under ten minutes.

The Planning Commission meetings are held in the Town Hall Meeting Room the first Monday of each month at 6pm.

To view agendas, check the locked bulletin boards at Town Hall and the US Post Office or view the Town of Crestone's website at townofcrestone.org. or *The Crestone Eagle's* online calendar.

If you would like to receive agendas and approved minutes, please join our listserv by contacting Melinda at Town Hall with your name and email address.



## Are you ready for an emergency? What happens if the power goes out? The Resource Task Force wants to know and help

by Kathi McCallum

The Crestone Resource Inventory Task Force is inviting the Crestone/Baca community to join us in a project to gather information that will help all of its people to thrive into the future regardless of any emergency. This could mean anything from a blizzard to the electric grid going down to a financial disruption. Having food, water and supplies to weather short and long-term emergencies is key.

To that end, we are intending to survey as many people as possible and ask them to assess their preparedness, resources, and supplies, and skills that could be shared with others in the community if an emergency occurred. This is to be more than collecting data for storage in some computer! It is also intended to be an eye-opening exercise in understanding where each person/household stands in the event of a disruption in any of life's day-to-day normal flow.

We will distribute the survey and encourage everyone in the Crestone/Baca community to fill it out either online or by submitting a paper copy. We understand that some people will be unwilling to share personal information. We have no intention to pry and will not be sharing any personal data with anyone outside the CRI Task Force. Only raw data will be compiled to get an overview of the community. You can completely fill out the survey, partially or not at all.

We hope to help create small neighborhood groups that can get to know each other, help each other with building self-resiliency and sustainability and be in touch in the event of a communication lapse. Ideally, these small neighborhoods would have one or two coordinators to organize regular gatherings and create a mini-community for support and connection. We also hope to coordinate and join with existing groups to combine projects, eliminate duplicate effort and strengthen cooperation among all community members.

Preparedness workshops can be created for those interested in a deeper assessment of their household and steps to build food, water and supply stores for the short and long term. Other topics can be presented depending on the community's interest. We will also look for and support local experts who are willing to share self-sufficiency skills such as gardening, sewing, food preservation, animal husbandry, beekeeping, wildcrafting & herbal medicine and other skills.

We encourage everyone to find a place where they feel comfortable in assisting our efforts. This collaboration cannot be confined to a small group but can evolve into a vital, working and dynamic group that shares a vision for the life and well-being of all who call Crestone/Baca their home. We will need people willing to commit to doing large and small tasks that will allow this vision to grow. We'll need neighborhood coordinators, people to organize the data we gather and to create workshops and projects that develop down the road.

The survey will be available by Dec 10. To be on the mailing list to receive an online version, send your name by email to Kathi McCallum, azurelene@gmail.com. If you'd rather receive a survey in the mail, please send your postal address.

## Indigenous grandmothers have a vision for Native village in the Baca

by Mary Lowers

Early in October a group of indigenous grandmothers came to Crestone to talk with Hanne Strong and the Manitou Foundation about creating a native village in the Baca Grants. I spoke with grandmother Dr. Vivian Delgado, a Professor in the Department of Languages and Ethnic Studies at Bemdji State University in Minnesota, about the proposed Native village. Delgado, who is the daughter of Taos Pueblo and Yaqui parents, can trace her ancestors in the "Taos Territory" of southern Colorado and northern New Mexico back to over five hundred years.

At this village, according to Delgado, descendants of early occupants of our geographic area can "come home to establish a way to heal from historic trauma, great land loss and loss of spiritual tradition. Coming here is an actual spiritual return." The grandmothers have ten households poised to move here. Delgado told me, "it is our intention to invite traditional leaders to Crestone." Delgado says the grandmothers see the establishment of the village here as an opportunity. "For the first time anywhere Native people will be living in their own spiritual community within a larger international spiritual community." I was informed that all the women involved in this village vision have family connections to this area and the males involved also have a connection to the San Luis Valley.

Delgado told me that the vision the group holds for village life is of an "aesthetically beautiful, quiet community living in response to what the environment needs in total autonomy. Indigenous residents will practice daily spiritual values collectively and individually." The greater Crestone/Baca community will be invited to participate in village cultural events and lectures. An indigenous cultural facility called the Thunderbird Center will be built on designated land apart from the village. It will host conferences on traditional knowledge.

In her column, Delgado talks about being an environmentalist and peace activist, "As we contemplate our current dimensional, human conditions, we will see that most decisions in this country revolve around economics and power. We know that our economy is based on natural resources and those resources come from our natural bioregional environment. Indigenous peoples and many others give voice to the protection of those resources and stress, how they are essential to our human as well as all living beings' survival." A Native village here would reiterate and inform our community's commitment to the health of the planet and all who dwell upon her.

Grandmother Vivian Delgado says, "Send your prayers this way, an indigenous village and indigenous knowledge as part of the International Spiritual Community is larger than all of us."

### The above article sponsored by *The Manitou Foundation*

*"Do not misunderstand me, but understand me fully with reference to my affection for the land. I never said the land was mine to do with as I chose. The one who has the right to dispose of it is the one who created it. I claim the right to live on my land, and accord you the privilege to live on yours."*

*— Thunder Travels to a Loftier Mountain  
aka Chief Joseph, Nez Perce*

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# Crestone Artisans Gallery Miniature show & Artist of the Month, SD Youngwolf

by Desi Faraci

It is that time of the year again when the artists at the Crestone Artisans Gallery transform the store to celebrate the season. On Friday, December 1, the gallery will host a kick off party to the WinterFest weekend from 4-6pm. The event is called "I'd Rather Have Chocolate," which will showcase decadently made chocolate desserts along with wine and music by Nikki Z. The artists have been working hard on exhibiting a new display of works in a miniature format just for holiday shoppers. Tiny paintings, miniature photographs, small sculptures, holiday ornaments, and a vast selection of greeting cards are now available at the gallery. A free drawing to win a handcrafted necklace from gallery member Sasha Lovelace will also be held during the event.

Artist of the Month, SD Youngwolf, is a recent addition to the Crestone Artisans Gallery. SD moved to Crestone after many years of living in Taos, NM, largely due to a series of synchronistic experiences he had upon first coming here. Crestone's mixture of spirituality and art fit well with SD's life experience. He has explored many spiritual paths and spent time with teachers of various traditions, both Western and Eastern. SD's other passion besides art is indigenous culture and he has travelled the world speaking on this subject and spending time with tribal people on several continents. Presently he works primarily with painting, mask making, gourd art, and photography. Examples of each of these are on display at the Crestone Artisans Gallery.

SD grew up in the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina, and has lived in several states. He has derived much inspiration from his Cherokee heritage, which is evident in his art as well as his storytelling. SD has been an artist all his life and has worked in various media and techniques, in a variety of professional occupations, from painter to screen printer to teacher. He has also taught art in schools across America, teaching Native American art both as a high school teacher in Oklahoma and

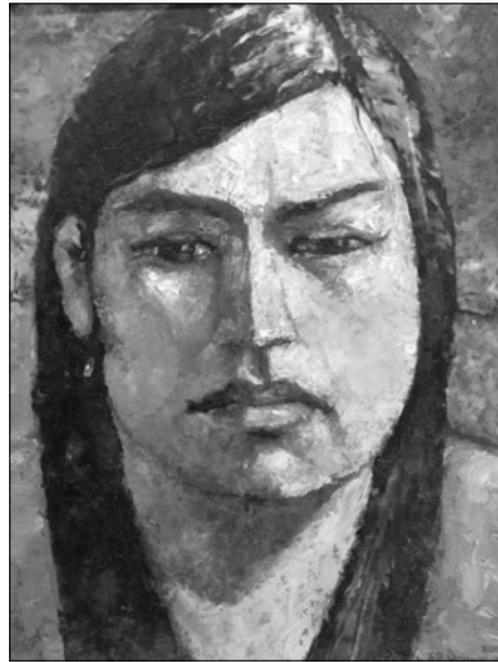


FREE drawing at event December 1 — necklace by Sasha Lovelace.

as an artist-in-residence in several states, and has performed storytelling in many venues. SD's work has received numerous awards at Native American art shows across the country, including the Cherokee Heritage Center, The Five Civilized Tribes Museum, and the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art.

You will find SD's display in the back room of the gallery. From paintings and drawings to gourd art and fine photography, SD offers a vast and inspiring collection of works. Be sure to also visit SD's art at this month's Shumei exhibit.

Gearing up for winter weather? Stop by the gallery to see our new cold weather accessories. Desi Faraci offers an exclusive handcrafted, hooded scarf combination made with cozy pockets called Scoodies that are created out of fleece. Not only are these functional by design but also a great gift idea that are available in colorful solids, animal prints and tie dye patterns. Leslie Kane has her warm, colorful scarves and comfy hats on display. You will also find a nice selection of pulse warmers for those cold hands and wrists. Not only is there a unique variety of winter wear that cannot be found in a big box store, but by shopping local, you are supporting our community.



Original painting by SD Youngwolf.

## SD Youngwolf remains featured artist at Shumei

Local artist SD Youngwolf's works will continue to be on display at the Shumei Gallery in Crestone for December.

SD Youngwolf is an artist, storyteller and teacher, and is the product of a long line of war chiefs, moonshiners and pioneer preachers. He grew up in and around the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee, and is a Cherokee tribal member as well as a hillbilly. He also claims a Scottish, French,

and Celtic heritage that goes back to the nobility of the Middle Ages. Although SD never knew or knew of any artists in his family or community, his art was always a private refuge, a place of magic and joy. Although SD went to art school and got a degree, he considers academic study to have had little significant influence on his art. Some of SD's greatest inspirations in life and art have been spirituality and Indigenous culture. He has explored spirituality in many ways and forms and has had many teachers, Eastern (Buddhist and Hindu) as well as Indigenous (in the practice of Native American medicine ways). SD has traveled the world and spent time with various tribal groups on several continents. He believes that the basic values cherished by Native people represent the greatest hope for humanity and the world. All these influences inform the spirit of SD's art. He has shown widely and received many awards, especially at Native American art shows, across the country. Presently he enjoys creating art, storytelling, and pondering the mysteries of life and enlightenment in the Colorado Rockies.

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



"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together."

—Desmond Tutu

crestonebacaesiliency.net

Wishing our global family a safe and happy Holiday  
Shumei International Institute



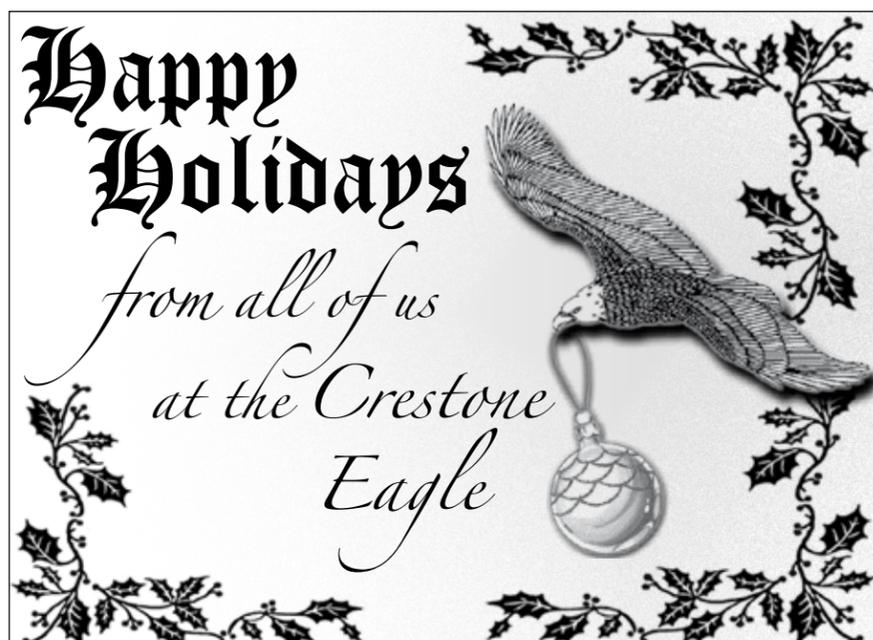
Sharing Healing Jyorei, Natural Agriculture, art and beauty with the world....

8:00AM and 6:00PM Sampai (prayer services) are always open to the public

Art Symposia, exhibitions, concerts and special events.

See the community calendar or visit [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) for an up to date schedule

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



## Commemorative plaque installed at Little Pearl Plaza—the first of many

Commemorative Plaque Installation at Little Pearl Plaza

The Crestone Creative District is nearing completion on its most ambitious public art project to date with the first installation of a bronze plaque identifying one of our local non-profit organizations. On a glorious Sunday, October 8th, members of the Sri Aurobindo Learning Center commemorated their space with prayers and mantras, after placing mementos in the “time capsule” below their bronze plaque, which was then sealed in cement. The members of SALC wrote that, “It was celebrated as a privilege and a joy to commemorate our long standing activity in the greater community with this beautiful and sacred inaugural event.”

The large geometric design and fountain in Little Pearl Plaza provides a Welcome Center for the Town, and offers a place for local non-profit organizations to have a face in the public commons. It is a way for visitors and locals alike to become aware of the presence of indispensable communities coexisting harmoniously in our midst; and it records our communal story in the pages of history for future generations.

Eleven places are available around the perimeter of the circle, and are offered by the Creative District to organizations which have an established ongoing presence in the community. A payment of \$500 per plaque covers the cost of the bronze casting and installation by local artisan John Nelson.

This Creative District Welcome Center Project was funded with a \$25,000 grant from the Saguache County Tourism Council, and is being matched in equal amount by time and materials contributions of local artists. Shanna Lax, Noah Baen, and Burt Wadman make up the design committee that is stewarding the project, with special thanks to



The Sri Aurobindo Learning Center group, from left to right: Mae Green, Joanne Kiser, Swaha, Ginny Ducale, Stuart Sapadin, Eric Weiss, Marika Popovits-Wadman, and Brian Dyer. photo by Warren Santoro



Sri Aurobindo Learning Center bronze plaque. photo by Warren Santoro

McGregor Gaines.

Additional funds of approximately \$1,000 will be needed to complete the sandstone flag work in the remaining triangular sites. Tax deductible donations to the project can be made to “Crestone

Creative District”, in care of the Town of Crestone, and earmarked, “Mosaic Project”. Donations in excess of the amount required will be refunded. For further information please contact Burt at burtwadman@yahoo.com.

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7th annual Concert of Carols brings great music to Crestone Dec. 22.

## Mt. Blanca Fine Arts brings Concert of Carols to Colo. College Dec. 22

The Mt. Blanca Fine Arts Association will bring its production of the 7th annual Concert of Carols to the Colorado College auditorium on Friday, December 22nd, at 1:00 p.m. This will be the 6th Concert of Carols in Crestone.

Concert of Carols serves several purposes: 1.) present holiday concerts given by a group of professional musicians for the community, 2.) provide a source of revenue to fund scholarships for the Mt. Blanca Summer Music Conservatory, 3.) allow conservatory students the opportunity to perform in a concert setting alongside professional musicians, and 4.) bring talented young artists who are just beginning their careers to the San Luis Valley.

On the program will be pieces for men's and women's quartet; a vocal octet; a Nigerian Christmas song; the beautiful Piazzolla "Ave Maria" with voice, violin, flute and ballet; a couple of numbers by eight of the 2017 Mt. Blanca Summer Music Conservatory students; and the traditional audience sing-a-long as well as other standard holiday numbers. Also on the program will be the American Premier of Australian Felicity Wilcox's "Snow II - Falling" with violin, violoncello and piano.

### Participants in the concert

7th year: Randy D. Macy, pianist, Fort Garland. 25+ years college music faculty, 20 years as a professional church musician in Denver/Metro area, five years as collaborative pianist at Adams State University.

6th year: Dr. Sarah Off, violinist, Phoenix. Artistic Director of Mt. Blanca Summer Music Conservatory, member of Tandem Duo, community college professor, private violin studio in Phoenix.

5th year: Nicole KandeLind, vocalist, Denver. Candelight Dinner Theatre in Fort Collins, Opera Colorado chorus, First Mennonite Church (Denver) choir director, violinist for Denver-based string quartet.

3rd year: Corliss Taylor Dunn, vocalist, Fort Garland. Broadway veteran (*Bubbling Brown Sugar* and *Raisin*), toured U.S., Mexico and Canada with the Doc Severnsen Orchestra. Toured Europe in *Raisin* and *Porgy and Bess*.

3rd year: Annelore Tujillo,

ballet, Trinidad. Featured dancer with the New York City Dance Alliance and the Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre, private dance studio in Trinidad.

2nd year: Kevin Gwinn, vocalist, Denver: Choral director at Denver Waldorf School, 2016 Young Voices of Mississippi Competition winner, 2015 and 2016 finalist in the Denver Lyric Opera Guild's Competition for Young Singers.

1st year: Dr. Tracy Doyle, flutist, Alamosa. Professor of music at Adams State University, 2016 National Flute Association Convention Performers Competition winner, performed with numerous symphony orchestras.

1st year: Dr. Jim Doyle, percussionist, Alamosa. Associate Professor of music at Adams State University, has toured Africa, Asia, Australia, and Europe. His performances have appeared on PBS, CNN, NBC, ABC, and CBS as well as numerous NPR broadcasts.

1st year: David Schneider, vocalist, Alamosa. Director of San Luis Valley Community Chorus.

1st year: Dean Swift, cellist, Mesa, AZ, former Alamosa resident.

The concert will be at 1pm. This will be the 6th Concert of Carols in Crestone.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students, and will be available at the door.



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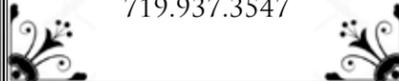
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◆

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SHOSHANNAH ASHA  
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Popular band Intuit is performing for a NHN benefit at the Cloud Station Dec. 16.

## NHN benefit dance with Intuit Dec. 16

Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Michelle and Benjamin of the Cloud Station invite the community to come out December 16 from 7 to 10 for the first of a series of benefit shows. Get out your dancing shoes. Crestone Intuit will have us warmed up and moving. This band will be familiar to many as they have graced the stage of our own Crestone Music Festival. Tickets are \$20 at the door and \$15 in advance and may be pur-

chased at the Cloud Station or from Neighbors Helping Neighbors board members. All profits from this event will benefit Neighbors Helping Neighbors, your local nonprofit, so they can better serve the citizens of eastern Saguache County in times of crisis, as they have been doing for over twenty years. Give yourself the gift of good music and dance this holiday season. Beer and soft drinks will be for sale at the event.



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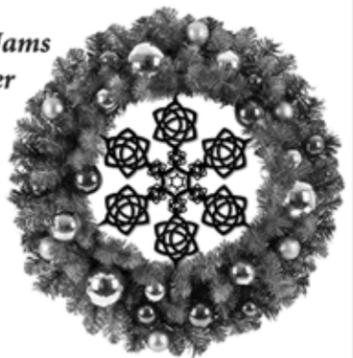
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- 12/22 - *Solstice Dance Party with Godlazer DJ from Boulder*
- 12/29 - *An Evening with Barry Monroe Smooth Island Jams*
- 1/5 - *The Audience - CBC House Band*
- 1/12 - *Stimulus*
- 1/19 - *Blue Rooster*



**Upcoming Events**

**Beer Fundraiser - All month (while supplies last) \$1 from each beer of a special tapping will go to support Crestone Food Bank**

**Wednesdays 12/6 and 1/3 - Steve and Trevor Storm - Celtic Grass Every First Wednesday of the Month**

**Wednesdays 12/13 and 12/27 - Karaoke Night with Nikki Z - Every Other Wednesday**

**Thursday 12/21 - Local Appreciation Night One beer for one penny with valid Saguache County ID**

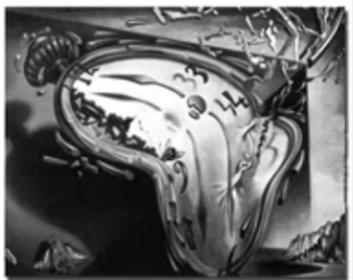
**12/25 - Closed For Christmas**

**12/26 - Boxing Day - 1/2 off kids menu (under 12)**



**12/31**  
**New Year's Eve**  
**Luna Verde**

**HOURS**  
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Tuesday-Saturday: 12PM-Close  
Sunday: 11AM-Close



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# HAPS

## WinterFest Dec. 1, 2 & 3

On Friday, Dec. 1, at 4pm there is an opening event at the Crestone Artisans Gallery, then a tree lighting and Pet Partners benefit dinner at Bob's at 6:30.

On Sat. Dec. 2, from 10am to 5pm and Sun. Dec. 3, 11am to 5pm, visit the Winterfest crafts bazaar at the Charter School.

## Free computer clinic for seniors

December 4, 6, 11, and 13, from 9:30-11:30am at the Baca Library there is a free computer class for seniors.

This is a rare opportunity, made possible by the Friends of the Library and a Tax-sales Grant, to teach and clarify basic computer skills for seniors. Participants are encouraged to bring a list of what they'd like to learn. Lori Nagel is the class instructor with a BS in Computer Science, 25 years' computer experience, and a lot of patience! Please call or text 719-937-1202 or email [peacelori@peacelori.com](mailto:peacelori@peacelori.com) to register, as space is limited.

## Celebrate Bal Gokulam at Ashram Dec. 9

Come celebrate the special Christmas Bal Gokulam (Children's Program) at the Ashram on Saturday, December 9 from 10am-noon. Hear a Christmas story, decorate the temple Christmas trees, learn puja, chanting and yoga. For children of all ages. Bring a vegetarian potluck dish to share at noon. For more info call Kelly at 256-5511, Vesper at 256-4569, or Ramloti at 256-4108.

## Two workshops with Native American teacher and healer Láné Sáan Moonwalker

### The rights of beingness

The rights of beingness are what we come into this life with from an indigenous perspective. They describe a significant way of living which includes conducting our life. They help us relate to our intimates, friends, and others including the natural world. This view is vitally important in today's world. By embracing the rights of beingness we can cut through the rudeness and aggression of the current times. Saturday, December 2, 9:30 to 4:00.

### The breath of beingness

On Sunday we will go through each of the rights of beingness in depth. We will also learn a prayer/meditation process of the breath of beingness. This practice is one of gratitude that connects us with all of life. Sunday, December 3, 9:30 to 4:30.

\$85 each day or \$155 for both workshops. To register and for location call Dorje Root, 719-937-7786, or [dorjoroot@yahoo.com](mailto:dorjoroot@yahoo.com).

### Moon meditation practice

Saturday from 6:30 to 9:30pm. Open to all. Suggested donation \$25.

## Don Richmond leads Christmas carol sing-a-long Dec. 20

Come sing carols with your neighbors at the Crestone Charter School Wednesday, December 20 at 6:15pm. This event will be hosted by Don Richmond with music books provided. Don has hosted a very popular sing-a-long for years at Milagros in Alamosa and he's agreed to bring it to Crestone and, hopefully, start a wonderful tradition here. This is a school night and we will end between 7:30 and 8pm. Meat and vegetarian chili will be available, along with an assortment of drinks.

Students are free, with a suggested donation of \$5 for adults. This show is sponsored and produced by Crestone Performances Inc. and all proceeds will go towards our school performances program. For more information please call 719-256-4533 or go to [crestfest.org](http://crestfest.org). CPI is a non-profit community service organization that brings cultural and educational events to San Luis Valley schools and communities. Come on out and celebrate the holidays with friends and one of the valley's favorite musicians. Hallelujah!

## Two performances of Handel's Messiah are scheduled at Adams State

The SLV Symphony Orchestra and the Valley Community Chorus will present the Christmas Movement of Handel's "Messiah," at 7pm Friday, Dec. 8, in Adams State University Richardson Hall Auditorium. An encore presentation, sponsored by the chorus, will begin at 2pm Sunday, Dec. 10 in the Sacred Heart Church, located in Alamosa.

Soloists will include various members of the choir, as well as Dr. Matthew Valverde, Adams State assistant professor of voice. "Join us for one of the world's most beloved concert experiences," said David Schneider, Valley Community Chorus director.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$1 for students, and free for AS&F. Proceeds will go to scholarships for Adams State students and to recipients of the Martha Oliver Award for Vocal Music.

## Ellzey Art Show Dec. 9 & 10

See the Holiday Special Section for details.



There were so many hard working volunteers at the NHN Thanksgiving potluck! L to R: Carrie Allen, Josh Hillman, Elianna Krakauer, Judie Rose, Dennis Neuhaus, William Martino, Mary Lowers, Rodney Volkmer, Pamela Rose, Simone. Not pictured: Isaline Washington photo by Lori Nagel



Gayatri Devi, Tim Allen, and Cheryl Waschenko enjoying the Neighbors Helping Neighbors' annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner, held on Sunday, November 19 at the Crestone Charter School. There were record numbers of people attending this wonderful community event. Great food and great people! photo by Lori Nagel

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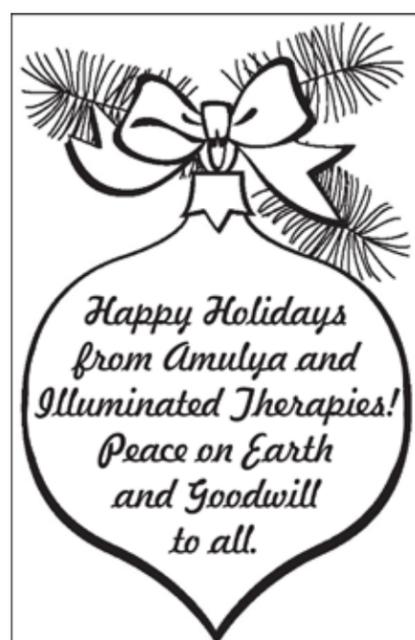
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# Community Calendar—December 2017

Get the details at [www.crestoneeagle.com](http://www.crestoneeagle.com) // NOW UPDATED DAILY ONLINE!!!

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

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

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

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

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

## Monthly Events

### Friday, December 1

- Celtic Folk Music, The Wapiti Coffeehouse, Saguache, 5:30 pm-7:00 pm [thewapiti.com](http://thewapiti.com)
- WinterFest Kick-off, Crestone Artisan's Gallery 6pm

### Saturday, December 2

- Saguache Holiday Bazaar – Saguache Community Building 9am-3pm 303-507-4821
- WinterFest, Crestone Charter School 10am-5pm

### Sunday, December 3

- Sunday Mass at Nada Hermitage 9:00 am-10:00 am 719-256-4778
- Full Moon Riwo Sangchö (Outdoor Smoke Offering) – Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 10:00 am-11:00 am
- Full-moon Fire Ceremony, Haidakhandi Ashram 10am-noon [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org) 719-256-4108
- Fellowship Sunday – Crestone Baptist Church 11:00 am-12:00 pm
- WinterFest, Crestone Charter School 11am-5pm

### Monday, December 4

- Free Computer Clinic for Seniors, Baca Grande Library 9:30-11:30am Free 719-937-1202
- Crestone Planning Commission Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 6-8pm 719-256-4313

### Tuesday, December 5

- Neighbors Meeting Neighbors meet & greet party – Crestone Charter School 4-7pm Free

### Wednesday, December 6

- Free Computer Clinic for Seniors, Baca Grande Library 9:30-11:30am Free 719-937-1202

### Saturday, December 9

- Prayer Breakfast, Crestone Baptist Church 8-10am
- Christmas Bal Gokulam (Children's Program), Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am-noon Free [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org) 719-256-5511, 4569, 4108
- Annual Ellzey photo sale, 891 Camino Real 2-6pm

### Sunday, December 10

- Sunday Mass, Nada Hermitage 9-10am 256-4778
- Monthly Sampai at Shumei Sanctuary 10:30am-noon Free [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) 256-5284
- Annual Ellzey photo sale, 891 Camino Real 2-6pm

### Monday, December 11

- Crestone Board of Trustees Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 9:30 am-5:00 pm 719-256-4313
- Free Computer Clinic for Seniors – Baca Grande Library 9:30 am-11:30 am Free 719-937-1202

### Tuesday, December 12

- Dakini Tsok (Feast Offering Potluck) – Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

### Wednesday, December 13

- Free Computer Clinic for Seniors – Baca Grande Library 9:30-11:30am 719-937-1202
- Crestone End of Life Project Meeting, Little Shepherd in the Hills 7-9pm Free 719-588-7415

### Friday, December 15

- Baca Library Holiday Open House, 1-4pm

### Saturday, December 16

- Ladies' Christmas Tea Party – Crestone Baptist Church 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
- Crestone Intuit at Cloud Station to benefit NHN, \$20, \$15 advance, 7-10pm

### Sunday, December 17

- Sunday Mass at Nada Hermitage 9:00 am-10:00 am 719-256-4778
- H.E. Gangteng Rinpoche's birthday, Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 10-11am
- New-moon Fire Ceremony – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am-noon [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org) 719-256-4108
- Rumi's Urs Dhikr & Potluck – 3:00 pm-5:30 pm [nurashkijerrahi.org](http://www.nurashkijerrahi.org) 719-588-8602

### Monday, December 18

- New Moon Riwo Sangchö (Outdoor Smoke Offering) – Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 10:00 am-11:00 am

### Wednesday, December 20

- Don Richmond sing-along, Crestone Charter School 6:15pm Adults \$5

### Thursday, December 21

- BGPOA Board Meeting – BGPOA Meeting Room 6:00 pm [bacapoa.org](http://www.bacapoa.org) 719-256-4171

### Friday, December 22

- Concert of Carols, Colorado College event center 1-4pm, \$15 for adults, \$10 seniors & students

### Saturday, December 23

- Mass at Nada Hermitage – Nada Hermitage 5:00 pm-6:00 pm 719-256-4778

### Sunday, December 24

- Christmas Eve Service – Crestone Baptist Church 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- Christmas Vigil Mass at Nada Hermitage – Nada Hermitage 7:00 pm-8:00 pm 719-256-4778

### Monday, December 25

- Christmas

### Thursday, December 28

- Guru Rinpoche Tsok (Feast Offering Potluck) – Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

### Sunday, December 31

- Mass at Nada Hermitage – Nada Hermitage 9:00 am-10:00 am 719-256-4778
- Grange potluck followed by meeting – 12:30 pm-3:00 pm 719-256-4768
- New Year's Eve

Normal is the average of deviance.

–Rita Mae Brown

## 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](mailto:info@babajashram.org), [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org)
- Jyorei, Shumei Sanctuary, please be seated by 7:50am and 5:50pm, 256-5284
- Tours, gallery and Jyorei, Shumei, 9am-5pm, 256-5284.
- Open meditation & prayers in Vajra Vidya Retreat Center Shrine Room 9-10am daily; Traditional Buddhist Shrine Room available till dusk; All welcome to come and practice. 719-256-5539 [vajraavidya.com](http://vajraavidya.com)
- Tours, Temple, & Gift Shop ~ Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 256-4108, [info@babajashram.org](mailto:info@babajashram.org), [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org)
- Evening Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 6-7pm. Chanting in Sanskrit and Hindi. All are welcome. 256-4108, [info@babajashram.org](mailto:info@babajashram.org), [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org)

### Sunday

- Drop-in Meditation (sitting & walking) Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple 10:00 am-1:00 pm
- Sunday school and service Crestone Baptist Church 10:00 am-noon
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm [www.slvaa.org](http://www.slvaa.org)

### Monday

- Soul Transcendence Seminars Home of Susan Fey 3:00 pm-5:00 pm free 719-496-0977

### Tuesday

- Yoga & iRest Yoga Nidra crestone 9am-10:30am [www.igniteyourinnerflame.com](http://www.igniteyourinnerflame.com) 310-924-9223
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45 pm By donation [shaktisharanam.com](http://shaktisharanam.com) 719-256-5668
- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting marijuana users welcome Baca Grande Library back door 7:30 pm-8:30 pm 970-309-0710

### Wednesday

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30 am-10:00 am By donation [shaktisharanam.com](http://shaktisharanam.com) 719-256-5668
- Gentle Movement & Yoga 10-11am [www.igniteyourinnerflame.com](http://www.igniteyourinnerflame.com) 310-924-9223
- Bible study Crestone Baptist Church 6-7:30pm
- Wednesday Night AA Meeting, Moffat Free Spirit Christian Church 7:00 pm-8:00 pm

### Thursday

- Basic Yoga 9:30-10:30am [www.igniteyourinnerflame.com](http://www.igniteyourinnerflame.com) 310-924-9223
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Baptist Church noon-1:00 pm [www.slvaa.org](http://www.slvaa.org)
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation [shaktisharanam.com](http://shaktisharanam.com) 719-256-5668

### Saturday

- Narcotics Anonymous Open Step Study meeting, Little Shepherd in the Hills 9-10am 719-256-4931

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**May the Season Bring Only Joy & Snow To All!**

Monthly open meeting **Wednesday, December 13th**, at 7pm, at the Fellowship Hall of the Little Shepherd Church, Crestone. Call 719.588.7415 for information/directions.



Crestone hosted another fantastic Halloween this year, with lots of trick-or-treaters of ALL ages! There was trunk-or-treat again this year, in addition to the houses who signed up to hand out candy. The Charter School also contributed to the fun with a haunted house, carnival, and special performance of Thriller. all photos and collage design by Lori Nagel

# Out & About with Lori Sunflower

Holidays around the world




**Per Jorgelin**

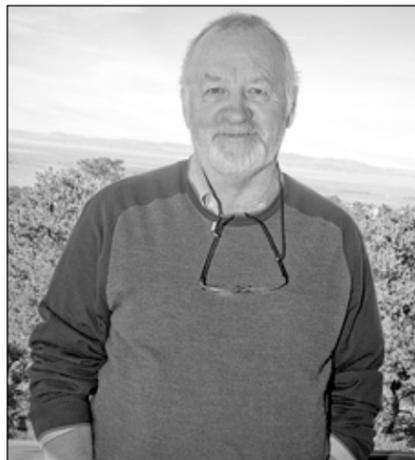
I grew up on a pig farm in Sweden, so we normally had a lot of guests coming to us, actually. We had big parties on Easter and Christmas. We did go skiing from time to time in the mountains. And since it was a farm, it's always active, so my father was normally home doing the farming thing, and I liked to stay with him sometimes because I liked farming. There were a lot of presents at Christmas, but we liked to hide them, so there was a lot of mysticism around that. We'd hide 'em in our horses' hay, for example, so that was like a big party, just jumping in there. And normally the adults came as well because that's the funny part of life. However, it could take, 1, 2, 3 years until we actually found them. So it's like, "oh my God, there it is!"—which is a good practice. Neighbors joined us, as well as the priests in the village, and other people always showed up, too.



**Alisa Severskaya**

I grew up in Kazakhstan, Soviet Union until I was 14. New Year's was the biggest, most magical holiday and celebration. Everyone gets 2 weeks off. Religious people celebrate Christmas on the 7th, and we also celebrate New Year's according to the old calendar, on the 14th. As a little kid, my biggest thing was cleaning the house super well because Ded Moroz (Grandpa Frost)—not Santa Claus—was coming and

he'd know where all the dirty spots were, so I'd go back and clean up all the corners I'd slacked on. Grandpa Frost is never alone—he has a granddaughter, Snegurochka (from 'sneg' meaning snow). Educational institutions would put up New Year's trees and kids dressed up in costumes (forest creatures, snow fairies or icicles) went to the event, where they received a sack with chocolate, mandarins, and walnuts, which you also get from your family, and you get a present that's exactly what you wanted, which was proof Grandpa Frost existed! We exchanged presents at midnight on New Year's, and we wrote a wish on a piece of paper, burned it, stuck it in champagne and had to drink the whole glass with the wish in it before the clock hit 12 for it to come true. Then New Year's day was a super-happy day of new beginnings. It's all about the mood, not presents, but coming together and celebrating. We also played lots of games! And every kid learned a poem to recite at the school function. Now that I think about it, it's kinda like Halloween, Christmas and New Year's all in one holiday!



**Martin Macaulay**

My first memory of Christmas is snow, because I grew up in Scotland! We were always so excited because we knew Santa Claus was coming. There were 5 children in our family, so multiply the excitement by 5 and it was pretty crazy! Until I was 8, there was no central heating, so Christmas was always a time of wonderful, roaring fireplaces. We lived on the outskirts of Edinburgh in a small village and every Christmas Eve, carol singers would come by dressed up in old medieval clothes with lanterns. I loved it. We would give them meat or mulled wine and then go to bed and wait for Christmas, of course, impossible to sleep. We'd get up in the morning (our parents didn't let us get up *too* early!), unwrap the presents, have a relaxed breakfast, and then lunch was a serious affair. My mother made the table gorgeous with lots of decorations, special plates and silverware, so it was a real Christmas affair at lunch with roast turkey and roast potatoes. One Christmas, my parents brought a giant cracker back from London, which is a party favor you pull and there's a little explosion with great little gifts and

party favors inside—we couldn't wait to get at it! Then 20-25 of us—aunts, uncles, cousins—would gather for a meal on New Year's Day, so that always felt like part of Christmas, too.



**Anna Louise Stewart**

I'm from Denmark where it's a full time job all of December to celebrate Christmas, and I'm not kidding! It starts December 1 when we get up and light the calendar candle, which we light all the way through 'til the 24th, and we open a little gift every day, and watch Christmas TV shows throughout the month. There are numerous parties within job situations and families, and parties to make ornaments and cookies. We celebrate Christmas itself the night before Christmas Eve: little Christmas Eve. We actually have 4 Christmases in a way, the main one being the 24th. That day there is a load of things we have to do. One of them is to dance around the Christmas tree and sing. Then we have another party on first Christmas day and on second Christmas day, then that carries into New Year's, where we have fireworks like you wouldn't believe. Copenhagen is literally foggy from all the fireworks that night. And of course, lots of drinking! My favorite part growing up was the building up throughout December to the big night, where we cook all day and get dressed up and everyone arrives. Denmark tends to be a bit more formal, which is part of what makes it special, that everybody makes something extra out of the day and how they look. And our dinners can go on for hours. Hours!



**Mati Fuller**

In Norway, it's all about family and food! Enormous feasts. We celebrate Christmas on the 24th, and guests spend the night or go

home and return the next morning for a 3-hour breakfast. We keep celebrating until the 2nd day after Christmas (12/26), so three days of celebration, hanging out and cooking and eating. Lots of almonds! Baked and raw almond paste, almond pie, thousands of calories! For Christmas we try to get reindeer steak, that's the best. Otherwise, it's either wild birds, like pheasants or ptarmigans; or fish, salted or dried. And always lots of cream, butter and eggs—all the things you're not supposed to eat! We bake elaborate cookies for weeks before Christmas, rolling into pretzels, dipping in eggs, putting sugar on top, etc. We don't have Halloween, so for New Year's Eve, we dress up and go trick-or-treating. It's cold and dark and we walk on icy roads knocking on doors. If they don't give us Christmas cookies, we can do bad things (laughing)! At Christmas, before we get to open our gifts, we have to run around the tree singing songs. When we get dizzy, we go the other way! That helps the food move down a bit, because first we eat, then we run around the tree until we can't do it anymore, then we get the gifts!



**Rick Hart**

I grew up in Montreal, where my father is from. Quebec culture is mostly descended from France and there is still a strong Catholic following there. The biggest part of Christmas is Midnight Mass and many people celebrate before mass with dinner and presents on the 24th. Some families eat early and even go to bed before awaking and going to Mass. Those who don't open presents before will return home and open them in the wee hours. So I guess in Quebec, we celebrated early. Santa stops there first before visiting the other states and provinces. Quebec, like Vermont, is known for its apples in autumn so there is the unusual addition of fresh hard cider at Quebec Christmas celebrations. If you're used to your cider hot/mulled in winter, this is out of the ordinary. Anyway, enough about Christmas—past—I'm looking forward to discovering new traditions in the community of Crestone! A new year's hike up to the snowline followed by a soak at Joyful Journey sounds pretty good!

*If you have feedback or suggestions for future topics, please email [peacelorelove@gmail.com](mailto:peacelorelove@gmail.com). In addition to being the Staff Photographer for The Crestone Eagle since 2012, Lori Nagel is a freelance photographer, graphic designer & web designer. [www.sunflowerstudios.us.com](http://www.sunflowerstudios.us.com).*



Wonderful gift items are available at the Ashram's Maha Shop

## Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

November seems to be quieting down at the Ashram, bringing that familiar silence and peace of winter. Thanksgiving is always a lovely event.

To honor Christmas and our children, we will have a special Bal Gokulam on Saturday, December 9 from 10am until noon followed by a pot luck lunch. All children are invited with their parent or parents. The program will include children's yoga, a special story of the Nativity, making Christmas decorations, decorating the temple trees, and a puja to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. It is always a very sweet time together. Call 719-256-4108 with questions or you can contact Kelly at 256-5511 or Vesper at 256-4569.

The full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Sunday, December 3 and the new-moon fire ceremony is on Sunday, December 17, both begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati is at 7am and evening aarati is at 6pm. At 8am there is generally a small indoor fire ceremony when we do not have a large one. Call us at 719-256-4108 for proper protocol for attending fire ceremonies and any other questions.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is full of wonderful items: Ashram 2018 calendars, brass statues, cloth items, earrings, bracelets, journals, oils, incense, purses, Christmas ornaments, soaps, and much more. We also have an overflowing amount of gently used clothes, which are 50% off this month. The shop is open every day from 10am until 5pm. We invite you to come in and look around. We deeply appreciate your support. If you mention this article you will receive 10% off your purchase, except for sale items. You may view some of what is in our shop on our website at <http://mahalakshmiashop.wazala.com>.

For more information about the Ashram, please visit our website at [www.babajiashram.org](http://www.babajiashram.org). All are invited to our Ashram Board of Directors' meeting. The next one is on Sunday, December 10 at 10am. Please call the Ashram for an agenda. 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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## Spirituality & cosmic evolution

by Dr. Eric Weiss

One of the greatest achievements of modern science has been the formulation of the theory of evolution. According to that theory, the universe begins in the Primordial Flaring Forth, or the "Big Bang" which sends forth a great cloud of sub-atomic particles. Those sub-atomic particles coalesce into atoms of hydrogen which then come together into massive clumps. At the center of those clumps, great pressures cause them to ignite into brilliant suns. Around those suns planets form, and on those planets life emerges in more and more complex forms until, not long ago in evolutionary terms, humans beings (and, quite possibly other intelligent species) emerged in the Universe.

Sri Aurobindo understands spirituality in the context of the evolutionary story. In his vision, the Primordial Flaring Forth is a process through which primitive matter emerges from the Divine, and the evolution is a process in which the Divine is more and more adequately incarnated in that matter. Human being is a stage in that evolution.

But human being can hardly be the culmination of the evolutionary process. The Universe has labored for billions of years to produce the human ego, but certainly it can do better than that! Sri Aurobindo envisions the evolution culminating when the Infinite Divine Splendor that created the evolution can incarnate its entirety in a "Supermental species," a species each member of which is a biological individual fully expressing the Divine Him/Her/Itself.

The whole evolution preceding the human stage is a "yoga of nature." Humanity is the stage of evolution at which the yoga of nature, which was unconscious, first becomes conscious and deliberate. Human beings become sufficiently aware to grasp the evolution and its purpose, and then to evolve on purpose. This evolving on purpose is the spiritual path. Thus the spiritual path is the way that humans evolve, and the great yogis and saints of the past are our evolutionary scouts, showing the path ahead. Evolution is the Universe doing spiritual practice, and spiritual practice is the way that humans do evolution.

In this great synthesis, the evolutionary theory which is the highest expression of the scientific tradition is seamlessly melded with the essential insights of the great spiritual traditions.

Please join us at the Sri Aurobindo Learning Center, in the Solar Bridge House, on Sundays at 10:30am for our ongoing study of Sri Aurobindo's *Synthesis of Yoga*.

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**Wishing You the Happiest of Holidays,  
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## Solar project

continued from page 1

lifetime of the project is over 25 years.

“Penitente Solar is the latest example of RES building strong relationships with co-ops across the country to develop, construct, and operate local renewable power for rural areas,” stated Tom Duckett, President of RES Distributed. “RES is pleased to have partnered with SLVREC to make available the benefits of reliable, sustainable renewable energy for their members.

“SLVREC has investigated the development of a solar project for several years and after an extensive evaluation, selected RES to develop and construct SLVREC’s first solar

project—Penitente Solar. Penitente Solar provides SLVREC members access to renewable energy which is locally generated and cost-effective. We look forward to continuing to develop local renewable projects benefitting our members and our communities in the San Luis Valley,” stated Loren Howard, CEO of SLVREC. “We will continue to invest in these types of projects along with projects like Cielo [the valley’s first fiber optic broadband internet service provider] powered by REC to help foster economic growth and development. We are here to help create a thriving environment to work, live and play.”

RES has constructed over 370 MW of renewable energy projects in Colorado. RES’ distributed team creates solutions tailored for each customer, providing controllable, competitive, and predictable power that customers require in today’s economy.

Renewable Energy Systems (RES) is one of the top renewable energy companies in North America. RES has constructed over 160 renewable energy projects with a total capacity of more than 12,000-megawatts (MW) around the world. RES has been active in North America since 1997, and has a renewable energy and storage construction portfolio that exceeds 9,000 MW and over 100 projects, and has constructed more than 1,000 miles of overhead and transmission lines. In addition, RES has a robust development pipeline of wind, solar, and energy storage projects across North America, and the company currently operates more than 250 MW of renewable energy and storage projects.



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# Untreated hearing loss linked to depression, social isolation in seniors

Untreated hearing loss has serious emotional and social consequences for older persons, according to a major study by The National Council on the Aging (NCOA). The study was conducted by the Seniors Research Group, an alliance between NCOA and Market Strategies, Inc.

"This study debunks the myth that untreated hearing loss in older persons is a harmless condition," said James Firman, EdD, president and CEO of The National Council on the Aging. The survey of 2,300 hearing-impaired adults age 50 and older found that those with untreated hearing loss were more likely to report depression, anxiety, and paranoia and were less likely to participate in organized social activities, compared to those who wear hearing aids.

Hearing loss is one of the most prevalent chronic conditions in the United States, affecting more than 9 million Americans over the age of 65 and 10 million Americans age 45 to 64. But about 3 out of 5 older Americans with hearing loss and 6 out of 7 middle-aged Americans with hearing loss do not use hearing aids.

### Consequences of untreated hearing loss

The survey found that significantly more of the seniors with untreated hearing loss (those who do not wear hearing aids) reported feelings of sadness or depression that lasted two or more weeks during the previous years. Among respondents with more severe hearing loss, 30% of non-users of hearing aids reported these sad feelings, compared to 22% of hearing aid users

Another measure of emotional distress is the perception that "other people get angry at me for no reason," which psychologists often identify as an indicator of paranoia.

Because social isolation is a serious problem for some older people, the study also examined social behavior and found that people who don't use hearing aids are considerably less likely to participate in social activities. Among respondents with more severe hearing loss, 42% of hearing aid users participate regularly in social activities compared to just 32% of non-users.

### Benefits of treatment

Hearing aid users reported significant improvements in many areas of their lives, ranging from their relationships at home and sense of independence, to their social life and their sex life. In virtually every dimension measured, the families of hearing aid users also noted the improvements but were even more likely than the users to report improvements.

### Barriers to hearing aid use

Why are there so many older

people with hearing impairment who do not use hearing aids? More than two-thirds of the older, non-user respondents said "my hearing is not bad enough" or "I can get along without one." About one-half of the non-users cited the cost of hearing aids. And one-in-five offered the explanation that "it would make me feel old," or "I'm too embarrassed to wear one."

"It is very sad that millions of older people are letting denial or vanity get in the way of treatments that can significantly improve the quality of their lives," said Dr. Firman, who is hearing impaired himself. "Doctors and family members should insist that hearing-impaired seniors seek appropriate treatment."

Text summarizing the study in greater detail is on NCOA's website at [www.ncoa.org](http://www.ncoa.org). The National Council on the Aging is a private, non-profit research, education, and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the well-being, dignity, and self-determination of older people. *Originally published in Audiology Today*



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## Holiday Special through December 31st.

Hearing Care Center is very excited to announce a **FREE Hearing Health Clinic** for people who think they might need hearing aids or who already have one. Services provided to you or a loved one at this event will include:

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# KIDZ KORNER!



Diane is a children's book author, host of The Fairy Train radio hour and other fun stuff. Her books can be found at local stores. For more info go to her website below.

Kidz Korner  
by  
M. Diane Bairstow

[www.gypsypoetproductions.com](http://www.gypsypoetproductions.com)

## The Jokerster

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?  
*A rebel without a Claus.*

What do you call an elf who sings?  
*A wrapper!*

Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve?  
*Because it soot's him.*

What do you call a broke santa?  
*It's Saint-NICKEL-LESS.*

What do you call Santa's helpers?  
*Subordinate clauses.*

Why did Frosty the Snowman want a divorce?  
*Because he thought his wife was a flake.*

What is the popular Christmas carol in Desert?  
*Camel ye Faithful.*

What do you call Santa living at the South Pole?  
*A lost clause.*

What part of the body do you only see during Christmas?  
*mistletoe.*

### What does Santa bring naughty boys and girls on Christmas Eve?



A pack of batteries with a note saying "toy not included".

Why did the Grinch go to the liquor store?  
*He was looking for the holiday Spirit*

What Christmas Carol is a favorite of parents?  
*Silent Night.*

What nationality is Santa Claus?  
*North Polish.*

What do you get if you deep fry Santa Claus?  
*Crisp Cringle.*

What do you call a sheep who doesn't like Christmas?  
*Baaaaaaaaa humbug.*

Why does Scrooge love all of the reindeer?  
*Because every buck is dear to him!*

What's the difference between Santa Clause and a knight?  
*One slays dragons, the other drags a sleigh.*

What do you call cutting down a Christmas tree?  
*Christmas Chopping.*

What do you call an elf wearing ear muffs?  
*Anything you want. He can't hear you.*

Where does santa keep his money?  
*A snow bank.*

What did the little elves have to do when they got home from school?  
*Gnome-work!*

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/holidayjokes/christmasjokes/christmasjokes.html>

## Santa's Little Helper



Story by M. Diane Bairstow - Drawing by Ginny Ducale

"Pierre!" Poppy, the bunny, whispered, "I think Santa is here."

"It's just your imagination." Pierre, her older brother, mumbled and rolled over.

"Well, I am going to see." Poppy crept downstairs and quietly cracked open the parlor door just as Santa whooshed down the chimney.

"Santa!" she exclaimed in surprise.

"Shhh." Santa held his finger to his lips. "We don't want to wake the whole house; I've got a lot of work to do tonight."

Then he turned his back on her and started piling up presents and grumbling something beneath his breathe.

Poppy could see Santa was in a hurry, and she started helping by placing the presents prettily around the tree.

As Santa pulled the last present from his pack, he handed it to Poppy. "Nicely done, he said, "and thank you very much. My elf

helper is sick, and I'm running late. Very late indeed."

"Maybe I could go with you and help?" Poppy suggested.

Santa stared down at the young bunny. "Why not?" He said, "Why not indeed? I have a nice warm robe in the sleigh, and it's just about your size. Take my hand."

Poppy extended her little white paw and whoosh up the chimney they went.

Oh what an exciting night Poppy had going from house to house delivering presents, and Santa shared all the cookies and milk with her. It helped to keep up their strength for the long night's work.

...

When Pierre awoke the next morning, Poppy's bed was empty. He hurried downstairs and found her beneath the tree, covered with a red robe trimmed in white fur.

Poppy sat up and rubbed her eyes. "Santa was here and I helped him. I even rode in his sleigh!"

### Find the Differences

There are 5 differences in the pictures below. Can you find them?



She told him the whole story, ending with, "Oh Pierre, I wish you had been there too."

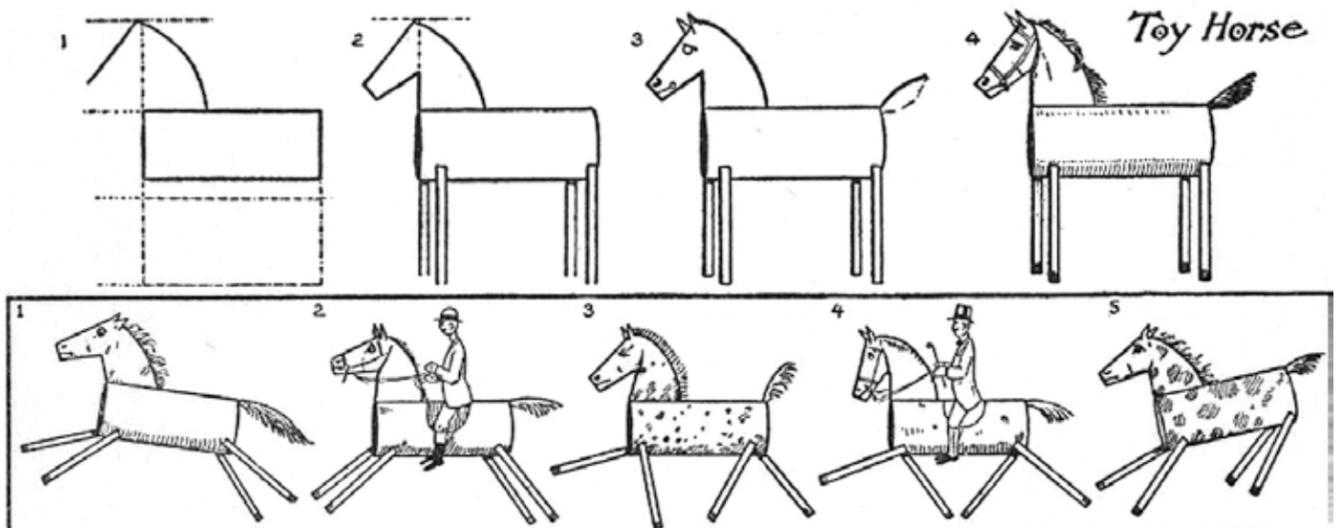
"Me too." He said sadly, "But the boys at school said Santa wasn't real and I believed them."

"I've heard that too, but Madam Colette always says that the world is more magical and mysterious than most people know. And I believe her. Don't you?"

Pierre scratched his long bunny ears and nodded. "I do."



## Draw a Toy Horse



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## Moffat School navigators: Learning knows no bounds

by Roberta Rosa

My navigator is in middle school now, new seas to clear, and the show of life, of growing up, and a new adventure for us to learn must go on. When I talk about life it's in all the ways life can be. Our adventure starts here, from life skills all the way to the classroom, learning in a way that makes life easier. They need to learn that their lives are long, feel like they are no different from anyone else, and they can do everything every-one else can.

Let me give you an example, through sharing one beautiful experience in the classroom. As we are talking about "navigators", this reminds me about one student and myself, because I help students through the sometimes-murky waters of their understanding. With that the whole class was introduced (and thus mine) to historical navigators. What started as just a lesson quickly evolved into what would be a presentation given by each student on an individual navigator, thereby allowing the students to further delve into the finer points of each historical figure's life.

Each student drew the name of a figure they would represent and come to know better. They were encouraged to learn about their chosen figure on their own. Each little navigator would then present their findings to the class. I then began to aid my own special navigator, guiding her in a way to assure her that she is really no different from the other students. In my country this is called "inclusion". We went over the minor points of Prince Henry the Navigator's life to better understand the major points of it.

It was tough work for my pretty little princess. Getting past a reading difficulty was the highest hurdle. Reading well enough but slowly can be quite frustrating. I did my best to help her, wishing I could see right into her imagination to better help connect words to a tangible knowledge of history. It took lots of love, care, and repetition to guide her through. I em-



Roberta Rosa.

ployed the use of music and video. Like a point on a compass we went through the process of multisensorial learning. Then we wrote down all that she learned and read it together. As she read aloud, hesitantly and with apparent frustration, I worried that like many others (myself included) she would become too embarrassed to want to go through with it. That perhaps she may never want to try again.

These are feelings I remember well from my own childhood. Feelings I had in a time and place where children who simply learn differently were not reached out to and helped to learn, dream, and grow. Luckily for our little navigator it is not that way here at Moffat School. When I was a student at her age I would hide myself when it was time to read aloud in class and struggled with math so much that I wouldn't even try. Perhaps with the dedicated staff that we have here I could have even been a mathematician (haha).

To better help her remember the hardest words for her we created gestures to help with her memory. These gestures along with encouraging our little navigator to see herself as an actress playing a role did the trick. It gave her all the confidence she needed. In final



6th and 7th graders in Mrs. Garfio's science classes proudly display art work they completed during a unit on turkey genetics.

preparations, for the presentation the other students sat with their papers. She and I rehearsed using only gestures and memory. Seeing this, the other students soon adopted this method for themselves. This certainly made her feel equal to them and maybe even a little inspirational. That kind of confidence frees her to aim higher in her dreaming. The presentation went off without a hitch and I speculate that she will have no fear of doing another. Perhaps one day she may even have reason to speak in pub-

lic. If so she has now her first tools with which to prepare.

And it is fantastic that I can be in that ship with them and get all that experience of how wonderful life is. The adventure of being a kid and growing up as a teenager again was a trip. It was like I could have a second chance of being a child. Every day my heart is one, helping these little navigators in what I want them to know and learn. I want them to know the world, respect everyone where they go, and walk with peace.



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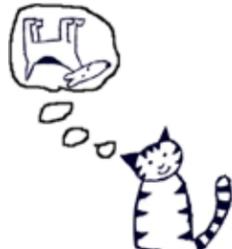


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# CCS graduate in pursuit of dark matter

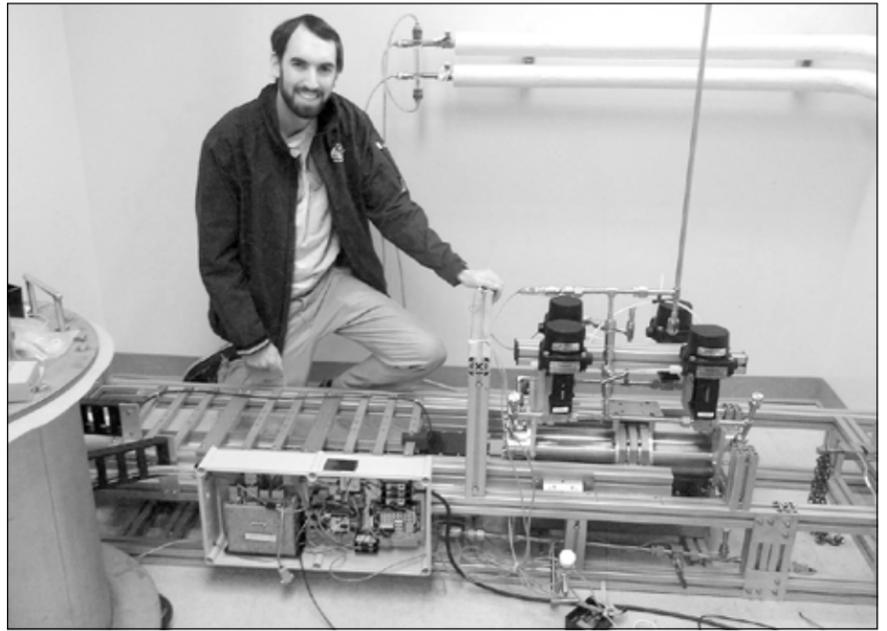
by Susan M. Pierce

Christmas break is coming right around the corner, and most of us have some sort of plans for the holidays. However, I don't know anyone else personally, other than CCS alumni Leaf Swordy, who will be working inside a mountain in Italy, approximately one mile underground, collaborating with scientists from all over the world, to locate the existence of the hereto elusive substance that makes up 5/6ths of the mass in the universe—dark matter.

Leaf first became involved with the project, XENON 1Ton, in 2015 as a sophomore at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, NY. RPI is a private research university and Space Grant Institution. Leaf was intrigued by the project and approached Dr. Ethan Brown, the head of the RPI Xenon group. Before long, he was working on the pump for the system. The first semester, graduate student Ted Berger, who made the original design for the pump, gave Leaf a small model of the pump then took off, leaving Leaf largely on his own to cut the metal needed to make a larger version of the pump. Thankfully, the next semester Ted stayed on campus and the two became colleagues. Leaf has been working on the pump for nearly two years, and has become an important member of the RPI team, making significant contributions in the pump's design elements and construction. Leaf will be starting his Master's program at RPI in January in either astrophysics, particle physics, or both, after completing a B.S. in Physics. As a graduate student he will be

officially considered a "collaborator" of the XENON 1 Ton project.

So, just what is this XENON1T and just how big of a deal is that someone who attended Crestone Charter School from Kindergarten to 12th grade is working on it? Let me reverse that—it is a *very* big deal! The Xenon1T is the most sensitive particle detector on Earth. Leaf has helped make RPI's pump the cleanest pump in the world, in terms of not introducing radioactive impurities to the xenon. As my friend puts it, this is the cuttingest of cutting edge science! And indeed it is. The XENON Collaboration consists of 135 researchers from the U.S., Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Portugal, France, the Netherlands, Israel, Sweden and the United Arab Emirates. There have been several versions of a particle detector, but the latest (XENON1T) is housed nearly one mile underground, inside a mountain in the Italian Alps, at the Gran Sasso National Laboratory. Xenon is an element and considered a noble gas. As the name suggests, the XENON1T is filled with one ton of xenon in both liquid and gas forms. The intricacies of the experiment are beyond the scope of this article (and probably of my mind!), but in general, the goal is to locate dark matter particles by tracking the miniscule light and energy they emit when they recoil after colliding with an atom. The mountain and water the capsule is immersed in are meant to insulate the capsule from all the radioactive "noise" that our world makes, so as to hear the tiny "voice" of dark matter.



Leaf Swordy, CCS graduate, with the XENON1T pump he helped construct and design at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

So how did our Crestone boy end up on his way to the Italian Alps? Leaf accredits it to several reasons. It was through CCS's mentorship programs that Leaf met Michael Manthey, an RPI alumnus, who was able to instruct Leaf in Clifford Algebra and Computer Architecture on a level normally not available to high school students.

He learned of RPI, and when he applied, he feels that Michael's letter of recommendation played an important role in his acceptance. When I asked Michael what made him decide to mentor with CCS, he replied, "If you are a teacher, you like to teach! That's what it comes down to in the end."

Leaf took full advantage of CCS's concurrent enrollment program and was able to get a feel for college, grades, and take online university classes, such as Physics with MIT. He said that he learned to study, research and work on his own at CCS. He gives credit to his teachers, Karen Acker and Mark Mikow, and said that they were especially helpful when it came to applying to colleges.

Leaf will spend both his winter and summer break in Italy. He will be on-call during the night and said if there are any problems that cannot be repaired remotely, he will jump in a car, enter the mountain, make the descent into the laboratory and receive instructions from a myriad of scientists. He laughs nervously, saying, "If I screw up, 10 million dollars worth of xenon could be vented into the atmosphere! No stress there!"

Still, it is one impressive way to spend the holidays!

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## The Washington Beat

*One last time  
Some good news in a year  
of cruelty and anger*

by David Nicholas

We are done. The last column. TWB under my moniker is done. I started writing the Beat in 2005, and for the last eight years the column has come from the other side of the world. This was not a difficult feat as all the sources I used in America are readily available in Australia, just at different times of the day. But there are several observations before my last report.

Democracy depends upon all people agreeing that this ideal is the one we can all live by and for, as a people. The Greeks gave their public debates in Athens a name: demos. It came at a time when Athens was a city state in the Peloponnese. A city state living under the rule of a king.

Democracy in modern times has many forms of government that vie to be referred to as democratic, but America is the one true modern democracy and is the oldest of the modern nation states. The concept of nation states only came into being at the Treaty of Vienna in 1815; the United States was a democratic state from 1776.

When I lived in DC in 1988-1991 my two favorite memorials were the Jefferson and the Lincoln. The Jefferson Memorial, surrounded by the tidal pools of the Potomac, isn't as easy to get to as the Lincoln Memorial, so around dusk I would bike down from my apartment on Vermont Avenue—just five blocks from the White House—and sit on the steps of the Jefferson Memorial and enjoy the peace and serenity. It is one of the few places that you can sit and contemplate without being disturbed by anyone in a city that is always active with people.

The other place I went often was Arlington Cemetery. The eternal flame at John F. Kennedy's gravesite is amid the gardens of stone of America's fallen. The flame is located just down from the Custis Residence on what was the Arlington estate, owned by the family of Robert E. Lee's wife. It became his by marriage. The United States began ownership of the estate in 1864 and the choice for burying the Union's war dead was not lost on anyone then or now.

The point is Americans have fought hard to preserve democracy and keep it vibrant and alive, but it is fragile and requires constant vigilance to maintain its tenets and can never be taken for granted.

I have always seen history as relevant in the writing of these columns. The current administration would keep you ignorant by feeding you bull, and the pressure the media has come under to toe the administration line is extraordinary. The onus is on you, the voter, to stay informed any way you can, and to use the election process never to allow this debacle of governance to continue. After all, if not you, who?

### Moving forward

That said, the state of the union has never been under assault as much as it is today, but timing is everything and 2018 looks to be a great year for Democrats to win back both

houses in Congress. Democrats must not take anything for granted and never assume that good political news in November 2017 means they can get complacent about mid-term elections in November next year.

The current occupant of the White House works daily to institute a regime placing power in the hands of the few and to keep it there. He prefers America to be a crass autocracy ruled by entitled and wealthy oligarchs or former military officers, and that's what we have. The people be damned and damned we are close to becoming. Worse, he is planning to be around for eight years and then turn it into a dynasty of family members taking over from him.

It is hard to believe that in just the one year since January 20, 2017 so much of America has changed for the worse. Moral authority is a big and essential part of the American experience and it has been allowed to dissipate or ceased to be relevant.

This has to stop and the best political weapon to stop the rot is you, the voter. This is a fight you don't want to lose. Victory is possible.

### Democratic wins November 7

When Democrats vote en masse, we win. On November 7, Democrats won both gubernatorial elections, keeping the Virginia governorship with Ralph Northam winning by 9 points over his opponent, and winning back New Jersey governorship with Phil Murphy beating Republican Chris Christie.

It looks as though Democrats could gain a majority in the Virginia House of Delegates, for the first time in years.

Transgender candidate Danica Roem's win for a House of Delegates seat in Virginia is huge, both symbolically and historically. The Democrat defeated a socially conservative icon in Delegate Bob Marshall (R), a 26-year incumbent who once called himself Virginia's "chief homophobe." And she did it by about 10 points. She also becomes the first openly transgender candidate elected to a state legislature in American history.

### He was played in Asia

Mr. Trump sounded off on November 15, boasting about the victory he had during ten days in Asia. His base takes what he says as gospel; they didn't see the smirks and laughter behind the hands of Asian leaders. The biggest problem with autocrats who are stupid enough to believe their own publicity is that they fail to see that objectives were not realized. Nor are they likely to be. This is how it played out:

1) Japan. This was to be easy and Mr. Trump set foot in Tokyo without jet lag kicking in. But he didn't get much from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He did get an audience with the Japanese Emperor and he addressed the Japanese Diet the following day, but by then the jet lag had kicked in and he sounded dopey. The sharp warning to



North Korea about US retaliation if the DPRK dared attack the US or its allies was tired and flat. For his part, Mr. Abe refused to buy US weapons or to lower the trade barriers Japan has in place to protect both its auto and electronics industries. To sum up, after two days of froth and bubble they still were just good buds.

2) South Korea. He came, he mingled, addressed Seoul's National Assembly jet lagged, warned North Korea. His discussions about trade and revising the KORUS trade agreement with South Korea were a bust. The policy goal of rewriting the trade agreement "to make it fairer" got lost among the pomp and circumstance the South Koreans turned on at the Blue House (the Korean version of the White House) which had Mr. Trump gushing. The great white leader saw the natives kowtowing (which wasn't what was happening but that's how he saw it) and he was putty. South Korea declined to renegotiate the agreement. It doesn't have to. If subsequently US trade representative Robert Lighthizer insists on negotiating, South Korea will move closer to China. That started just before Mr. Trump arrived.

3) China. Whatever happened at Mar-a-Lago in February with China's President Xi Jinping and the memoranda of understanding got lost in Beijing. The Chinese had Mr. Trump's measure. They know a sucker when they see one.

The Chinese gave him the red-carpet treatment with a private dinner in the Forbidden City (a 12-course meal that went on for two hours or more), a ceremonial guard of honor at the Great Hall of the People in Tiananmen Square (which few, if any other leaders receive on state visits to Beijing) and, once again, Mr. Trump was putty.

Instead of holding China's feet to the fire on the so-called US-China trade imbalance, after public comments flattering Mr. Trump by President Xi, Mr. Trump said that China wasn't to blame for the huge trade imbalance, laying the blame at the door of previous American administrations.

The Chinese also gave Mr. Trump something to crow about in that they signed memoranda of understanding for \$253 billion in future trade deals. For example, one memorandum said that China would purchase 100 Boeing aircraft for \$76 billion sometime in the future. It's unlikely they will do this deal unless they are seriously pressed because EU's Airbus Corporation actually builds their planes in China. If Mr. Trump knew this, it didn't come across.

This was President Xi's victory. His goal was to distract Mr. Trump from angrily denouncing China's Belt Road Initiative, President Xi's doctrine forging trade ties around the world which is looking to be very successful. Instead, Mr. Trump recognized Mr. Xi as Mr. Trump's equal on the world stage, essentially allowing China a free hand to go ahead

with trade policies with former US allies. Again, Mr. Lighthizer as US Trade Representative will try and destroy this effort. He hates China but he's late to the table.

4) Vietnam. True to form, Hanoi rolled out the red carpet, but Mr. Trump was there to attend the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) meeting and generally mingle. His speech addressed the America First policy and the Indo-Pacific doctrine. Essentially, nations should feel free to come to America and negotiate bilateral trade agreements one-on-one, none of this multinational trade agreement nonsense, as Mr. Trump sees it. While it was big on atmospheric, it was scant on detail so it got lost in other narratives, particularly the speech by the next speaker.

This was China's President Xi, who touted global trade agreements, offers of financial investment and encouragement for globalization. This speech was what attendees wanted to hear. Because most members of ASEAN had signed on to the TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership), the plan this time was to sign the agreement referred to as TPP11. This was the same Trans Pacific Partnership agreement that Mr. Trump withdrew from on his first day in office. So, while Mr. Trump schmoozed delegates, members were getting on to sign the agreement.

What the professionals at the Department of State understood and the Trump administration missed was that the Asia-Pacific region wants stability and calm so that trade may occur, thus building up and expanding national economies. Any world power that offers that wins, and China offered that. Thus, it was considered by pundits at the Council of Foreign Relations and other Washington think tanks that President Xi won.

5) Philippines. This was the last stop, and admitted killer Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte welcomed Mr. Trump, serenading him with an off-key karaoke version of "You Are the Light." In passing, Mr. Trump mentioned Mr. Duterte's poor human rights record while noting that despite Duterte being a murderous dictator they had a "great relationship."

President Duterte appealed to Mr. Trump's sense of fair play, being keen to lessen the tension between China and the US over the South China Sea. He doesn't want an unnecessary conflict. China considers the South China Sea to be its territorial waters. Mr. Trump responded that the American presence with three naval battlegroups on station off the Korean peninsula would/could provide added protection by ending any conflicts that might arise over issues in the South China Sea.

At the beginning of the Asian tour Mr. Trump said he had added another day to attend the East Asian Conference November 12-13;



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but with all the wining and dining he decided to skip the meeting after all. He had received advice that he should attend to reassure our Pacific allies (the Philippines and Australia), but he didn't. He let SecStat Tillerson do that one.

Was the tour too damn long? You bet. The biggest flaw was that Mr. Trump expects nations to be anxious to trade with us and so be willing to come and discuss trade on our terms.

The Asia-Pacific nations are willing to trade, but the US is just one country. China is now the biggest market with the greatest potential. We are running a distant second. Trade is about willingness; using military force or having military presence to force trade agreements won't work like it used to.

Trade is essential for our survival. US Trade Representative is a Cabinet position under Mr. Trump. Mr. Lighthizer is Mr. Trump's hammer in trade matters and he is on the warpath to force trade agreements. How much that works in the Asia-Pacific, we will see. While that might work with Canada and Mexico in NAFTA negotiations, it takes two to tango. If people aren't interested in dancing, we could be toast.

#### Sex crimes blow up the Alabama Senate race

Alabama, the reddest of red states, may give a US Senate seat to the Democrats. Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore, alleged child molester, preferred by many evangelical Christians in this red state, is up against a decent Democrat, former US Attorney Doug Jones. This is a special election on December 12 to replace the current US Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Currently there are six women who have made public charges of sexual molestation carried out by Judge Moore when they were teenagers, aged 14 to 16 years of age. These acts were performed some 20-30 years ago when Mr. Moore was the State Attorney.

The charges made by the women have merit. Their details are specific and believable when compared to the Judge's predictable denials, some of which make him even more suspect.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said immediately when the charges went public, "I believe the women." Several prominent members joined him, and the chairman of the Senate GOP campaign arm, Cory Gardner (R-CO), announced that Judge Moore should be expelled if he wins the special election "because he does not meet the ethical and moral requirements of the United States Senate."

US House Speaker Paul Ryan echoed this sentiment several days later. Notably, our sex molester-in-chief has been silent ever since he returned from his Asian trip.

The latest, at time of writing, is that the woman who was fourteen years old at the time has described in detail Mr. Moore's molestation of her on the ABC network. To counter the optic, White House counselor Kellyanne Conway is out trying to distract voter focus. She's arguing that Judge Moore's election is essential for tax reform. I don't think that's working.

My view is that the Judge should be charged, tried and if found guilty chemically castrated because he is still a sexual predator and a serial one if the allegations are to be believed.

Politically, a victory by Democratic candidate Doug Jones would narrow the GOP's margin of control in the Senate from 52-48 to 51-49. This would make every single Republican "the deciding vote" on every bill. Anyone who has ever had an attack ad run against them in a race for Congress will tell you is not a great spot to be in.

Countering the charges on Fox News and in other places (such as speaking to voters at campaign events in near-empty halls), Judge Moore is going down fighting. Polls suggest that three weeks out the Judge is either 50-50 or is trailing Mr. Jones by eight percentage points. We will see how this plays on December 12.

#### Republican tax reform

On November 16 the House of Representatives passed the tax reform bill 227-205 with only GOP votes. Thirteen GOP Representatives voted against it along with all Democrats. Essentially, the House version will need to be reconciled with the Senate version, if and when a Senate version passes (which at time of writing looks unlikely, but things can change in a twinkling of an eye).

Basically, the House bill lowers the corporate tax rate for most companies to a flat 20% from 39.6%, where it is currently. We the people get it in the neck. The US Congress Joint Committee on Taxation is run by the chairs of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee—Representative Kevin Brady and Senator Orrin Hatch respectively—and has released its report.

The report shows that this bill is much like a teaser rate on a new credit card: there are some goodies in the first couple of years, but those disappear fairly quickly, at least for those below the median income. In 2019, the first full year that this bill would be law, the benefits are concentrated on the bottom of the income stream, with middle-class people, on average, paying just under 10% less in taxes than they would if the law weren't passed.

With each passing year the benefits shift upward, toward the rich. By 2021, those making between \$20,000 and \$30,000 a year are paying considerably more in taxes, those between \$30,000 and \$200,000 see their benefit shrinking, and those making more start to see their taxes falling.

By 2027, every income level below \$75,000 sees a tax increase, while everybody above that level sees a continued decrease, with the greatest cut in taxes accruing to those making more than a million dollars a year.

The report shows that the rich benefit and the poor are hurt in every way that it measures. For example, the effective tax rate—meaning the percentage that people, on average, actually pay after they take all deductions—changes in a precisely regressive form.

The poorer you are, the higher your effective rate will rise. By 2027, only those making a hundred thousand a year or more will see an actual cut in their effective tax rate. And, as could be expected by now, the more they make, the greater the cut in their effective rate.

By 2025, there is a direct transfer of money from the poor to the rich and corporations. This is not a flaw but the whole point. It isn't fair and people will suffer if it becomes law.

## Thank you David,

I wish to award David Nicolas the "Valiant Crestone Eagle Award". David has been the longest writer for the *Eagle*—26 years. He joined the writing staff back when the *Eagle* was a fledgling 2-year-old. He brought a wealth of writing experience and dedication to the *Eagle* and to Crestone. Over the years he has reported on many political and environmental stories. Big stories such as two huge water projects that would have devastated the San Luis Valley; gold and oil and gas development plans; wilderness protection. His love for the environment fueled his reporting. With fine journalism, he relentlessly covered these issues for years.

Even after he moved back to Australia for health reasons, he continued writing for the *Eagle* as our "foreign correspondent". His Washington Beat column has been a favorite of many readers. From the other side of the world, staying awake in the middle of the night, he has stayed tuned to what happens in the US. I am going to miss his insightful summaries, his wit and depth of knowledge.

Even though he is now "retired" I hope that now and then he'll send along an insight or two to share with us.

David, I thank you with all of my heart.

Dear friend, I luv ya too. —Kizzen

#### Trump meets Putin

Again Mr. Trump met his master at a side meeting at the ASEAN conference in Hanoi. Remember, Mr. Trump is bought and paid for. The Trump Russian Dossier tells how. It is true. Mr. Trump's protests that it isn't true just confirm that it is authentic.

I have read an article in the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, about the dossier's author, Christopher Steele, and he is the real deal. Mr. Trump has reason to be afraid. Very afraid.

The Trump Russian Dossier is true. I am as sure of it now as I ever have been. At some point the truth will out. Special Counsel Robert Mueller has the power to bring down America's Sexual-Predator-in-Chief and I think he will. I don't believe Mr. Trump will see out his first term. I could be wrong but I don't think so. My political instinct tells me so.

#### Sex crimes

In just the last four weeks the issue of sexual harassment and abuse has become a major issue. Why it didn't become an issue before now has to do with sex and money as major currencies in gaining and maintaining power, which exists with the compliance and acquiescence of people who should have spoken out sooner to help those who feel helpless and powerless.

Harvey Einstein, Roy Moore and Al Franken are the first but they will not be the last, and so it should be. They will live out their days in shame and disgust. Careers are ending in a twinkling of an eye.

My hope is that the rise of matriarchy may gain control of the mainstream American power structure and govern and direct our future. The patriarchy still rules, and is fighting for dear life to keep control, but these allegations have really shaken the patriarchy at its foundations.

Only when the patriarchy finds that it is simply easier to surrender and fighting is fruitless will we truly find peace as a nation. That's what I found.

#### This is it

This is the end of writing for the *Eagle* since 1991. A mutual parting of the ways, having served the community on many issues in the San Luis Valley and nationally for 27 years. The beat, of course, never stops. It goes on as long as the heart beats. Life is a circle. You gotta love the rhythms.

I am in good health. No cancers or signs of dementia on the horizon as I near 70 years of age.

My love of Crestone, which I call home, is at my center of things no matter where I am.

And that's the beat.

As I always sign off to Kiz, luv ya. Warm wishes to all.

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# What to do with all that waste? San Luis Valley recycling plan being created

by **Matie Belle Lakish**

The San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council and Conejos Clean Water have been seeking solutions for all that waste that valley residents generate, and often dump along roadsides, in ravines, and on our public lands. The project began when SLVEC received an EPA grant to assess environmental issues in the valley. After surveying local residents, SLVEC identified solid waste disposal as a high priority. The SLV is doing better than the rest of Colorado by recycling about 18%, compared to the statewide 12%. However, the national average is above 30%, so the valley has a long way to go.

Laurie Batchelder Adams, solid waste expert from Denver, was engaged to help develop a plan for the valley, which she presented at a meeting held at the POA Hall on November 6. She recommends a three-pronged approach: 1) Developing a regional recycling and trash drop site network, 2) Education programs aimed at stu-

dents and elected officials, and 3) Enhancements to the Rickey Recycling Center in Alamosa.

According to the proposed plan, up to 10 sites could be set up around the valley. Sites would accept both recycling and trash to help encourage proper disposal, and would be staffed. Recyclables would then be transferred to the Rickey Recycling Center in Alamosa, while trash would be taken directly to the landfill.

There are still several unknowns, one being whether recycling would be sorted before being collected. If curbside collection of materials becomes the norm, materials would likely be mixed and the costs would be higher to haul it to Colorado Springs for sorting than if it is sorted at the recycling sites by users. However, the ease of curbside pick-up could be an incentive to recycle more. Alamosa's decision on whether to offer curbside pickup may determine which option would be used. Costs for bins, fencing, vehicles, and personnel would run into the hundreds

of thousands of dollars for setup and ongoing operations. One proposal for paying the bills would be to require trash to be disposed of in special bags which would be purchased for \$3 or \$4 apiece. This would also incentivize recycling.

Promotion of the program would begin with teaching recycling in schools. Centauri High School has a recycling program that was organized by two students that could be a model for other schools in the valley. Education of county commissioners is also important to dispel myths such as the idea that recycling should pay for itself. It doesn't.

Funding would also be needed to upgrade Rickey Recycling Center in Alamosa to handle the increased load as recyclables from around the valley are added to the current amounts being sorted, baled, and shipped. This would involve purchasing more equipment, including a new baler, which costs about \$360,000.

While the proposal answers some questions that needed to be investigated, there are outstanding issues, including who would run the program. In the meantime, Bill Burch will continue picking up recyclables in Crestone.

Rehabilitation Sports Injury Stroke Neurological TMJ Dysfunction Manual Therapy Ergonomics  (719) 539-6144 (719) 539-1411 Fax	 <p>Formerly SALIDA PHYSICAL THERAPY</p>	Crestone 53 S Baca Grant Rd  Saguache 405 Denver Avenue  Salida 233 F Street
<a href="http://www.salidareboundpt.com">www.salidareboundpt.com</a>		



## CRESTONE MERCANTILE

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

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

Bob's Place: 182 E Galena Ave  
**COMING BACK**

Laundromat: 191 E Galena Ave  
Open 7 Days a Week  
8a.m to 5p.m.

*Happy Holidays!!*



### GIVING TREE

PROVIDING CLOTHING & TOYS TO  
THE YOUNGEST MEMBERS OF OUR  
COMMUNITY--YOUR  
DONATION WILL MAKE THIS A  
MAGICAL TIME FOR A CHILD!

DONATIONS ARE GREATFULLY ACCEPTED AT THE GROCERY STORE!

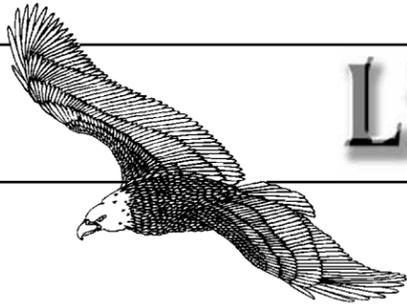
### New at the Grocery Store:

- ◆ Smoked meats including fish, pork shoulders, sausages and our very own bacon!!!
- ◆ Locally baked pies, cookies and breads.
- ◆ Beautiful gifts & special holiday foods
- ◆ Seasonal items like peppermint creamers, winter roast coffees and cured meats.

### Crestone Mercantile Hardware

The BEST STOCKED Hardware store in the San Luis Valley!

Meet all of your automotive, household, plumbing, paint, electrical, lumber, gardening, office & electrical needs right here in CRESTONE! Come check out our Holiday decorations and wonderful gift items!



# Living on the Earth

## Seasonal symbols of mid-winter

by Mary Lowers

As we approach mid-winter the ancient instinct to encourage light in the world enters our beings. On the Winter Solstice in the northern hemisphere, December 21, 2017 at 3:23 Mountain Time, we will be at the Cold Moon in the dark and frigid chasm of the longest night of the year. Starting December 4, 2017 the planet slowly begins to grow longer, warmer days and shorter, warmer nights in the northern regions. As we know all too well, come January and February this warming is a gradual process; but after the Winter Solstice we know the days are getting gradually longer, giving all creatures the promise of a warmer, greener and brighter tomorrow.



Hanukkah Menorahs symbolize the miracle of light.

This wheel of the year has been acknowledged by every human culture. Ceremonies and celebrations are built around this annual cosmic event. In the far northern regions of the world many symbols and objects used to celebrate this cosmic event have made it to modern seasonal celebrations, but we often do not know the roots of these important elements of our mid-winter festivities. I set out to find the roots of some of our common holiday symbols and have picked a few to share with *Eagle* readers this season.

The Christmas tree as we know it today came from the holiday traditions of England and Germany during the Victorian Era in the mid- to late-nineteenth century. Clearly flora like firs, pines, holly and mistletoe which all remain green through the cold winter are symbols of hope that the warmth of summer will come again. Around a thousand years ago at winter solstice people in Scandinavia hung fir trees upside down from the rafters of their feasting halls. In

many parts of northern Europe, early Christmas trees were cherry or hawthorn plants brought inside in pots to hopefully flower for the solstice. Poorer folk with homes too cold to grow a cherry tree or hawthorn bush crafted a pyramid shape to look like a tree and hung it with apples and candles. In early medieval times, Jesse Trees were used at Winter Solstice to illustrate the genealogy of Jesus, who descended from Jesse, an Old Testament patriarch. Christians say Jesus was born on Christmas to bring light into the dark winter world.

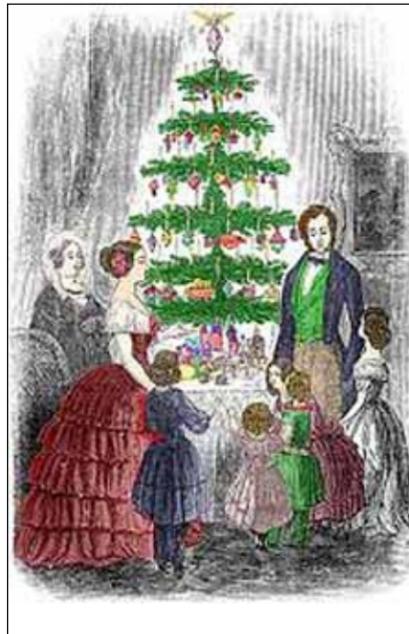
In Bremen, Germany in 1570 there's a record of a small tree, "decorated with apples, nuts, dates, pretzels and paper flowers" displayed for the Christmas season in a guild hall. During the Middle Ages in Europe, "Paradise Plays" were often performed on Christmas Eve. These dramas told Bible stories to the mostly illiterate population. The paradise in the plays was the Garden of Eden and the story of Adam and Eve's fall from grace and expulsion from paradise after they ate the forbidden fruit was the plot line of these productions. Christmas celebrates in the Christian tradition the birth of Jesus Christ who came to earth to free humanity from this original sin of Adam and Eve. Apples were used to depict the forbidden fruit. The paradise tree was the main prop for these theatricals and was often a pine or fir tree with red apples hanging from it.

The so-called colors of the season—red, white, green and gold—derive their holiday identity from ancient roots. Green in the form of evergreen boughs has been used for thousands of years to brighten and freshen homes during the dark of



Holly with its bright red berries and prickly shiny leaves symbolizes the blood Jesus shed to save humanity and the crown of thorns he wore at the crucifixion.

winter to remind people that spring will come. The bright red we associate with the holidays is the color of apples which symbolize man's fall into darkness. Holly berries'



Victorian Christmas tree.

vivid red symbolizes the blood Jesus shed to free humanity from the legacy of Adam and Eve's fall from grace. Gold depicts sunshine and light. Red and gold together are the colors of the fire which warms. White is the symbol of purity and peace.

Candles and fires are often part of winter holiday celebrations. Fires symbolize to Christians and Pagans alike the return of longer, warm, sunny days. In Scandinavia the Feast of Juul is a Winter Solstice celebration in which a Juul, or Yule, log was brought from the woods with great ceremony and burned long and hot on the fire in honor of the Norse god Thor. Many



Many countries in northern Europe make delicious Yule log cakes.

northern European countries have a Yule log tradition. In some cultures a piece of the log was kept as a symbol of light and good luck. In some areas the Yule log was burned down to ashes which were spread across the dormant fields in the winter season to bring fertility to the soil. The ashes could be kept as a charm or medicine. Some French peasants kept the Yule log ashes under their beds as protection from lightning strikes.

Saturnalia was the name of the Roman mid-winter festival honoring the god Saturn. Several symbols have come down to us from this rowdy, seven-day celebration. The lighting and burning of candles is linked with Saturnalia. In some parts of Ireland candles are burnt like Yule logs during the longest night, and to let them go out before dawn is considered dreadful luck. Candles are used in Christian

Advent wreaths to count down the days until Christmas. Jews use the Menorah with its Hanukkah candles to celebrate the miracle of light and hope.

Plants are also associated with the mild winter holidays. Holly, as mentioned earlier, has prickly leaves reminiscent of the crown of thorns worn by Jesus at his crucifixion, and its red berries are symbols of the blood he shed to bring Christians from the darkness of sin into the light. The rosemary plant, which is popular at Christmas, is associated with the Virgin Mary because it was said to be her favorite plant. It was thought to ward off evil and is called the remembrance plant to remind us of the birth of Jesus and the return of the light. Rosemary lends its lovely smell to freshen houses shut up tight against the cold. The red roses of the Virgin of Guadalupe are part of the celebrations in the Americas.



Burning a Yule fire in winter woods.

Mistletoe, a parasitic plant that grows on a range of trees, was brought to the Winter Solstice by the ancient Druids. These priests believed it possessed mystical powers that would bring good luck to the household. In the Norse tradition mistletoe symbolizes love and friendship. Curiously, the Anglo-Saxon translation of the word mistletoe comes from mistel, meaning poop, and tal, meaning stick. Mistletoe is poison to humans but provides food though the dark cold winter to many birds and animals.

Poinsettias joined the holiday tradition after Joel Robert Poinsett became the first US Ambassador to Mexico in 1825. He fell in love with the red and white flowers which bloom during the winter. The poinsettia comes from the southern region of Mexico called Taxco de Alarcón. The ambassador sent plants to botanic gardens all over the US. In the 1900s the Eckle family in southern California pretty much made them a holiday symbol.

Candy canes were invented 25 years ago in Germany. They represent the crooks of the staffs of the shepherds who came to see the baby Jesus. Christmas cards were created in England in 1843, partly to get people to use the new postal system. Carols were originally Pagan songs sung in a circle at Winter Solstice. The word carole means to dance in a circle.

Modern and older symbols help us remember and celebrate the turning of the wheel of the year and remind us of the light even when we are deep in darkness. May light come into your lives this season.



by **Kim Malville**

The magnificent constellation of Orion the Hunter rises at evening twilight and will be visible throughout the night. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Sirius rises a few hours later. Further north along the horizon is Gemini.

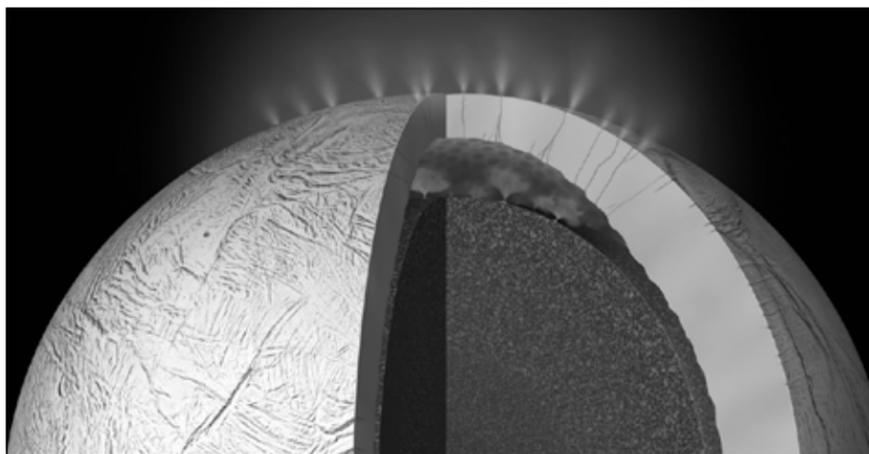
**December 13-14:** The Geminids meteors are visible for most of the month, from December 4-16, but they peak on the night of December 13/14. With the moon only a slender crescent, it should be a good show. The meteors radiate out of the star Castor, in the constellation of Gemini, which rises above the eastern horizon at dusk. The Geminids produce a number of Earth-grazing meteors, which hit the earth's atmosphere at a low angle, sometimes producing brilliant fireballs. The Geminid meteor shower is nearly 200 years old, according to known records—the first recorded observation was in 1833 from a riverboat on the Mississippi River—and is still going strong. In fact, it's growing stronger. That's because Jupiter's gravity has tugged the stream of particles closer to Earth over the centuries. The Geminids are associated with the near-Earth object 3200 Phaethon, an asteroid that may have undergone a collision with another object in the distant past to produce the stream of particles that Earth runs into.

**December 21:** December solstice at 9:28am MST. The longest night of the year, but around the solstice the sun changes its position in the sky imperceptibly, and night stays longest for a number of days. It has been a troubling time for many cultures, when it was not certain the sun would return north again and begin warming the earth. Among the Rio Grande Pueblos, winter solstice dances have been held to remind the sun of his duty to humans and not to tarry too long in his winter abode.

**The Great American Eclipse**

For those who drove up to the eclipse line, the sun and moon put on a great show for us. The most magnificent photograph of our great eclipse, to my knowledge, was taken by a Czech Republic profes-

sor of mathematics, Miloslav Druckmüller, who used two automatic cameras, which took a series of exposures from 1/500 sec. to 16 sec. This image is a combination of 161 eclipse images pasted together. The beautiful detail you can see in the photograph is due to the structure of the sun's magnetic field. For millennia, the total eclipse has been the rare opportunity for humans to view this in-



Enceladus and its buried ocean.

photo courtesy of NASA-JPL Caltech

credibly beautiful but still largely unexplained aspect of the sun.

**Is Enceladus teeming with life?**

Enceladus is the sixth-largest of Saturn's 63 moons. It is 310 miles in diameter, 1/7 the size of our moon, which is dead and cold. Enceladus is even colder but may be teeming with life. It is the brightest moon in the solar system, because it is mostly covered by fresh, clean snow produced by geysers of water coming from its under-ice global ocean. Deep under its ocean, there appears to be a core made of wet sand. Water may heat up while flowing through the core, becoming a promising environment for life.

Observations from NASA's Cassini spacecraft indicate that gravitational flexing of the core is generating heat and fueling hotspots where plumes of liquid water squirt out of Enceladus's crust. The hot water is produced by hydrothermal vents probably as hot as 190°F, compared to -330°F on its surface.



Alien rock from another solar system. photo courtesy of the European Southern Observatory

be a member of the solar system. At the earth the escape velocity from the solar system is 42 km/sec while this object was moving past us at nearly 50 km/sec, meaning it will be able to escape completely from the gravity of the sun. It was discovered by a team of astronomers at the University of Hawaii and they gave it the equally strange Hawaiian name Oumuamua which means "messenger from afar, arriving first." Its shape is clearly unusual, with a radius of nearly 330 feet and length about a quarter-mile long. Its shape is revealed by its strange brightness variations when it rotates every 7.3 hours. When the asteroid's long side faces the Earth, more of its surface area could reflect sunlight, making it more visible to us. And when the tip of the rock faces us, it is a very dim point of light.

The rock has a reddish hue, perhaps from metallic iron and carbon-rich matter, similar to some asteroids in the solar system and some very distant dwarf planets. Preliminary orbital calculations suggested that the object came from the approximate direction of the bright star Vega, in the northern constellation of Lyra. However, even travelling at its breakneck speed, it took so long to reach us that Vega was not near that position when the asteroid was there about 300,000 years ago. It seems likely that Oumuamua has been wandering, lonely, lost, and cold, through the Milky Way, unattached to any star system, for hundreds of millions of years before reaching us. An interstellar asteroid similar to Oumuamua probably passes through the inner Solar System about once every year, but it would have been too faint to spot. It is only recently that survey telescopes are powerful enough to have a chance to discover such an object. Oumuamua will pass Neptune's orbit in 2022 and leave the Solar System in roughly 20,000 years.



Magnificent corona at the Great American Eclipse.

Miloslav Druckmuller and team

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**Kim & Nancy Malville**  
 kimmalville@hotmail.com

# Who We Are

## Nina Gonzalez DeTerra:

*Serendipity, solo-preneurship, and a silo home*

by Gussie Fauntleroy

How does a teenager in the 1980s rebel against a neo-hippie mother who herself is super-social and pretty wild? By going in the opposite direction, of course. For Nina Gonzalez DeTerra that meant deciding to head for college and becoming “a little preppy” along the way—as a high school cheerleader and marching band member, elected to student council, earning good grades, and being in musical theater, the National Honor Society, and Key Club. “Internally I wanted to dye my hair pink, but I didn’t because I knew my Mom would be like, ‘Cool! Let’s go pick out a color!’” Nina says, laughing. She eventually did dye her hair bright pink but that was much later, after discovering doors that opened into more authentic, creative sides of herself.

Nina’s childhood years were spent in a white-bread Pennsylvania factory town, where the only thing multicultural was her name; the “Gonzalez” of her father’s Puerto Rican heritage didn’t come with a Latino upbringing. When she was three her parents divorced and her father, a handyman and Jack-of-all-trades, moved to Miami. At age 10, Nina began spending summers with him. “My Dad’s idea of having his daughter there was to bring her to work,” and not just to watch him work, she says, smiling. “I would not have been able to build my house without the skills and knowledge Dad taught me.”

### Getting on and off the career track

Following high school in Hollywood, Florida, where her mother took the family when Nina was 15, she attended Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts. She graduated in 1993 with a bachelor of science in rehabilitation and disability studies and worked for three years with developmentally challenged kids in the school system in Northampton, Mass. But soon her professional and non-work worlds began to sharply diverge. Living for the first time in a socially and politically progressive part of the country, close to five colleges, and having artist and musician friends, she was finally in synch with herself and her peers. As she puts it, “I found my tribe.” With her father’s blessing she quit her job, dyed her hair pink, and worked in a paint-your-own-pottery shop. She audited classes at Smith College, studying theater costume design. And she met her “soul mate,” Zebadiah, with whom she traveled and worked for the next seven years.

### The gifts embedded in pain

Although their relationship had its off and on moments, during the summer of 2003 they were living in Massachusetts and talking about starting a family, marriage, and a committed future together. One night after a work party at



Nina Gonzalez DeTerra.

photo by Lori Nagel

a friend’s house, Nina decided to get a ride home with friends. For the first time in all their years together, she didn’t take the wheel for Zebadiah after he’d been drinking. “Go home, sleep it off, and we’ll talk in the morning,” she told him. That morning never came. As her friends drove her home, they were the first to come across Zebadiah’s wrecked car on the side of the road. He died before reaching the hospital.

Nina was 32. The experience was devastating, yet along with utter and complete sadness, it offered unexpected gifts: a sudden intensification of perception and alertness—as if “every chakra in my body had burst wide open”—and a deep awareness of the value of life. In that state, she says, “The universe seemed filled with all these amazing possibilities and the sense that I could make my life whatever I wanted it to be.” She felt a strong pull to the west and a few months later took to the road, following the Rainbow Gathering trail.

### Checking out of the box

Nina intended to settle in Taos, but a stop at Valley View Hot Springs, a weekend at the Crestone Music Festival, and things falling into place for her in Crestone changed her mind. In early 2005 she made this her home. She worked at the EarthStar Co-Evolutionary Café and met Jacob, the father of her twins, Willow and



Nina with her twin children, Willow and Asher.



Nina’s home built with two grain silos.



Nina is pouring her energy and passion into the business she took over from Donovan Spitzman. photo by Paul Grice

Asher. Their home birth, with Zuki Abbott-Zamora as midwife, was “amazing,” Nina says. Along with other young mothers Nina founded and ran the Crestone Co-operative Playschool for three or four years. She and Jacob went separate ways in 2012 and Nina bought a parcel of land in the Grants.

As she was considering building methods and materials, her friend Jim Lester suggested a grain silo—inexpensive to buy and ship, and able to be transformed into a tight, comfortable house. Almost completed, her home now consists of two insulated silos, each with a loft, and connected by a vestibule with passive solar gain. While work parties with friends helped move the project along, Nina did much of the building herself. “I was committed to do this, whether I had help or not,” she says. “Having that attitude, people wanted to help. I’ve gotten so much support.”

### Fashioning a new life

In 2013 Nina partnered with Crestone/Baca resident Donovan Spitzman in his men’s clothing business, putting her sewing skills to work and traveling to festivals and other events. This past summer she took over and renamed the clothing line, Amplified Elegance, with Donovan continuing as designer and Joy Hill as seamstress. (Find Amplified Elegance on Facebook and at amplifiedelegance.com.)

Also this year, Nina made the decision to allow her children, now 11, to live with their paternal grandparents in Florida. She sees Crestone as a wonderful place to raise young children, but with few opportunities for teens. In Orlando her kids are embraced by family and have access to excellent schools and extracurricular activities, she says, adding: “It’s a lot easier to check out of society than to check in. I checked out of the box, but there’s a lot of value in learning to live in the box.”

Meanwhile, Nina is completing her home and pouring her passion into Amplified Elegance, preparing to move the business to the next level with a rented studio/production space in town. As she looks back on her life at 47, her description of colorful brocade shirts that offer men a chance to “amp up” their elegance could apply as well to her own approach to life. “It’s wanting to live, to be adventurous, to explore,” she says. “It’s wanting to have your inner self shine.”



**Darlene Yarbrough**  
Owner/Broker

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DECEMBER 2017 Listings

<b>SOLD!</b>  Was \$459,000 <b>SOLD!</b> Exquisite Landscaping	<b>SOLD!</b>  High up w/views	<b>Under Contract</b>  Creek Property	<b>Under Contract</b>  Fantastic Views	<b>Under Contract</b>  New Construction	<b>NEW LISTING &amp; UNDER CONTRACT</b>  Expansive Views
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<b>786C Panorama Way - \$399,000</b> This Lee Mitchell custom 3bd/2ba/sunroom/library/balconies 2428sf home with fabulous gardens sits on 2.14 acres w 2-car garage/studio. Exquisite - Must See!	<b>1001 Badger Rd - \$149,000</b> High up w/extraordinary valley views. 905sf 1BR/1BA home w/durable and low-maintenance Trex view deck off the front, oak hardwood floors inside, passive solar, elec basebd heat & wdstv. Xtra rm off kitchen can be used as dining or office.	<b>535 Thomwood - \$255,000</b> 2.72ac compound in the Grants w/ Ctnwd Crk running thru. 3BD/2BA 1668sf SW stucco hm w/spacious living/dining. Brkfst nook w/expansive views of Sand Dunes & Mt. Blanca. Propane forced-air w/wdstv backup. Solar PV panels. Lg studio wkshp.	<b>3762 Carefree Way - \$198,000</b> Lovely 2BD/1.75BA 1284sf 2-story wood-sided home w/mtn & valley views. Light-filled rooms w/lg windows. Master ste has built-in storage, soak tub w/views & balcony. Lg guest BR opens to outdoors via french doors. Xtra studio bldg on property.	<b>1212 Chaparral Way - \$175,000</b> New construction by Richard Laurie, Terapin and Company. One story 3/1.75 on beautiful treed lot close to paved road. Lots of windows for great light and amazing views.	<b>1327 Badger Road - \$172,000</b> Efficient 2BD/2.5BA/Office 1280sf 2-story wood-sided home on 1.88ac w/360-degree views, covered wrap-around porch & triple-glazed windows. Strong passive solar. Wd flrs. Heat Recovery Sys, wood stove & elec. baseboard heaters.
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<b>Under Contract</b>  Log Cabin	<b>New Listing</b>  Private Paradise 4 Bed / 2 Bath	<b>Commercial</b>  Downtown Crestone WAS \$499,000	<b>Baca Meadows</b>  Remodeled Luxury	<b>Grants</b>  Acreage WAS - \$389,000	 Off-Grid Acreage
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<b>98 Skyview Way - \$169,000</b> Blt in 2002 by John Baxter, owner of Mtn Valley Lumber, this ~953sf log hm is 2BD/1BA down w/lg ~200sf loft up. Solid, rustic feel w/wd laminate flrs dwn, solid wd flrs up & wd ceiling. Close to town w/paved roads. Incl furnishings!	<b>437C N. Chaparral Way - \$479,000</b> Built by Paul Koppa 2020sf 4 bd/2 ba strawbale home + detached oversized 2-car garage w/potential apt is designed non toxic materials and energy efficiency. On 2.09 Acres bordering greenbelt of Crestone Creek w/ Sauna & outdoor oven.	<b>120 W. Silver, Town of Crestone - \$399,000</b> This large 4320sf commercial building is currently in residential use as 7 units. Can convert to full commercial use as professional offices, retail and much more. Includes Lots 1 & 2, Block 43. Potential seller finance.	<b>Townhouse #10 - \$189,000</b> Exquisite town house completely remodeled in 2008. 1480sf 2-story 2BD/2BA features redesigned kitchen & bathrooms, updated heat & lighting systems, beautiful patio. Must see!	<b>499C Willow Trail - \$350,000</b> A unique & rare find! ~3900sf with 4bd/3ba/office/sunroom + attached greenhouse. 20+ acres. Tall trees. Private, long cul de sac & backs to Conservation Easement, offering extreme privacy. Well water.	<b>1381 Saddle Rock Trail - \$280,000</b> Light-filled 1902 sf 2BR/1BA strawbale off-grid home w/stunning views. Radiant in-floor heat & heartstone woodstove. Open living space, private gardens, walled patio, greenhouse, shed & heated garage. 8+ ac incl. lots 1381, 1444 & 1445.
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<b>Chalets</b>  Luxurious/Views	 Indoor Exercise Pool	 A Private Paradise!	 Private on the Creek WAS \$429,000	 Private Setting WAS \$449,000	 Spacious & near creek! WAS \$319,000
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<b>780C Palomino OL - \$585,000</b> Built by Lee Mitchell to capture mtn & valley views, elegant 3 BR/2.5BA home w/2-car garage on 2.787 acres. Fantastic landscaping & flowing water. In-floor radiant heat & Hearthstone woodstove w/ stone surround. Expansive Master balcony.	<b>1967C Rockyview Way - \$439,000</b> Luxurious 3BD/2.75BA/Office/3-car Garage 2953sf home sits on 2.374 acres & has a 2-room upstairs Master Suite. Beautifully landscaped courtyards & gardens with custom fence & deck, great views.	<b>3813CR Virtue Ct. - \$432,000</b> Beautiful 3BR/3BA 2171sf custom strawbale by P.Koppa sits on 2.505ac. Walled courtyard/garden. Non-toxic, energy eff. w/thermal hw, radiant in-flr ht, wd stove, on-demand hwh, adobe&wood floors, aspen t&g ceilings, prvt mstr suite.	<b>3959C Cheerful Court - \$424,000</b> Custom Cathedral Style Mt Home. Approx 2700 sq/ft, located on 2.16 acres by Cottonwood Creek. Many architectural features incl Brazilian cherry hrdwd flrs, diamond plaster walls. Features 30x16' Art Studio.	<b>4519C Grayline Ct - \$395,000</b> Elegant 2BR 2BA 1932 custom strawbale built in 2003 by Paul Koppa. A refined Asian/Southwest blend. On private cul-de-sac 5.35 acres backs to greenbelt. 30' yurt w/kitchenette & bathroom.	<b>147 Moonlight Way - \$299,000</b> Spacious 2600sf 2 story 3/2.5/Office w/ garage backing to Crestone Creek greenbelt. Upstairs master suite w/soak tub & double vanities & separate wing w/2 BR's, BA and living area. Downstairs is living, dining, kitchen & office.
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<b>Chalets</b>  Magnificent Views WAS \$295,000	 Lots of Space	 Newer Construction	 Energy Efficient	 Log Home WAS \$249,000	 3 Creek Lots WAS \$199,000
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<b>22 Alpine OL - \$279,000</b> CUSTOM 3bd/2.5ba/2 car garage 2232sf home close to town. Screened porch & wrap deck. Gracious Living with exceptional views!	<b>359 Chaparral Way - \$269,000</b> 4BD/2.75BA 3315sf home, remodeled in 2012. Amazing amt of space & close to town. Mstr BR has its own bathrm & opens to backyard. Lg laundry rm. Finished basement. Lg storage room. Attached 2-car garage & detached 1-car garage.	<b>3461 Splendid Way - \$265,000</b> This newer 1,356sf two story 2 bd/1.5ba home with attached 660sf garage is truly well built and beautiful. The living and bedroom space is upstairs w/ screened porch, great windows, modern kitchen and bath. Energy efficient w/ in-floor heat.	<b>1738C Willow Creek Way - \$259,000</b> Built in 2013, this Paul Koppa strawbale eco-friendly home sits up high in Chalet 1. 2BD/2BA, 1532sf on .91 acres. Strong passive solar. Solar radiant floor heat & domestic hot water. Energy efficient.	<b>3760 Jubilant Way - \$239,000</b> Beautiful 1,683sf 2 bd/1.5bath/loft/2 car attached garage octagonal log home with bamboo floors, in-floor radiant heat, wood vaulted ceilings. Bonus unfinished 1,200sf walkout basement.	<b>415C Moonlight Way - \$159,000</b> This 945sf SW-style 2-story, 1BD/1BA stucco home sits on 1.01ac. (+ Lot 414) adjoining Crestone Creek greenbelt & close to town. New roof & solar-thermal collectors. Add'l bldg slab for larger home to be built.
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## 2017 HOME SALES (\*denotes listed & sold)

380 N Alder St. .... \$425,000 ..... SOLD	635C Panorama Way ..... \$179,000 ..... SOLD*
786C Panorama Way ..... \$399,000 ..... SOLD*	107 Pinewood OL ..... \$172,500 ..... SOLD*
1038 Beaver Trail. .... \$337,000 ..... SOLD*	200 Evergreen. .... \$169,000 ..... SOLD
4511C Ridgecrest Way ..... \$312,000 ..... SOLD*	3705 Carefree Way ..... \$165,000 ..... SOLD
223 Moffat Way. .... \$289,000 ..... SOLD*	4275C Fallen Tree OL ..... \$164,000 ..... SOLD*
2145 Indian Well ..... \$266,500 ..... SOLD*	3901 Rarity Way ..... \$163,000 ..... SOLD
305 Palomino Way. .... \$252,000 ..... SOLD	35 Camino Baca Grande ..... \$155,000 ..... SOLD*
437E E. Twinview OL ..... \$245,000 ..... SOLD	1001 Badger Rd ..... \$149,000 ..... SOLD
3481 E. Graceful Ct.. .. \$239,000 ..... SOLD*	34 Camino Baca Grande ..... \$149,000 ..... SOLD*
757 Rendezvous ..... \$239,000 ..... SOLD	3735C Jubilant Way ..... \$149,000 ..... SOLD*
999C Badger Road ..... \$225,000 ..... SOLD*	760 & 761 Panorama Way ..... \$149,000 ..... SOLD*
983C Peaceful Way ..... \$224,500 ..... SOLD	3708 Enchanted Way ..... \$142,500 ..... SOLD*
1202 Wagon Wheel. .... \$219,000 ..... SOLD*	354 Huerta Ct ..... \$89,000 ..... SOLD*
1867C Rockyview Way ..... \$219,000 ..... SOLD	4485 Ridgecrest Way ..... \$74,500 ..... SOLD*
1541C Camino Real. .... \$205,000 ..... SOLD	535 Thomwood ..... \$255,000 ..... UNDER CONTRACT
661 Camino Del Rey ..... \$195,000 ..... SOLD	3762 Carefree Way ..... \$198,000 ..... UNDER CONTRACT*
2035 Lost Cave Way ..... \$189,900 ..... SOLD	1212 Chaparral Way ..... \$175,000 ..... UNDER CONTRACT*
333 Palomino Way. .... \$189,000 ..... SOLD*	1327 Badger Road ..... \$172,000 ..... UNDER CONTRACT*
2715 Happy Hollow Way ..... \$185,000 ..... SOLD	98 Skyview Way ..... \$169,000 ..... UNDER CONTRACT*

# Owner/builder conversations

by John Rowe

My first conversation this month is with Ed Sbarbaro, a sixty-something do-it-yourselfer who built a highly energy efficient and toxin and VOC-free home in Chale I. Ed and I first met at a POA Board meeting about a year ago where he regularly attends. Ed is a public-spirited fellow who actually seems to enjoy the political process, attends POA gatherings frequently and volunteered to take a seat on the Environmental and Architectural Committee (EAC) last year. He remarks that he is the only owner/builder on the Committee and hopes that bringing that perspective to bear will help other folks realize their dream of building a home here also. Ed would like nothing better than to see more young people be able to live here, especially families.



Ed Sbarbaro

Ed had remembered Crestone for its natural beauty, spiritual foundations, green building, and no building codes from his days here as a Colorado College professor, and he returned to make his home here when he retired. Ed built a south-facing 1200 sf solar-powered frame house with R40 walls and R60 ceiling insulation. He has a scoria foundation with a road base, sand, and brick paver floor. The floor is heated by a bank of south facing windows and his house stays nice and toasty all winter. Ed heats with wood, and not much of that. He remarks that he hasn't really needed a fire this year yet. Ed tried to be environmentally conscious about all phases of construction, saying, "everything in my house is locally sourced, including a work/trade arrangement that allowed me to live in someone's home in exchange for labor." Ed would like it to be known that he "feels blessed at the remarkable number of people that just appeared and helped me build my home." He was able to meet all POA deadlines, including the 18-month external completion deadline, doing 90% of the work himself, and had no trouble at all with the POA. "I am most grateful to all who helped me, there are just too many to list." Ed feels as though his sociology background help create this gift by giving him a universal respect for different kinds of people and the ability to be non-judgmental toward all of them. And he thinks that being of that mind and spirit attracts all sorts of good folks into his life. He loves the diversity of experience and attitudes to be found in Crestone and he does, indeed, seem very cheerful about all of that. Nowhere in our conversation does any sort of "us" and "them" seem to exist with him. He really does see just a wide variety of "us" and no "them" at all.

And what advice does Ed have for new owner/builders? "This is not a homestead community, this is a covenanted community with regulations." He does not think that anyone should be building with less than \$20,000 in the bank. He also warns against building a house just as a means to an end. He thinks "you have to enjoy the building process—all of it, or you will find yourself in bogged down and in big trouble." Ed is convinced that if you build simply and have an appropriate amount of money to start, a committed owner/builder can comply with all regulations and build a good house for \$50,000. He did. And, oh yes, "keep your neighbors happy and you'll keep the

EAC and the POA happy. And if you get a violation, go to the hearing, hardly anyone does." Ed is adamant that the EAC will work with builders, but they need to show up.

And what advice for the POA? "None, really", he says smiling, "I think we do a good job." He says that the POA is a real strength in the community and he would like to see all the staff, who are mostly modestly paid employees or unpaid volunteers, be appreciated for all that they bring to the community.

Ed is a happy fellow with no axes to grind who has every expectation of giving back to Crestone and the Baca what has so freely been given him. He has high hopes of helping other owner/builders in his role as EAC committee member and good neighbor.

My next talk was with Juniper Good, son of Nathan Good and Cindy Pearson, who is nearing completion of a celebratory and artistic home in

a beautiful grove of cottonwoods in the Grants. Juniper grew up here in Crestone living an outside life, learning about nature from many in the community. He began to develop a yearning to build his own place in high school and developed a vision for his own home while barely old enough to leave his parents' house. Juniper is only 24 and is quick to credit his family, both biological and beyond, for being able to accomplish such a large feat at such a young age. His great-grandparents were the driving force behind him being able to purchase a truly exceptional lot along lower Spanish Creek. Both his parents helped him with all sorts of building experience, and Juniper sites two particularly inspirational mentors that made his house possible. His "second mother", Robin Blankenship, taught him how to live off of the land without abusing her (the land) and learned many simple living skills that take expertise and hard work but not much money. A favorite high school teacher urged Juniper to build a house that would invite what he wanted to be in it, such as a good meditation room, and to build from the inside out—that is to build from the soul with intentionality and awareness and a dedication to nature.



Juniper Good

Juniper started out building a Walipini greenhouse, which he intended to live in as well as grown food in. The major design principle of the Walipini greenhouse is to take the warm air from the mid-day sun and cycle it through underground pipes that warm a thick lava rock layer, then slowly release the heat into the greenhouse at night and early morning. The structure was very involved and labor-intensive and is supposed to be able to grow avocados and bananas and the like. It may very well do so but it needs some tweaking to work that well. The POA did not want him living in the greenhouse and so Juniper built a three-story—yes, three story—addition that is great living space and has enabled Juniper to get creative with exotic shingles, intricately cut rafters, and colorful tile work. There are a lot of different elements to his home and Juniper hopes to be able to hold natural building workshops there in the near future.

Juniper built his home with mostly local and recycled materials and estimates that it cost him about \$50,000, \$15,000 of which went into the greenhouse/sauna/bathhouse. Juniper sold his car to help finance his house and doesn't mind much—he likes staying at home now.

What advice does Juniper have for the new builder? "Consider the land before you buy. Does it want you to live on it? Look for as much free material in the natural surroundings as you can get. It's cheaper and better for the earth." Juniper really looks forward to being able to teach new folks natural building and how to live in concert with nature. And maybe even how to build a three-story house.



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# Can justice flow from an elders council in a small community? Is justice limited to crime & punishment?

by *John L. Wall,  
Kofi Washington &  
Cristina Cabeza Kinney*

“Take’em to court!” we hear when there has been an injury to someone or their property. However, only an anarchist would look forward to becoming involved in legal matters. People have anxiety about going to court for two reasons: separation and fear. While most of us have a clear sense of justice, we normally don’t know the judge who will judge us, and we are usually represented by an attorney whom we’ve never met. This separation from the system we currently employ, and our uncertainty about the tangled web of modern law, is the root of a common fear we have about our personal and material safety. We are naturally insecure about our justice system.

Justice has taken many forms

from fists to juries of peers to the barrel of a gun. We’ve heard of street justice, cowboy justice, and American blind justice, but only rarely do we deal with the deepest injury: to the spirit. Because the spirit has greater value than physical or property injury, resolution without healing the spirit cannot be called justice. Recognized on this level of the spirit, justice is seen to emanate from each of us, although shining more brightly in some of our neighbors than in others.

A friend was recently conversing with a group of Crestone kids, and he asked how they would go about resolving a conflict. They looked at each other and one of them said, “Well, we’d go ask our elders.” Why would a child naturally turn to someone they respected and trusted with such questions? For the same

reasons we all seek advice: Wisdom.

People are considered to be elders in a family or a community because they possess a wisdom beyond age or gender. We seek elders for insight that influences every aspect of their lives. Such people display a consistent adherence to a set of values, and these flow from their words and actions. The presence of elders gives a tangible, visible, living example which lends to the accountability of each of us as we step back and recognize that the same spirit animates us all.

Elders can play a role in welcoming new members to a community. Some may have a real presence in schools, while others are experienced mediators. Their council through participation in local rituals or ceremonies and by providing one-on-one or open meetings helps keep a community connected. Ultimately, a community’s elders are defined by what they do, naturally, not by being elected. Outside of governance, or as a quasi-governmental body, elders are the fountainhead of community justice because they speak and interact in ways that define how we want to live together.

Justice in a small community begins when harm to someone is considered as harm to one’s self, and it is no longer thought of as a crime, but as an injury to the community. In this way justice is not confined to the duality of criminal and victim, guilt or innocence. Justice can evolve into a healing process for individuals and the community at large.

Unitive Justice provides such a perspective of connection and mutual reciprocity. Being guilty or not guilty—of laws based on personal or special interests—is seen as limited and doing little to fos-

ter individual or community well-being. When a bear ransacks one of our neighbor’s cars or kitchen, we empathize with the neighbor and prepare for the return of the bear. We respond first by helping the neighbor, and then educate others to discourage future incidents. So, if the purpose of justice is the health of the community, then the full measure of an insult is not confined to victims and criminals, but to the entire community, including bears. The idea of Unitive Justice in a community is not new, and it provides an enlightened point of view of our dualistic system.

The unitive value of trust comes to practice in the formation of restorative circles. Guided by trained community members, this method of conflict resolution engages all participants equitably. Beginning with one-on-one dialogues, facilitators uncover the context of the issue and at least one point of agreement among each member of the community involved. Next, the group is called together. Through reflective listening, the members cultivate a non-judgemental and non-hierarchical space and opportunity to discover a more loving justice.

Reflective listening enables us all to grow in understanding of how inappropriate behavior affects others. The process engages each member in an opportunity to separate deed from doer and allows participants to make amends in a non-threatening environment. Restorative circles are the practical element of Unitive Justice.

Unitive Justice reveals a synergy among individuals. This growing connection springs from an equity practiced by, at first, a small group of people. As we deepen in our understanding of restorative circles, a window opens to realizing a fuller unity in the community. After some time and experience resolving less severe injuries, community members may learn to trust matters involving deeper harms to a restorative circle process.

In recognition, the Saguache County Sheriff’s office serves a real safety need and serves to the best of their ability. And, as active community members, we can also take responsibility for conflicts we can potentially resolve ourselves. Through cultivating a justice which flows from our collective elder wisdom, we may discover alternative forms of council or justice that may augment the way we live with each other.

For more info on Unitive Justice, contact Cristina Cabeza Kinney at [awakeningthephoenix@gmail.com](mailto:awakeningthephoenix@gmail.com).

This article about justice is sponsored by 9 donors who want to wish the Baca & Crestone family a Blessed Holiday Season. For more information about unitive and restorative justice please contact 719-580-4094



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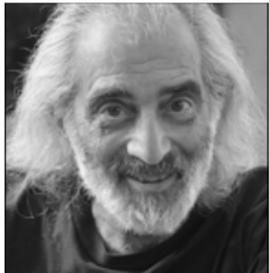
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# Aging as an adventure

by Ammi Kohn

## A five-dollar minister for a ceremony beyond worth!

For five dollars my granddaughter made me a Universal Life Minister so I could marry her off this past month on a flower farm.

I ministered under the Chuppah, a home-made wedding canopy, standing beneath the enormously wide spread branches of a 250-year-old oak tree. The Chuppah was hand quilted by a friend of the couple, incorporating pieces of cloth both moms had contributed—a piece of the groom's prom suit and the Friday night challah cover from the bride's mother. The total design was a colorful interpretation of a traditional interlocking wedding band

quilting pattern, two families uniting under the wedding canopy. The poles supported the wedding canopy decorated with flowers from the nearby gardens. Throughout the ceremony, and in the near distance at a small pond, two horses, brown and black, stood still and silent.

Elegant and simple was the ceremony, as were the decorations and food at the reception. My new grandson and my granddaughter (my special name for her is Gamine and so she signs her letters to me) made 22 small benches for the guests, each bench seating three. The Gamine and I each teared up at different times in the ceremony. If we had teared at the same time, the marriage script would have

stopped with a flood of joyful tears.

Shall I write syrupy and sentimental words? The temptation is strong so I beg my readers to be tolerant of this doting grandfather, aka, Poppi, also called Popster, if occasionally an over-sugary sentence sneaks in.

As the Gamine walked down the gently sloping field to the Chuppah, how could I not think of that favored special day, she being five years of age, when, with complete absorbed attention, the Gamine beautified my hair with pink curlers and finished the job with a huge satisfied smile. Shortly after, looking at me with her big blue eyes at the dinner table, she asked me what "bonehead" meant and I told her that I was being complimented by her dad (this happened shortly after my daughter's divorce) for the excellence of my skull. I don't think she believed me.

## Pure unalloyed love was this day

Her mother, my eldest of three, stood close to me during the ceremony, holding one of the poles

of the canopy. For the past week she had been helping in all sorts of ways, making sure that all the out-of-town folk were well situated, buying food and drink for the reception, supporting the Gamine in all kinds of ways, and generally being completely indispensable. And now her reward was manifest.

My new grandson, tall, thin and angular, with close-fitting cerulean blue suit, white shirt and red tie, dashingly handsome, radiant and completely at ease, stood a perfect match to my Gamine.

And the beautiful picturesque horses who observed all of this, standing so silent and still? They took off like mad when the glass was stomped on and shattered, with an explosive *bam!* at the end of the ceremony (a Jewish marriage custom) and everyone shouted, Mazal Tov, congratulations and good luck. No doubt dashing off to a grand equine honeymoon.

Was ever a Poppi more happy? I think not. Pure unalloyed joy was this day.



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# Garden Guru

Making the most of roots



**by Matie Belle Lakish**

Have you harvested your roots? If not, you may still be able to slip a spading fork under them on a warm day and pry them out of the earth before the ground becomes impenetrable for the long sleep. As we go to press, I am digging the last of the carrots, beets, parsnips and a turnip or two.

In the old days, before cross-country produce shipments, refrigeration, and packaged frozen vegetables, families relied heavily on tubers and roots to get themselves and their livestock through the winter. There is a story in my family's past, sometime during the Great Depression, about the family having to get by on just the tubers they had stored in the root cellar. For about four months, the only food available was potatoes—both Irish (white) potatoes and sweet potatoes. Fortunately for them, and many other early settlers, white potatoes are a good source of Vitamin C, as well as other vitamins and minerals. Sweet potatoes provide Vitamin A, along with other nutrients. Both provide enough protein and calories to keep a body functioning. In our climate, sweet potatoes will not mature, but fortunately, winter squash have most of the same nutrients and keep really well through the winter. Stored sunshine!

As with winter squash and potatoes, other root crops provide a variety of tastes and textures, along with their nutrients. Carrots are a long-standing favorite in most cultures around the globe, and can be used in a variety of ways. They keep well in the refrigerator crisp and can be used fresh or cooked. Carrots are a major crop in the San Luis Valley, along with potatoes, and provide concentrated nutrients in the short days of winter.

Less well known are parsnips, a close cousin of carrots. Parsnips are very hardy, and will sometimes make it through the winter in the valley. They extend their roots deep into the earth, and resist extraction. Janet dug down about a foot and a half to extract the parsnips in the photo, and even then, did not get to the bottom of the root. For that reason, we can count on parsnips to be loaded with minerals from the subsoil, as well as tasty sugars they develop as cold weather comes on. Many people turn up their noses at the thought of parsnips, but use the following recipe from *The Joy of Cooking* (Rombauer, Becker and Becker, 1997) to explore their tastes.

**Curried Parsnips:**

Peel, core, and cut into large matchsticks 1 ½ lbs. of parsnips

Drop into a pot of boiling salted water for about 2 minutes. Drain.

In a large skillet, over medium heat, cook until softened, about 5 minutes:

- 3 Tablespoons butter or oil
- ½ onion finely diced

Add 1 tablespoon curry powder and stir for one minute.

Stir in: ½ cup of chicken or vegetable broth or whole milk.

Add the parsnips and simmer, covered, over low heat until tender, about 10 or 15 minutes.

Stir in, but do not boil, ½ cup yogurt.

Season with salt and black pepper to taste.

Garnish with 4 slender scallions, including part of green tops, and fresh cilantro sprigs, if desired.

Both parsnips and beets can be prepared in one of my favorite ways—baked. *Joy of Cooking* says, "In the dry heat of the oven with no added liquid, nutrients are preserved and flavors are concentrated." I find that to be true, especially of root vegetables.

The winter, when we may be using the oven more, is a perfect time to bake some roots. Clean the roots well with water and a stiff brush, or peel them if necessary. Try to have them all a similar thickness. About ¾" to 1" thick is ideal. Arrange the prepared vegetables, which can include beets, carrots, parsnips, rutabagas, turnips and kohlrabis, or any combination, on an oiled cookie sheet or baking dish. Try not to use Teflon-coated cookware, as it releases toxic substances. Brush the tops of the vegetables with a light coating of olive



Janet Woodman holds giant parsnips that grew in her Crestone garden.

oil, then cover the pan with foil or a lid. Place in a slow oven. These vegetables can be baked along with other foods, such as a roast or a casserole, at around 350° for about 35 minutes, or at a lower temperature, such as 300°, for a longer time. When the vegetables are poked with a fork and feel tender, take the cover off and let them get a little browned. Turn them to toast both sides lightly. Chances are good that you will like the veggies just as they are, but you can serve them with butter or seasoning if desired.

Root veggies can be stored for a few months in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator, but they can also be stored with a lot less technology. Layering them in a plastic bucket surrounded by clean, damp sand, then placing the bucket in a cool, but not freezing, location will allow them to keep for several weeks.

The Shangrilah family extends its sincere gratitude to the greater Crestone community for its years of support... past, present and future. Season's Greetings!

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# In Search of Economic Reality

*Proposed tax reform reflects an increasingly immoral America*

by Ed Lyell

The Republicans, and many Democrats and Independents, have stopped following their multigenerational principles. Most economists today are number crunchers yet my mentor, Kenneth Boulding, taught me to seek human betterment. The earliest economic books focused on the ethical, philosophical, and psychological factors guiding human behavior. Adam Smith, father of capitalism, even titled his first book *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* in 1759. Karl Marx also sought human betterment, yet from a very different perspective, alleging that capitalism was inherently immoral. Economics quantifies an individual's choices in terms of money, productivity, and wealth. Yet we have always known that people make their major decisions based on their basic principles of life, the culture in which they live, and how they treat other people, near and far.

America is experiencing a period based on fear, lowering income and wealth and the fear that comes from diminished resources. Like rats in a lab experiment we know that when any animal is afraid of starving, air to breathe, or water to drink they covet what they have and fight others to keep them from their own assets. The world's

wealthy have been growing their wealth at about 20% a year for a few decades, while all but the richest 1% has been suffering from lowered income and wealth. The data is clear, and yet what the American Congress is now doing in its tax reform is to make life harder for all but the richest 1%. America is the only country where wealth inequality is worse after taxes than before.

In 2010 the US Supreme Court gave corporations more rights than it gave human citizens. A corporation is given limited liability and immortality. Now the Republican Congress wants to further lower corporate taxes and abolish estate taxes, giving the richest families the ability to pass all of their wealth to their families, tax free. Fewer than 5,000 families have enough wealth to be subject to those taxes today, yet many are the uber-rich and donate to Congress to get even more privilege.

In 1980 America's richest corporate executives, and most investors, paid their taxes and felt shame to be hurting others for their own greed. Yet now even those who espouse to be Christians have no problem taking everything they can, even if other people die from what is taken away from them. One economist showed that a health care insurance executive

whose family controlled the company made over a billion dollars in 2007, while 44,000 people who had that company's insurance were denied claims that killed many of them.

Being the only developed nation without universal health care for all is immoral to me. Making a profit over someone's death should be a crime, not a privilege of the wealthy. It is as if we are back to the slave ships described in the old testament of the Bible. Yes, people are not strapped to an oar, but they are living fearfully from pay check to pay check, and an expanding number of them and their children are homeless, sick, and in misery. Meanwhile the richest 1% are buying personal jets, yachts, and getting tax deductions and credits for doing so.

Political leaders, and others, are flaunting moral standards by abusing women and still being elected to office, whereas they should be feeling shame and being punished. Churches are still attended, but moral principles are ignored.

Kaitlyn Schiess has a sterling evangelical pedigree and has written about the moral failure in the Republican Party. She has been frustrated by evangelicals' failure to challenge the prejudice and pre-

judgment in their midst. To her this is one more sign that a new ritual has superseded Sunday worship and weeknight Bible studies: a profane devotional practice, with immense power to shape evangelicals' beliefs; this "liturgy" is the nightly consumption of conservative cable news. She states that Sean Hannity and Tucker Carlson aren't just purveyors of distorted news, but high priests of a false religion. She asserts that Fox News is so formative in its repetitive, almost ritualistic presentation that the follower is driven to fears that pit groups against one another ([www.nytimes.com/2017/11/17/opinion/sunday/escape-roy-moores-evangelicalism.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/17/opinion/sunday/escape-roy-moores-evangelicalism.html?_r=0)).

Most media companies are owned by the super-rich and have created followers who believe what they see and hear, with no evidence necessary. These media outlets are like faith-based established religions but with negative moral values. What is not yet clear is how bad things will become for the 99% before they wake up to how they are being misled by false prophets. Donald Trump is the face of this tribe. He has been getting away with using the presidency to make his family more money, while being able to sexually abuse women without losing voters, perhaps even gaining more from some subcultures.

*Ed Lyell, PhD is Professor Emeritus of Business and Economics, Adams State University (ehlyell@adams.edu).*

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**LARGEST HYDRO STORES IN THE REGION!**

# Commentary: Talk Back to Earth Talk

by Jim Starry

This article is directed and is a response to Earth Talk as published in the Crestone Eagle recently. As I have been published in major world media, I thought you might be interested in the World Watch Institute Magazine article, published July/August 2001, article "Airports and Cities-Can They Coexist?". It's by Ed Ayres, the Head Editor of the World Watch Institute. This article demonstrates a perfect God spiritual solution. You could email our current President Trump. Having three letters from President Obama and one from Trump, I found the following persistent resistance to God's truth. Earth Talks speaks this as their platform. Trump did not sign the French Accord, he spoke the TRUTH. We are going to burn coal. We just built a new railroad track from Wyoming coal mines through Ogallala, NE into Denver. It will power the 14,000 new condos and homes currently being constructed. This track will allow 300 carloads at 100 tons each to run Denver's power needs each day.

Since Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth", our carbon footprint for the world has doubled. Having signed 11 accords, one of which I spent several hours describing the airport design to Hannah Strong, before she was to be at the Copenhagen Accord, this design would save 2 billion gallons of fuel daily at 1,000 major US airports. It would also reduce you and your pet's current cancer rate by 30%. To make this point a little clearer, I got her on the front page of USA Today for 6 million readers. I've been in the USA Day Today published by Gary Stoller. Brian Winter published Hannah's article. She's holding hands with two other ladies and said, "LET'S PRAY ABOUT IT". It could have been a major solution started.

Last Saturday's farmers market found me in front of an attractive Crestone lady talking spirit. When I asked her to email or write our President Trump, she said, "I HATE TRUMP. HE

ACCEPTED MONEY FROM THE RUSSIANS". While being a scientist at Boulder's National Center for Atmospheric Research, we were working on a system called GHOST (Global Horizontal Sounding Technique) in the 90's. We launched these small balloons from Russia, New Zealand, and Boulder. With the results, they floated around the earth 13 and 1/2 times in two months. That taught me there is no separation. The environment and your breath go around the world once a week. Make a decision with your speaking and your emails to our current President.

The State Department were at a vodka party at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. They found we were overflying Russian airspace and cut our funding. I couldn't purchase an eraser on Monday. They in their fear shut down all our funding. The GHOST System being used today could predict hardly better and sooner and with certain advancements taken apart before it reaches landfall. Eliminating the human damage and suffering. Maybe Earth Talk could have a phone number in their article so Trump could give them a call directly. This being the entire purpose of this article. SOLUTIONS THROUGH COMMUNICATION TO THOSE WE HATE WILL SAVE OUR PLANET.

On a lighter note, at N.C.A.R., we planned a pipeline from Alaska into Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, distributing a liquid in other states on the way. We even got massive funding from Congress. Ah ha! This was to distribute the polar ice cap melt-THE CLEANEST, PUREST WATER ON THE PLANET to the desert states to grow food. But you know how we feel about pipelines? It would have stopped the coastal flooding of the polar ice cap melt.

More recently I spent time with the Water Board designing ponds at elevation for fire fighting and trout habitat. Water storage that would reduce pumping costs and pipe damage. So far silence is my only enemy. Some silence has hate as its reason but we know how well that

has worked out over the past 2000 years. God's other designs out of emissions control device for your auto. YOU CAN DRIVE YOUR CAR TO CLEAN THE PLANET. Or a mass transit system that a Harvard study shows would improve transportation 20 to 1. See, when you email Trump about the airport design, we will make 5,000-9,000 jobs in 1,000 US cities, expanding airport facilities (note: Alamosa is one of them). Let me make this point more directly to you at Earth Talk. The white haze coming daily over the west mountains into Crestone will increase tenfold unless you get these solutions through President Trump into reality.

Spent two years in Ajo, Arizona working on Sky Harbor with John McCain. 640 flights a day over the university students at Phoenix. Then presented for 12 airports along the California coast. Mr. Wishwell, the Aviation Director for California's Governor, had me present for 32 world airports. This air pollution will float into Crestone's spiritual presence. If one of you emails Trump, you all will change the future of our planet. Maybe even your Earth Talk could do an article on a solution and get their readers to email and send this article to the President.

House Bill 2107, funding \$350 Billion, was created by Al Gore and President Clinton to expand these airports. I spent 8 year helping to design Denver International Airport. I'm a dumb, dyslexic, Iowa farm boy. Published 51 times in major world media. Check recyclus.com (Amsterdam office) or look up Airport Paradigm Decoded June 2012 in the Smithsonian Institute Magazine. YOU ARE THE POWER FOR THE NEW WORLD CLARITY. CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE NEW CURRENCY. SPEAK YOUR HEART FOR THE SOLUTIONS.

720-788-6069. Earth wisdom-ed-Economic Development through Environmental Design

This commentary paid for by  
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## There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root, RH (AHG)  
Herbs—the lighter side



Just a couple of many wonderful books about herbs.

Most of my articles have been about medicinal uses of herbs, which is my passion. However there are so many aspects of herbalism—culinary, gardening, crafts, body products—that are so much fun! This month I want to focus on the lighter side, and talk about some of the fun products out there that you might want to consider for yourself or for gift giving.

I first became interested in herbs when I was a kid, and I remember how much fun it was to create my first herb garden. It was a medicine wheel garden with herbs and flowers. I remember the delight I had in growing Borage, with its beautiful blue star shaped flowers and the thought that it had something to do with courage. I love that herbal knowledge is becoming much more available, and the creativity that some are using to make that happen.

One really cool company is Learning Herbs ([learningherbs.com](http://learningherbs.com)). This company was started by John and Kimberly Gallagher and herbalist Rosalee de la Foret. They offer a lot of free information and really cool herbal gifts, including Wildcraft! Board Game in which a few kids go on an adventure to collect berries for Grandma to bake a pie. Along the way they encounter situations that require herbal remedies. It's fun for kids and also for herbal-

ists who know of unusual uses for common herbs. Check their website for other cool gifts for kids (and grownups).

Many people have read Susan Wittig Albert's China Bayles herbal mysteries. I just discovered them a few years ago, even though they were written between the early '90s and now. They are a series of rather light mysteries with the main character being an herbalist and lawyer. Each novel has an herbal theme that runs through the story, which usually includes a few recipes at the end. I know the Baca Library carries a few of her books, and of course they are available at Amazon and many bookstores. Delightful, for those of us who can't get enough!

The Vermont Center for Integrative Herbalism in Montpelier, VT has recently published their second volume of *Medicinal Plants of the NorthEast Coloring Book*. The drawings are amazing! These two volumes would make a great gift for older children and adults alike! I'm thinking of getting them for myself, as well as for a couple of my grandchildren! Check them out at [vherbcenter.org](http://vherbcenter.org) or on their Facebook page.

*Dorje Root, RH (AHG) is an herbalist and natural healer; also working with Plant Spirit Medicine, Intuitive Energy Healing and 'The Journey' cellular healing. For an appointment call 719-937-7786 or visit [www.rootsofhealing.com](http://www.rootsofhealing.com).*

## DISPATCH from the edge

by Peter Anderson

As you head into the good cheer of the holidays, you run into an old friend on the corner downtown between the bank and the post office who happens to be hauling a hydraulic wood splitter. And you have several pinyons, decimated by an influx of beetles, which have been downed and bucked up into some gnarly rounds that would take most of a winter to split by hand. And she says, sure, I can drop the splitter by and leave it for a while. And then you spend a weekend with a few buddies and that wondrous piece of machinery and end up with enough wood to feed the stove for the next two winters. And later, you remember you have some aged rounds of juniper that haven't been split and you share them with your daughter who thinks it's great fun to wield the maul, which opens up the burgundy innards of this tender wood so readily. And as if that weren't enough, your turkey is fat and wobbly on his skinny legs and ready to be slaughtered, but you have never done the deed before, so you need a little coaching, and another friend says, no problem, I'll stop by on my way home from the community dinner, and she brings her twenty-two and a sharp knife and a lot of know-how, and within an hour or so, you have a ready-to-go turkey in the refrigerator. And now that the work is done, you go down to the tavern, which is mostly empty except for a friend whose son is coming home for the holidays as is your older daughter, and you are both grateful that they have grown up here at the end of the road.

Later, as you continue to reflect on your life, you feel such a strange disconnect between time spent in your community and hours spent listening to talking heads on weekend news shows. The practice of politics, at least in theory, can be a process that improves our lives, but when it comes to living the good life—which sure seems easier here in the flyover zone—neither pundits or politicians really have a clue.

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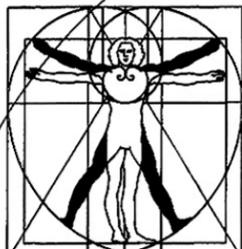
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# Baca Grande Library News



**Suzanne McGregor**

Please join us on Friday, December 15 from 1pm to 4pm for our annual Holiday Open House hosted by our Friends of the Library. We will have snacks and punch and will gladly show you around the library if you are new to the area or have not been to the library in a while. This is a good time for us to show off our new

“facelift” in the front room! The library staff and members of our Friends of the Library would love to share information about our current library and any future library planning. If you would like to contribute goodies to the party, please let us know—we will have a sign-up sheet at the front desk. Your contributions would be much appreciated.

Our fall reading program, “Stories for Little Ones” had to be put on hold due to lack of participation. However, Miss Penny from the Saguache Public Library, our storyteller extraordinaire, is giving it another go on Tuesday mornings from 11am until the little ones get cranky! The program is designed for babies and toddlers and their caregivers and includes

stories, activities and snacks. Please ask at the library for more information.

Since the youngsters have some time off during their winter break, we have some suggestions to light that creative spark with drawing books by Ralph Masiello. Beginning with simple shapes, he shows how to combine them to create dragons, robots, fairies, monsters, animals and Christmas themes. We have books on holiday traditions in other countries and of various religions, including information on the celebrations of Kwanzaa and Hanukkah and activities for the Winter Solstice. There are holiday cookbooks and how-to guides for crafts and handmade gifts. Come check these out! In DVDs, who can resist *It's*

*A Wonderful Life* with Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed, *White Christmas* with Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, *Miracle on 34th Street* and *A Christmas Carol*. Other family favorites include *The Nutcracker*, *The Christmas Story*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *The Polar Express*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *The Messiah* and many others.

Notice: The library will be closed for the holidays from Monday, December 25 through Wednesday December 27. We will also be closed on New Year's Day, January 1. May you all have many blessings this holiday season.

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

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# THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

## —MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

**1/ GI Joe: Retaliation:** (2013) ★★★★★

Their team is framed for crimes against the country and Cobra Commander has all the world leaders under his influence. Outnumbered and outgunned, the team forms a plan with their original leader to rescue the president and confront the Cobra Commander and his accomplices. A high energy action, adventure, thriller and sci-fi film with great martial arts scenes and special effects. Dwayne Johnson, Rza as blind master, Channing Tatum, Bruce Willis.

**2/ Cause of Death:** (2001) ★★★

The mayor's cousin is brutally murdered and a deputy D.A. is one of few who do not think it is an open-and-shut case. Pushed on by memories of a previous wrongful conviction, he defies his boss and pursues the investigation while starting to fall for the victim's wife. Patrick Bergin, Maxim Roy, Joan Severance.

**3/ Sword of the Assassin:** (2012) ★★★★★

A Victor Vu film, martial arts expert Nguyen Vu vows to have revenge on the cruel Empress of Vietnam, Thai Hau for beheading his entire family once he finds out they may have been framed. Beautifully filmed, tasteful and impeccable martial arts, aided by lethal swordswoman, Hoa Xuan.

**4/ All Things to All Men:** (2013) ★★★

Detective Parker will do whatever it takes to bring down a notorious crime lord, even if it means breaking the law. He enlists the help of a known criminal. While allegiances become blurred, his perfect plan becomes a game of cat and mouse. Gabriel Byrne, Rufus Sewell.

**5/ Black Butterfly:** (2017) ★★★★★

I found this intriguing, with plot twists and very creative writing. A reclusive screenwriter has a bout of "writer's block" while the closest town has been beset with a series of abductions and murders. He crosses paths with an edgy drifter to whom he offers shelter, but soon discovers he's made a big mistake. He's held hostage and forced to write a script. A psychological one-upsmanship plays out 'til one tale comes to an end. Antonio Banderas, Johathan Rhys Meyers, Piper Perabo.

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- Largest continent
- Field worker
- Eagle's nest
- Shade-loving plant
- River in Bohemia
- Choice or delicious dish
- \*Vince Vaughn's title role, 2007
- Research facil.
- "Colorful" announcement
- Humor magazine
- Sherlock Holmes' esteemed friend
- Wedge-shaped
- "Fat chance!"
- Ancient liturgical hymn
- Jet black
- Like Bushmills' whiskey
- \*"Jingle \_\_\_\_ the Way," 1996
- Speak like Pericles
- Cleopatra's necklace
- They're often bolt action
- Tucker of "Modern Family"
- Football play, pl
- \*Nicholas Cage's "The \_\_\_\_ Man," 2000
- Egg cells
- "The Metamorphosis" author
- Nursery rhyme old woman's home
- \*Kevin McCallister's story, 1990
- Opposite end of alpha
- "It's beginning to look \_\_\_\_ like Christmas..."
- Like desert climate
- Apple leftovers
- Container weight
- \*"Trappd in Paradise" with Jon Lovitz and \_\_\_\_ Carvey
- Matured
- "C' \_\_\_\_ la vie!"
- Big Bang's original matter

DOWN

- Fishing pole
- Olympic castaway?
- Pre-euro money
- Bamboo forest dwellers
- \*Like Express to the North Pole
- Overthrow by argument
- Miners' bounty, pl.
- \*Clarice, e.g.
- Spans of time
- Not a word?
- Type of Christmas lights
- Helen in France
- Type of deadly flu
- LamÈ or serge
- " \_\_\_\_'s the word"
- \*Like Bing Crosby's Christmas
- Packers' quarterback
- Like Hitler's Reich
- Reject
- Olden day calculators
- The whole amount
- \*Henry F. Potter in "It's a Wonderful Life," e.g.
- Oration station
- \*Will Ferrell's 2003 role
- \*Based on "A Christmas Carol," 1988
- Port city in Japan
- Ribonucleic acid
- Affected or pretentious
- Part of eye containing iris, pl.
- Unwellness
- Trees producing caffeine-containing nuts
- Like a duel in France, usually
- Smoke plus fog
- At this point
- Antonym of love
- Unwritten exam
- Number of baseball fielders
- Dutch cheese
- Edible tuber

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### TOWN OF CRESTONE NOTICE OF BUDGET AND PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Trustees of the Town of Crestone for the year 2018 and will be reviewed and considered for a final adoption at a Public Hearing in the Crestone Town Hall, 108 W. Galena Ave. in Crestone, CO, on Monday December 11, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

A copy of said proposed budget has been available for public inspection in the Town Hall beginning October 4, 2017. Any interested elector of the Town of Crestone may file with the Town Clerk any objections or other comments regarding the proposed budget, in writing, at anytime prior to the final adoption of the budget.

## CRAIG ELECTRIC

STEVE DOSENBACK  
ME29753

P.O. BOX 1178  
CRESTONE, CO 81131

Home 719-256-5951  
Cell 719-588-9626  
sdossenback@gmail.com



### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT COLUMBINE TELECOM COMPANY D/B/A FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS/COLUMBINE TELECOM COMPANY TELEPHONE SERVICE AND THE LIFELINE PROGRAM

Columbine Telecom Company d/b/a FairPoint Communications/ Columbine Telecom Company provides a wide variety of products and services including the following basic service offerings in the Crestone (256) and Mosca (378) exchanges:

	Monthly Rates	One-Time Charges
Single Party Residential Service	\$19.50	\$60.00*
Single Party Business Service	\$32.28	\$60.00*

In addition to the above monthly rates, a Federal Subscriber Line Charge applies to each line as follows:

\$6.50	Residential lines and businesses with single lines
\$9.20	Businesses with more than one line.

An Access Recovery Charge also applies to each line as follows:

\$2.00-3.00	Residential lines (except Lifeline qualified lines)
\$3.00	Businesses lines

\*Premises Visit Charge not included

All rates indicated are as of September 19, 2017. Taxes, fees and surcharges are not included in the pricing above. Taxes, fees, surcharges and rates are subject to change.

The above rates include the following:

- Voice grade access to the public switched network
- Local Usage
- Access to emergency 911 services
- Toll Limitation for qualified low income customers

FairPoint Communications/ Columbine Telecom Company provides a Lifeline Program discount for certain residential voice or qualifying broadband services for eligible low-income customers. The Lifeline Program is a government benefit program. For qualified customers, federal monthly support of \$9.25 is available. If the discount is applied to voice service, free toll blocking may be available to control long-distance usage. Customers using this offering can still use pre-paid calling cards or dial-around services to place long-distance calls from their homes.

To receive the Lifeline Program discount, residence customers must provide a completed application proving eligibility to FairPoint Communications/ Columbine Telecom Company. Documentation proving enrollment in a qualified government benefit program or establishing household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines must also be provided. The Lifeline Program benefit is non-transferable and is open only to eligible customers. Only one Lifeline Program discount is available per household on either a wireless or wire-line service. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the Lifeline Program.

All customers who receive the Lifeline Program discount must recertify eligibility annually. If you receive a recertification request, you must respond as specified or FairPoint Communications/ Columbine Telecom Company is required to remove the Lifeline Program discount from your account.

For additional information about enrolling in the Lifeline Program, please call Customer Service at 800-400-5568.

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**...Classifieds**  
continued from  
Page B-14

**Industrial Arts/Technology Teacher (Part Time or Full Time)**  
Position Title: Industrial Arts/Technology Teacher (Part Time or Full Time). Primary Duty: To provide industrial arts instruction, guided practice, assessments, remediation, and enrichment of Industrial Arts through a variety of learning opportunities and ensure a positive, successful educational experience for students. Essential job functions include the following. Develops a program of study in the industrial arts that meets individual needs, interests and abilities of students as determined by the industrial arts curriculum. Instructs

students by lecturing, demonstrating and using audiovisual aids on various topics related to the industrial arts. Instructs and monitors students in the use and care of equipment and materials, to prevent injury and damage. Assures the safety of students by demonstrating and using the proper safety procedures. Prepares course objectives and outlines for course of study following curriculum guidelines or requirements of state and school. Other duties may be assigned. Education and Experience: Must hold a secondary teacher's license, or have the ability to obtain this qualification. An equivalent combination of education, training and experience will be considered. Mechanical Knowledge: Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance. Please go to [moffatschools.org](http://moffatschools.org) for more information. If you have questions, please contact Virginia Drake at [vdrake@moffatschools.org](mailto:vdrake@moffatschools.org) or call 719-745-0500.



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**Public Notices**

**Veterans Assistance Grant**  
The Saguache County Veterans Service Office has limited grant funds to assist with rent, utilities, food and gas. Contact Jim Sheeran at 719-655-2680 or at [jsheeran@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:jsheeran@saguachecounty-co.gov) for more information.

**State Grant Awarded to Moffat School District Library**  
October 31, 2017, Moffat, Colorado – The Moffat School District Library is pleased to announce it has received for the fifth year, a grant in the amount of \$3,500.00 from the Colorado State Library through the State Grants to Libraries Act. Funds will be used to support and purchase materials the school would otherwise be unable to afford, including books, periodicals, Ebooks & Audiobooks, and books for story time

collections. The State Grants to Libraries was funded by the Colorado Legislature to help increase access to early literacy and education materials. This non-competitive program administered by the Colorado State Library funded a combined total of 316 public libraries, academic libraries, and school and district libraries this 2017-2018 fiscal year. Moffat School District is an extraordinary small, rural district in the San Luis Valley that is committed to meeting the needs of all students and families. The District is committed to providing a high quality education that prepares students for college, work and citizenship. The Moffat School Librarian and Art teacher, Mrs. Patte Reeves-Smith applied for this grant to continue to ensure that the Moffat School library has the most engaging resources that are needed to serve Moffat's students, families and staff.

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Get connected at **719-937-7700** or visit us at 67489 County Road T, Crestone.

Crestone Performances is selling one 46' diameter, 12 point, 1500 sq. foot, blue and beige tent for \$3,000. It is Complete and in excellent shape. Included are 12 legs, straps, center pole with new wench, T-posts and T- post driver. It comes with a rolling storage container and portable loading ramp. We will train to put up. Also for sale are T posts, snow fence, plastic fence, trash cans, electrical cords and 3 utility sinks. Please call 256-4533 for more info.



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# EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers  
About Our Environment

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: What is so-called green patent sharing and how does it work?

—Bill Gilmore, Albuquerque, NM

The idea behind so-called green patent sharing is that researchers, inventors and companies can share the rights to make, use or incorporate certain patented technologies that benefit the environment, theoretically expediting the development of energy efficiency, pollution prevention, recycling, water conservation and other advances for the common good.

The concept of patent sharing isn't new. Back in the 1850s the four major manufacturers of sewing machines in the U.S. got tired of fighting over patent infringement and joined ranks in a patent sharing pool. Outside manufacturers would have to pay licensing rights to the pool, but otherwise the four partner companies were free to make use of any and all shared patents.

It took another 150 years, though, for green patent sharing to institutionalize. In 2008, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) created the Eco-Patent Commons, an online exchange of green-friendly patents that can be downloaded and used for free. Eleven companies—Bosch, DowDuPont, Fuji, HP, IBM, Nokia, Pitney Bowes, Ricoh, Sony, Taisei and Xerox—have pledged over 100 different patents to the Commons to try to encourage new innovations in sustainability and conservation.

"Companies are increasingly realizing the value of partnering and sharing expertise on sustainability issues," says Wayne Balta, IBM's Corporate Environmental Affairs VP. "The Eco-Patent Commons provides an opportunity for business to share intellectual property that can further sustainable development."

A few examples of patents available in the commons include: a battery-recycling kiosk for consumers to swap out their used batteries for new replacements; a process that eliminates the need for antioxidant metal coatings in the assembly of microchips and circuit boards; a lab-designed organism that lights up to indicate the presence of pollutants in water treatment facilities; and environmentally superior refrigerants to replace the ozone-destroying fluorocarbons phased out by the Montreal Protocol and other international agreements. These shared patents and dozens more are accessible via WIPO GREEN, an online marketplace for sustainable technology.

The concept of green patent sharing came up recently with the worldwide launch of Al Gore's new movie, *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*. The film documents a December 2015 phone call that Gore made to try to convince SolarCity CEO Lyndon Rive to be the corporate hero of the Paris climate accord by offering holdout India free use of his company's photovoltaic patents to ease the costs of, and hasten the country's transition away from, fossil fuels. Indian negotiators had been complaining that they could not get access to enough credit to pay for the expensive transition to solar on their own.

It isn't clear by the end of the movie whether Rive extended the offer (he did) nor whether it had any impact on India's decision to join the rest of the world in eventually signing onto the Paris accord (Indian negotiators say the patent sharing offer wasn't a factor). Regardless, there's been no evidence of any intellectual property transfer to date, although SolarCity "formally invited" Indian officials to visit its headquarters in 2016, so the wheels could be in motion.

Contacts: [www.wbcsd.org](http://www.wbcsd.org); [www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/](http://www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/); [www.solarcity.com](http://www.solarcity.com).

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## Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

October 21 to November 20

**Total precipitation for period:**

Liquid precip (includes melted snow): 0.20"

Snow: 1.8"

Measurable precipitation fell on 3 days.

Measurable snow fell on 3 days

Measurable rain fell on 1 day.

A trace of rain fell on 1 day.

A trace of snow fell on 3 days.

No hail or thunderstorms occurred.

**Total precipitation year to date:**

Since Jan 1: 13.92 "

**Total snow to date:**

Since Jan 1: 53.9"

Snow Season\*: 1.8"

\*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

**Temperatures for the period:**

High temp: 61.8°F on October 25

Low temp: 11.8°F on November 19

Avg. high: 54.8°F

Avg. low: 26.7°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 60°: 5

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 50°: 23

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: 27

**Winds for the period:**

Avg. speed: 3.0 mph

Highest gust: 38 mph on November 5

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

**Weather summary**

Very mild to even warm temperature readings were seen throughout the entire period, with the average readings 7°-8° above normal. Yet no high or low

temperature records fell either.

Precipitation-wise, things were very much below average, with only 1.8" of snow falling, along with only .01" of rain, which made for some very dry conditions. Yet our area is still very much above average for the total precipitation amounts normally expected around this time of year, thanks to a wet spring and summer.

**Outlook for December**

This is our second coldest month of the year, with average highs and lows for the first week in December averaging 36° and 11°, and by the very end of the month and year, on New Year's Eve, that day and night averages a high of 32° and a low of 6°. The warmest December high temperature was 58°, reached on the third, back in 1998. The coldest reading is -18°, and it has been reached twice, first on December 23, 1990, and then again on December 8, 2005.

Snow-wise, we should see an average of 8" fall in the month, with a record amount seen in 2014, when 25" fell.

The 30-day outlook from the NWS (as of Nov. 21) is calling for more of the same weather as we saw in November, with well above-average temperatures, along with below-normal snowfall.

As far as seeing a white Christmas, we usually do, but only thanks to snow already on the ground from previous storms. Snow falling on Xmas Day has been seen here on 10 days since 1982, and that includes the last 3 Christmases, when we saw 6.6" in '14, 1.9 in '15, and 4.2" last year. Looking back, there have been only 8 Christmas days with no snow on the ground in the last 35 years.

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# Shop Locally for the holidays

## 18th Annual Ellzey Art show Dec. 9 & 10

Bill and Jillian Ellzey host their 18th annual December Art Show of photographs at their house on the 9th and 10th of December from 2 to 6pm. It's at their house in the Grants, 891 Camino Real. That's 2.2 miles west from the top of Camino Real aka Two Trees Rd. Please park on the road.

The two-day show has become a much-anticipated pre-Christmas-season open house. It features Bill's photographs from the Crestone area and San Luis Valley as well as his distant travels and photo workshop trips he's led.

As always there's food—excellent snacky things—and mulled wine prepared by skilled foodies, Judy Gilbert and Bill Sutherland, veteran caterers for all of the 18 years.

### Bill Ellzey

Bill picked up his first camera in 1965, at age 20, little knowing that photography would become his

profession. Since then camera work has taken him around the world completing assignments and teaching photographers, professional and amateur, the art and techniques of the medium. His work from India, China, Australia, Japan, Mexico, Alaska, Egypt, Ireland, Bhutan, Zambia, Chilean Patagonia and the American West has been published here and abroad. His images can be found in magazines, books, calendars, newspapers, catalogs, annual reports, galleries and private collections. He directed Western Photo Workshops in Telluride, Colorado for eleven years and continues to teach privately and for distinguished photo programs in North America and overseas. Bill invites you to visit [www.billzellzey.com](http://www.billzellzey.com) to see the wide range of photographs, courses and trips currently scheduled. His stock photography is represented by Nat Geo Creative. Bill lives and works from his self-built,



Distant relative. Japanese Macaque, Nagano prefecture, Japan.

photo by Bill Ellzey.

strawbale home in Crestone.

### Show details

It's an open house with great refreshments and sample photographs from across Bill's photographic lifetime displayed by the dozens on big table tops in the living room. Prints of any size and the ever-popular greeting cards printed in-house can be ordered from the sample images. Larger photographs are on display in the studio.

The snacking, sipping, browsing and schmoozing takes place around the munchies counter. Judy Gilbert and Bill Sutherland,

caterers at all of the events, attend the kitchen counter which is laden with food and drinks. Judy cooks and bakes ahead for days and keeps the serving plates supplied during the show. Bill dispenses his dangerous hot mulled wine from a big pot on the stove. There's also a yummy cold fruit punch for folks interested in maintaining a sense of decorum. Sutherland is also the popcorn-ista. He flavors the popcorn with a dusting of secret, subtly spiced ingredients.

*continued on page C-3*



## 7th Annual Saguache Holiday Bazaar Dec. 2

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 2, and join the Friends of the Saguache Public Library at the Community Building on 7th St. between Pitkin and

Christy for our annual Holiday Bazaar. Hours are from 9am to 3pm. Past events featured baked goods, handwork, crafts, baskets, pottery, jewelry and many other delights. Breakfast and lunch will be available for a donation. Santa and his elf come to hear your child's wishes.

Vendors are invited to set up a table for a \$10 fee. The Town of Saguache requires that vendors at events on Town property either have liability insurance of their own, or sign a waiver of liability.

For more information and to reserve your table, please call Hillary at 303-507-4821.



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## 18th Annual Art Show

BILL ELLZEY ~ PHOTOGRAPHER

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~ refreshments ~

December 9 & 10  
 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.

at  
 Casa LZ  
 (Ellzey's house)  
 891 Camino Real  
 2.2 miles out Two Trees Road



# The Crestone Mercantile is ready for the Holidays!

Our grocery store is small but we have everything you need for your holidays meals. From prime rib and turkeys to amazing produce—you can find it here! We have local bakery items with wonderful breads and desserts.

The Crestone Mercantile Hardware is fully stocked. From power tools and household items to fantastic toys, we have it all. Gift wrap, ribbon, and decorations are in good supply.

There is no need to spend hours driving to crowded malls where you are one in a million. Stay home and enjoy the benefits of living in our small community. Shop local and you will be astonished by the choices you have and the competitive pricing. Find your gifts or, if you can't decide, gift certificates are a great option.

Save time, save money, and contribute to our local economy by shopping local.

Don't forget the Giving Tree—our annual project to make the holidays full of fun and magic for the children of our Community.

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

# Elephant Cloud Market

Elephant Cloud Market is the place to get the freshest produce and highest quality food, supplements, herbs, spices and snacks in the San Luis Valley; Be assured the products we carry are clean and green. Come visit us and peruse our large selection of unique and creative gifts ideas. These range from local jewelry, books, and crafts to top-grade loose leaf teas and accessories to a wide range of nutraceuticals as well a selection of candles, incenses, socks, imports and more! Ask an associate to help you create a personalized gift basket for your loved ones this holiday season.



# Movement & body awareness's key to Katie Getchell's technique

Katie Getchell is a practitioner of Structural Integration (aka Rolfing®), Certified Massage Therapist, natural movement and restorative exercise coach. At the heart of her practice are Dr. Ida Rolf's 10-series, the principles of decompressive alignment, and the importance of mobility in all stages of life. In addition to offering manual therapy, Katie works with clients to develop a vocabulary of practical, progressive and experiential exercises that support healthy joint movement within a supple and responsive body. Her practice focuses on integrating pain relief and injury recovery with ongoing somatic awareness, confidence and self-responsibility. Sliding scale. Website: [katiegetchell.com](http://katiegetchell.com). 719-588-9255.

# Maha Lakshmi Gift Shop

The Maha Lakshmi gift shop is open 10-5 daily. The shop carries incense, shawls, oils, jewelry, prayer flags, statues, singing bowls, books, clothing, puja items, art, keychains, magnets, CD's, silk fabric, and much more. The Shop is located at the Haidakahndi Universal Ashram. We welcome you to visit. Our temple is home to the Divine Mother and Shri Babaji. Aarati (chanting) takes place at 7AM and 6PM daily. We have Full and New moon fire ceremonies, which are at 10am. Call 719-256-4108 or go to our website at [www.babajiashram.org](http://www.babajiashram.org) or stop in with questions.



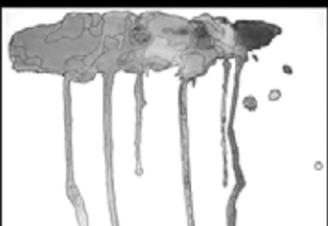
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- Encaustics (painting with bee's wax and pigment)
- Calligraphic Brushstroke



photo by Lori Nagel

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## Crestone Artisans Gallery

Crestone Artisans Gallery represents an eclectic mix of fine art. The gallery exhibits original paintings, prints, woven fabrics, wood work, sculpture, jewelry, and more.

Operated by local artists for over 13 years, the gallery has become a destination highlight for visitors. Offering unique items and a vast array of greetings cards, patrons will find gifts for every budget. Come mingle with the artists and browse at the receptions hosted at the gallery. Explore, indulge in wine and appetizers and listen to ambient sounds from local musicians at the themed events. Shop locally to experience all the artists have to offer.



## Ellzey Art Show

continued from page C-1

### Background

One evening eighteen years ago a small group of friends sat around Harriet Johns's pine table in her railroad car-cum-house in the Baca Grants. Harriet was an enamel artist of great repute in her heyday who had left behind in California the huge, walk-in-size kilns that fused her rich colored, powdered glass, bold "sand paintings" onto 4' square sheets of steel that would adorn IBM corporate offices. She was now making very dear 4"x6" enamel works in a desktop kiln.



Bill Ellzey and Jillian Klarl at December 2016 Studio Tour. photo by Lori Nagel

## Sand Dunes Recreation

Sand Dunes Swimming Pool in Hooper offers many holiday gift options. Give the gift of health & rejuvenation! A variety of individual and family passes are popular gift items. Pass add-ons are available for our brand new adults-only area, the greenhouse, featuring 4 new pools, sauna, and bar. Gift cards are sold in any denomination and may be used for anything in the facility. Visit us online at [www.sanddunespool.com](http://www.sanddunespool.com) to see all that is offered for guests of all ages. Winter hours are: Noon-1pm Lap Swim, 1pm-8pm Open Swim.



## Anna Louise Stewart's \$18-off Gift certificates

In Crestone, the community is the resource and I love being a part of it. I like to make myself available both as a community member and as a practitioner of the healing arts. I have a special love of working with the belly but also offer whole body sessions. My work is hands-on with an emphasis on the energetic body. I have been serving in Crestone since 2004 and welcome old friends of my table as well as new ones. In December I'm offering \$18 off any gift certificates. They will not apply to personal sessions

Also at that table was Bill Ellzey, accomplished landscape photographer, who had moved to Crestone four years prior to build a strawbale home. In his rustic, southwest-style house, pretty much completed by then, he had started printing photographs which entailed making test prints on 4x6 inch paper. To arrive at just the right colors and contrasts before making larger prints several tests were made until the image was just right.

"It was the 4x6 size that we were both doing that gave me the idea of having a joint art show and call it Miniatures." It was Thanksgiving time. Wine had become an increasing part of the scene at the table so the idea of a show easily got legs and started running. Enthusiasm was rampant among the guests. Ideas of what it could be and how it could go went zinging around the table. The show was decided to be in early December and kick off the Christmas season.

Jillian Klarl, who was at the table, got up, walked to the telephone and dialed Kizzen, Editor of *The Crestone Eagle*. Would we still have time to get an ad into the paper? Kiz said deadline was past, but she liked the idea and would hold some space.

"That made the show just 2 weeks away and neither Harriet nor I really had very much work ready for such immediate and public exposure," Ellzey said. "We gulped, rolled up our sleeves and got down to it."

Thus, the Ellzey-Johns Annual December Art Show was spawned. Harriet has since passed to the Happy Hunting Ground. Her presence is felt continually through many of her enamels around the house.

**Ellzey's thoughts**  
"It is my love of the natural world and its breathtaking beauty that keeps me going back out with my camera. Over 70 now, with maybe 20 years more-less to go, I see what a flash a human lifetime is. Five billion more humans inhabit the earth than when I was born. Forests, fish, wildlife, clean air and fresh water are being consumed at that geometric pace. What are we doing? What can we do? Nothing and not much are the answers I suspect. Sooner than later I fear landscape photographs will be used to show how it used to be. They already do for glaciers and forests. I fear it's too late to preserve what we knew and saw when we were young.

Nevertheless, beginning with last year's art show I started donating 10% of my photography and workshop earnings to NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) and Population Matters. I intend to do that for the rest of my life."

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