

# The CRESTONE EAGLE

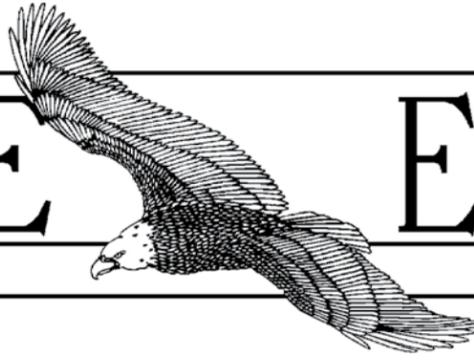
Crestone, Colorado Volume 28, Number 3

March, 2017 \$1

28 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley

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The sandhill cranes return by the thousands to the San Luis Valley. Their return is celebrated by the annual Monte Vista Crane Festival. See page 9 for more information photo by David C. Jones, Monte Vista Refuge. To see this photo in color and more, visit our website at [www.crestoneeagle.com](http://www.crestoneeagle.com)

## Saguache County to see severe budgetary cuts

by Sandia Belgrade,  
with Peter Peterson,  
County Assessor

JoAnn Groff, Property Tax Administrator for the state of Colorado, has announced that this county and many others will see an 18% budgetary reduction in funding. What's happened to cause such a severe situation? Every two years since 1982, the Gallagher amendment, a constitutional measure approved by voters, has required that the residential property taxes assessed value statewide can comprise no more than 45% of the state's overall assessed value. Non-residential properties make up the remaining 55%. The target percentage, referred to as the 45/55 split, is

so that commercial and residential assessment rates can't get too far off from each other. Because the 45/55 ratio is set statewide, Gallagher doesn't take local market conditions into consideration. That means the formula which is driven by what happens in the Front Range, where the bulk of the state's population lives, can have dire effects on rural counties. Most years Gallagher doesn't come into play. If commercial values and home values rise at a similar pace, there's no need for an adjustment. According to Peter Peterson, Saguache County Assessor, since 2003, the residential rate has been 7.96%. Next year, however, according to the Department of Local Affairs, that is projected to drop

to 6.56%. Local officials apply that rate to their tax levies to calculate how much residential property owners owe.

### What's different this year?

There's been a housing market boom in the Front Range, the urban corridor which includes places like Denver and Colorado Springs. Housing prices have gone through the roof coupled with a business downturn, such as a recent dip in the oil and gas industry. It means homeowners could wind up contributing more than their 45% share, throwing the ratio out of whack. According to Gallagher, under the state constitution, that triggers a mandatory tax cut for homeowners.

*continued on page 3*



**Mammoths!** The San Luis Valley was home to mammoths as archeological excavations around the valley now show. See our feature story on page B-1

## Membership surging as Crestone/Baca Indivisible works to hold Congress & Trump administration accountable

The Crestone/Baca Indivisible group held its first organizational meeting at the home of Chaleet II resident Sarah Hoenninger in mid-January with about 20 local residents gathering. According to organizer Susannah Ortego, the purpose was "to offer regular people a way to act effectively rather than sit home and worry about potentially destructive administrative and legislative actions that will affect all Americans on the heels of the last election.

"Because this administration

is only being enabled by a Republican majority that is unwilling to provide checks and balances intended by writers of our Constitution, and because the majority also seems unwilling to practice any legislative moderation among themselves," she added, "it is up to regular people to hold those politicians accountable for their actions and inactions."

Ortego reported that for that reason more than 60 people have signed up to engage in positive local activism with the Crestone/Baca Grande Indivisible group and that

they continue receiving calls from residents living outside Crestone/Baca, like Zapata and Saguache, asking to become involved. "This isn't just happening because we're a conspicuously 'progressive' community. It is happening all over the country and it is a very real movement, judging by the crowds that appeared at recent town halls in Utah, Tennessee, California and Aurora, CO. It isn't going away," Ortego said.

The Indivisible mission is

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## The Crestone Eagle

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Letters to the Editor must be 300 words or less.

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## In support of Baker for CCS Director

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to put in my two cents and say that I think Marie-Louise Baker is the right choice for CCS Director. I've had several significant interactions with Marie-Louise this school year, and my impressions are that she is highly intelligent, diplomatic, cool under pressure, an excellent listener, and a highly effective creative thinker when it comes to strategizing to solve difficult problems. Great job CCS Governing Council!

Bennett Italia

## Glad to have Marie-Louise at the CCS helm

Dear Editor,

Please let the Governing Council know that you have my full, enthusiastic support in hiring Marie-Louise Baker as CCS Director. I have known Marie-Louise for eight years and feel I can speak for her character. Marie-Louise is a thoughtful, compassionate and amazingly grounded person. She is fun to be around, and lightens up the room wherever she goes. I am sure that you have noticed that she is extremely inquisitive, intelligent and has a work ethic that is becoming increasingly difficult to find. She is highly organized in every aspect of her life and is constantly learning new things. Most of all, Marie-Louise deeply cares about our kids and their education. Being a CCS parent for many years, she understands the concerns that may arise. Her training and natural ability in conflict resolution is essential for this position.

I think that Marie-Louise has brought an unprecedented steadiness to CCS. We are fortunate indeed to have her at the helm! It is an honor to recommend Marie-Louise Baker for Director of CCS in the highest terms possible.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Pierce

Mother of 3 CCS students,

Middle School CCS teacher  
for 2 years

## Trampling, tall tales & trumpery

Dear Editor,

In response to Kizzen's recent editorial: Let's remember that men as well as women have borne the brunt of injustice and abuse. Whatever tender and respectful impulses they may have been born with towards the "fair sex" were sometimes lost after forced service in armies, clashing with axes and swords, or in navies, scaling the masts in hurricanes or maimed by exploding cannons . . . for that matter, laboring in mines and quarries . . . they too have been fodder for

use and abuse. No denying that at present women have a bit of a harder row to hoe, but they seem to have made notable advances in the last half-century, and I hope we can be cautious about "identity politics" and not lose sight of economic systems which can grind us all down. Great that those marches had good turnouts.

And regarding your "Crazy Larry", his lawyer might say you've only offered conjecture about his out-of-state scams and pimping or, for that matter, his intent to rape. Maybe he just hoped you'd be willing? But of course, I wasn't there to see it go down, and of course, it's just a tall tale, and a good one, too.

Thanks for being you, in this brave new world of Photoshop, anti-facts, and other sorts of trumpery . . . which is a real word, if anyone cares to look it up.

Slim Wolfe

## Living co-operatively

Dear Editor,

Although I'm grateful for today's sunrise, I also share an "empathetic heart" around unnecessary division causing war and disparity that seems to be gripping our biosphere. I also share happiness knowing that there are solutions to these problems. Locally, some folks are working hard at jobs and not earning enough money to pay rent and afford to buy healthy food, and need a solution soon or their health and well-being will be at risk. What befalls one human eventually befalls us all.

Interestingly, the Baca Grande was built around conventional military retirement, but has roots of cooperation and peace from the native peoples of the past, and I believe this helps us remember that cooperation is possible again. As you read this there are people who are investing to bring back some type of educational commons that returns self-sufficiency to the average person. The capitalist model of exchange today, which has made a few folks rich, and shut down most of the cooperatives that helped rebuild the country after the Civil War, can be revived. The co-op model does not make folks rich with money but fulfills one's life-purpose, rewarding members with health and happiness. This model has been proven at several co-ops across this country and throughout the world. With a system of accountability in a tiered level of involvement, working members reap what they sow, and depending on the level of exchange, their needs could be met without any monetary involvement. Those who choose to support the exchange with currency are still able to walk in and purchase goods at the "retail price." It creates resource cooperatives which, when managed properly, serve their community amazingly well . . . from a cup of coffee to a timeshare tractor.

Also, this model allows for a human time bank-labor force that creates enough resiliency with resources produced for itself to maintain its infrastructure, stock a storehouse and throw celebrations at its community center.

I hope you read and are

inspired by the manifesto the Grangers have produced. It will be printed and available at our local markets for your review. Join the HUB communication network by sending an email to: crestonemountaingrange@gmail.com. Blessings in this presence, it is from love and happiness we share. With great honor and respect to the elders of the last three generations we present this work, in hopes it will benefit and inspire the next four generations to also be happy and to work in service to the healthy good of all our relations universally.

—Nathan Good

## Senator Gardner needs to listen & explain

To the Editor:

Senator Cory Gardner keeps insisting that "paid protestors" have been calling his offices, making it difficult for his own "real" constituents from Colorado to get through to him. That is a rather lame excuse for being unwilling to actually listen to them.

It would behoove Senator Gardner to understand that literally hundreds of real Coloradans just from one little pocket of southern Colorado have reported that their calls were unanswered and his voicemail remained full after they'd given up calling his Washington office repeatedly. We now feel relegated to calling all his satellite offices in order to be heard. That is also why we in the San Luis Valley are urging the Senator to hold a town hall here, so he can explain in person why he and his colleagues are supporting cabinet appointees that are either blatantly unqualified billionaires (De Vos) or hard-right ideologues out to gut the environmental protections we value here (Scott Pruitt for the EPA) or Medicare as we know it (Tom Price for Health & Human Services), just to name three.

We would also like Senator Gardner to explain how he and his colleagues will justify their intentions to eliminate financial regulations that were designed to protect our economy from the excesses of Wall St. And why they don't share our concerns about President Trump's overarching conflicts of interest, the politicization of Voice of America and the National Security Council and so on, but surely you get the picture.

Sincerely,

Susannah Ortego

## Representatives should represent

To the Editor:

In a working democracy, lawmakers' most important task is to be responsive to constituents! At Scott Tipton's office in Alamosa yesterday a friend and I were informed that the Congressman will probably not be physically appearing here before August! The tech-savvy may attend an online Town Meeting scheduled for later this month, but the job description includes time to appear in home territory on a regular basis.

As I prepare to pay my tax-

## Editor's Notes

### Loss of integrity

It has only been a little over a month since the Trump administration took office. Feels like a year. So much has happened in six weeks that the news organizations can't keep up with it. And I hardly know where to start with my list of what I find scary, illegal, wrongful, unbelievable or simply totally absurd.

Or, as our president would tweet in the middle of the night "It's a total disaster". "Sad."

But it's more than sad, and "disaster" is unfortunately closer to the truth.

I can understand a new administration coming in and wanting to make changes. We see this every time a new political party takes office. But I don't think that most of the people wanted what they are now getting. It's not about political party anymore. Or ideology. It's about power. Big rich international corporate power. "The people" have nothing to do with it.

Our democracy is under attack. The checks and balances are being stripped. The power of the press to hold our elected officials accountable is being undermined. Their reports of corruption are labeled "fake news". Blatant lies are now "alternative facts" and George Orwell is saying "I told you so".

Americans have long worked together to make our communities work. We find common ground in hard work and honesty. We may differ, but we don't destroy.

Right now, I'm seeing destruction—of the Environmental Protection Agency, of education, of human rights and our fragile healthcare system. And most importantly destruction of the integrity of the office of President of the United States. Policy we can debate. But integrity is an essential American value. Without it, we are *all* in jeopardy.

—Kizzen

es, I am reminded our President has not produced his tax returns. The Congressional Committee on Taxation can require the IRS to release them, as recently urged by Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-NJ). Breaking with precedent, our billionaire president has not put his business in a blind trust and his family accesses business connections by the power of his office.

Is conflict-of-interest business-as-usual for public office? Like five other wealthy Trump cabinet members, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos was a huge Trump donor and certainly won approval from those whose campaign received funding from her, including Colorado's Cory Gardner (\$50,000).

We have to rely on our representatives' good will and conscientious performance of duty to keep democracy alive. Let us hope that in the excitement of their party's complete control of our political fate, our Republican members of Congress don't forget they are accountable to *all* the people who sent them to Washington, not just the ones who can pay.

Anne Silver

## Demand Medicare for all

Dear Editor,

Driven to lower taxes on the wealthy, Congress prepares to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Lowering what the Federal government spends on health care allows for lowering the taxes on the wealthy. Never mind that this will push costs onto already strained state budgets and drive more Americans into bankruptcy. The budget vultures are circling.

Americans have come to depend upon the good that the ACA has accomplished. The problems that remain are based on its being built upon our dysfunctional, for-profit insurance companies, with all their perverse incentives. (The less health care they pay for, the more profit they make. Because our lives can depend on health care, we pay their rising, exorbitant prices.)

Even with the ACA, we spend almost twice as much per person as other industrialized countries; at least one out of four of us are uninsured or under-insured; health care expenses cause the majority of bankruptcies; and we have poorer health outcomes. Repealing the ACA will take away the benefits and leave the problems.

So, repeal if you must, but make it better. Just as Medicare provides secure coverage for our seniors, it can work for us all.

Our medical industrial complex works very well for those at the top, but impoverishes the rest of us. Our medical industrial complex is as swampy and rigged as it gets. The mandate of this past election is to clean up the swamp/fix how things are rigged to work for the 1%. The majority of Americans support Medicare for all.

Medicare for all is what will work for all. Understand and demand.

Bill Semple  
Boulder

### Lifeline in troubled times

A great sadness woke me up last night,  
I sat by the fire  
with visions of a world  
going over the edge,  
and yesterday's news shooting  
through my head,

I have joined the revolution  
this is where I need to be,  
but sometimes-  
I just want to rest  
in the soft silent earth,  
in the company of  
ravens and rabbits  
and listen to coyotes howl,

when the world seems  
out of control,  
even the sound of an owl  
can draw me down  
to the silent ground,

I want to be among things  
that carry no past,  
or fear no future,  
things that quieten the mind  
and nourish the heart.

—Norah Tunney

## Lost hiker spent five nights in the wilderness at Great Sand Dunes Nat'l Park

by Mary Lowers

Near sunset on Thursday, February 16 a twenty-eight-person search and rescue operation at the Great Sand Dunes National Park was called off when Bryan Skilinski, who had been lost for five days, was found 1.5 miles south of the visitor's center. The young New Yorker had first entered the park February 11. Park staff noticed that Skilinski's vehicle, parked in a horse trailer parking area off Medano Rd., had been unattended for several days.

Skilinsky became disoriented in deep snow and kept trying to return to his vehicle. He covered a lot of terrain in the park over his five days in the elements. He was exposed to temperatures in the teens at night, experienced high winds and snowstorms. He had very little winter gear.

Twenty-eight people from various agencies assisted in the search. They searched on horseback and used dogs, and Colorado Fire Prevention and Control sent a specially equipped airplane to search the dune fields. The search was coordinated by the National Park Service. Acting Park Superintendent, Scott Stonum, said "We could not have asked for a better outcome and I personally thank all of the staff and search and rescue team members who provided their expertise in helping to find Bryan."

## Saguache County Crime Report

by Mary Lowers

As the ice melts and the mud dries, Saguache County drivers need to be aware of their speed while cruising around the valley on early spring agendas. Saguache County deputies are out there issuing speeding citations, keeping the roads safe. The thaw and water table rise have caused the roads around the area to begin to buckle, and new pot holes seem to appear everywhere. Let's go the speed limit and pay attention.

Once again Failure to Appear charges put several folks around the area in jail. An Alamosa woman, 35, was held in jail with \$2500 bail for failing to appear in court. A Center man, 30, was jailed with \$25,250 bail on charges including Second Degree Burglary, Fugitive from Justice, and Failure to Appear charges. Another Center man, 30, was jailed on Failure to Appear charges with \$200 bail listed. A homeless Center man, 40, was held in jail with \$250 bail on Failure to Appear charges. A Center man, 35, was jailed on two Failure to Appear charges. His bail was listed as \$500. A Baca man, 35, was also held in jail on two counts of Failure to Appear and his bail was \$500.

A Moffat man, 54, was put in jail for charges including: Domestic Violence, Second Degree Assault, and Menacing with no bail listed. A Center man, 29, had no bail listed on charges of Violation of a Restraining Order which landed him jail. A Cotopaxi man, 35, was jailed on charges including: Possession of a Controlled Substance, Driving under the Influence of Drugs and/or Alcohol, and being a Fugitive from Justice. His bail is \$1000. No bail was listed for an Alamosa man, 36, jailed on charges of Failure to Comply with a Warrant. A South Fork man, 20, jailed on Failure to Comply with a Warrant has \$1000 listed for bail.

Late in January, Sheriff Dan Warrick was called to Mountain Valley School to deal with a male student, 16, "who was out-of-control and had just left the building." Superintendent Garoutte said, "The student went into the main office of the school . . . when asked to calm down and speak with him the student started cussing him out and walked down the hallway and out of the school yelling profanity." Prior to entering the office the student caused trouble in class and in the halls. In the school office the student threw a pan and flipped over a desk hitting but not hurting a scared 4th grader who was in the office.

When the Sheriff arrived on the scene the Superintendent told him the school wanted to proceed with charges and asked Warrick to inform the student and his mother of the charges. The Sheriff found the student's mother and informed her the school was suspending the student for ten days and that she needed to contact the school for a meeting. Sheriff Warrick informed her that the incident report would be taken to the District Attorney to see what charges might be leveled due to the student's behavior. Charges against the sixteen-year-old could include: menacing, harassment, and child abuse.

## Budget cuts

continued from page 1

The State must reduce the residential assessment rate to 6.56% to maintain the ratio. The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) adds another layer of complexity. Gallagher can trigger an automatic reduction in the assessed rate, but Tabor states that if you lower a tax rate you cannot raise it again without voter approval. And no property owner is going to vote for an increase of their taxes.

### Regional impact

Most rural counties will be hit hard, and our county government is going to be squeezed. The ripple effect on Saguache County could be severe; it has an equity imbalance because there is so little commercial property. With a reduced residential assessment rate, the County will have a shortfall, projected to be an 18% budgetary reduction

in funding. Difficult decisions lie ahead for the Commissioners. For example, Las Animas County, due to loss of oil and gas revenue, lost one employee and County offices went to a 30-hour work week. It could happen here. Our County Commissioners will have to plan for a worst case scenario including a reduction in County services. Also affected will be emergency services and special districts such as the library district. The state is also projecting a \$170 million shortfall for school districts across the state in 2018 which the state is required by law to replenish from its own coffers. Some are speculating that the revenue from marijuana might be able to help.

### There is no easy fix

Lawmakers in both parties acknowledge the challenges that Gallagher poses. The challenge is to bring equity back to the entire system, but solutions are elusive.

### Crestone Brewing Co. Upcoming Events



**Friday Night Music Series ~ 9PM**

3/3 - Ring in the Year of the Fire Rooster with Blue Rooster  
3/10 - TBA  
3/17 St. Patrick's Day! - The Crestone Leprechauns  
3/24 - Handmade Moments (amazing! don't miss it!)  
4/1 (Saturday) April Fools Day - Stimulus

**Weekly Events**

Monday - All Night Happy Hour  
Tuesday - Open Mic Night (8:30-Midnight)  
Wednesday - Wine and Cheese (\$2 off glasses, 1/2 off bottles)  
Thursday - New Beer Release  
Friday - Live Music (9:00)  
Sat/Sun - Bloodies & Donuts @11am

Temporary winter hours:  
Monday-Wednesday 5 PM-close with Veggie & Chicken Green Chile,  
Soup of the Day, Chips and Salsa  
Thursday-Sunday 12 PM-close with Full Kitchen (kitchen closes at 9:00)

**CRESTONE BREWING CO., 187 SILVER AVE, CRESTONE, CO**  
719.256.6400 WWW.CRESTONEBREWINGCO.COM



Now serving breakfast burritos seven days a week from 7am-1pm (or until sold out)

# Saguache County News

## by Sandia Belgrade County reorganization

The County begins each new year with a confirmation of roles and responsibilities of its employees. Most keep their regularly assigned positions, but in a small county, employees also serve in several other areas as well. Often residents ask what does the County actually do and who could they contact if needed? This abbreviated list of the most important roles will allow you to know who to contact.

### 2017 Commissioners' roles

The new Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is Tim Lovato, in his third year as a Commissioner representing District 3. His background has been in water resources and he was a water commissioner for 25 years. As part of his duties now he oversees the Department of Public Health; the Veteran's Office; the Saguache County Museum; and is the All Hazards County Designated Health Officer/County Quarantine Officer; and Prevention Partner Coalition.

Commissioner Ken Anderson's areas are in Land Use, the two airports, Road and Bridge; the UAS/COAA County Rep; Gunnison Sage Grouse Strategic Conservation Committee; Senior Citizens Liaison; SLV Council of Governments, Executive Board; SLV Development Resources Group; the BLM Cooperating Agency rep; and SLV Regional Transportation Commission/STAC Committee.

Commissioner Jason Anderson oversees the Department of Social Services; the Attorney General Office; SLV Trails Coalition; Colorado Counties Legislative Committee Designee; local Board of Health Chair; BLM Front Range RAC; the Retac Board; SLV Regional Emergency Trauma Advisory Council; Forest Service RAC; and the BLM Cooperating Agency representative.

### County staff appointments

Lyn Zimmer continues as the County Treasurer and Budget Officer, and is the Co-County Administrator with Wendi Maez. She serves a 3-year term on the Blue Peaks and is a rep to the SLV Community Action Agency.

Maez is a one-woman do-it-all-hands-on administrator. She is the Land Use Administrator overseeing among other things conditional use permits applicable to marijuana cultivators and property lots. She is also the Saguache County Airports Manager; UAS/COAA County Rep; the Valley GIS/GPS rep; SLV Habitat Conservation Plan Steering Committee; and BLM Cooperating Agency rep.

### Successful tabletop exercise

Jim Felmler, Director of the Office of Emergency Management, helped coordinate a tabletop exercise in February. In the tabletop ex-

ercise, representatives from each department in the County met to review and discuss their roles and the actions they would take in a particular emergency, and discussed simulated emergency situations. This was a way to test the County's emergency plan in an informal, low-stress environment. They discussed "what if . . ." scenarios. What if there is a wildfire? A flood? A snowstorm, like the one that occurred January 24. Present were Dave Osborn, Emergency Coordinator for this region, and Chris Gallegos, Costilla County Emergency Manager, who had helpful advice because Costilla recently went through a snow emergency. The tabletop allowed the County to see how to track expenses if State assistance is needed. It was also a time to note deficiencies. Connie Trujillo, County Treasurer, said there need to be protocols set in place. For example, if there is a fire or a shooter, there are concerns to be addressed about being locked in the County building. When do employees know to shelter in place or evacuate? There also needs to be better signage for visitors and disabled.

### Drug screening program

The BOCC authorized the Public Health Department to implement a drug screening program beginning the first of April. All personnel will be subject to screening at the time of hire for drugs in their system and there will be routine checks of employees.

### Hearing on fair campaign practices

Lisa Cyriacks, a Crestone resident, filed a complaint regarding Fair Campaign Practices. She maintained that the County Commissioners violated the law by writing only the "pro" statement for the excise tax proposal that appeared on the November ballot and did not include the "con" side of the question. According to Cyriacks, the review revealed that the Commissioners chose not to support the sales tax intended to expand law enforcement services. On January 30 Administrative Law Judge Robert Spencer determined that because County Attorney Ben Gibbons receives a flat monthly fee and did not bill nor was he paid for individual services, there was no expenditure of funds specific to the ballot question. Spencer, therefore, ruled that there was no violation of the fair campaign practices act by either the County or by Commissioner Jason Anderson who spoke before the Saguache Chamber of Commerce. Anderson said that might not have been the best decision. He also said that he appreciated Cyriacks for her watchdog role and keeping the BOCC on track. He wished more residents would give input. She said she greatly appreciates Jason Anderson's comments on welcoming public input, including controversy, and hopes to continue to work with the Commissioners without the burden of continuing to file complaints.

### Improvement to law enforcement services

The sales tax intended to expand law enforcement failed, but what is still in question is how

the BOCC intends to promote better conditions at the jail. It is in dire need of more space and whose condition needs improvement. The Commissioners seem to have gotten away from the issue. However, state statute Section 30-11-104, C.R.S.1973, states: "Each county, at its own expense, shall provide a suitable courthouse, a sufficient jail, and other necessary county buildings, and keep them in repair." As previously reported in this column, individual cells are in need of improvement. Moreover, there is not enough space to exercise inmates without them interfering with citizens, as happened last month. An employee was dropping off materials at the Courthouse and used the employee (west) entrance to enter the building. He was going up the maintenance ramp when he noticed a certain individual with whom he's had previous issues. As he entered the back doors this individual spoke threateningly with the other inmates; this would be the second time in a couple of years that he has attempted (or at least appeared to) initiate a physical confrontation with him. This individual came up on his blind left side with his chainmate. The officer told him to back away and walk in another direction. There was no physical contact or interference, but such close proximity is not safe for employees or visitors.

### Call for better communication from the Sheriff's Office

Citizens may know who to contact at the County, but they are not receiving replies from the Sheriff's department. Recently there have been several break-ins and burglaries in the Crestone area, and several residents have called in to report information. But they are not getting responses or a call back. When asked about it, Sheriff Dan Warwick responded by saying he hasn't heard of any burglaries and is not aware of any calls regarding burglaries. He suggested that when residents call the office, they need to request him specifically. Residents can also leave a voice mail for the Sheriff.

### Evan Samora, Housing Director

Evan Samora, Housing Director, provided an update to the methamphetamine found in a unit of Saguache public housing. The Board has approved a \$7,500 clean up proposal from the Denver based group Crystal Clean Decontamination.

### An ambulance barn coming to Villa Grove

Jeff and Amber Shook requested an easement on their land for an ambulance barn. Shook noted that most car accidents on 285 are just north of Villa Grove, and they need something closer for emergencies. They already have a 50/50 grant in place. Julia Hammel, administrator for the Northern Saguache County ambulance district, was present. She stated that a State grant from the Energy and Mineral Impact fund for the 50/50 match gave them \$5,000 towards an ambulance purchase and \$3,000 for radio setup.

### Road & Bridge

The County is considering a request from Conley Waste Man-

agement to change the landfill's days and hours. Conley requested the hours of operation be Tuesday-Saturday from 8am to 4:30pm and from 10am to noon on Mondays. They also felt the County's holiday schedule should match the SLV regional waste schedule. The County is considering the request.

### Land Use

Three Conditional Use requests first approved by the Planning Commission were also approved by the BOCC. Ed Trail and Adam Rhude bought a mining claim at Alder Creek near Poncha Pass. They will put in short term yurt rentals as part of a summer recreation area. It will accommodate no more than 40 people. They will haul water in. Brian Kirsch's conditional use request was for a retail marijuana cultivation center. He will truck water in from Denver. There will be greenhouses on 15,000 sq feet, but no residence. Cindy Hansen and 2 partners have requested to do a wholesale manufacture of a marijuana-infused product. They will be sharing a well with Jeff and Amber Shook in Villa Grove.

### Voting equipment

The State has gone to the Dominion voting system equipment and Clerk & Recorder Carla Gomez presented information on the election equipment. She brought in a contract for BOCC to consider and recommended if they accept it, the County rent the new system. It would be \$18,000+ for the first year for the machine and software. The State pays half of training, about \$8,000. It is not in the budget for this year. A law suit is presently in process on this issue. Her staff is trained in the system the County has now. The BOCC will discuss it in a work session.

### Tourism Council

Faith O'Reilly gave an update on their progress. She noted that there are 85 airbnbs in this county, but they don't always give information out regarding the lodging taxes collected. This she believes should be open information. Vivian Lawson, a real estate agent in Crestone where there are many airbnbs, has spearheaded this project and collection. It will result in an increase in revenue from that source. Theo Boudreaux, another member of the Council, was present and reported on grants and effective marketing. He is updating their web page.

### Guests

Ruth Horn, of Harm Reduction, representing Neo Natal Substance Exposure Task Force, spoke about the needle exchange program. Ammi Kohn of Living Wisdom thanked the Commissioners for their sales tax grant which kick started their campaign to provide housing for seniors. There is a potential for a land donation near the Charter School.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

THE SAGUACHE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER'S OFFICE WILL BE "CLOSED" FOR TRAINING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017



by Allyson Ransom

Spring is around the corner, and the Town is looking for volunteers to help plant over twenty large trees. Approximately \$5000 was donated by individuals and businesses to purchase memorial trees and brass markers as part of our downtown beautification project. Feel free to contact Town Hall (719-256-4313) or Kizzen Laki (kizzen@fairpoint.net) of the Crestone Tree Board to sign up.

The Town would like to introduce Marilyn Bunker, another helpful and knowledgeable member to our "Crestone Team". Hired by the Board of Trustees as the bookkeeper, Marilyn is assisting Treasurer Gwynn Busby several hours a week.

We are also very happy to have Gwynn back in the office after her absence recuperating from a broken ankle and foot.

Multiple grant applications were completed during the past month including the Downtown Redevelopment Project Phase II, Tract 1 Master Plan and ADA park improvements. Submissions were sent to the following agencies: DOLA for a federally funded CDBG grant, Saguache County for a Sales Tax grant, Conservation Trust Fund for park funds (i.e. mosquito and weed control), and the SLV Council of Governments grant.

We wish to remind residents that there is a marked handicap parking space and ramp in front of the Town Hall door facing Galena Avenue, and we ask that non-handicapped vehicles do not block this area. On several occasions, handicapped persons have needed access and unauthorized vehicles blocked the ADA parking area.

Speaking of the American with Disabilities Act requirements, the Town will soon be installing car wheel bumpers along West Silver Avenue near the Crestone Inn where cars have been pulling up too close and blocking part of the new sidewalk in that area. This spring, three ramps will be installed for wheelchair accessibility: the Town Park pavilion, the Community Building front door and from the Plaza into Little Pearl Park.

We want to remind property owners that March is fire protection month, and fees are assessed per commercial or residential lot for the purpose of maintaining the 15 fire hydrants and pumps that provide water pressure, as well as the maintenance of piping and wells to supply and deliver municipal water. Even if your residence is not served

by the municipal water system, the hydrants and pressurized water are available nearby to protect your property and your neighbor's. We have coordinated with the fire department so they can enter the data of our hydrant locations into their GPS system to provide residents with reliable and efficient service in the event of an emergency. Please know that it is the Town of Crestone's priority to provide excellent water service for both safe drinking water and in case of a fire emergency.

**February 13 regular Board meeting**

- A special Board meeting will be held on March 7 at the *Crestone Eagle* office to have a conference with Peter Nichols, Crestone's water attorney. He has been helping the Town with legal matters pertaining to the mandated state water augmentation plan. This plan has been developed with the help of Clearwater Solutions, a hydrology engineering firm who recently completed a water study and survey that Nichols will present to the State Water Court on behalf of the Town. The Town of Crestone has identified a plan to replenish their share of water for the aquifer that will help bring underground water levels back to the 1978 levels while protecting the rivers and creeks as required by law. Other towns throughout the San Luis Valley have completed or are working on similar plans.

- Members of the Northern Saguache County Library Commission spoke to the Board about purchasing property for the Town for building a future library. The Board was favorable to the idea. The library group is on the March agenda to present a basic site plan and to discuss the details.

- At the first annual Crestone Board of Trustees Retreat, the work session included lots of positive input and ideas for economic development, improving town services and visioning. Each regular Board meeting will begin with one of the trustees formally reading aloud the Town's vision statement, which is:

"Historic Crestone, Colorado exemplifies small mountain town beauty within a community committed to sustainable living practices and spiritual traditions. The Town continues to celebrate its pioneering spirit and unique diversity through contemporary self-reliance. Crestone's goals are to enhance economic viability, environmental preservation, renewable energy use, and social responsibility."



There have been so many deer around lately! This moment of a handsome visiting buck was captured the afternoon of February 16. photo by Lori Nagel

- Eric Grossman of the San Luis Valley Branding Initiative group presented a slide show to the Board and reported on a grant-funded project for the creation of a branding logo to promote the San Luis Valley, not only for tourism, but agriculture, education, and events. The motto they have chosen is "Awaken potential and sustain opportunity."

- The Board approved hiring Rodney Volkmar to redesign and update the Town of Crestone website with assistance from Trustee Diane Birstow and Clerk Allyson Ransom.

- With the help of Attorney Gene Farish, the Board is reviewing documents to complete codification of all ordinances and have the process finalized this year.

- Trustee Goergen, who also is appointed to the Crestone Planning Commission, reported that the Zoning Regulations are almost completed and ready to submit to the Town attorney and the Board for review, after which the Town will post a public hearing for public input. The Planning Commission meets the first Monday of each month from 6-8pm at the Town Hall meeting room. All proposals and plan submissions for review must go through the Planning Commission first, and the Commissioners then make recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

**For your information**

The Meet-the-Board Mondays has been reinstated for 2017 for the first Monday of each month, 1-3pm. If you would like to talk to one of the Trustees or share ideas or concerns, please stop by the Town Hall meeting room at 108 W. Galena Avenue on these following dates:

- March 6 - Trustee Goergen
- April 3 - Trustee Birstow
- May 8 - Trustee Byer
- June 5 - Mayor Danforth

- The Board approved new office hours beginning in February. The office now stays open longer, from 9am until 2pm on Mondays through Thursdays, and is closed on Fridays.

- Regular Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month from 1:30-6pm, and at the beginning of each meeting, citizens may make comments. To make a presentation to the Board, contact the Town Clerk one week in advance to be placed on the agenda and to submit documentation.

- Public postings: public hearings are published in advance in *The Crestone Eagle* and/or the *Saguache Crescent* newspapers.

- Town of Crestone meeting agendas are posted in the locked bulletin boards at Town Hall and in the US Post Office, as well as included in the online Calendar section of *The Crestone Eagle* each month.

- A Certified Notary Public is available during regular office hours in Town Hall. The cost to notarize each certificate is \$5 as per the Colorado Secretary of State Guidelines. A current and valid ID must be presented, and the notary cannot notarize documents in a foreign language she does not read.

- Other services available in Town Hall:

Copies are available in limited quantities and faxed or scanned documents can be sent for a minimal fee. We have very limited space to print and collate large amounts of paperwork; we are only able to complete simple copy tasks. When faxing, please bring only 8"x11" documents, unstapled and prepared for faxing or scanning.

Table and chair rentals are also available as is the Community Building for classes and private events. For more information, call our office at 256-4313.

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# Baca Grande Property Owner's Association news report:

## Community Outreach position filled

by John Rowe

The regularly scheduled February POA Board meeting was held at 6pm Thursday, February 16 at the newly renovated POA Hall. All five board members were present as were five audience members. An hour-long executive session was held before the public portion of the meeting. The POA Hall is open again for all POA business and the hall is also available again for board meetings and select community events.

The minutes and agenda were unanimously improved and the meeting moved on to Member Forum. A constructive discussion regarding covenant violations and POA response to community complaints ensued following a member comment. Somehow it took three years after a complaint filing for a hearing on a home in Casita Park to be held and then the complaint was dismissed, despite the complainant being very sure covenants were broken and the home in question had become a real eyesore.

It was suggested that any complaints be acted upon much more quickly and the complainant be notified and kept abreast of progress being made. It was also suggested and generally supported by the Board that the Violations Appeals Panel need to more strictly enforce covenants and enforce them consistently.

Department reports were brief and concerned with ordinary day-to-day details. The consolidation of the Fire and Ambulance departments continues to move along, with more training taking place for most employees. As has been reported previously, this merging will enable the POA to utilize the ambulance personnel/firefighters to work more, make more money, and stabilize the workforce in the long term. It will

also enable the POA to make tens of thousands of dollars in extra income through valley area patient transfers to various front range medical facilities. This merging and last year's acquisition of a new ambulance will make this possible and provide much needed Baca income.

The big news of the evening was the revelation of the hiring of Robin Durrance as the new Community Outreach Advocate in an almost full time role as the major interface between the POA Board with its associated functions and the membership at large. Robin is a long-term Baca resident with much experience with the POA, primarily in the Fire Department. She will be in charge of creating a new member survey (the Baca has not had one since 2005), constructing a regular newsletter to be available via email, posted on the POA website, with notices in the *Eagle*, and will facilitate various events where the Board and the membership can mix on a social basis. This is a brand-new position and will certainly evolve and expand as time goes by. To express your views and ideas, please contact the POA office for the best way to do that.

The other noteworthy business was the expression by all Board members of their 2017 goals. This was mostly an air-it-out session with some of the more agreed-upon goals to be adapted in future meetings. Some ideas were: investigate organic mosquito pest control methods, fix up and leasing out the Pro Shop, clarify design and building guidelines, and develop a better blight-removal policy. There is bound to be many more ideas in this vein. Please let the Board know your thoughts, as they are open to all reasonable input.



A controlled burn on the Baca Wildlife Refuge February 8, 2017. photo by Lori Nagel

## Fair currents of the Baca Grande

by Robin Durrance

Well, here I am—working for the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) again. I actually like working for our POA. We as property owners are members, and therefore we *are* the POA. When I hear derogatory remarks from a few about the POA, I feel those remarks directed at me, my immediate neighbors and those who contribute to the community. As POA landowners we agree to abide by the Baca Grande POA's governing documents. This is somewhat like the Constitution. Those governing documents protect and preserve the reasons we chose to own property here.

My title is Community Outreach Advocate. I'll be writing monthly and quarterly newsletters, helping create a membership survey and tally the survey results, making the website user-friendly and updating it in a timely manner. I will also be an event organizer/manager for community social events, assist with our combined Emergency Services open house events and host in-service staff events.

First on my list to tell you about is the upcoming member survey. The last survey was in 2005 and members were asked to return the survey within four months. Approximately 2600 surveys were mailed to members in good standing (meaning they

were up to date with their assessments) and only 670 surveys were returned (about 25%). The 2005 survey is being reviewed for editing questions no longer relevant (such as the POA Library amenity), making some questions more understandable, and adding some questions concerning members' opinions regarding amending certain articles, covenants and restrictions within the governing documents. The POA staff plans to have the final survey completed by May 31 and ready for mailing in June of this year. We plan to have the results tallied by the Annual 2017 Members' Meeting. Please encourage POA members to fill out and return this important survey. It is, shall I say imperative . . . yes imperative, that we (meaning you!) get feedback on what this community wants in the coming years.

Attention all artists or even non-artists. A POA new logo contest is now underway. This logo would go on the entrance walls, the Chalet/Grants and Casita Park walls, our letterheads and other designations. Please send your drawings, graphics and ideas to: Baca Grande Advocate, PO Box 237, Crestone, CO 81131 or e-mail to: Communityoutreach@bacapoa.org, or drop your creations by the POA office. Submission deadline is April 30.

Our new Emergency Services will be holding a CPR/First Aid class in March.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Vince Palermo for his *Crestone Eagle* letter "praising the POA maintenance crew" for the timely snow removal of our roads.

And in ending this newsletter I would encourage you to come the POA Board of Directors meetings. Check the *Eagle's* Calendar (page 14) for dates & times.

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# Indivisible

continued from page 1

outlined in the sidebar that accompanies this article. Members are working with other Indivisible groups in this state and are looking to coordinate activities and share information with the recently formed SLV Women ACT Group out of Alamosa. They are the ones that organized the Jan. 20 march in Alamosa that so many Crestonites attended.

### Gardner doubles down

News reports in Colorado and in mainstream media recently reported that Colorado Senator Cory Gardner (R) keeps doubling down on his assertion that it's only "paid protesters" who are making all the "noise". Ortego says "this assertion has played well with other Republicans like Utah Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who said the same thing after thousands of his own constituents came to tell this chairman of the Congressional Oversight Committee to 'Do your job' early in February. But that assertion is an 'alternative fact', meaning that it is simply wrong.

"I look at how many people have joined our effort in this one little community and I know that no one is paying them to write all the post cards and make all the calls that they've been sending his way. I don't know who Senator Gardner is trying to kid, because he isn't fooling anyone I know.

"The fact is that we have been continuously been calling and writing—to Senator Gardner, asking him to reject blatantly unqualified and potentially incompetent Wall St. billionaires for cabinet positions,

and to our Third Congressional District representative Scott Tipton (R), who has apparently never seen an environmental protection regulation that he doesn't want to eliminate.

"Since he and his Republican colleagues have been rushing to overturn environmental, banking and fossil fuel industry regulations while people are distracted by Trump's latest tweet, and are planning to privatize Medicare (just for a start), it isn't reasonable to expect any of us to be complacent. That's one thing that landed us where we are."

### Welcome to the valley

Ortego told the *Eagle* that complacency may also be unlikely when SLV constituents learn that while Rep. Tipton's and Sen. Gardner's staffs have insisted that their bosses could not spare the time to hold a town hall anywhere in the Third Congressional District, they did find time recently to meet in Cortez with the Cattlemen's Association and have accepted an invitation to appear at a Republican fundraiser in Alamosa on March 4.

According to the Feb. 14 edition of the *Valley Courier* both men are expected to attend the \$30 a plate dinner at Adams State. At this writing, discussions are underway to determine if the Senator and Congressman will be willing to meet with at least a small group of constituents on March 4, even if they remain unwilling to hold a town hall while they're here. If not, then Ortego says they are likely to find a peaceful gathering of District 3 constituents waiting outside the dinner venue to help their other hosts welcome them to Alamosa.

# Valley women acting for change

by Jan Foster Müller

SLV Women ACT (Alliance for Change Together) was formed by several of the San Luis Valley women who organized the very successful Women's March in Alamosa. The intent is to educate, raise awareness, and lobby for issues of freedom and justice that affect valley residents. The group has been working to organize a town hall or other meeting with Washington representatives and are organizing several events for both Women's Week (March 4-10) and Earth Week (April 22-29) in conjunction with Adams State University.

They are also coordinating with activist groups throughout the valley including Crestone, Monte Vista and Del Norte, sponsoring a weekly postcard writing campaign, working on Facebook and web pages, and planning to stay abreast of the Colorado legislative agenda.

For Women's Week, a Noon Series on Grassroots Organizing and Non-violent Direct Action is scheduled for Monday, March 6 - Wednesday, March 8. March to

the Bridge, starting at 3:30 March 8 at ASU campus and walking east across town to the pedestrian bridge by the river in Cole Park, is being planned in solidarity with women and girls worldwide to call for an end to violence. For details and the full Women's Week schedule, please see the Adams State website at [www.adams.edu](http://www.adams.edu). For more information about SLV Women ACT, contact [slvwomenact@gmail.com](mailto:slvwomenact@gmail.com).

## Crestone/Baca Grande Indivisible Mission Statement

Following the Indivisible Guide, our current mission is primarily:

(1) to work with others to get representatives to hold town halls in the SLV, or at least in our District 3

(2) to organize and/or encourage people to regularly stop at Senator Bennett's and (mainly) Representative Tipton's Alamosa offices individually or (preferably) in small groups to express their concerns and/or to ask for specific answers to specific questions from the representatives there,

(3) to contact Congressional and state representatives directly by phone calls, faxes, letters, post cards in response to action alerts concerning upcoming and proposed legislation, generated by us or just by reading the news and taking their own initiative (4) to encourage and participate in writing letters to the editors of various local and regional papers on varied topics on a regular basis. Email us if you want to join us. [susannahortego@gmail.com](mailto:susannahortego@gmail.com).

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## We admit it. We're not happy.

- COLORADO SENATOR CORY GARDNER ignored our calls to block Cabinet appointments of unqualified and destructive ideologues and billionaires. Instead he voted in lockstep with other Republicans to put our education, healthcare and environmental protection in the hands of Becky deVos, Tom Price and Scott Pruitt.
- Our CONGRESSMAN SCOTT TIPTON not only supports but has been actively sponsoring legislation to remove our environmental regulations using the Congressional Review Act. Using the CRA means that those regulations can never be revived again.

Neither of these representatives agreed to hold a town hall for constituents in our Third Congressional District during this Congressional Recess, but both of them have found the time to attend the upcoming Republic Lincoln Day Dinner in Alamosa at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 4, in the Adams State Student Union.

### Are you unhappy too? Then answer this:

Will you be ready to help us greet the Senator and Congressman in a large but civil and silent protest outside the dining hall when they arrive at Adams State for dinner? If so send us an e-mail and we'll let you know if tentative plans for this event are on.

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## T'ai Chi for Liberation retreat offered in Crestone

On March 18 and 19, John P. Milton will be presenting a very special retreat on Wuji T'ai Chi, also known as T'ai Chi for Liberation, at the Dancing Music Mountain Sanctuary in Crestone CO.

Practitioners around the world rely on T'ai Chi to maintain physical health and well-being, but few realize that certain forms of T'ai Chi offer an even more profound benefit: spiritual evolution. With this T'ai Chi for Liberation retreat, John P. Milton reveals a vital practice missing from most T'ai Chi in the West. Also known as "Wuji T'ai Chi," this secret practice is reputed to have been created at Wudang Mountain in the 13th century by the legendary Taoist master Chang San Feng.



John Milton will be teaching T'ai Chi March 18 & 19.

During this retreat you will learn:

- The Earth Form for absorbing qi to energize your physical and energy body.
- The Heaven Form for cultivating celestial qi, and the qi of the eight directions, to nourish your spiritual essence.
- Practicing both forms together to harmonize the body and soul—the T'ai Chi path to enlightenment.

With T'ai Chi for Liberation, John P. Milton presents a movement-based path for helping you attain inner peace, physical health and spiritual awakening. You will discover the benefits of this easy-to-learn form immediately as you unblock and purify your meridians, gather and refine your qi, and ultimately cultivate deep levels of clarity and bliss.

The retreat will be at Dancing Music Mountain Sanctuary, 3564 Double Tree Overlook, Baca Grande, 10am-5pm Saturday & Sunday, March 18 & 19. It costs \$180. Register at [www.wayofnature.com](http://www.wayofnature.com). For more information, please contact Sandy at [sanddski@gmail.com](mailto:sanddski@gmail.com).

## The eyes of March are on the Search Conference, March 24-26

by William Howell

When my wife and I moved to Crestone in 1994, we were amazed that already our community had fought battles of the water (AWDI Corporation trying to sell SLV water to the Front Range) and the air (military jets mock-strafting our citizens and schools) and the land (Crestone grandmothers sitting on the equipment of gold-diggers threatening to leach arsenic into our aquifer). At the dead end of a 17-mile road, our community was not so removed from the world, after all.

We in our little international village can really come together and get the job done!

With climate change, Earth degradation, our debt-ridden economies dependent on an irreparable financial system, our vulnerable infrastructures (when will the grid become permanently impaired?), and lack of vision among defensive or cynical governing elites, the world is and will be influencing Crestone with more immediacy than ever. And the stakes are very likely as high as they can get. The unpredictable and volatile state of the world necessitates our community becoming self-sustaining and directed toward resourcefulness, cooperation and compassion.

Preparedness—physical, mental and spiritual—is the only realistic response.

Which is why four trained facilitators will be conducting a search conference (an orchestrated organizational event with a great track record to bring diverse insights together to arrive at common agreements. Our search conference, from March 24-26, is dedicated to our very survival by making our community far more resilient. More than a hundred of us, representing all sectors of our community, are going to come together in a collective experience carefully

designed to bring answers and actions to our growing concerns. Everyone gets heard.

The focus is on implementing the actions (through a participatory process continuously focused on what we share in common) that participants identify.

The search conference builds on participant agreement and interests to create practical arenas of action. Ergo, willingness to achieve practical change and radical (to-the-root) actions is the prime prerequisite for attending this vitalizing and core-creative conference.

Please know that the nitty-gritty of any search conference is what happens afterwards. Once an action group is identified for each key sector of our common vision, each group will be charged with engaging the talents, resources and processes to accomplish its respective self-selected goals.

Whether you attend the conference or not, your participation afterward in one or more of these groups will tell the real tale of potential success.

Here, then, is a plea, on behalf of all of us in this community at the foot of sacred mountains: Recognize the state of our inner and outer worlds and offer your unique energies to create a viable community that will stand the tests of life and the test of time.

It's time for our awesome international village to come together again . . . for us all.

If you wish to participate in this space-limited resiliency conference, please contact our registrars to be placed on the conference wait list (you may be called at the last minute in the event of cancellation). Or sign up for one of the post-conference action groups: just email/call registrars Roland or Peter Gyallay-Pap ([rolandgp@hotmail.com](mailto:rolandgp@hotmail.com) or 719-937-7757).



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Photographer and crane viewers next to the fields where thousands of cranes gather during the annual Monte Vista Crane Festival. photo by David C. Jones



Sandhill cranes dancing.

photo by David C. Jones, Monte Vista Refuge

## 34th Annual Monte Vista Crane Festival happens March 10-12

The 34th Annual Monte Vista Crane Festival, an event celebrating spring's arrival of nearly 20,000 Sandhill Cranes in Colorado's scenic San Luis Valley, is scheduled for March 10-12. It might surprise folks to know that Sandhill Cranes weren't the original stars of Monte Vista's first crane festival in 1984. Whooping Cranes were because of a foster program in which sci-

entists placed the crane's eggs in sandhill crane nests to boost their dwindling population. The program failed but wildlife lovers fell in love with the Sandhill Cranes, whose graceful courtship dance and daybreak liftoffs are nothing short of breathtaking.

Festival activities include crane viewing; bus tours to Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge;

photography workshops; fieldtrips to see hawks; Penitente Canyon and Great Sand Dunes National Park; a craft & nature fair, birder's breakfast and birding movie; and a photo contest highlighting the valley's nature. The keynote speaker, artist Radeaux, will discuss his work illustrating bird images for The Second Colorado

Breeding Bird Atlas, a project 10 years in the making.

For more information and event registration, visit the Monte Vista Crane Festival website at [www.mvcranefest.org](http://www.mvcranefest.org) or call the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce at 719-852-2731. Registration deadline is March 8.

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# WISDOM KEEPERS COMING TO CRESTONE

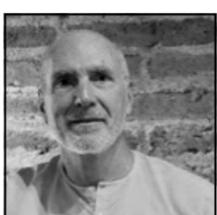
Thursday March 23, 7-9pm at the Charter School

You are invited to an evening of talks, sacred dance & music celebrating culture, consciousness, sustainability & creativity



### Speakers:

- Lee Temple, our local wisdom keeper author of the *Global Awakening* series, founder of PrimaMundi.com
- Dena Merriam  
Founder of The Global Peace Initiative of Women and the Contemplative Alliance
- Tiokasin Ghosthorse  
Cheyenne River Lakota Nation, South Dakota. An international speaker on Peace, Indigenous and Mother Earth perspectives
- Swami Atmarupananda  
Senior Teacher,  
Ramakrishna Order



### Temple Dance & Music

from Ancient India & Egypt:

- Sharron Rose, Satya & Brian Chi, Crestone drummers & dancers
- Signe Ramstrom, classical Indian Kathak & Natcha Yoga dance



Donations welcome - Bring a Rattle



Painter Paula Hudson's work will be on display in the Shumei Gallery for the month of March.

## Paula Hudson, PhD. featured artist for March at Shumei International; Symposium March 19th

Paula Hudson's work will be on display at the Shumei Gallery in Crestone for March 2017. A symposium with Paula will be held on Sunday March 19th starting at 3pm. A reception will follow.

The show is a collection of expressionistic oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings of many subjects. In Paula's words, "They are products of my feelings about them, such as their sense of intimacy, grandeur, peace, intensity, pleasure, etc. These feelings are represented by a heightened focus on the use of value and color."

Paula has been painting since she was 8 years old. Born in Chicago, she moved to Colorado in 1966. Paula holds a PH.D. as a Speech Language Specialist and has done therapy with children and adults for 45 years. During that time she taught at D.U. and C.U. and ran a speech/language program statewide for the state of Colorado. She has continued to show in galleries during that time. She is now a fulltime painter with shows in Denver and Crestone. She is presently searching for new markets.

Paula states, "We all have our own means of expression. I am a painter. Others are artists at helping others, at cooking, making herbal remedies, weaving, serving the community, poetry and many, many more. Along with the many forms of expression there are myriad ways we choose to show our talents. I use color, composition, values and other technical aspects of painting to convey the feelings and sights that impact me."

Come meet Paula and learn more about her art on Sunday March 19th starting at 3pm to 5pm. This event is free to the public, please visit [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) or call 256-5284 for more information. The Shumei gallery is open every day 9 to 5pm.

## March around the Crestone Artisans Gallery this month

The winter is closing and spring is around the corner with lots of new gallery info to share. Come join us for our Saint Patrick's Day Beer Bash on Saturday March 18 from 4-6pm. Beer is being donated and poured by the Crestone Brewing Company. We will have live music, beer and appetizers.

Members of the Crestone Artisans Gallery worked with Nicole Langley, an SLV non-profit consultant, to apply to become a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Condensing four months of work into just 6 weeks, member artists waded through reams of legalese to evaluate, define, and hone the mission and purpose of the gallery—as it's functioned in the past as an LLC—and as it would like to function in the future.

The new mission statement of the Gallery is "We, the nonprofit Crestone Artisans Gallery, are an evolving collective of local creatives, exhibiting and inspiring artistic expression for the aesthetic enrichment of Crestone and our global community." And the purpose: "Crestone Artisans Gallery provides gallery space to member and consignment artists to display, promote, and sell their works, fostering public exposure to the arts for Crestone and the San Luis Valley region of southern Colorado." The Gallery is already recognized as a non-profit by the State of Colorado and, fingers-crossed, will soon be a federally recognized non-profit.

This is a great time to visit our gallery to see the very talented photographers we are blessed to have in our small community. If you are looking to bring our unrivaled landscape to your interiors, come view the captive selection available at the gallery. Lori Nagel and Patrick Moore share local wildlife and landscapes. Images of wandering deer, majestic mountains, lone trees, trickling creeks and local spiritual centers are for sale

in greeting cards, matted prints, canvas and ready-to-hang frames. Unique archival local photos are also available by Linde Waidhofer, exhibiting sparkling celestial scenes over Crestone. Thomas Shultz brings limited-edition digital prints of antiqued western scenes. Bill Ellzey delights us with his colorful and crisp giclee prints of the Sangres as well as a captured swirling Chilean cave.

Be sure to visit Gallery artist Paula Hudson at her upcoming one-woman show at the Shumei Institute. Paula will display her works for the month of March. The show is a collection of expressionistic oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings of many subjects. Visit [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) for more info.

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Saturday May 20th

Shumei International Institute

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Shumei International Institute - PO Box 998, Crestone, CO 81131 - 719-256-5284  
[www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org)

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# Fellowship of the flowers: Plant donations sought for Crestone's new planter beds

"There is light and beauty up there that no shadow can touch."

-J.R.R. Tolkien, Samwise Gamgee, *Lord of The Rings*  
**by Patrick Moore**

This article is about light and beauty and fellowship and flowers. As most here know, we have been on a journey to bring light and to beautify our community. Phase 1, the infrastructures of streets, walkways and planting beds, has been achieved. This spring we continue the journey by planting trees and flowers in the beds. The cost of all the trees was paid by individual people in our community! Now we need flowers.

Here's a little background information. The Town received grants for the infrastructures, but the grants were not enough for trees and plants. But that's OK because we can do it.

There are four ways you can help bring the light: 1) Donate plants from your own garden; 2) Donate money to buy plants; 3) Volunteer to help plant; and 4) Adopt a bed.

### The type of plants we need

We need deer resistant, low-water-use flowering perennials. Such plants that thrive in our community include daisy, penstemon, potentilla, gaillardia, catmint, poppy, Russian sage, yarrow and many others. Call or email us if you have questions regarding suitable ideal plants.

### The type of money we need

We need big bucks and small seed money. Really, any financial contribution will help bring beauty. As my friend Kyle once told me "Money is nothing but energy to be spread around." Like manure. All financial donations are tax deductible, if that's important, and will be spent on plants for the community. It will be money well spent which will thrive for generations to come.

### The type of volunteers we need

We need volunteers to help dig up plants our neighbors want to contribute and to help plant the beds in June. Any and all help is welcome. As my friend Mahatma Gandhi once said "To give pleas-

ure to a single heart by a single act is better than a thousand heads bowing in prayer." Think of all the pleasure to all the hearts the act of planting flowers will bring our friends, neighbors and visitors. And as long as the flowers bloom you won't have to pray for a while. Consider their pretty little faces the fulfillment of your prayer obligations. After all, what do we pray for except for joy in the hearts of our fellow beings.

### Adopt a bed

There are many beds up for adoption. If you adopt a bed you get to make decisions on plants (except the trees which are already assigned). If need be, we can provide the plants you need (or you can donate them of course). As my other friend Friedrich Nietzsche once said "And those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music." I say "Go for it!" Show everyone what you can do with a bed (of flowers of course).

### Our mission

Let us create an oasis of light and beauty and fellowship high up here, where no shadow can touch. "Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do." Steve Jobs. And remember "The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion"—Paulo Coelho. After all, "Your work is to discover the world and then with all your heart give yourself to it." Buddha. Upon such journeys, never forget that "There is force in the universe, which, if we permit it, will flow through us and produce miraculous results." Gandhi

### Who to contact

For types of plants, plant donations and to volunteer or adopt a bed, call Patrick at 719-588-6431.

For financial donations please drop by The Town of Crestone or call 719-256-4313 or mail a check to POB 64, Crestone, 81131. Or give donations to Kizzen, *The Crestone Eagle* at 719-256-4956, or Elaine, The Crestone Mercantile at 719-256-5887, or Patrick.

Thank you!



## News from the Steering Committee

by Peter Anderson

The steering committee of the Crestone Creative District (CCD) wishes to thank all those who participated in its annual survey of "creatives" in our community. The term "creative" applies to musicians, web designers, painters, landscapers, woodworkers, sculptors, culinary arts, writers, graphic designers—anyone, in fact, who devotes some of their time to a creative pursuit and who has derived some income from doing so. The current number of creatives in Crestone/Baca, as of the 2016 survey, is 267, which is about 10% of our population, based on recent estimates.

### Why does it matter?

In 2011, the Colorado legislature passed and Governor Hickenlooper signed into law HB11-1031 encouraging the formation of Creative Districts in neighborhoods, towns, or contiguous geographic areas in order to showcase a community's cultural and artistic organizations, events and amenities.

In 2014, the Colorado legislature passed and Governor Hickenlooper signed into law HB14-1093 creating the formation of a creative district community loan fund to promote growth and sustainability in the creative industries in Colorado's creative districts. Once our community is certified as a creative district, we will have access to this fund and other forms of support for creative endeavors.

We believe that Crestone has a vital creative and artistic community and our survey helps us show Colorado Creative Industries (formerly known as the Colorado Arts Council) that this is so. Since Crestone/Baca and its creative community are growing, we will continue to add to our census of creatives as additional survey forms are received. New Crestone residents/creatives are encouraged to fill out a creative survey at Town Hall in order to support the developing arts scene in our community.

In the other business, the CCD is moving ahead on a joint project with Moffat to design and install a sign at the junction of Highway 17 and County Road T. The sign would include an electronic messaging display that could highlight interesting events in the Crestone area. Other projects include updating the map of Crestone to include artist studios and, with the help of a \$5000 grant from the Saguache County Tourism Council, developing a CCD website.

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# Saguache Democrats elect new leadership

**by Barbara Tidd, Secretary Saguache County Dem. Party Central Committee**

Saguache County Democrats elected new party officers at their reorganization meeting on Feb. 4. Chair, Kevin Noland (Crestone); Vice Chair, Lynne Thompson (Center); Secretary, Barbara Tidd (Mofat/Villa Grove); Treasurer, Bill McClure (Center). The County Central Committee is comprised of these officers as well as precinct committeepersons and elected officials from the party (currently the commissioners, coroner, and assessor). These same people will serve as the County Vacancy Committee.

If you are interested in being a Precinct Committeeperson or have questions about that role, please contact Kevin Noland. There are 2 committeepersons per precinct. We

want to fill vacancies as soon as possible in Precinct 1 (Saguache), Precinct 2 (Sargents), and Precinct 3 (Town of Crestone).

The State Democratic Party reorganization meeting is on March 11 in Denver and is open to the public. [www.coloradodems.org/events/rsvp/30723](http://www.coloradodems.org/events/rsvp/30723) for more information.

We look forward to engaging more of our community in our local grassroots Democratic Party, and we will do our best to keep you informed.

If you have questions or concerns or want to be more involved, please contact Kevin Noland 970-351-6747, [nolandkk@gmail.com](mailto:nolandkk@gmail.com) or Barbara Tidd, 719-221-8434, [slvbarb498@gmail.com](mailto:slvbarb498@gmail.com). We welcome your comments and suggestions. We want to hear from you!



Aoife Kelly-Tate teaches Children's Yoga every Saturday at 10am.

## Fitness Center to open in Crestone

This spring, Crestone can look forward to a new Community Fitness Center. Kevin Matz and Geneva Hollyer, with a lot of support and enthusiasm from the community, are renovating the shop at Crestone Inn (formerly Casa del Sol), to become a full service gym. We are looking to offer a variety of forms of movement for the beginner to the expert. It is our plan to hold classes for children, youth, adults, and seniors, as well as offer open gym time. We will also be offering personal training. As a family operation we are planning to open a facility holding true to the values of family and community. Our goal: To offer a quality, safe, community environment, conducive to building healthy bodies and a healthy community.

There will be two separate spaces; one open studio space for holding classes, which is operating right now. The studio will offer classes on a daily basis including, Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, martial arts, wrestling, dance, and more. There will also be a gym with equipment, including free-weights, punching bag, rings, kettle bells, classic weight lifting, exercise bikes, treadmills, elliptical, and more.

We are open to hearing feedback on what you would like to see at Crestone Community Fitness. Please feel free to call us at 719-937-3361, email [crestonecommunityfitness@gmail.com](mailto:crestonecommunityfitness@gmail.com), or stop in to the studio at 171 S. Alder for a class. We would be grateful for any support in reaching this goal. Please visit [www.gofundme.com/crestonecommunityfitness](http://www.gofundme.com/crestonecommunityfitness).

nityfitness@gmail.com, or stop in to the studio at 171 S. Alder for a class. We would be grateful for any support in reaching this goal. Please visit [www.gofundme.com/crestonecommunityfitness](http://www.gofundme.com/crestonecommunityfitness).

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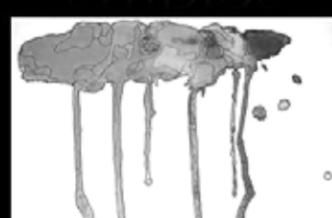
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**Cabin Fever March 11**

The Crestone Charter School is teaming-up with Crestone Performances Inc. to bring you the Annual Cabin Fever Talent Showcase. It will be Saturday, March 11 from 6 to 9pm at the Crestone Charter School. Students are free and adults are \$10 each. We will serve vegetarian and meat chili, popcorn and have a variety of drinks available.

Got talent? Call us at 719-256-4533 if you are interested in performing. We have 10 to 12 slots, 5 minutes each. We are looking for students and community closet clowns and crooners. This show has been around forever and the talent is always surprising and entertaining.

There will also be a “Fabulous Dessert” auction at halftime. If you would like to donate a fabulous dessert, please call us at 719-256-4533. This show is being produced by, with the proceeds going to, the Crestone Charter School Link travel fund for Costa Rica and Crestone Performances Inc. We would like to thank Neighbors Helping Neighbors for loaning us their fundraiser and especially Judie Rose for her endless supply of entertaining info. So don't miss out, come out and enjoy this perennial favorite.

**Earthworm Composting Workshop March 10**

New Earth Solutions will present an Earthworm Composting Workshop. This is the perfect way to get into gardening. The workshop will be held on March 10 at 10am. The workshop will last around five hours and you will leave with your own worm box! As Molly Shuvani says, about the earthworms, “They eat your garbage and poop gold for your garden.”

Check out the New Earth Solutions website [www.earthworm-gold.yolasite.com](http://www.earthworm-gold.yolasite.com) and send questions to [newearthsolutionsinfo@gmail.com](mailto:newearthsolutionsinfo@gmail.com). This website also has a materials list and alternative rain date for the workshop if it is needed. For more information call 707-513-7287.

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**CRESTFEST is coming!**

It's official! The new “CRESTFEST” is coming in 2017! This will look and feel much like the Crestone Music Festival you've grown to know and love. The main differences will be smaller headliners, smaller price and creating a fun family friendly carnival. The event will also act as an ‘end of the year’ showcase of presenters who've participated in our school performances.

We will have booths with hands-on learning workshops as well as demonstrations. The carnival will have “under tent” games for all ages with prizes. You know? Tattoos and teddy bears. Rides could include a mechanical bull, a Velcro wall, an obstacle course, Sumu wrestling body suits, bungee jump, climbing wall, bouncy houses, slides, knocker balls and assorted inflatables. We also want safe open air activities and contests and are considering things like: putting, pitching and hole-in-one golf contests, bean bag toss tournaments, dunk tank, football punting, basketball shooting, volleyball, soccer and more. Got a good Idea? Let us know. We want excessive fun available for all.

We will still bring quality music of an eclectic array but we're just piling on more smiles. Stay tuned. Dates are still up in the air as conflicts abound. Dates up for consideration are: July 21-22, Aug. 4-5, Sept. 1-2. We are aware of the conflicts on those dates, but still want YOUR feedback. Visit [www.crestfest.org](http://www.crestfest.org) to cast your vote.

Good ideas please call 719-256-4533.

**CCS Circus performance March 10**

Please join us at the Crestone Charter School for the all school all family all community Interactive Circus Performance Friday, March 10 at 5pm.

**Making poetry from stories March 11 at Cabin Fever**

The People's State of the Union on 2/4 was a hit as the community shared personal stories in small circles. Local Poets will be shaping a selection of these stories into the Poetic Address to the Nation, and will be offering a performance on March 11 at our beloved Cabin Fever. Hope to see you there!



**Joyous Kirtan & Dance**  
Dancing Music Mountain Sanctuary  
**Annie Pace - Signe Ramstrom & Friends**  
**Saturday March 19, 7 pm**  
[www.ancientdanceschool.com/event/](http://www.ancientdanceschool.com/event/)



Anne Pace and Signe Ramstrom will present Kirtan and dance.

*Kirtan & ancient dance performance to be presented on March 19*

Experience the joyous magic of Kirtan and ancient dance with Annie Pace, Signe Ramstrom, and friends. Come immerse yourself in the splendor of ancient chants and hymns in the serene atmosphere of the Dancing Music Mountain Sanctuary.

Annie is an accomplished harmonium player and singer of Hindustani music, as well as one of the most adept practitioner of traditional Ashtanga Yoga. Her love and devotion flow through her music and singing, leaving you with a deep state of contentment and the sweetness of Kirtan.

Signe hosts the Dancing Music Mountain Sanctuary in Crestone and is the creator of The Ancient Dance School. She is exquisite beauty in motion, blessing the Kirtan with a Kathak-Pranam and then proceeding to Kirtan, opening with Kathak Yoga, chanting, and playing tabla while doing Tutcar footwork.

This will all happen at Dancing Music Mountain Sanctuary, located at 3564 Double Tree Overlook, Baca Grande on March 19 at 7pm. Email for directions to: [ancientdanceschool@gmail.com](mailto:ancientdanceschool@gmail.com). For more information visit [www.ancientdanceschool.com/event](http://www.ancientdanceschool.com/event).



Community members came together to share stories of their personal experiences at The People's State of the Union February 4.

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# Community Calendar—March 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).

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

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

To list your event in the upcoming edition of the *Eagle*, please submit it by the 22nd of the month via our website, [www.crestoneeagle.com/myevent](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.

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

## Monthly Events

### Wednesday, March 1

- Nonviolent Communication class starts – 4:30 pm-6:30 pm By donation 719-588-5521

### Saturday, March 4

- Organic Gardening for the SLV – Hobby Town Game Room 8-am-5:00 pm \$5 <http://organicgardeningfortheslv.app.rsvpify.com> 719-298-0106

### Sunday, March 5

- Holy Eucharist, Little Shepherd in the Hills 2-3pm

### Monday, March 6

- Crestone Meet the Board Monday – Crestone Town Hall 1:00 pm-3:00 pm 719-256-4313
- Meet-the-Board-Monday – Crestone Town Hall 1:00 pm-3:00 pm 719-256-4313
- Monthly Crestone Planning Commission Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 6--8-pm 719-256-4313

### Wednesday, March 8

- 2nd Weds Class Series – BeBop Studio 5:30 pm-6:45 pm no charge 719-298-0360
- Crestone End of Life Project monthly meeting – Little Shepherd in the Hills 7:00 pm-9:00 pm free

### Thursday, March 9

- Andrew Harvey's SufiWay Class #3 – 2:00 pm-4:00 pm [nurashkijerrahi.org](http://nurashkijerrahi.org) 588-8602
- Free Monthly Kinship Caregiver Clinic – Alamosa Colorado Legal Services 4:00 pm-6:30 pm Free <http://bit.ly/2eRyn9E> 719-589-4993

### Friday, March 10

- Monte Vista Crane Festival, Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge All Day <http://mvcranefest.org>

### Saturday, March 11

- Monte Vista Crane Festival, Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge All Day <http://mvcranefest.org>
- Clear out & Renew! Spring Detox Yoga Workshop -10:00 am-12:00 pm \$20 suggested donation [igniteyourinnerflame.com](http://igniteyourinnerflame.com) 310-924-9223

### Sunday, March 12

- Monte Vista Crane Festival, Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge All Day <http://mvcranefest.org>
- Full-moon Fire Ceremony – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 am-12:00 pm [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org) 719-256-4108
- Qur'an Class & potluck – 2:00 pm-5:00 pm [nurashkijerrahi.org](http://nurashkijerrahi.org) 588-8602

### Monday, March 13

- County Commissioner hours in Crestone – Downtown 10:00 am-2:00 pm
- Monthly Crestone Board of Trustees Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 1:30 pm-6-pm 719-256-4313

### Wednesday, March 15

- BGPOA EAC meeting – 10:00 am [bacapoa.org](http://bacapoa.org) 719-256-4171
- Free, Monthly Legal Clinic at Saguache Library – Saguache Public Library 5:00 pm-7:00 pm FREE

### Thursday, March 16

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

### Sunday, March 19

- Shumei's Monthly Sampai, Shumei Sanctuary 10:30am-noon Free [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) 256-5284
- CEOLP Memorial Celebration at Pyre Site – 3-4pm [informedfinalchoices.org](http://informedfinalchoices.org) 719-588-7415
- Symposium with Paula Hudson – Shumei Gallery 3:00 pm-5:00 pm Free [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) 719-256-5284
- Kirtan & Ancient Dance Performance – Dancing Music Mountain Sanctuary 7-9:00 pm [www.ancientdanceschool.com/event](http://www.ancientdanceschool.com/event) 719-588-2929

### Friday, March 24

- Crestone/Baca Resiliency Conference – All Day 719-937-7757

### Saturday, March 25

- Crestone/Baca Resiliency Conference – All Day 719-937-7757
- Short, Simple, Sweet, Strong & Sweaty Yoga – private residence 10:00 am-11:00 am \$10 [igniteyourinnerflame.com](http://igniteyourinnerflame.com) 310-924-9223

### Sunday, March 26

- Crestone/Baca Resiliency Conference – All Day 719-937-7757
- Grange potluck followed by meeting – 12:30 pm-3:00 pm 719-256-4768
- Rest & Restore: Yoga & Self Care Workshop 4:30 pm-6:30 pm \$20 suggested donation [igniteyourinnerflame.com](http://igniteyourinnerflame.com) 310-924-9223

### Monday, March 27

- New Moon Fire Ceremony – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 am-12:00 pm [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org) 719-256-4108

### Tuesday, March 28

- Start of Spring Navratri, Divine Mother Festival – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 6:30 am-12:00 pm [www.babajashram.org](http://www.babajashram.org) 719-256-4108

### Monday, April 3

- Meet-the-Board-Monday – Crestone Town Hall 1:00 pm-3:00 pm 719-256-4313

### Monday, April 10

- County Commissioner hours in Crestone – Downtown 10:00 am-2:00 pm

### Thursday, April 13

- Free Monthly Kinship Caregiver Clinic – Alamosa Colorado Legal Services 4:00 pm-6:30 pm Free <http://bit.ly/2eRyn9E> 719-589-4993

### Wednesday, April 19

- Free, Monthly Legal Clinic at Saguache Library – Saguache Public Library 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Free

## 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 [vajravidya.com](http://vajravidya.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

- Sunday Mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage Nada Carmelite Hermitage chapel 9:00 am-10:00 am 719-256-4778
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm [www.slvaa.org](http://www.slvaa.org)

### Monday

- Gentle Yoga BEBOP Studio noon Monthly \$45; drop-in \$15
- Anam Thubten Weekly Recorded Dharma Talks & Meditations 5-6:30pm small donation appreciated

### Tuesday

- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting marijuana users welcome Baca Grande Library back door 7:30 pm-8:30 pm 970-309-0710

### Wednesday

- Integrative Yoga, Little Shepherd in the Hills Fellowship Hall 10am, Monthly \$45, Drop-in \$15
- Gentle Movement and Yoga for Seniors private residence 11am-noon \$10 suggested donation [igniteyourinnerflame.com](http://igniteyourinnerflame.com) 310-924-9223
- Tai Chi with Brian 11am-noon \$10 [facebook.com/crestonecommunityfitness](http://facebook.com/crestonecommunityfitness) 719-937-3361

### Thursday

- Yoga & iRest Yoga Nidra Class private residence 9-10:30 am \$15 drop in, 6 for \$75 310-924-9223
- Gentle Sivananda Yoga with Aoife Crestone Community Fitness 10-11:00 am \$10 [facebook.com/crestonecommunityfitness](http://facebook.com/crestonecommunityfitness) 719-937-3361
- Vinyasa Flow Yoga with Vesper Crestone Community Fitness 10-11:15 am \$10 [facebook.com/crestonecommunityfitness](http://facebook.com/crestonecommunityfitness) 719-937-3361

### Friday

- Prenatal Hatha Yoga with Kelsey Crestone Community Fitness 10-11:00 am \$10 [facebook.com/crestonecommunityfitness](http://facebook.com/crestonecommunityfitness) 719-937-3361

### Saturday

- 12 Step Recovery Group NA & AA Fellowship Hall of the Little Shepherd Church 9:00 am-10:00 am 719-256-5728
- Dorje Trola Practice White Jewel Mountain 10:00 am-12:00 pm no charge 719 480-5403
- Children's Yoga with Aoife Crestone Community Fitness 10:00 am-11:00 am \$10 [facebook.com/crestonecommunityfitness](http://facebook.com/crestonecommunityfitness) 719-937-3361
- Stretcherize with Simone Crestone Community Fitness 11:30 am-12:30 pm \$10 [facebook.com/crestonecommunityfitness](http://facebook.com/crestonecommunityfitness) 719-937-3361

It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.

-Ansel Adams

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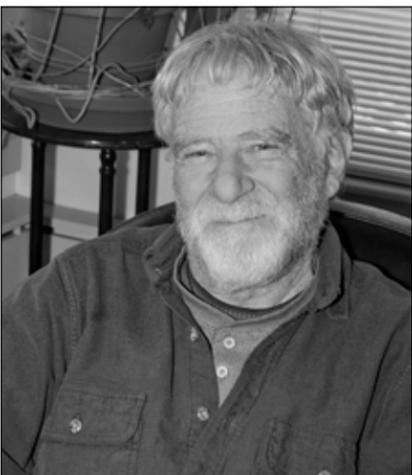
# Out & About with Lori Sunflower

What's your take on the economy?



**Cindy Tate, RMTNMT**

No matter what they say about the economy, at all times during my life I was self-employed and I just had to keep a positive attitude, continue to do the best work I can, and draw in the work! Because I was enthusiastic. Because I was present to do it. So I don't have really a comment on the economy, other than I'm just going to keep doing the best I can, keep a positive attitude, and I don't really wanna believe it's all bad. That's just not a way to live.



**Michael Bertin**

It's actually quite farcical. The economy as we know it is basically a theatrical production by the Rothschilds, Rockefellers, etc. And we have this whole other entity: the petroleum war industry, who has taken over the country, and makes sure the economy supports them, to the point of fighting wars, inventing wars—it just goes on and on. It's rigged. If you've got a lot of money, you can rig the game any which way you want, including putting a total schmuck in the White House, things like that. Now, how does the economy serve the American people? It keeps them down. It makes them slaves to a big bank that owns the country. The best thing that could happen to the economy is that it would collapse, and we would all get down to something real like bartering for goods and services that mean something.

Crestone's a wonderful haven. It's a good place to get out of the mainstream and practice something more wholesome, more holistic, more meaningful not just for

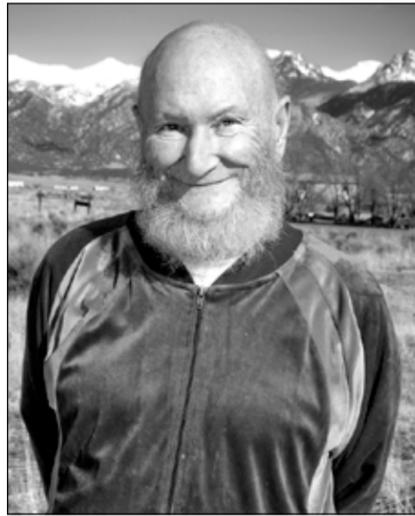
the planet and for the community, but for the individual. Anywhere in the mainstream, you first of all gotta really work hard to find some consciousness, and everybody is tied up in the old "earning a living" and "I need a bigger and faster and better car and TV," and ya know we're all junkies for consumerism. We're no longer citizens; we're consumers. So, my take on the economy? That is the system by which we are enslaved.



**Amulya Dawn Beechwood**

I've lived here a long time, I've done so many jobs, and I've always managed to somehow make ends meet. Many here are hand to mouth, though, and it seems like the middle class (pretty much where I've always considered myself) has switched into either you're at the lower end of needing assistance of some kind, or you're quite comfortable. The middle range is increasingly difficult. So, those who have money are hopefully generous and can hire those who need money. Keep the flow flowing (laughing)!

Years ago while I was in St. John's for a little trip, someone said, "You either have 3 houses or 3 jobs if you live on St. John's." Sometimes I feel like that's true here. We have second homeowners and then we have folks that have 2 or 3 jobs just to keep it all together. The economy here is obviously a challenge, but nationally I don't know where it's going to be any better, because here we have the resources of the beauty, fresh air, mountains and quiet. Our generous community is also a large part of the economy. If someone's ill, people really rally together to make that person feel comfortable. To me, that's a valuable exchange for a wealth economy. If you go somewhere else looking for money, you generally won't find that kind of generosity. I also shop local as much as possible, supporting the craft bazaars, Artisans Gallery, Lonny's store and grocery shopping. I think there's room for local economy to improve, definitely, but if it were too happening or lucrative, then it wouldn't still be our lovely, quiet, small town.



**Ed Nagel**

I think the economy is in deep trouble. We have more debt than we've ever had in our history. We have more corporate defaults than after the 2008-2009 series—all that housing collapsing. There are over 100 corporate defaults—more than there were in 2009. People's savings are not safe. They think they have money in the bank and they can get it anytime they want. But actually the bank owns their money. It's a temporary loan to the bank. It's an unsecured liability. You say, "Aww, but the FDIC insures \$250,000—I'm safe!" If one bank out of 36 in this country fails, there will not be enough money to pay back the people who lost their money in deposits. The government's about ready to confiscate IRAs and Roth IRAs, and you think your pension money is safe, but there's so much money there, the government's gonna take it and use it for other things. The Bible told us about this a long time ago. Matthew 23:29, it talks about the more you have, the more you will get; those who have less, even that which they have will be taken away. That's a prediction. And that's actually what's happening, especially under Trump's presidency, is the wealthy will be protected and the low-income people are just out of luck. So, what's my take on the economy? It sucks (laughing).



**Judy Gilbert**

The economy can be something quite abstract and far away from us. According to statistics, the national economy, regardless of what Donald Trump says, is actually quite robust. Unemployment keeps dropping, wages are rising. The head of the Federal Reserve has continuously had positive things to say recently, and the stock market is at record highs. However, we don't live in the national economy. We live in what I would call our own personal micro-economy. Regardless of what's happening in the world, if your personal economic sit-

uation isn't so hot, what difference does it make if everything is great or improving nationally? I was fortunate to grow up in a family that had its act together, financially. My parents were certainly not wealthy. My mother was a school teacher, and my father was a semi-employed musician. My mother just knew how to live well, and by well, I mean enjoying concerts, theatre, etc. (I grew up in New York City). She created a micro-economy for us that exceeded our actual income because of her very capable ways of managing money, so I've been able to benefit from that. I'd like to just encourage every person to be the most planful they can be about their own micro-economy. Don't listen so much to all the noise around you about the larger economy because there's not much you can do about that. However, you might be able to do something about your own economic situation.

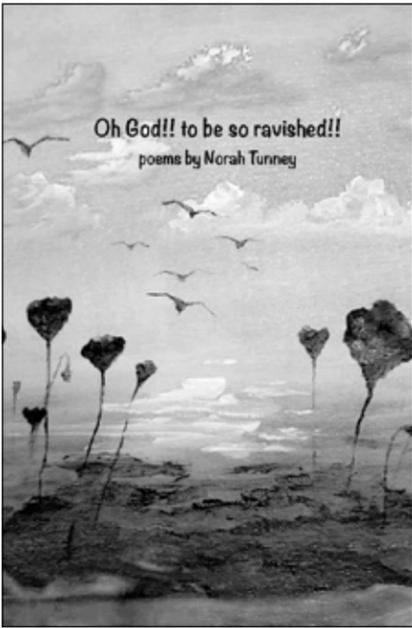


**Benjamin Byer, Owner of Elephant Cloud**

Regarding the Colorado economy, I feel there are a lot of jobs not able to be filled because of a lack of housing. There needs to be more economical housing, which means there'd be housing with rental caps based on percentages. In certain areas throughout the United States, where the economy's flowing, a lot of the tech jobs and various other jobs are definitely helping the economy. However, there are huge pockets of no jobs and very poor people getting poorer. I feel like the gap between rich and poor is definitely widening. I feel like the money's getting weaker and our dollar's getting weaker compared to other currencies, and there's very little people can do, because cash rules and the cash is getting sucked up by the rich.

In our store, people are definitely more on budgets and they're cutting down on the items that are more specialty items and going for more staples, which in some ways is good, and in some ways, not so good. Hopefully, people understand that when you eat, every calorie matters, and there's good calories and bad calories, and if we eat well, our own personal economy remains strong, so nutrition and what you put into your body is really important, so eating good food is part of a good economy, too (laughing)!

*If you have feedback or suggestions for future topics, please email [peacelori@peacelori.com](mailto:peacelori@peacelori.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).*



Poet Norah Tunney.

## 'Oh God!! to be so ravished!!'

Local poet Norah Tunney releases new book

One of our community's own poets-in-residence has just published her most recent book: *Oh God!! to be so ravished!!*. This volume by Norah Tunney is up on Amazon and will also be for sale at the Crestone Mercantile. Drawing on her life experiences—from the streets of Dublin, to a lone "hermit monk" in an Irish forest, to a member of the Carmelite monastic order . . . this collection of 85 poems is the most recent distillation of those varied, mostly contemplative experiences.

Norah, whose previous titles include *The Light in Everything* (available via Amazon), *The Touch of a Spark* and *Only a Breath Away*, has offered this book as a glimpse into life's nitty-gritty "messiness" filtered through her careful sense of divine presence. As Gail Storey—acclaimed author of *I Promise not to Suffer: A Fool for Love Hikes the Pa-*

*cific Crest Trail* wrote in her review, "each poem is at once a meditation and the cry of a heart bursting with love and drunk on ecstasy."

Others have commented that this book is one that they know they will come back to and reread as their own lives open in the ceaseless folding and unfolding that comprise life. Readers from here, as well as those who abide in her beloved Ireland, will catch more than an echo of Gaelic phrasing and descriptors as Ms Tunney invites them into her life. And, as a longtime Baca resident (you will find her most days hiking her treasured wilderness around here), she celebrates our high mountain desert community as her own unique place: an artistic, spiritual and determinedly corporeal blending of compassionate creativity.

## Celebrating the lives of those we have served

by CEOLP

On a blustery February afternoon, a group of people process to the Crestone End of Life Project's (CEOLP) cremation site, each carrying a sprig of fresh-cut juniper. But this time they will not place the juniper on the body of a departed member of the community. They are gathering instead to remember and celebrate all those who over the years chose to be cremated at the site.

For the past six years, CEOLP volunteers have held an annual day of contemplation, self-reflection and sharing at the beautiful grounds of Dragon Mountain Temple. The day's focus is on the fragility of life, our mortality, and our fears around that—which could become a barrier to our serving individuals, their friends and families.

We meet at Dragon Mountain because it was through the generosity of the Temple's leader Steve Allen and his wife Angelique Farrow that the pyre site exists: they "donated" a portion of their land to the community for the pyre, to be administered by CEOLP.

At the end of the contemplative retreat day, we gather at the pyre site to celebrate the lives of those we have served, offering juniper to the fire while thanking each person for blessing this place. Laughter, tears, songs and, anecdotes all rise with the smoke as we remember these precious ones who enriched the lives of our community.

We invite you to join us at the cremation site at 3pm Sunday, March 19, to celebrate with us in this simple and moving ceremony.

For information email: [ceolp.info@gmail.com](mailto:ceolp.info@gmail.com) or call Stephanie at 719-588-7415.



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**Life is so very difficult, how can we be anything but kind?**

- The Buddha

Monthly open meeting **Wednesday, March 8th**, at 7pm, at the Fellowship Hall of the Little Shepherd Church, Crestone. Call 719.588.7415 for information/directions.

## Oh God!! to Be So Ravished!!

By Norah Tunney

Forward by James O Dea

Now on sale at the Crestone Mercantile and on Amazon

*Norah Tunney's poems are incandescent. Light shines through her loves, losses, solitude and geographies. Oh God!! to be so ravished!! will be read and reread in our household.*

—M.L. Harrison Mackie, Poet

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# One great district, two great schools

## The Moffat & Charter Schools work together

by Matthew Crowley

The two school governing bodies, the Board of Education (BOE) and the Crestone Charter School (CCS) Governing Council (GC) met in January for our annual joint retreat. The main topics of discussion were Superintendent Kirk Banghart's continued recovery following the removal of a benign brain tumor in January, the GC's decision to announce Marie-Louise Baker as candidate of choice for the CCS Director position and how the two boards can work together to better engage with the community.

It is projected that by the time this article is published Kirk will likely be discharged to continue his physical therapy from home. No surprise to those who know him, we recently learned that Kirk was being referred to as "the rock star" of the acute rehab unit. The greatest challenge may be to convince Kirk to take his time in continuing his healing rather than jumping back in to work! Please continue to hold Kirk and his family in your hearts and prayers as he continues his recovery.

Many people may not understand the highly unique nature of the Moffat Consolidated School District #2 that your Board of education governs or the relationship between the BOE and the CCS GC. There is no other district in the state of Colorado (and probably most other states) as small as ours, with about 200 students total, that has a charter school. Historically 35%-50% (currently about 40%) of the overall student population of the district is enrolled in CCS. We are fortunate indeed to have a choice of schools for our children and young adults in such a small, rural and impoverished school district.

This unique situation is not without its challenges. According to Great Education Colorado ([www.greateducation.org](http://www.greateducation.org)), in 2013 Colorado was ranked 47th in the nation in per-pupil education funding, and 50th in teacher wage competitiveness, a sad state of affairs. Take an already small pot of money and divide it in half and you begin to understand one of our greatest challenges. It is also no secret that over the 20 years since CCS received its

charter in 1996 that the relationship between the BOE and the GC was at times, how shall I say—tense? Want controversy? Take 2 governing bodies with overlapping responsibilities, add 2 budgets and not enough funding and, shazam—you have a recipe for stress!

The good news is that the days of slashed tires in parking lots (true story) and board recalls are long past. It is clear and undeniable that the relationship between the 2 governing bodies is at an all-time high and has been for the past several years. Both boards are committed to this being the norm. Yes, a small student population and lack of dollars has its challenges. But, while doing what we can in terms of advocacy at the state level to increase school funding, both boards are also focused on the positive aspects of our situation. As the late great economist E.F. Schumacher said "Small is beautiful!" Our small class sizes are the envy of many a larger and better funded school district. People move here for this reason! In addition, the landscape of education is changing rapidly. It is fair to say that we probably cannot imagine what schools are going to look like 5, 10 and 20 years into the future. Our small district with 2 schools is, and will be, better able to change and adapt than larger ones.

Both the BOE and CCS GC use Carver Policy Governance, which empowers our leaders (Superintendent Kirk Banghart for the BOE and Director Marie Louise Baker for CCS) and makes clear the job of the boards. The job of both boards is to craft policy with an eye to the future and be intermediary between the schools and the greater community, which Policy Governance refers to as "the ownership". If you're reading this article and live within the school district, you are the ownership of our schools and your boards work for you.

As leaders in our schools we cannot do our jobs effectively without input and involvement from you, the ownership. To that end the BOE and GC will be teaming up through the end of this school year and asking for input on a



Your school leadership at our annual joint board retreat. Top to bottom and left to right—Marie Louise Baker, CCS Director; Karen Hazard, District Business Manager filling in for Superintendent Banghart; Shauna Ianson; Vesper Gers, Governing Council Chairperson; Jerry Berry, BOE President; John Conrad, Matthew Crowley, Kevin Pesenecker and Ginger Stringer.

short list of questions. We will be doing this by engaging with other boards and community groups such as town councils, board of county commissioners, the Crestone Artists and others. We will also be meeting with small groups that represent different aspects of the community in informal settings to discuss the questions we have identified are of interest. Following this we will also circulate these questions in the form of a printed and online survey. If time and energy permit we may also host one or two larger community gatherings prior to graduation.

We always welcome input and

feedback on any topic relevant to our two great schools and we encourage people to come to BOE and GC meetings. These are all regularly scheduled public meetings. The schedules and agendas can be found at [www.moffatschools.org](http://www.moffatschools.org) and [www.crestone-charter-school.org](http://www.crestone-charter-school.org). You can also contact any board members by e-mail or in person when you see us around town.

Both governing bodies are focused on developing policies that will guide our schools today and into the future. We value and request your input into these and other questions. Your participation will inform those policies.

### Questions the schools would like to hear answers from ownership:

- What are benefits and challenges to having 2 schools in the district?
- What educational, vocational options are important to you and students?
- What should we teach outside of reading, writing, science and math.
- What does post graduate success look like to you?
- On a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the most important rank your educational options:

Art Music Technology Coding Nutrition  
Other (please indicate subjects of most importance to you)

Please contact Jerry Berry ([jberry@moffatschools.org](mailto:jberry@moffatschools.org)) and/or Vesper Gers ([vgers@crestonecharter.com](mailto:vgers@crestonecharter.com)) if you would like to meet with your school leaders in person to discuss these questions (or other topics). We would also welcome your direct answers to these question by e-mail. A complete list of your school leadership teams and our contact information is:

#### Board of Education: Moffat Consolidated School District #2

Jerry Berry: President [jberry@moffatschools.org](mailto:jberry@moffatschools.org)  
Tina Freel: Vice President [tfreel@moffatschools.org](mailto:tfreel@moffatschools.org)  
Matthew Crowley: Secretary [mcrowley@moffatschools.org](mailto:mcrowley@moffatschools.org)  
Kevin Pesenecker: [kpesenecker@moffatschools.org](mailto:kpesenecker@moffatschools.org)  
Ginger Stringer: [gstringer@moffatschools.org](mailto:gstringer@moffatschools.org)

#### Governing Council: Crestone Charter School

Marie Louise Baker: Director  
Vesper Gers: Governing Council Chair [vgers@crestonecharter.com](mailto:vgers@crestonecharter.com)  
John Conrad: [joconrad@crestonecharter.com](mailto:joconrad@crestonecharter.com)  
Brooke Clodfelter: [bclodfelter@crestonecharter.com](mailto:bclodfelter@crestonecharter.com)  
Shauna Ianson: [sianson@crestonecharter.com](mailto:sianson@crestonecharter.com)  
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# Who We Are

## Marika Popovits:

### *Art in service of truth*

by Gussie Fauntleroy

Over and over as a child—in her birth country of Hungary, with her family as refugees fleeing the Russians during World War II, first to Germany, then Australia, and eventually immigrating to America as a teen—Marika Popovits listened in wonder as her mother repeated the words that Marika came to think of as her mother's mantra for her: "Your work in the world is to paint for the glory of God and the joy of mankind."

Many years later the essence of her mother's declaration remains true, even as Marika's paintings, and the words she might use to describe them, now speak of God in a different way. The Crestone/Baca resident's reverence these days involves experiencing and visually expressing subtle, powerful dimensions of consciousness where the flow of continual change is undergirded and fed by the deeper constant of unchanging stillness and peace.

#### Developing innate talent

For Marika, reaching this place has meant decades of personal exploration, with help from a series of perceptive individuals who nudged her in the perfect direction at pivotal points along the way.

When she was six, her architect father taught her linear perspective and gave her a heavy book on human anatomy so she could learn by copying the drawings. In her teens, after her father brought the family to Denver, Marika was encouraged and supported by a high school art teacher whose first name, appropriately, was Hero. Hero entered her young student's artwork in the National Scholastic Art Awards, with winners to receive a full four-year scholarship to the art school of their choice. Although Marika earned more top awards than any Colorado student in ten years, she was not yet an American citizen and so was denied the scholarship. "It broke my heart," she says. But Hero gathered up Marika's drawings and paintings and took her to visit Vance Kirkland, director of the University of Denver's School of Art. Highly impressed, Kirkland personally offered her a scholarship to the school.

After a year at D.U., another professor advised Marika to find a more art-focused school and take



Marika as a child.



At age 30 Marika was given a major exhibition of her work at the Bavarian Ministry of Culture in Munich, Germany.

upper level classes. She transferred to the University of Southern California and refined her skills under a master draftsman before marrying, moving to New York State, and enrolling in Syracuse University. There she had the "great good fortune" to study for a summer with internationally acclaimed painter Josef Albers (1888-1976), known for his pioneering work in color theory. At the end of the course Albers took her aside and told her that nothing stood in the way of her becoming a great artist. "You're done with school," he said. "Now just go paint."

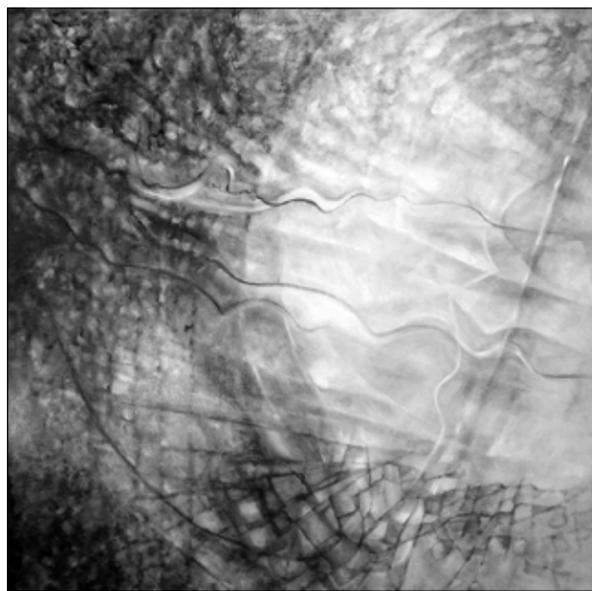
#### The parallel path

As one driving force was propelling Marika's life along an artistic path, another equally powerful impulse was also moving through her: an unceasing search for union with God. At age eight she began visiting a tiny German church every day after school. "I threw down my school bag and had fervent talks with Christ," she remembers. In her early teens her inherently mystical leaning turned from church to nature. But by 16 her intellect had



Marika Popovits and James O'Dea collaborated on a new book, set for release in April. James wrote a meditation for each of Marika's paintings in the book.

photo by Kate Steichen



"The Unveiling" by Marika Popovits. photo by Burt Wadman

woken up, rejecting everything she thought she believed and sending her headlong into intensive readings in Western philosophy.

Then, in her mid-20s and living once more in Germany, the twin threads of art and spirituality began to intertwine. Marika found herself among a group of friends exploring mystical, esoteric Christianity and spiritual traditions of the East. She traveled extensively with her husband as he lectured throughout South America, Egypt, India, and Asia, absorbing the art and cultures in each place. Meanwhile, her own art increasingly emerged in symbolic, non-objective form, born of what she now sees as the underlying unified field of consciousness on its sacred journey through matter.

#### Reaching back to the Renaissance

In the late 1960s Marika's painting process involved layering oils and spray paint to achieve luminescence. Then in 1970 a mentor and art collector suggested she switch mediums to the "real thing." He was referring to the Renaissance technique, all but lost by the 20th century, of combining egg yolk, varnish, pure water and dry pigment to make oil paint that can be layered in radiantly translucent hues. Marika experimented for four frustrating years before meeting a painter who knew the recipe's precise proportions. Once she learned to produce the paint, she painstakingly studied the art

of Renaissance masters to discern how it had been applied. "After that, it was work, work, work to get the effect I was after," she says.

Today Marika lives in the Grants with her husband, architect Burt Wadman, in a house of his design with elegant origami-like angles. Decades after mastering the Renaissance technique, she still describes herself a painter, not an artist. In her eyes, "artist" is a title of honor to be bestowed by others, as we might

call someone a prophet or saint. Yet others do call her an artist, with the full weight of respect she would ascribe to the word.

#### Images & words

"When I saw Marika's work I recognized quickly that it is of a very high order of achievement and coming from an extraordinary place of spiritual contact," says Crestone area resident James O'Dea. An activist, author, and visionary poet, James is past president of the Institute of Noetic Sciences and former director of Amnesty International's Washington, D.C. Office. He and Marika recently collaborated on a limited-edition book, set for release in early April. *Enter the Luminous: States of Consciousness in Image and Word* features 22 of Marika's remarkable large-scale paintings, with James's exquisite meditations on each one.

Rather than descriptions of the paintings, James sees his words as arising from the same mysterious Source out of which the paintings themselves emerged through Marika's hands. "Each of her paintings is a state of consciousness, or an aspect of being," he says. For her part, Marika—who does not promote or try to sell her work—sees herself "in deep service to humanity and truth. My entire passion is to work toward manifesting dimensions of consciousness/matter," she says, "so they can be visibly understood."

Watch for a show of Marika's paintings at Shumei this summer. [marikapopovitsart.net](http://marikapopovitsart.net)

# The Knowledge Exchange: *Gifts from the heart*

Through the fall and winter Knowledge Exchange teachers have been gifting the community their special skills. If you haven't taken advantage of these (mostly) free and fun gatherings, make plans to participate soon. Pending a patron or another grant, the project will end May 1 and you will have missed out on some unique experiences.

Below are the workshops we're offering in March. New ones pop up all the time, as you know if you've been following us on the Facebook group, "Knowledge Exchange Crestone". Get in touch and share both your knowledge and your curiosity this spring.

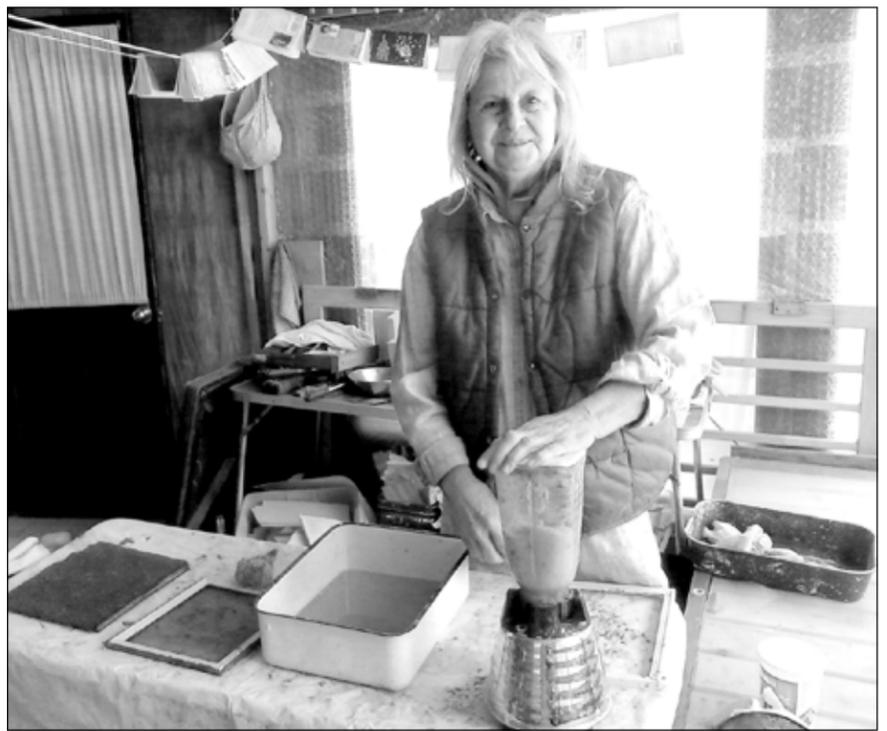
Contact Winter Ross, wintersweb@gmail.com, 505-423-3098, or call instructors directly to ask about their classes.

- Sufism, Andrew Harvey audio class, Kate Steichen, 719-588-8602. 2-5pm. Meets once a month for 8 months. Call for dates.



Winter Ross hosts a New Moon Shamanic Journey, March 27.

- Basic Solar Energy, Paul Shippee, info@paulshippee.com
- Blacksmithing & Welding, Will Bartley, 970-279-1302 or 719-588-2474
- Meow Wolf, March field trip to Santa Fe to see the Meow Wolf Art installation. 505-423-3098
- New Moon Shamanic Journey, Mon. eve. 3/27. RSVP for directions. 505-423-3098
- Nonviolent Communication, Paul Shippee, info@paulshippee.com Starts 3/1, 719-588-5521
- Nora's Floor Exercise, Nora Vivian, 719-937-7930. Mondays 10am, Carmin's
- Papermaking, Carmin Teeple, 719-256-4511 by appt.
- Quilting (Knitting or Crochet), Pat Tullos, 719-937-766, patullos@hotmail.com 3/6 or 3/20 or by appt.
- Spanish Conversation, Estela de Colores. Call Denise 719-256-4644, Little Shepherd Fellowship Hall, Weds. 6:30-8pm
- Stretchcize, Sima Simone, Crestone Inn Gym, Mon @ 10, Thurs @ 3. First class \$3
- Tai Chi, Ben Spriestersbach, 719-256-4531, benspr@cox.net, Tues. 10am, Thurs. 2pm, Little Shepherd Fellowship Hall



Carmin Teeple creates handmade paper in her studio.



Sandra Villa learns patchwork quilting with Pat Tullos.

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## News from the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram

by Ramloti

February was the month for our yearly celebration of Shivaratri, the night Lord Shiva is said to be most present on the earth. There were many people chanting through the night; as always it was a profound event.

This month we will have our Spring Navratri, the Divine Festival, which will begin on Tuesday, March 28 and complete on Wednesday, April 5. There will be a large fire ceremony each day at 10am along with special pujas, discourses on the Divine Mother, and chanting. We will honor our children on Sunday, April 2 in the temple at about 11am followed by an Indian feast. We hope that you can join us for any or all of the festivities.

Our full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Sunday March 12, and the new-moon fire ceremony is on Monday, March 27. The fire ceremonies 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 after morning aarti. We do not have one on the days we have a large one. Please call the Ashram at 719-256-4108 or email us at [info@babajiaashram.org](mailto:info@babajiaashram.org) for proper protocol for attending fire ceremonies and any other questions.

Our annual On-Line Auction Fundraiser will be in April of this year. In the past, many of our local businesses have both donated services to the auction and been sponsors for it. This has both been a great way to raise money for the Ashram and to advertise our local businesses. It turns out that this fundraiser has become a major part of the Ashram yearly operating budget and we are deeply grateful for all of you that participate in it. You can view the auction and also donate an item or become a sponsor by going to [www.biddingforgood.com/babajiaashram/babajiaashram-10](http://www.biddingforgood.com/babajiaashram/babajiaashram-10) and you will notice that this year we have been graced with more than a dozen of JD Marston fine color prints. These archivally printed and matted art pieces will be sold at considerably lower prices than normal. If you are a collector of fine art photography, do not miss this opportunity.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is full and ready to serve you and if you mention this article, we will happily give you 10% off. In honor of Nartratri, we are offering 50%



Spring Navratri, Divine Mother Festival at the Ashram from Tuesday, March 28 through Wednesday, April 5.

off all of our gently used saris, Punjabi suits, and blouses. The shop is open every day from 10am until 5pm. We invite you to come in and look around—it is sort of like going to India! We deeply appreciate your support. You may view some of what is in our Shop on our website at <http://mahalakshmiashram.org>.

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



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## Sri Aurobindo Learning Center Ideal mind

by Rod Hemsell

It is important to realize that Sri Aurobindo's philosophy of consciousness based on the Upanishads is no longer something that we must think of as obscure and esoteric. The concepts of *prajana* (apprehension), *samjanna* (comprehension), *ajana* (will to action), *vijnana* (seeing ahead already of what is to be understood and done) were also spoken about by the philosophers of consciousness of the 18th century. Seeing, willing, thinking and perceiving are how the mind works. And that higher range of seeing-will known as *vijnana*, which was formerly spoken of as "a secret operation" is something within reach. It is that band between the rational mind and the supermind known as "intuition". We already "see ahead" the things that the rational and practical mind plan and execute. We simply need to stand back, within, and observe the process.

But Sri Aurobindo's philosophy of how we can consciously realize that "seeing ahead," which already functions in us as intuition and intention, is the really interesting thing. Now, how is it possible to say this without offending ever single one of us? Because, this process entails abdicating the rational mind. But, as he says over and over, that doesn't mean irrationalism and randomness. There is an evolutionary status that has been achieved and it functions naturally in us through the instruments of consciousness that we "are"—the practical mind, sensations, and perceptions. We do not really need the rational mind. And we could actually function much better without it, if we allowed the higher intuition to do the things that we do in an inferior way, and are so proud of.

So, the old adage of Patanjali comes back: *yogah chitta vritti nirodha*. It's necessary to still the mind in order for the Self to be known. And that Self has a higher, more universal energy and knowledge than the busy mind. Of course there is a risk here, as Sri Aurobindo points out, because the "silent mind" has often been taken as an end in itself. But, as he says, this is only "one radiant pace".

The zero covers an immortal face.

A high and blank negation is not all,

A huge extinction is not God's last word,

Life's ultimate sense, the close of being's course,

The meaning of this great mysterious world.

In absolute silence sleeps an absolute Power.

Awaking, it can wake the trance-bound soul

And in the ray reveal the parent sun:

It can make the world a vessel of Spirit's force,

It can fashion in the clay God's perfect shape.

To free the self is but one radiant pace;

Here to fulfil himself was God's desire.

So, stilling the practical and rational mind is a doorway to the reception of the 'ideal Mind', and to the higher intuitive and inspired mind, which are always there, and we simply screen them off by our habits of thinking. In between there is the Silence.

This is a transcript of a talk given by Rod Hemsell in Auroville on Feb. 11, 2017, when his new publication *The Philosophy of Consciousness: Hegel and Sri Aurobindo* was announced. It can be downloaded from [www.auro-ebooks.com](http://www.auro-ebooks.com).

For information about the activities of the Sri Aurobindo Learning Center, please call 719-256-4917.



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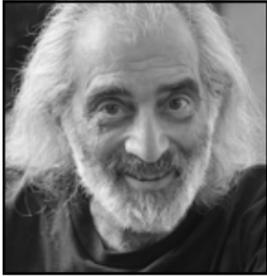
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# Aging as an art

by Ammi Kohn

## Sex after eighty

Sex after eighty gets a bad rap. A typical joke. An 83-year-old man is being examined by his doctor. "Do you still have sex?" the doctor asks. "Almost every day," the "old" man answers. "Can you be more specific?" the doc says. "Yes", says the 83-year-old. "Almost on Monday, almost on Tuesday, almost on Wednesday."

I really can't understand why younger people imagine sex stops when we get older. Think about it. We all know that short term memory decreases with aging, right? Well, then, its obvious that we have to have sex often. We have to refresh that short term memory so we remember what it's like.

Do you think that all those sags and wrinkles are a problem?

Nothing of the sort, just make sure you get very close. Almost all of us are near sighted and won't or can't see close up. What you don't see can't hurt you. In fact, I might almost consider it a plus.

Men, do you think that diminished energy will turn away the women? The opposite! Why, you know you have to take it slow and easy, maybe that will help the short term memory?! No more young explosive frustrations.

All those young (less than 70 years old) maidens, why they consider you "old" men harmless . . . which can be used to advantage. "He's just a nice harmless old man."

And let us not forget that we can now appreciate older women in a way impossible when we were younger without life experience. For those who can resist popular culture and the worship of young conventional beauty, older women are like red wine, they improve with age.

The canard that sex stops in our elder years is just one manifestation of the prejudice against older people and the glorification of youth. But as our society continues to gray, the younger ones will more and more see their elders as complete individuals, seasoned with experience and wisdom to share.

So appreciate the life experience that still resounds in our elders. And let us hope and anticipate that the vigor of elder years finds full expression in the elder community to be built, Living Wisdom—Elders Creating Community.

PS: I realize this column is written from a man's perspective. Letters to the editor from women will be published in future columns. Confidentiality guaranteed. Published without attribution. Let's hear from you!



The Living Wisdom Board of Directors at their meeting January 27, where they provided a baked potato bar and live music by Cheap Therapy. L to R: Kirsten Schrieber, Judy Deluca, Barbara Hoepfner, Findley West, Ammi Kohn. photo by Lori Nagel

## Living Wisdom celebrates progress

Over seventy Crestonians celebrated the progress of Living Wisdom Village—Elders Creating Community on January 27 at the Cloud Station. Donations helped Living Wisdom provide a potato bar and all the fixings, music by Cheap Therapy, and Living Wisdom reported to the community on a number of positive accomplishments.

Over the past few years, the project has conducted two community surveys to make sure that input from Crestonians would impact project design. Twenty-three thousand dollars, an anonymous donation and Sales Tax grant funds stand ready to attract match planning money for a Master Plan; two community partnerships with Adams State University (ASU) have established the basis for a long term relationship with ASU; the possibility exists of a land donation near the Charter School; plans are in the works for a community-wide charette to solicit detailed design information in several community meetings; and Living Wisdom has now merged with the Crestone Alliance board to provide the legal basis for future housing for all income levels. Elaine Johnson will remain as legal advisor for a transition period of six months.

Living Wisdom anticipates that 2017-2018 will show continued progress toward a community of persons over age 54 living in independent and semi-independent settings, a vibrant community that adds to Crestone and the Baca, and the possibility of increased inter-generational activity.

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## Messages from the heart of God

Free Spirit Christian Church



### My promise

by Pastor Earl LeRoy

From Jesus the Christ through a revelation from the Holy Spirit: "People make promises everyday. A lot of promises are broken, so the idea of a promise in the world is relative depending on who makes the promise. Most human promises are made in the soulish realm.

"A Covenant Promise requires blood to seal its integrity. My Promise to everyone is sealed by My Blood, by My death on the cross and by My resurrection. What other promise has that kind of integrity and purpose? Many people came to see the miracles and healing that I performed. They didn't know that those works were just a fraction of the Promise that I was offering.

"When a person believes My Promise I write My Law of Love on their heart by placing My Spirit in his/her spirit. When a person believes My Promise he receives all the benefits of My Promise in him, he then becomes a New Creation in Me.

"My righteousness wipes out sin and all of its effects. Every ailment or paralysis is the result of sin in the world. My righteousness is what conquers all of sin's effects and reverses its hold on people. When I healed people it was My righteousness that overcame the devil which had people bound.

"The man that people lowered through the roof with palsy is a perfect example (Mark 2:1-12). I told him his sins were forgiven. My

righteousness overcame his sins because of his faith. He had come to Me by persuading four other men to get him to Me, even if they had to tear off the roof of the house. He claimed the Promise of My coming and received his healing and the forgiveness of his sins. I asked the keepers of the Law, "Which is easier to say, Rise and walk, or Your sins are forgiven?" My righteousness does both because it is the part of the Promise that I proved by My own death.

"My righteousness that you hunger and thirst for is the instrument that seats you in the heavenly realms with Me, at the right hand of the Father (Matthew 5:6). It is your right standing in Heaven and your wedding robe of Righteousness that proves your identity in Me. Abraham believed Me and he was credited with righteousness. He believed My Promises and became the father of faith and the patriarch of the Hebrew nation.

"I have promised and paid for all of mankind to receive eternal life, forgiveness, cleansing, sanctification, and a seat with Me in Heaven and righteousness to stand before the Father, sinless and holy. The only requirement is believing the promises I made and proved by My death and resurrection and receiving Me and My Spirit in your heart. I don't want anyone to perish, but all to come with Me into everlasting life."

## Saguache Works launches reusable bag program

Homegrown Totes, a nonprofit project of Saguache Works, launched a program on February 9 to promote HomeAgain Tote (HAT) reusable shopping bags. It is easy to participate in this program: When you buy items from the 4th Street Food Store and/or Mercantile Thrift Shop in Saguache there will be an option to purchase a HAT bag for only \$5. Each HAT bag also comes with a punch card attached to the handle. Simply bring the bag back when you shop and your card will receive a punch each time. After ten punches, the card can be redeemed for \$5 off your purchases! It has never been easier to support your local nonprofit, reduce plastic waste and promote recycling!



Reusable shopping bags by Homegrown Totes in Saguache.

The grassroots cottage industry, based here in Saguache, is producing a unique line of cloth grocery bags, made from 100% recycled materials, intended to replace plastic bags here and around the state. Saguache Works employs home-based sewers who make the bags locally.

Thanks to generous support from the Anschutz Family Foundation, Colorado Creative Industries, the Kenneth King Foundation and the Saguache County Commissioners, project staff have been producing tote bags in a variety of sizes

and styles for nearly two years. The new HAT bags were originally custom-designed and mass-produced for a group called Plastic Bag-Free Crested Butte for a bag sharing program in Crested Butte, CO.

Homegrown Totes would like to invite other communities and retail shopping stores with similar shared interests and goals to participate in this program. Homegrown Totes can provide the bags for your own program or a program similar to Saguache Works or Plastic Bag-Free Crested Butte. Homegrown Totes can also help design a custom bag that can fit individual needs. Want to know more? We would love to hear from you!

For more information, please call 719-655-0216.

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



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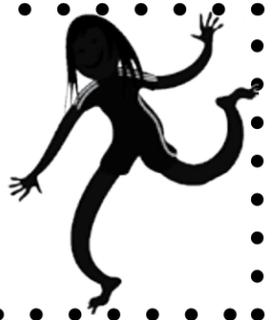



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# KIDZ K ORNER



page by M. Diane Bairstow [www.gypsypoetproductions.com](http://www.gypsypoetproductions.com)



What would you get if you crossed a leprechaun with a yellow vegetable?  
*Lepre-corn!*

Did you hear about the leprechaun who went to jail?  
*He was a leprecon!*  
Teacher: "Why did St. Patrick drive the snakes out of Ireland?"  
Student: "Because it was too far for them to crawl."  
What's big and purple and lies next to Ireland?  
*Grape Britain!*  
What would you get if you crossed a dog with an Irish instrument?  
*A bagpup!*  
What do you call a leprechaun who disappears?  
*A lepre-gone!*  
Why did the leprechaun stand on the potato?

## The Jokester

*To keep from falling in the stew!*  
What's little and green and stuck to your bumper?  
*A leprechaun who didn't look both ways*  
That did one Irish ghost say to the other?  
*"Top o' the moaning!"*  
How can you spot a jealous shamrock?  
*It will be green with envy!*  
Why did the leprechaun turn down a bowl of soup?  
*Because he already had a pot of gold!*  
Why did the leprechaun walk out of the house?  
*He wanted to sit on the paddy-o!*  
Why do leprechauns hate running?  
*They'd rather jig than jog!*  
Why are so many leprechauns florists?  
*They have green thumbs!*  
Why do leprechauns recycle?  
*They like to go green!*  
What happens if you cross poison ivy with a four-leaf clover?  
*You get a rash of good luck!*  
What happens when a leprechaun falls into a river?  
*He gets wet?*  
What kind of bow can't be tied?  
*A rainbow!*  
Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?  
*Regular rocks are too heavy*



## The Four-Leaf Clover

by M. Diane Bairstow



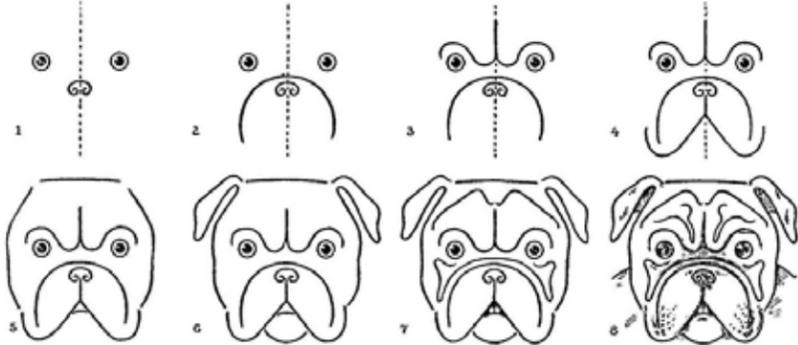
There are six four-leaf clovers (including the one Pierre is holding) in this picture. Can you find them?  
*Drawing by Ginny Ducale*

"Poppy!" Pierre called across a field of sweet clover. "I found one!"  
Poppy hopped over and studied the clover closely counting each leaf: "One, two, three, four!"  
"Oh Pierre," she said, "You are so lucky! I hope I find one too."  
"I'm sure you will Poppy."  
"What are you going to wish for?" Poppy asked.  
"I cannot tell you, until the wish comes true." He said, then he held up the clover, closed his eyes and wished as hard as he could.  
The two bunnies kept looking through the clover and the sun climbed high in the sky. Finally, Poppy sat up and fanned herself with her little white paw. "I am so hot and thirsty Pierre, I cannot look any longer."  
"Do not give up Poppy! Remember what Mr. Jonathan told us. 'Most people, and bunnies too, give up just when they are about to reach their goal.'"  
"I know," Poppy sighed, bent down again, and right before her eyes was a four-leaf clover. "Voila, Pierre," she called out. "I found one!"

"I knew it Poppy!" Pierre laughed. "Now, make a wish."  
Poppy squeezed her eyes shut and made a wish with all her heart.  
That night when the two bunnies were snug in their little twin beds, Pierre whispered, "You know, I got my wish today."  
"What was it?" Poppy asked.  
"I wished you would find a four-leaf clover too."  
"Oh," Poppy was quiet for a moment. "I guess I got my wish too, Pierre, because I wished you would get your wish."  
"I think Poppy, wishes that come from the heart always come true."  
"I think so too brother. Goodnight."  
"Goodnight Poppy."

A human will eat, on average, 70 assorted insects and 10 spiders while sleeping.

### DRAW A BULLDOG



## NAPOLEON

By Clifford Mc Bride



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## Moffat School news



### Flint-knapping

Sixth and seventh graders had a great opportunity to learn some primitive flint-knapping skills last month with resident expert Kenny Skoglund. The students are studying the ancient civilizations of the Americas and this was a fun opportunity to see how arrowheads and spear points were made. Mr. Skoglund, a former Moffat student himself, offered to bring in a huge chunk of obsidian from Mexico. He demonstrated the

process of starting with a large rock and carefully working it down to a smaller, thinner piece to craft into a projectile. The kids learned that obsidian is so razor sharp and clean that it is even used today in hospital surgical rooms.

Skoglund developed a keen interest in archaeology while attending middle school at Moffat. During Career Shadowing Day he worked with archaeologists who provided him with opportunities to volunteer on various digs and archaeological surveys. He was mentored by top archaeologists in the state as well as from the Smithsonian Institute. He also attended Crow Canyon Archaeological Camp out of Cortez one summer while in high school. He used his summers to commit to extensive volunteering at the Great Sand Dunes and elsewhere in the Valley. He was taught flint-knapping and other primitive arts skills from some of our nation's best. Kenny's skills have advanced from a hobby to an opportunity to earn some cash at a variety of art festivals. His work is truly beautiful and he has become a respected and accomplished flint-knapper.

### Moffat Middle School girls' basketball comes to an end

This year Moffat had thirteen girls, from Moffat, Mountain Valley and Crestone Charter Schools, participate in their middle school girls' basketball program. Since the middle of December, girls came to practice their skills, learn plays and learn what it means to be part



Middle school girls' basketball program.

of an athletic team. In the end-of-the-season league tournament, the girls placed third. Congratulations, girls! We are all very proud of you. We look forward to you playing again next year.

A special thanks to all the staff and parents that helped in making this a great season. We appreciate all that you do, not only for our sports teams, but for our students and community as well. Thank you!

### Senior job training program seeks to partner with employers

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is a federally funded job training program for unemployed seniors age 55 and over. We are seeking employers in Saguache County to partner with us and host a participant in the SCSEP program. The employer receives free help in exchange for a commitment to help the participant gain job skills.

SCSEP is an organization that is committed to improving the quality of life for low income, financially eligible seniors by assigning them to temporary subsidized paid training and assisting them in their search for unsubsidized jobs in their community. SCSEP is the steward of federal funds, appropriated to recruit, train, and place eligible seniors in subsidized employment. The participant will be paid to train through funding from the United States Department of Labor.

If you are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization or a city or government entity in Saguache County that would like to receive free help 25 hours per week, please call the regional SCSEP office at 970-385-3995 to see if your organization qualifies to host a participant from the SCSEP program.

### Moffat secondary students see *Hidden Figures*

Secondary students were provided with an opportunity to learn about a largely unknown story in black history that related to the early days of the NASA program. Sixth- through twelfth-grade students went to Saguache's Cozy Castle Cinema in mid-February. It was a damp, dreary day so it was perfect for an afternoon matinee. The theater also treated the kids to popcorn and a beverage which was appreciated by all.

In the movie, students saw the obstacles that talented, intelligent black women faced as they struggled to gain the recognition and respect they so clearly deserved for the work they performed in the space program. It was a terrific lesson in showing the courage and determination it takes to bring about positive change in the workplace and in our society. It also provided the valuable lesson that hard work and effort are all part of the equation when it comes to genuine success and self-worth.

The following day, class discussions focused on how these women, at some point in their lives, took charge of their own learning. They also took action to remove the various barriers to advancing their education and careers. We talked about people today who might still be feeling similar struggles and thought about ways we can help all individuals succeed and achieve. It was obvious in the movie that a sense of teamwork and support proved to be critical to the eventual success of NASA's space program. The movie gave us all something to work towards in our academic endeavors and in helping others be the best they can be as well. Thanks again to Cozy Castle Cinema for giving us the opportunity to learn more about an important time in American history.

### Student led conferences at Moffat

On March 9 Student Led Conferences (SLCs) will take place at Moffat. There was great success in the SLCs that were held this past November and we hope to continue that with our students, parents and school. Again, SLCs will be scheduled for thirty minutes with students presenting their school work, goals and test scores. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Moffat School at 719-745-0500.

### Moffat Homecoming

Moffat High School held their Homecoming February 13-17. Spirit Week consisted of Character Day, Pajama Day, Whacky Day and Green and Gold Day. Seniors held their Freshman Welcome Week, where they made T-shirts for the freshman class. On February 16, the freshmen made breakfast for the seniors and presented proposals to their senior. All four high school classes created banners to be judged. Congratulations to the sophomore class for winning this contest. The girls' and boys' basketball teams played against Aguilar and won both games. Congratulations teams! The Homecoming Dance was held on February 17, at Moffat School. Everyone had a great time. Congratulations to our Moffat High School Homecoming King and Queen, Mr. Joedeelee Rigdon and Miss Christina Chavez! Thank you to all who made this week such a great week.

### Random Acts of Kindness Week 2017

Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Week was February 12-18. Moffat school participated by having a RAK Wall in the commons area of the school. On the wall there are two quotes, "Kindness is a language the deaf can hear and the blind can see" (Mark Twain), and "Kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless" (Mother Theresa). The quotes helped students think about their actions and look at ways to pass on kindness to their peers, teachers, family and community. In the center of the wall it says "Throw Kindness Around like Confetti". Students were encouraged to write messages to anyone whom they wanted to thank, say something kind about, etc. I am extremely proud of all the wonderful messages that are displayed on the board. We truly have wonderful students and staff here at Moffat!

### Wellman represents Moffat & Mtn. Valley at State Wrestling Tournament

Isiah Wellman, Moffat High School sophomore, represented Mountain Valley Wrestling and Moffat School at the Colorado State Wrestling Tournament February 16-18. This is Isiah's second time to have made it to the State Wrestling Tournament. Isiah's record, in his weight class during the 2016-17 season, is 9-7. His first match was on February 16, and he also competed on February 17. We are extremely proud of you; continue to work towards your dreams!

## From Interim Director to Director

by the Crestone Charter School Governing Council

Upon initiating the search to fill the Director position at the Crestone Charter School, the Director Search Committee began assessing what we would be looking for in the ideal candidate. After the extensive search process that we underwent last spring, we had a current impression of the interests and needs of the many parts of CCS and the CCS community.

Examining the detailed job description and factoring in direct requests we had gathered from parents, students and teachers, we knew that it was important to find a Director who is compassionate and dedicated to child-centered education. Someone who understands our chosen virtues and can exemplify respect, integrity and creativity. As well as finding someone who can manage the incredibly diverse and seemingly endless demands of the Director position, we were looking for someone who is charismatic, an effective communicator and mediator, who can work with, inspire and welcome the CCS families and community.

In looking at what we were going to base our director search on, it became evident that the very things we were looking for in our next Director are proving to be the greatest strengths of our current Interim Director, Marie-Louise Baker.

The positive feedback we've been receiving from CCS families, students, staff, and our school district about Marie-Louise Baker's work has been outstanding. She continues to show us that she is the



CCS Director Marie-Louise Baker.

photo by Lori Nagel

best fit for the Director position going forward. Qualities that Marie-Louise Baker brings to CCS include her tireless work ethic, professionalism, and growth mindset. She has exhibited skills in mediation and conflict resolution and has cultivated healthy relations with CCS families, staff, and the district. She has demonstrated the ability to grasp new concepts quickly and to be resourceful and ask the right questions. Importantly, she also brings continuity and stability to a school that has seen major transitions for each of the last 3 years.

We are happy to announce that Marie-Louise Baker has been hired as Director of the Crestone Charter School for the 2017/2018 school year.

## An interview: Director Marie-Louise Baker

by CCS Middle School Students

**Raven Willis:** What inspired you to become the director of the Crestone Charter School?

**Marie Louise Baker:** I love this question because I didn't choose to become the director of just any school. I chose to be the director of your school. I love Crestone and I have been living here for the past 18 years. My daughter Sophia went to this school for 7 years and I've known many of you students since you were very young. I care about your education and your success in your lives, even after you will have graduated. I have cared about you even before I became the director and that is the reason why I volunteered to help get this new school building built for you five years ago. It is my love for you and our community that inspires me.

**Noah Beljaars:** So, what exactly does the director do?

**MLB:** I mostly do office work. I am responsible for implementing our educational model and strategic plan, hiring and managing teachers and other personnel, making sure the school follows all laws and regulations, and maintaining our finances and the upkeep of the school campus. If I do my job well, it looks like I don't do much. But if I do a poor job, everyone is affected and everyone notices!

**Justice D'Alessio:** Do you think extra curricular activities like sewing or music are helpful academically?

**MLB:** The more we learn to see how everything is interconnected and interdependent, the closer we are to understanding how the world really is. Academics and real life situations are very much intertwined. For most people, academics are a tool to cope with their everyday situations and jobs. Likewise, the life skills you can learn from extracurricular activities give you a good foundation for life in general. For creative people, these things are not separate. Einstein, for example, was a violinist and his music mind inspired his discoveries.

**Ari Schurger:** What do you like most about being our director?

**MLB:** Building good, strong, and positive relationships amongst all of us—the students, the teachers, and the community—is what makes me most happy. The more we share a vision and work together to create our school, the more I enjoy being the director.

**Uma Long:** If there was a magic portal that could take us on a learning adventure anywhere in the world, where would you have us go?

**MLB:** I would take us all to Hawaii. I have never been there, and would love to explore volcanoes, the ocean, the amazing vegetation, and culture of the islands together with you. It would be a wonderful educational adventure!

**Kirah Claudio:** How much do you care about the school and students?

**MLB:** On a scale 1-10 . . . definitely 10!



CCS students on the top of Monarch Mountain.

photo by Lilith Safford

## Crestone Charter School's ski & snowboard mentorship program

by Daya Scheide

One of the Crestone Charter School's most long-standing and revered traditions is its winter ski and snowboard mentorship program. Every Friday during the winter months, CCS students in grades 4 through 12 arrive at school early in the morning, geared up for a full day of Colorado winter fun. Then students, teachers, and parent volunteers caravan up to Monarch Mountain, one of the most beautiful, affordable, and kid-friendly ski resorts in the Rockies. For many children, the chance to participate in the ski and snowboard mentorship program is one of the best reasons to be a CCS student. But it's not all just fun and games . . . like every aspect of CCS's experiential education, the program offers unique educational and character-building opportunities.

Learning to ski or snowboard under the guidance of a good mentor is a powerful way for students to develop self-confidence, as well as a virtue that CCS teachers like to call grit: the ability to overcome challenges with determination and perseverance. Learning to ski down a mountain requires students to literally pick themselves up and try again (and again and again). As sixth grader Caroline Anderson says, "It's all about learning to let go of your mistakes and keep trying. It's a great life lesson." For a fourth grader on skis for the first time, it can feel like learning to walk all over again. But with a little bit of grit, students quickly find themselves soaring like eagles. And there is no limit to how much they can learn and grow. The burst of self confidence that students experience when they learn to ride a ski lift and cruise down the slope

for the first time is truly precious and transformative. Raven Willis, seventh grade, explains that CCS students are not skiing and snowboarding just for the fun of it: "We're learning how to recognize our personal limits, and then slowly and safely push through them."

For high school students, a big part of the program is about developing leadership skills. Many high school students have earned the right to become ski or snowboard mentors. As mentors, they become responsible for teaching younger children and keeping their group safe. As seventh grader Ayla Tieder remarks, "We're learning how important it is to stick together and encourage each other." Mentors understand that it's not just about being a great skier or snowboarder. Being a leader requires them to develop their communication skills, pay close attention to the needs of their followers, and demonstrate a high level of personal integrity so they can gain the trust of the younger students who look up to them. High school students are always surprised by how rewarding it is to mentor younger kids. And the younger ones love the care and attention they get from their older role models. It's a beautiful shared experience that brings the whole school together.

In addition to building self-confidence, grit, and leadership skills, CCS's ski and snowboard mentorship program fosters a deep love of nature and a personal dedication to living a healthy outdoor lifestyle. "I love this program!" says Michael Rogers, a fourth grader who skied for the first time this winter. "I want to do this for the rest of my life!"

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## The Washington Beat

*We are in deep trouble*

by David Nicholas

Just four weeks into his term of office, the President decided to bestow his wisdom on America-at-large with an almost spontaneous press conference that should have scared the bejesus out of 65 million Americans or more. February 16, 2017 may be the marker when America's sexual-predator-in-chief revealed his delusional view of the world.

To change the narrative that his administration is in disarray and chaotic, he diverted attention to the "riveting" spectacle of himself rambling for 77 minutes. It did little to stem the hemorrhaging over the firing—ordered resignation—of National Security Advisor Lieutenant-General Michael J. Flynn. In December 2015 Flynn talked to Russian officials, undermining the sanctions the Obama administration had imposed the same day. Nor did it deflect from the immigration chaos and talk of mobilizing the National Guard in relevant western states into a "deportation force" to round up illegal immigrants in sanctuary cities and everywhere else. Nor did it stop the talk that the President is unhinged, and inept, and how little his administration has achieved in its first four weeks. Here's what we do know, beyond the bellowing and the whining.

### Flynn finally fired as National Security Advisor

Readers may recall that back in August the major crazy I identified at the Republican Convention was Lieutenant-General Michael Flynn. His extreme, bellicose speech about Hillary Clinton made him unfit to serve in any position of responsibility in government. When he became the National Security Advisor, I knew that the country was in a lot of trouble. He resigned as the NSA on February 13 because, according to White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer, he had "eroded trust"—that is, lied to Vice President Pence.

The narrative spin from the White House was that Mr. Flynn lied to Vice President Pence, who went on Sunday talk shows denying that Mr. Flynn had spoken to the Russians about the Obama sanctions. Mr. Flynn's resignation letter promoted this fiction: ". . . Mr. Flynn said he had held numerous calls with foreign officials during the transition. 'Unfortunately, because of the fast pace of events, I inadvertently briefed the vice president-elect and others with incomplete information regarding my phone calls with the Russian ambassador,' he wrote. 'I have sincerely apologized to the president and the vice president, and they have accepted my apology.'"

This flies in the face of confirmed accounts in both the *Washington Post* and *The New York Times*.

If the *Washington Post* had not reported about General Flynn's phone calls to Russia's Ambassador to the US, Sergey I. Kislyak, would Mr. Flynn have been toast in February? No question in my mind that if they could have gotten away with it, the White House would have lied to make it go away. Why? Because they did cover it up.

They knew Mr. Flynn was a problem, and possibly involved in an act of high treason, 19 days before Mr. Trump fired him (officially, "asked for his resignation"). Mr. Trump was informed by acting-Attorney-General Sally Yates on January 26, when she, along with FBI Director Comey, told the White House that Mr. Flynn made phone calls to the Russian Ambassador; and that Mr. Flynn discussed the Obama sanctions on Russia over the Democratic email-leaking scandal. They had transcripts because the FBI and the NSA tap, as a matter of course, the phones of embassies of countries considered confrontational to the US.

Worse, it was found that General Flynn had lied to FBI interrogators when he was asked about the calls on January 20. While lying to the FBI carries a 25-year jail sentence, it is unlikely that prosecution will be pursued, as Attorney-General Jeff Sessions is a close friend of the General.

### Turning down Trump

The big story that drowned out Trump's 77 minutes of whining was that it convinced a Trump choice for Flynn successor, Robert S. Harward, a retired Vice Admiral, not to take the job without assurances that the President was ultimately unwilling to make. His impression of the President's press conference cemented this impression that the White House administration was a "s\*\*tstorm."

The problem for Mr. Trump is that he demands loyalty, meaning that you have to be 100% behind the President. All who got on lists for interviews for positions in the administration were dropped as soon as it was found they had criticized the President during the election.

Lieutenant-General H.R. McMaster has been selected as the new NSA. He has held a senior post with the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. He is respected across the political spectrum.



### The immigration 'Deportation Force'

According to a draft memo obtained by the Associated Press, the Trump administration considered a proposal to mobilize as many as 100,000 National Guard troops to round up unauthorized immigrants, including millions living nowhere near the Mexico border.

The 11-page document calls for the unprecedented militarization of immigration enforcement as far north as Portland, OR, and as far east as New Orleans, LA. Four states that border on Mexico are included in the proposal—California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas—but it also encompasses seven states contiguous to those four: Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Governors in the 11 states would have a choice regarding whether to have their guard troops participate, according to the memo, written by the US Homeland Security Secretary, John Kelly, a retired four-star Marine general.

The release of the story had White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer immediately damping it down, saying, "That is 100% not true. It is false." Because the White House has such a credibility gap on truth and lies, we will see how this plays out.

### Stephen Miller, who "will not be questioned!"

One particular insight into the White House siege mentality, a mixture of arrogance and fear, was the performance of Stephen Miller, Special Advisor to the President, one of many. Mr. Miller confronted the Sunday talk shows on February 12. He went hot and heavy on ABC's *ThisWeek* and NBC's *MeetThePress*, patronizing hosts George Stephanopoulos and Chuck Todd respectively, demanding our obedience as he hedged, obfuscated, or generally tried to dominate the narrative, avoiding direct questions or offering no explanation whatsoever.

This gem from Mr. Miller on *ThisWeek*: "We have equal branches of government, the courts are not supreme . . ." he proclaimed. Miller asserted, "This is an ideological disagreement between those who believe we should have borders and should have control, and those who believe there should be no borders and no control." Garbage. Then bellowing at the top of his voice, "The end result of this, though, is that our opponents, the media and the whole world will soon see as we begin to take further actions, that the powers of the President to protect our country are very substantial and will not be questioned." We will be watching his career with interest.

### The enemies of Donald J. Trump

The President himself has tweeted that the following major news organizations are enemies

of the people. They are: *The New York Times*, CNN, ABC, CBS and NBC. Just to drive home the point he sent the tweet twice. Hitler said the same thing to German newspapers in 1933.

Then there are intelligence officials. This includes both officers actively working in the agencies and ex-CIA officials who know his true background and personality; and the "deep state" leakers in government and the White House, who really think the president is unhinged and a clear and present danger to the United States. "Deep state" is defined as groups of people inside government bureaucracies who actively work to undermine the administration.

Combined, these forces will bring him down. It will take time but maybe not as long as we might think. The line has been drawn and the call is "take no prisoners!" This is going to be some ride. My own view is that some very influential people who find Mr. Trump a dangerous demagogue have begun to pass the hat around to either neutralize him by creating a situation whereby he serves out the rest of his term as President in name only, or to force his resignation through some ruinous scandal.

### That 35-page memorandum looms

In my view, Mr. Flynn is just the tip of the very dirty iceberg of Mr. Trump's shady relations with Russian President Putin. General Flynn is the fall guy, diverting attention from the controversial details in that 35-page memorandum in which Trump's dealings with the Russians and the compromising info they've gathered about him are discussed. The reason why that memorandum is becoming increasingly important is because it's still in the atmosphere of US politics. It wasn't widely reported in mid-January, but intelligence officials reported that they could confirm that the sources specified in the memorandum were credible.

Although these intelligence officials wouldn't say whether the claims made in the memorandum were true, my sense is that this will be a constant drip in coming months and perhaps years, and will end up with Mr. Trump being possibly impeached if he doesn't resign sooner. This will go on because of the speculation about the President's relationship with Vladimir Putin and why Trump always sounded sycophantic on the campaign trail and why Mr. Trump dodges questions about it. It is clear to me that Mr. Trump is severely compromised. Mr. Trump may be President but he is ethically and morally bankrupt.

### Repealing Obamacare? Let Medicaid be free to all

Despite the boast of Mr. Trump that Obamacare will be repealed from day one, it's still around and is likely to be still operating several years from now. As

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written law, Obamacare is complicated. It was passed with multiple pieces, and each piece covers a different aspect of the Affordable Care Act. To repeal it immediately just can't happen, because of what monetary and physical structures are in place. You just cannot cut off a program cold turkey without some sort of public outcry.

Many of the Trump supporters who really didn't think he was serious in repealing Obamacare are people who would be sharply affected if the law cut out immediately. Watching people on the verge of death because they lost their Obamacare coverage makes compelling television. The blowback on Republicans would change the Congressional majorities in two years. Getting rid of Obamacare is going to take a lot of time, and what's causing many Republicans in Congress heartburn is that they cannot agree on how to replace Obamacare if they want to have jobs after 2018.

Obamacare is not what many of us wanted when it was being debated in 2009. Obamacare is not universal and free or even available with minimal co-pays, which would be acceptable to many. What the alternative is, from the standpoint of many, is to make Medicaid available to all. It's a program that's in place and takes the machinations out of applying for a healthcare plan. That's what should have happened in 2009, but the country at the time was still debating whether healthcare should be a public service. But now is the time. We will see who has the chutzpah to make this so.

#### **Trump & China: A major defeat**

An insightful exposé into the Trump White House is that they still believe the myth that the President and the White House are the dominant center of the world. This illusion was shot to hell by Chinese President Xi Jinping ignoring an official greeting sent from Mr. Trump for the Chinese New Year.

The greeting said, "President Trump looks forward to working with President Xi to develop a constructive relationship that benefits both the United States and China."

President Xi had not communicated with Mr. Trump since the US president played down the call he received from the Taiwanese president congratulating him on November 20. The phone call was a violation of the "One-China Principle" which had been in place since 1973 when President Nixon had agreed to this in order to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic (PRC).

Mr. Xi's silence unnerved the White House. They now realized that China, by letting its currency float, was causing financial instability on international currency markets. This put pressure on the US dollar because of the three trillion-dollar reserves China controls. Money reserves require frequent interaction with the PRC to ensure China will turn over US daily and 30-day loan paper, finance which allows America to be America.

The White House called Mr. Xi and apologized, ensuring the One-China principle was front and center and that Taiwanese interaction would not happen again at the presidential level. Mr. Xi accepted

the apology, but the lack of trust is going to be a problem with future Chinese interaction, especially over sensitive Chinese interests, specifically the islands in the South China Sea. This will be trouble in the future.

#### **The Man in the High Castle**

Phillip K. Dick was arguably the best science fiction visionary of the mid-20th century. He came to prominence when the film version of "Do Androids Dream of Electronic Sheep?" written in 1968 came out as Ridley Scott's movie *Bladerunner*. Since then many of his stories have been made into celluloid such as "Total Recall," "Minority Report," and "Paycheck." But over the last couple of years Amazon has produced two seasons (so far) of "The Man in the High Castle."

"The Man in the High Castle" is about the victorious occupation of the US by Adolph Hitler's Nazi Third Reich, reaching as far west as the Rockies, while Imperial Japan controls the west coast from the Pacific to the Rockies. There is underground resistance. While the Trump administration has some way to go before his oppressive regime assumes complete dominance and control of American institutions, you get the feeling that there is an attempt to make us all toe the line or else, and the sooner the better.

It's the language, playing fast and loose with truth and information, the excessive use of hysterical high-pitched chatter, and the exaggerated use of adjectives and adverbs. Watching White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer go through the painful machinations of nonsense in his daily press briefings is something to behold. No matter how ludicrous the statements Mr. Spicer utters he rattles them off with a straight face. In the twinkling of an eye, the inane becomes policy.

#### **Playing the fool in American politics**

In the time of Shakespeare, the Fool was always seen as the truth teller and the conscience of the king. He would usually, at the most inopportune time, say something which would come out of left field but which reflected the thinking of the moment. So it is not surprising that the most complex character in Shakespeare is that of the Fool in his play *King Lear*. The Fool is a role so complex that few major Shakespearean actors throughout the centuries have taken on the role.

However, in the 21st century, the Fool has taken on quite another meaning. There is a school of thought that Donald Trump is playing the Fool and that Democrats and people on the left underestimate him. When he shoots his mouth off it elicits reactions of fear, incredulity and dismay. It is said that fools can get you killed and these days it is a saying that has credence.

President Trump said that Sweden had a terrorist attack recently, because he watched the program *Fox & Friends* that said so, which now he clearly admits he misheard. His statement set off a chain reaction that has affected the news cycle for several days and sent ripples through European capitals.

## **THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY**

### **—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS**



by Ish

#### **1/ Crossing Lines:**

★★★★★

I found this held my interest as a combination of intrigue, adventure and action. A group of international experts, headed by Donald Sutherland, move as a special crime unit which deals with crimes that cross European borders, hunting down and outsmarting the criminals and bringing them to justice. 3 seasons of episodes.

#### **2/ My Name is Modesty:**

★★★

After being abandoned by her parents, she is raised by a casino owner. She becomes skilled in the ways of fighting and is now her surrogate father's bodyguard. Upon being unable to prevent his murder she becomes focused on seeking revenge.

#### **3/ Nuit #1:**

★★★★

A Canadian film in French about a man and woman that meet at a rave and go back his place to make love . . . a one-night stand situation. Clara tries to leave undetected but Nikolai stops her and an all night dialogue ensues covering many interesting subjects.

#### **4/ The Stranger:**

★★★

Amnesia disallows a man to remember anything, including his own identity, and he discovers, much to his chagrin, that he is wanted by the Feds and Russian gangsters. He chooses not to succumb to the present until he can reclaim his forgotten past. Steve Austin.

#### **5/ The Ice Harvest:**

★★★★+

Being a fan of John Cusack, I always enjoy his films. Here he is an attorney for the sleazy businesses of Wichita, KS. He is being driven by larceny, lust and lethal behavior. It's Christmas Eve and John and his unsavory associate, Billy Bob Thornton, have just successfully embezzled 2 million dollars from the Kansas City boss. His real prize is the stunning Renata who runs the local strip club. They plan to get out of town but an ice storm comes in and they are stuck there. The 12 hours of Christmas Eve are filled with twists and surprises.

## **Training grants available through Trinidad State**

Valley businesses in southern Colorado with training needs may qualify for financial help through the Colorado First & Existing Industry (CFEI) grants program. The money comes from the Colorado State Office of Economic Development. The money can be used to provide customized job training for companies that are expanding or relocating in Colorado. Grants are also available for existing companies that need to train employees in new technology.

Not only do the grants make companies stronger financially, they enhance worker skills, making them more employable in the future.

#### **Colorado First Customized Job Training Program**

Colorado First is intended for new hires. The grant may provide:

- \* Instructor's wages
- \* Curriculum Development
- \* The purchase of consumable training supplies
- \* \$1,200 maximum per employee

#### **Colorado Existing Industry Job Training Program**

This program provides assistance to established Colorado businesses in order to:

- \* Remain competitive
- \* Adapt to new technology
- \* Prevent layoffs
- \* \$1,000 maximum per employee

The deadline to apply is March 21 and all training must be completed by the end of May. The training must be customized to meet the company's specific needs and employees must sign an affidavit certifying they are participating in the training. This grant will only pay for training for permanent, full-time positions in the state of Colorado. Retail businesses, non-profits and government agencies are also ineligible. Training which is required by the federal or state government is also not eligible. Seasonal employees are also not eligible.

For more information, contact Donna Haddow at Trinidad State Junior College: 719-846-5724 or [donna.haddow@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:donna.haddow@trinidadstate.edu).

What is scary is where he said it: before a cheering, angry crowd of supporters in an aircraft hangar. A lie said in the moment when emotions run high becomes truth. The Trump believers take it as gospel but pay little mind when the President has to roll back a remark hours, maybe days later.

In this case Swedish officials asked for an explanation and the President looked stupid, again.

Whether the remark was by design or was just one of his zingers shooting from the hip, the comment gave rise to further indi-

cations that he is a fool, unhinged, out of control and quite oblivious to the consequences of saying such inflammatory remarks.

If the President will say anything to get the attention of the audience, any audience, there will come a time when the target of his foolishness may not back down.

We can't afford fools in the 21st century, and just six weeks in, the Trump administration is playing on a knife's edge. Be wary because this fool can get us all killed. This man needs to be resisted.

And the beat goes on.

# Colorado legislature takes up national issues, divides along party lines

by Lisa Cyriacks

"No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session." -Mark Twain

Colorado's state legislature isn't immune to party politics. The first month of the 2017 session has seen more partisan politics and votes than Coloradans have been accustomed to in the past.

Democratic House Speaker Crisanta Duran, in her opening address, pledged to fight back against attacks from the White House on minorities.

The most controversial resolution so far has been a Democratic resolution urging Trump and Congress to rescind his executive order restricting travel from several majority-Muslim nations.

Democrats defend the measure as a response to concerned constituents who are more engaged and are demanding more from their government after President Trump's election. Republicans denounce the move as a political tactic.

House Democrats voted to approve the resolution, and, making a joint resolution, forced the Republican-controlled Senate to act. Senate Republicans responded by assigning it to committee where it died on a 3-2 vote along party lines. Stifling debate is not a good practice for representative democracy. Debate is essential for understanding opposing views and making informed decisions.

Republicans are hardly exempt from partisan politicking. In January a bill introduced by Republicans targeted sanctuary cities by allowing victims of crimes committed by immigrants to sue politicians in those cities. The bill died in the House.

The Women's March in Denver inspired Democrats to introduce a resolution that defended women's reproductive rights and health care. House Republicans introduced three abortion-related bills, which predictably were defeated along party lines.

Senate Democrats were defeated in their attempts to end the death penalty. A measure to add Colorado to the growing list of states that support electing the President of the United States by popular vote was defeated along party lines.

Republican Senators introduced and passed legislation requiring law enforcement officers to be US citizens. The bill moves forward to the House where it is likely to fail.

While it is not unusual for state lawmakers to introduce and pass nonbinding resolutions on national issues, the acrimony along party lines appears to be spilling into state and local issues.

### Closer to home

The proposed 2017-2018 budget projects a shortfall of \$500 million. Therefore, the TABOR

Amendment effect will likely be debated in the context of funding for schools versus funding for transportation and roads; and which to cut.

Governor Hickenlooper is proposing an increase in retail marijuana taxes to 12% instead of the anticipated decrease from 10% to 8%, to be implemented in June.

The idea has been introduced that homeowners could expect a decrease in property taxes from a tax assessment rate reduction related to the Gallagher Amendment. The savings would result in less property tax revenues to support school districts and all other local governments.

Hickenlooper anticipates that the additional revenues generated by the increased retail marijuana tax would offset the decrease in property tax revenues. Other local entities—like municipalities, library and water districts, which rely exclusively on property taxes to provide services—will face budget shortfalls.

Regulating the oil and gas industry is always a contentious issue in Colorado. Currently the state legislature is considering a bill that would make penalties for tampering with oil and gas equipment harsher—from a misdemeanor to a felony.

Republican Attorney General Cynthia Coffman has filed a lawsuit against Boulder County

aimed at preventing local communities from preventing hydraulic fracturing or "fracking". After a summer and fall of activism regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline and Standing Rock, Colorado is re-joining the debate of state versus community.

Coffman's office maintains that her role is enforcing state laws, which to-date have supported the oil and gas industry in their right to produce oil. In this instance she is targeting moratoriums on "fracking" passed by Boulder County officials who say they want to develop detailed plans for orderly fossil fuel development.

Division along party lines is not good for a representative democracy. Our legislators need to be reminded that their responsibility is to represent the citizens of Colorado, not their political party or special interests.



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Early 1930's

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Apple blossoms - 1940's  
Orchard at Golden & Alder

### Bob's Update

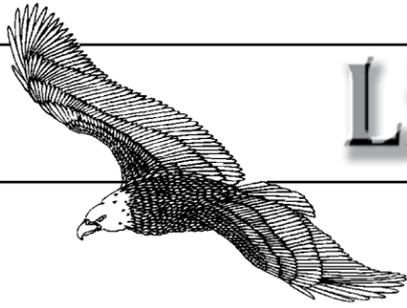
We're renovating the space, creating a new & improved menu and getting everything ready to re-open! Watch for more details!

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# Living on the Earth

## Mammoths roamed the San Luis Valley

by Mary Lowers

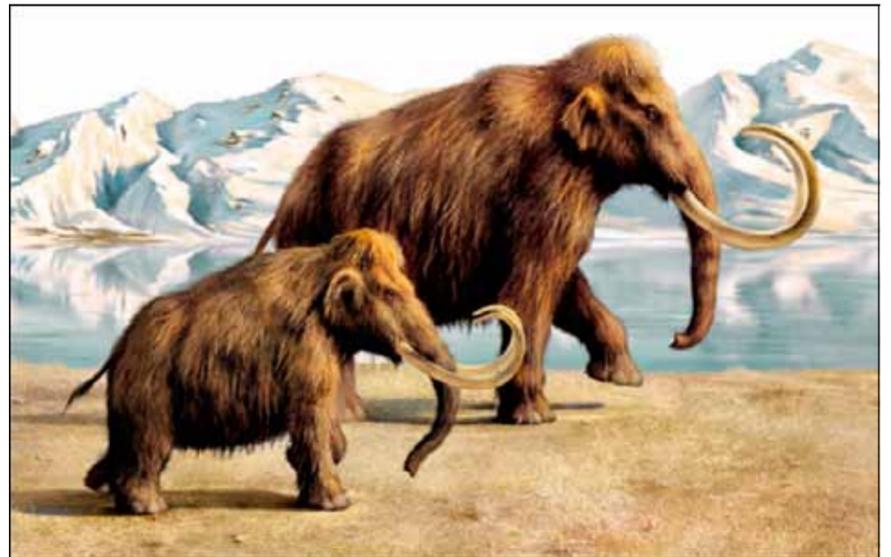
During the Pleistocene Era, two million to ten thousand years ago, several species of megafauna grazed in the San Luis Valley (SLV). There were mammoth elephants, including the largest of them all, the Columbian Mammoth, and herds of mammoth bison, known as Extinct Bison chomping down in grasslands and wetlands on both sides of the valley. Rich expansive grassy meadows in the mountain parks separating the various ranges of the Rocky Mountains were wetter then, and these huge animals had little to worry about in the way of food scarcity or predators until humans showed up. But when was that?

For many years archeologists have established that the so-called Folsom people hunted mammoths in the SLV 15,000+/- years ago. In the mid 1990s Margaret Jodrey of the Smithsonian Institution excavated a Folsom hunting camp at the Cattle Guard Site near the Great Sand Dunes. The hunters at this site specialized in hunting the huge Extinct Bison. Other sites establish the presence of Clovis people 10,000+/- years ago in the SLV.

In the ensuing decades, an ongoing investigation into the association of mammoths with humans in the SLV has proceeded. The three main sites being investigated by archeologists and geologists are the Villa Grove, Magna, Mr. Peat and Scott Miller mammoth sites. Much of the study of these sites has been undertaken by faculty and students from Adams State University and has been written about by Jared Beeton, Ph.D who is a Professor of Earth Sciences at Adams State, in the *SLV Historian*. Many quotes in this story are from his work.

Species found at the SLV sites include Columbian Mammoths, largest of the extinct mammoths. This monster was 13' tall compared to a very large African elephant of our times, which might manage to reach 11'. Each mammoth went through five or six sets of teeth in their lifetime. This explains why mammoth teeth have been found at all the sites studied. If you want to see a mammoth tooth, the Crestone Historic Museum has one on display.

What kind of mammoths were here and when they were here is a



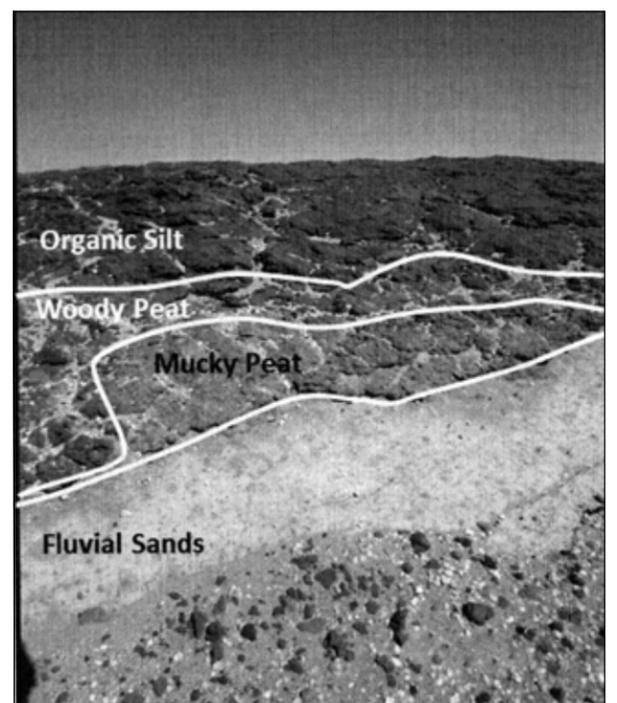
Mammoths were one type of megafauna to roam the San Luis Valley about 15,000 years ago.

lot clearer than when hunters entered the scene. We know both the Folsom and Clovis peoples hunted mammoth, but it's becoming an increasing possibility that there was a culture predating these groups who are easily identified by the style of their projectiles. Beeton says, "The mysterious pre-Clovis culture, who were most certainly here before Clovis . . . we know little about them . . . we don't even know what their toolkit looked like and as a result we really don't know what we are looking for." Holy history's mysteries!

So here's what archeologists and geologists have found out at the four SLV mammoth study sites. The sites were chosen carefully by looking at archeological surveys and geologic studies.

The Villa Grove site is a buried alluvial fan proceeding eastward from the San Juan Mountains. Digging carefully down into the old stream bed, archeologists and geologists discovered a buried landscape called a paleolandscape. The buried soils represent landscapes that were once on the surface. Humans and animals wandered over this landscape dropping things and even dying there, which is how buried soils become windows to the past.

At the Villa Grove Site "the gully was initially carved by a small low-energy stream that subsequently filled in with gravel sediment during high energy floods." Mammal bones were scattered throughout the gully during these floods. While human evidence has not yet been unearthed at this site, "there's a high potential for the presence of early human cultural deposits at the Villa Grove site." Scientists found through geologic studies that the climate and landscape were stable at this site for a long time, maybe even a few thousand years. This would have made



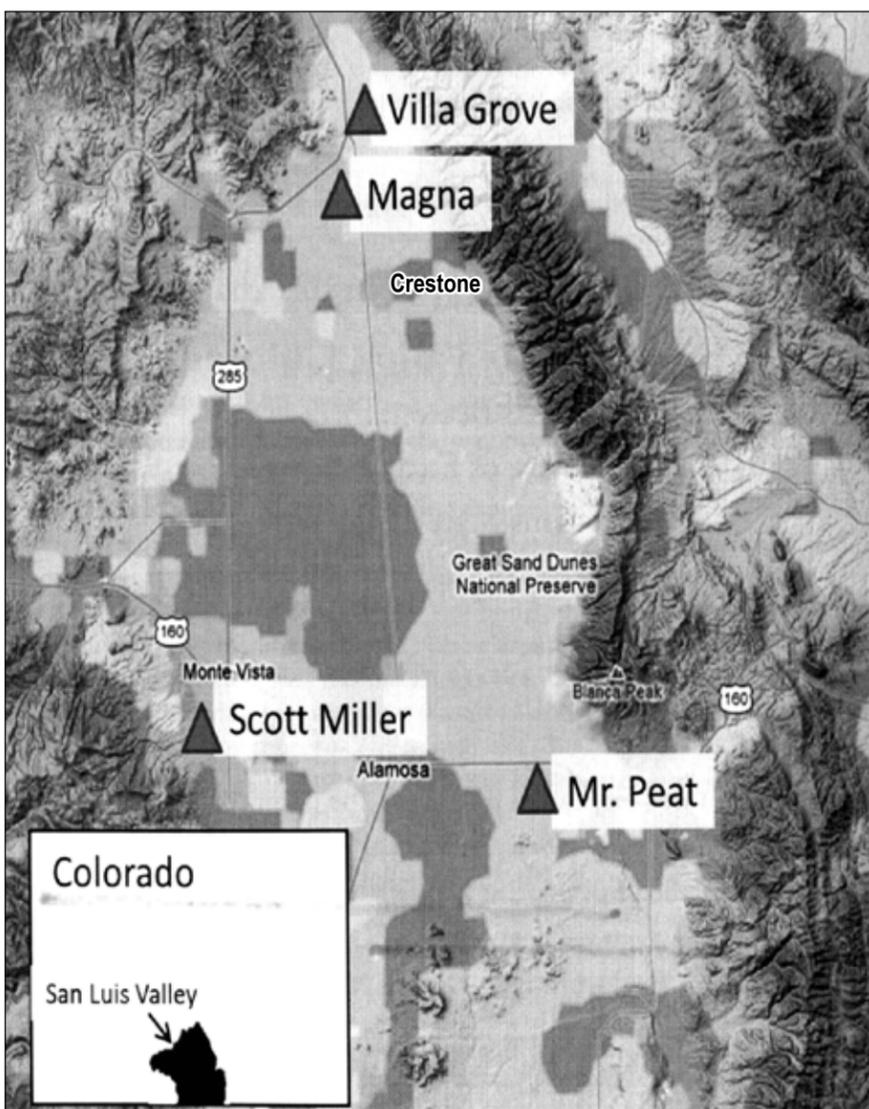
Stratigraphic layers as seen from an undisturbed surfact at the Mr. Peat Site.

the site conducive to mammoth and human occupation.

The Mr. Peat Site is located at the south east side of the SLV. It is on private property and in the past, peat was cut commercially on the land. "The site is represented by scattered mammoth and Extinct Bison bones along with projectile points." A total of six obsidian points have been uncovered at the site. It is thought there's a moderate chance of finding more human evidence at this site. "The extent of prehistoric occupation . . . has been picked over by non-scientists."

Dating here and at the other sites in the SLV is done in part by dating the peat layers. The oldest layer is mucky peat with stratified woody peat above that and the entire soil package topped with organic silt (from decomposing plants or animals). "Peats are easy to date because of their rich organic deposits and because they are full of organic matter for radiocarbon dating and they tell us about the paleoclimate." Mucky peat, for example, is deposited in a shallow-water, possibly wetlands, environment.

The Scott Miller Site is located on the Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge. The site contains Colum-



Location of the four study sites in the San Luis Valley.

continued on page B-9



by Kim Malville

Venus has been dominating our evening skies these past few months. In March it drops suddenly from 32° in the western skies to 0° in four weeks. Venus passes the sun on March 25, when the planet sets 14 minutes after the sun at our latitude. Quite remarkably, it will also be visible in the morning skies for those folks who have a flat eastern horizon, rising 40 minutes before sunrise. It will be both an evening and morning “star”. At the end of the month, Venus will have made the complete switch from evening to morning and will be completely absent from our evening skies, rising in the east about an hour before sunrise.

**March 1:** As the skies darken, look for the slender crescent moon in the west. Nearby will be Mars and Venus

**March 4:** This evening the moon covers Aldebaran. A remarkable occultation of Aldebaran, the redshot eye of Taurus, (when the moon covers the star) will start around 8:30pm. It should be visible to the naked eye, but binoculars will help. The star will disappear behind the dark side of the lunar crescent. Get outside a little early and fix your eyes on Aldebaran. This is a special and rare event. Aldebaran is the brightest star that the moon ever occults.

**March 10:** The waxing gibbous moon (larger than half) is close to Regulus, the brightest star in Leo the Lion.

**March 12:** Daylight savings time starts at 2 am.

**March 14:** Jupiter, Spica (brightest star in Virgo) and the moon form a triangle.

**March 20:** Spring Equinox occurs at 4:29 am.

**March 29:** Just below and to the right of the slender crescent moon is Mercury

**March 30:** The moon passes Mars

**March 31:** The moon approaches Aldebaran again.

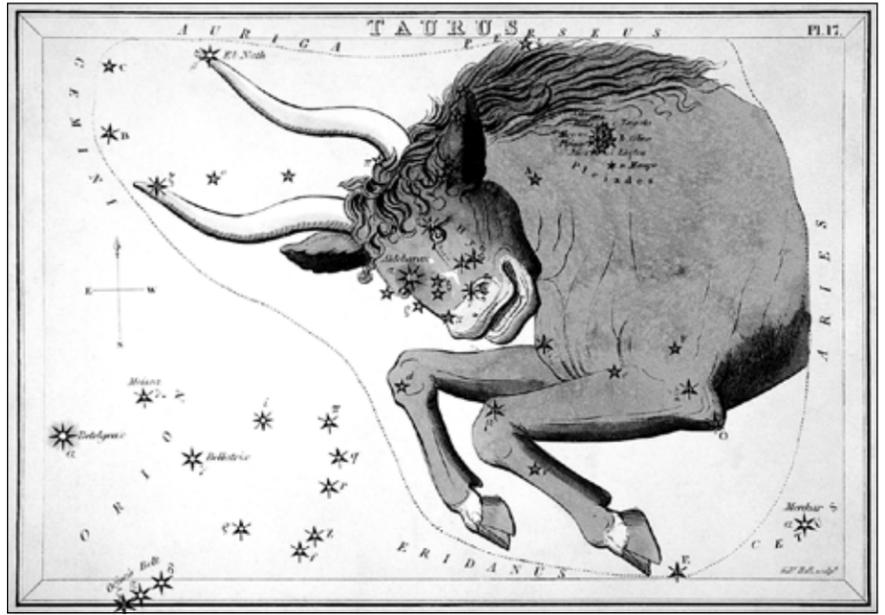
Mercury’s axis has the smallest tilt of any of the Solar System’s planets (about 1/30°), which means that sunlight never touches the insides of craters on its poles. Having almost no atmosphere to retain heat, surface temperatures varies diurnally more than any other planet in the Solar System, ranging from a low at the poles of -370°F to a maximum of +800°F at high noon at the equator.

Two spacecraft have visited Mercury. Mariner 10 flew by the planet in 1974 and 1975. Messenger, launched in 2004, orbited Mercury over 4,000 times in four years before exhausting its fuel and crashing into the planet’s surface on April 30, 2015. As one of its most fascinating discoveries, Messenger detected layers of ice at the pole that may be more than 200 feet thick, a small glacier. The ice probably came from a series of comets that crashed on its surface. Only the ice of those comets that landed at its poles could remain. Perhaps the ice there now arrived more than a billion years ago when there were many more comets. Those comets may have provided not only the water in the oceans of Earth, the glacier of Mercury, but they also may have created oceans on Mars and Venus, which have now totally evaporated.

**Could dark matter be made of black holes?**

Last month I wrote about Vera Rubin’s discovery that galaxies are spinning too fast to hold themselves together. But they do keep from flying apart, and they have been doing that for billions of years. There appears to be an unknown source of gravity in these galaxies, which has been named dark matter. The nature of dark matter remains a perplexing puzzle, very perplexing because it must make up a whopping 84% of the mass in the universe. What could it be?

A bizarre possibility (actually everything in astrophysics these



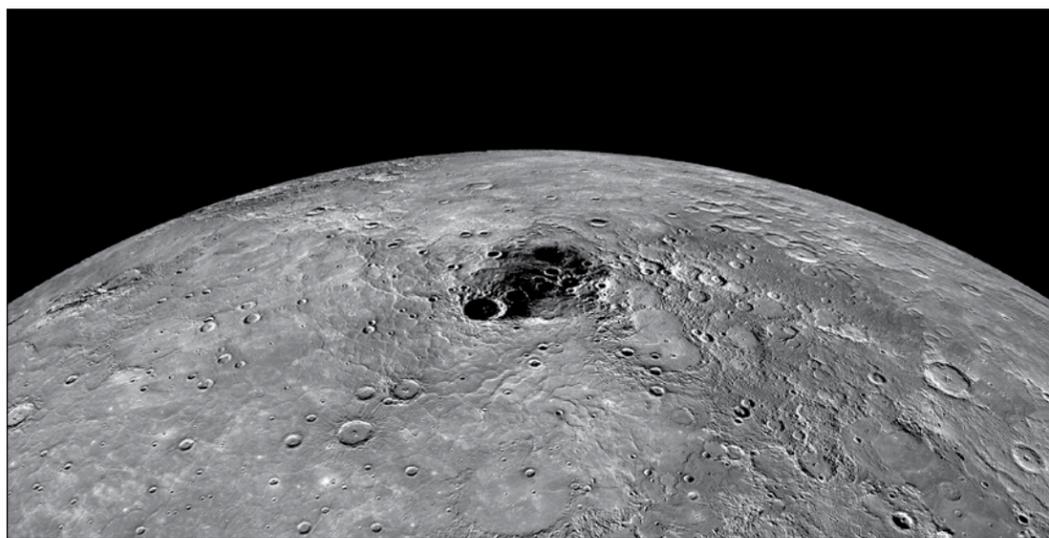
Taurus the Bull.

Library of Congress, "Urania's Mirror", published 1824



The Pinwheel Galaxy, swarming with dark matter.

Hubble Space Telescope, NASA



The north pole of Mercury. The dark area is ice.

**Ancient ice on Mercury**  
Mercury is the smallest and innermost planet in the Solar System. Its orbital period around the Sun of 88 days is the shortest of all the planets in the Solar System.

days seems bizarre) is that dark matter in a galaxy consists of billions and billions of small black holes, which are too small to be individually detected. Black holes could have condensed out the un-

imaginably hot gas of the early universe when it was only one second old. These primordial black holes may have diameters (size of their event horizons) of 100 miles and masses of 30 suns.

Black holes of this size were detected when gravity waves were announced in Feb. 2016 that had been produced by the violent merger of two black holes 29 and 36 times as massive as our sun. More detections of gravity waves in the next few years should reveal how

many of these objects exist in our galaxy. A second burst of gravity waves was reported last June which was produced by black holes that were smaller, only 8 and 14 solar masses. Two additional events have been reported, and we await the details.

**The Event Horizon Telescope**

On April 5 the largest radio telescope on the earth, the Event Horizon Telescope, will be turned on for nine days. Consisting of 12 widely spaced telescopes spread across the earth from the South Pole, the Atacama Desert, and to northern Europe, it will have an effective size equal to that of the earth. Its goal will be to create an image of

the black hole in the center of the galaxy, 26,000 light years away. During the lifetime of our Milky Way Galaxy, the black hole has gobbled up 4 million solar masses and has grown in size to 15 million miles. As large as that seems, as viewed from the earth its size is comparable to that of a grapefruit on the surface of the moon. It’s going to be a real challenge for this collection of telescopes to view the event horizon of the black hole, inside of which nothing can ever be seen. Stay tuned, it should be exciting.



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# Final arguments, filings against massive development at Wolf Creek in judge's hands

*Groups denied access to public documents that would have revealed extent of developer influence*

A coalition of conservation organizations, who have long been fighting to protect Wolf Creek Pass from a massive ill-conceived development, submitted final arguments and filings to Judge Richard P. Matsch. The lawsuit aims to reverse a 2015 decision by the Forest Service to approve a land exchange providing critical road access needed for the 8,000-person "Village" to be realized.

The groups have good reason to believe the developer may have exerted undue influence over the private contractor hired by the Forest Service to conduct the Environmental Impact Statement, but their Freedom of Information

Act (FOIA) request for correspondences between the two parties was denied last week. The developer has admitted to exerting pressure on the process and previous FOIA requests demonstrate Texas billionaire Red McComb's, who is behind the development, threatened political influence. The groups are troubled by the outcome and are assessing next steps, but believe the merits case remains strong.

"We were forced to go forward with the case without all the information underlying it," says attorney Travis Stills. "It lets the Forest Service use contractors to create a black box around its real decision-making and the influence that pro-

ject proponents have on private contractors carrying out federal responsibilities."

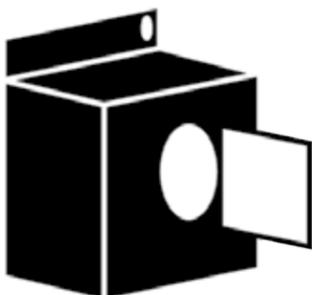
The final case details extensive evidence regarding how the Forest Service unlawfully limited the scope of the environmental analysis and used the process to benefit private, profit-driven interests over that of the public. The site of the proposed development, at over 10,000 feet of elevation, is crucial habitat for the endangered Canada lynx and serves as a wildlife corridor linking two major wilderness areas. Despite this and the presence of rare fen wetlands, the Forest Service inconceivably did not analyze adequate protections

as part of the land transfer.

"This is a clear case so far to privatize profits and socialize losses" said San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council Director Christine Canaly. "It's frustrating to watch the incremental push of private profit over public interest. We trust the court will take our claims seriously and rule in favor of transparency and the public good."

The lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service was brought by a coalition of conservation groups including Rocky Mountain Wild, San Juan Citizens Alliance and San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council.

## Used Appliances & Repairs

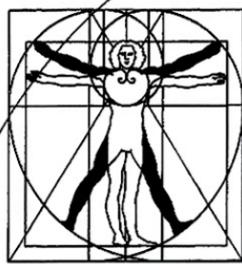



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MARCH 2017 Listings

### UNDER CONTRACT



Private/Views

**4376C E Twinview OL - \$249,000**  
Beautiful 2BD 1.75BA 1359sf home on 1.015 acre backs to greenbelt w/ Cottonwood Creek. Custom contemporary design built by Steve Elliott. Magnificent views. Screen porch & balcony. Very private & quiet location up high.



Was \$249,000

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



**3735 Jubilant Way - \$149,000**  
3BD/1BA 1094sf home located on 1.152. Protected views. Large loft BR w/balcony. 2BD/1BA downstairs w/clawfoot tub. Woodstove & back-up baseboard heat. Aspen T & G ceilings, pine floors & wood exterior.



**3708 Enchanted Way - \$142,500**  
2 BR/1BA 1088 sf energy efficient home w/ ETS heat & water heater on ETS, woodstove, honeycomb blinds, & solar heat collector. Lovely views from open living space, roomy master bedroom, backs to greenbelt. Many new windows.

### New Listing



**999C Badger Road - \$225,000**  
Beautiful strawbale home built in 2002 by local builder Ward Olin. Charming 2BR/1.5BA, up high in Chalet 1 on 2.48 ac w/exquisite views and a private setting. Large windows, open floor plan, custom details. A beautiful, special property!

### Moffat



**Willow Springs - NOW \$289,000**  
Fully restored former historic Forbes Hotel. 9bd/3BA 3600sf; detached 22x24 studio, 500ft artesian well. Great business potential for B&B, hotel /retreat center.

### Chalets



Luxurious/Views

**780 Palomino OL - \$585,000**  
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.



WAS \$449,000

Private Sanctuary

**4519C Grayline Ct - \$429,000**  
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.



Private on the Creek

**3959 Cheerful Court - \$429,000**  
Custom Cathedral Style Mt Home. Approx 2700 sq/ft, located on 2.16 acres by Cottonwood Creek. Many architectural features incl Brazilian cherry hrdwd flrs, diamond plaster walls. Features 30x16' Art Studio.



Castle in the Woods!

**2795CR Brook Terrace - \$425,000**  
Built 1993, remodeled 2008. 3-story, 2 or 3BR/1.75BA 2182sf home on 2.765ac cul-du-sac, backs to greenbelt. Artistic stone & stucco offers feeling of antiquity, privacy & uniqueness. A must-see home in a special location!



Was \$459,000

**786C Panorama Way - \$419,000**  
This Lee Mitchell custom 3bd/2ba/ sunroom/library/balconies 2428sf home with fabulous gardens sits on 2.14 acres w/ 2-car garage/studio. Exquisite - Must See!



Magnificent Views

New Construction!

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

### Baca Grande



Off-Grid Acreage

**1381 Saddle Rock Trail - \$280,000**  
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+ acr incl. lots 1381, 1444 & 1445



Fantastic Views!

**2720 Happy Hollow Tr. - \$279,000**  
This meticulous, 4BR/2.5BA 2000sf home has magnificent valley views from the living spaces, including a large sw-facing deck. Excellent condition, flexible floorplan, nice outdoor space, located near Dharma Ocean.



Guest Cottage

Reduced from \$275,000

**3481C E Graceful Ct - \$249,000**  
Beautiful property w/ 2BR/1.5BA ~1228sf home, guest cottage & detached one-car grg on 1.44 acres. Great passive solar, w/ mountain views. Walled tiled front courtyard & landscaping. In-floor radiant heat, tile floors, T&G wood ceilings in LR



WAS \$289,000

Gracious Living

**757 Rendezvous Way - \$249,000**  
Very lovely 1868sf 3-or-4BD/2BA + dining screen porch, sunroom w/fireplace, yoga/ exercise room, deck w/amazing views & hot tub. Private, but close-in. Beautifully landscaped.



Reduced from \$249,000

Non-Toxic, Great Value \$113/sf!

**207C Foothill OL - \$239,000**  
2-story 3BD/2.5BA/Study 2192sf home on .965 acres built with non-toxic materials & energy efficiency. Lrg kitchen, bamboo floors, pine ceilings. Spacious master suite w/Jacuzzi tub, sep. shower, marble counters. Views/Deck.



New Construction: Paul Koppa

Reduced! - Was \$229,000

**1867C Rockyview Way - \$219,000**  
3BD/2BA 1520sf New Construction by Paul Koppa, energy efficient design. Active solar hot water sys thru radiant floor grid + domestic hot water. Very insulated, triple pane windows & heat recovery ventilation, airtight construction.



Creekside!

**Tract 2 Lindisfame - \$199,000**  
Creek-side 2 BR/1 BA 812sf home on 2.74 acres w/812 sf partially finished basement w/electric baseboard heat & concrete floors. New roof w/architectural shingles, new windows, new interior & exterior paint.



New Construction

**1911 Lone Pine Way - \$195,000**  
This 2BD/1BA, 1200sf New Construction by Art Reeves. Efficient, great design & views. Rustic wood & metal siding, hrdwd floors & vaulted ceiling in Great Room. Modern kitchen w/stainless appliances. Spacious Master bdrm, & bath.



Energy Efficient!

**958 Meditation OL - \$189,000**  
Beautiful 3BR/1.5BA 1363sf energy efficient home w/solar hot water system, passive solar, & well-insulated ceilings & walls. On private cul-du-sac in Chalet 1 w/ organic garden & storage shed. Full bath w/soak tub. Spacious kitchen.



Southwest Style

**1479 Badger Road - \$182,000**  
Custom 3BD/1.75BA home, built in 2004, backs to open space. Immaculate condition. Beautifully crafted w/diamond plastered walls, wood ceilings, wood floors, in-floor radiant heat, & wood stove.



3/1.75 on 1.013ac

**635C Panorama Way - \$179,000**  
Lovely 3 bd/1.75 ba home on 1.013 acres. Open floor plan, custom kitchen cabinets, hardwood floors, lots of light. Bonus studio room. Passive solar design, propane HWBbaseboard heat, honeycomb blinds. Landscaped courtyard.



Immaculate

**107 Pinewood OL - \$172,500**  
Well maintained, spacious 3 BD/2BA home, built in 2006 w/lg covered front porch & back deck, 2-car garage w/built-in storage & landscaped garden. Energy efficient w/ ETS, propane fireplace, wood stove & electric baseboards.



Small Home, Small Price!

**4485 Ridgecrest Way - \$74,500**  
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3615C Splendid Terrace .....\$275,000.... SOLD  
288 Allott Trail .....\$269,000.... SOLD\*  
1202C Hilltop Way .....\$269,000.... SOLD  
3919 Cordial Way .....\$269,000.... SOLD  
765CRR Heatherbrae Road .....\$269,000.... SOLD\*  
1234 Laredo Trail .....\$265,000.... SOLD  
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149 Moonlight .....\$259,000.... SOLD  
418 Moonlight Way .....\$249,000.... SOLD

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3704 Carefree Way .....\$169,000.... SOLD\*  
3732C Cordial Way .....\$162,500.... SOLD\*

635C Panorama Way .....\$159,500.... SOLD\*  
3376 Genial Way .....\$159,000.... SOLD\*  
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# San Luis Valley Seed Exchange taking root

by Leigh Mills

The San Luis Valley Seed Exchange has taken root. Founded by local gardener Leigh Mills in 2011, the SLV Seed Exchange (SLVSE) was held at several locations before settling in at Joyful Journey Hot Springs and Conference Center. The 7th annual event took place on February 19 and was well attended by locals and other residents of the SLV region.

Excitement filled Joyful Journey's conference room from the start and lasted all day as participants exchanged many types of garden seeds, plant starts, red wiggler worms, Kombucha "babies," sprouting seeds, Homegrown totes, and hydroponics fertilizer. There was food from Our Food Is Art and 4th Street Bakery as well as discounted soaks.

Mary Gaines from Adams State University's Nielsen Li-



Matt Stalzer from the Mudita Camel Dairy poses with his camel, Dora, at the annual SLV Seed Exchange.

photo by Lori Nagel

brary spoke about their seed library program and the Alamosa Community Gardens project. Jeffery WishMer, Joyful Journey's Master Gardener, hosted a Hugelkultur (woody gardening) workshop in the spacious grow dome where participants learned the art of using woody plants to start a growing bed.

Happy people roamed Joyful Journey's conference center and grounds. When asked, one dedicated attendee remarked that it was "the social event of the season!"

The spring-like weather served to enrich the gardening mood. There were many familiar faces and many more new ones. The owners of the San Luis Valley Mushroom Farm shared knowledge about the types of mushrooms they grow. They were very



The Sol Mountain Farm from South Fork taught others about their organic, sustainable farming practices at the SLV Seed Exchange February 19, which was held at the Joyful Journey conference center again this year. photo by Lori Nagel



Leigh Mills (L) and Reba Lee-Savageau enjoy the day at the SLV Seed Exchange.

photo by Lori Nagel

pleased with the turnout. Anita, the year-old camel from the Mudita Camel Dairy, stole the show when adults and youngsters alike braved the chilly wind in order to meet her and hear Matt talk about what's happening at the dairy.

Event mangers at Joyful Journey are dedicated supporters of the seed exchange and want it to keep growing year after year. See you in 2018!

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# Garden Guru

Is it really spring?



by **Matie Belle Lakish**

I've been watching robins. In the Baca Park, they are all about finding worms. They stake out their claims to a few feet of lawn, and then cock their heads to one side until they hear a worm. Suddenly they are on it, pulling elastic brown bodies out of their holes and sucking them down their throats. Then they hop a few feet to another location and listen some more. There are maybe 50 of them at any one time in the late afternoon.

But robins and worms have been doing this for generations. Why comment on it now? Because it is mid-February, and the ground is supposed to be frozen still, not moist and warm and inhabited by earthworms and robins. I have been digging in my garden for the last few days. How can I dig in my garden in February? This is Colorado at 8000', not the midwest. Perhaps my memory is failing me, but I don't remember being able to turn over the soil in mid-February. I think we are in for an early spring!

I pruned the fruit trees yesterday. Usually I say you can wait until sometime in March to prune. However, if you haven't done it, do it now. Once the sap starts to flow, it is much harder on your trees. Start

by cutting off any dead branches, or branches that are crossing each other, and then work on branches that are too close together. Each branch should have sunlight and not be shaded by its neighbors. Prune off "water sprouts", or long new stems that grew last year. These usually lack the strength to be good branches, and they often suck energy away from other fruit-bearing parts of the tree. Watch out for suckers coming up from the roots. These look like little tree trunks coming up around the bottom of the tree. They come up from the rootstock, and can draw enough energy from the top to kill the fruit-bearing portion of your tree. Cut them off at root level. Finally, trim back extra-long top branches to make the tree more accessible for picking when your fruit is ripe in the fall.

### Seed Exchange & other happenings

I went to the Seed Exchange at Joyful Journey on February 19. It was very well attended, and lots of fun. I have gotten some really good seeds over the years at the seed exchange. Some small black soybeans that actually matured here come to mind. Also some early pole beans, and a really giant winter squash with a very smooth and mellow



Jason Anderson shared his worms with eager recipients again at this year's SLV Seed Exchange, which was held at Joyful Journey February 19. Ansley Bryce, pictured here, was looking forward to making a new home for these little guys. photo by Lori Nagel

taste. This year there were also several vendors that brought supplies to sell, and the baby camel and the camel milk soap folks were on hand to greet visitors. Of course, there was also some excellent homegrown food for folks to snack on.

After the Seed Exchange, a group of Crestone area gardeners met to focus on improving our access to local food, both as a health strategy and a step toward community food independence. Some of those present do not currently have gardens of their own, and would like to work with other gardeners or in community gardens, while others have gardens and would like some help. If you would like to help improve our food security by collaborating with other gardeners contact Sharon Landrith at Sharonate@the-lightchamber.com.

### Early plantings

It's time to get those seeds planted for the broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and all those other bedding plants you want to have ready when warm weather finally arrives. You may have already started them indoors or in your greenhouse, but if not, do it soon. You might wait a week or two for the squash, cucumbers, and melons. Be sure to put these in containers that can go directly into the soil, as they resent having their roots disturbed by transplanting. Seeds germinate

best at around 70° to 75°, so provide some bottom heat to get the seeds germinated. You can then move them into a place with less heat, but more light, which they need to form healthy leaves.

If the weather continues to warm, I think I will plant an early outdoor planting of spinach and lettuce before the end of March. Perhaps I will even try some carrots and beets. The robins are talking to me, and saying it could be an early spring.



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## There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root, RH (AHG)  
Herbs to calm anxiety



There are a lot of people experiencing anxiety these days. In times of uncertainty and chaos, herbal medicine has a lot to offer. Herbal "nervines" can relax the nervous system, allowing both body and mind to unwind.

Several of these herbal nervines are local to Crestone—specifically Motherwort, Red Clover, Wild Lettuce, and Vervain. Several others grow in Colorado and northern New Mexico—St. John's Wort, Skullcap, Elephant Head Betony. And many are easy to grow—Chamomile, Lemon Balm, Borage, Lavender, and Motherwort. I'll talk about a few of these.

I have written of Motherwort (*Leonurus cardiaca*) a lot. Obviously it's one of my favorites! A bitter member of the mint family, it is grounding, relaxing without causing sleepiness, and has actions on the heart and reproductive system. Best taken as a tincture because of its bitter taste.

Skullcap (*Scutellaria* spp.) and Oat (*Avena* spp.) are both known as nervine tonics, herbs that nourish the nervous system. They are both very helpful for chronic stress, or for people whose "nerves are fried".

Chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*) and Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*) are both nervines that also soothe stomach discomfort. They are mild enough for babies and children, taken as a tea by breastfeeding mothers for young babies.

Wild Lettuce (*Lactuca virosa*) is a gentle sedative herb. I use it in sleep formulas and for coughs.

Obviously there are many herbs that can calm anxiety. My suggestion would be to harvest or buy a small quantity of several dif-



Skullcap (*Scutellaria brittoni*).

ferent herbs, take a small amount of tincture or a cup of tea, and observe the effects. After observing each herb separately, try combining two or more until you come up with a formula that is uniquely suited to you.

This is a place where flower essences can really help. Bach remedies for fear include Aspen, Mimulus, and Rock Rose. If the anxiety is based on overwhelm, try Elm, Hornbeam, or Oak. As with herbs, it helps to try a drop of one remedy and observe the effects. Flower essences can be added to teas for even more benefit. Ultimately, we all have to take on our own fears, yet our herbal allies can help us get there!

*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.*



This year, a new "surf test" was added to SquareTrade's testing of smartphones: pro surfer Kai Lenny took each phone out on the waves to test water-resistance.

## What to know about extending the life of your new smartphone

Article courtesy StatePoint

The latest model smartphones are a big financial investment, whether you opt for the Apple iPhone 7 or iPhone 7 Plus. But there's good news for those with butter fingers. Water-resistance is the new industry standard, reveals a new study.

The study from SquareTrade, a protection plan provider for smartphones, tablets and other devices, uses a range of robots to drop, tumble, dunk and bend devices to see how they live up to everyday activities, and this year, a new "surf test" was added to the mix: pro surfer Kai Lenny took each phone out on the waves to test water-resistance.

Want to protect your new smartphone? The study results offer some key insights:

- Water resistance: The iPhone 7 generation with an IP67 rating claims water resistance in "up to a depth of 1 meter for up to 30 minutes." While both phones survived tests of this claim, they did suffer some audio muffling afterward.

"The iPhone 7 generation is the first to compete with water resistance," says Steve Abernethy, executive chairman at SquareTrade. "After putting them to the test, there's no doubt the iPhone 7 and 7 Plus aren't scared of going for a little swim."

So while all this can give you some peace of mind around pools, puddles or even ocean waves, you will still want to take precautions around water.

Other tests

- Strength: In the bend test, the iPhone 7 bent at 170 pounds of pressure, the iPhone 7 Plus bent at 180—both matching the previous 6s generation. Good news for those who like to store their phones in the back pockets.

- Tumble resistance: After 30 seconds in SquareTrade's "TumbleBot," the iPhone 7 was scuffed on its corners and cracked on the camera lens, similar to the iPhone 6s. The 7 Plus only suffered a small crack, and fared far better than the 6s Plus.

- The sidewalk always wins: A broken screen is still the leading cause of smartphone damage. Both phones shattered on their first facedown drop. By the second drop, the iPhone 7 bricked and wouldn't turn back on. The third drop for the 7 Plus resulted in major screen malfunctioning rendering it unusable. After three corner drops, the iPhone 7 screen cracked and split, the 7 Plus screen shattered. So hold on tight.

Whatever phone you own, a strong sturdy case paired with a comprehensive protection plan is key. To learn more about affordable plans that cover drops, spills and malfunctions, visit [squaretrade.com](http://squaretrade.com).

Whether you're clumsy or simply prone to handing your smartphone over to pro surfers, the world is full of risks. Learn the strengths and weaknesses of your model so you can adopt sound habits that keep your phone in good condition and be sure to safeguard your expenditure.

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3458C Enchanted Way. \$475,000 Owner financing available on this income-producing property. Includes main home, cottage apartment, Geometric Sacred Space, and tons of garden space.



668 Crocus Rd. \$420,000 2BD 1BA 41 pristine acres in the Grants. Great retreat property. Solar system. 3550 sq.ft, with home and meeting/retreat building. Creek runs through property.



253 Golden Ave. \$375,000 Partially finished construction, this property is part of an estate. Taking offers-price reduced \$100,000 for quick sale! call Crestone Realty for details.



1474 Badger Rd. \$360,000 3BD 2BA premier custom built Lee Mitchell home. Exterior Cempo walls, indoor stucco, R32 insulation, very energy efficient, open floor plan.



1390 Wilderness Trail. \$325,000 Spacious 3BD 2BA home with passive solar. Majestic views, low-E windows. Custom detail throughout, high ceilings, lots of natural light, large master shower. On 3.2 acres.



170 E. Golden Ave. \$229,500 Cozy 3BD 2BA 1500 sq ft Victorian Ross Chapin cottage. ETS & baseboard heat. High ceilings, sky lights & fenced-in back yard. Close to school & shopping.



24248 CR. 41-G \$225,000 Preppers, Hunters, those that like indoor gardening and seclusion-Here it is! This home is on 40 acres, completely off grid, surrounded by BLM Owner financing available.



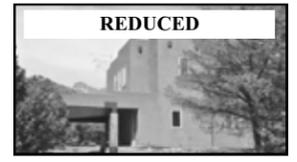
2664 Happy Hollow, \$219,000 Beautiful spacious home for extended family. Could be nice in law apt., on one end. Master Suite has 5 piece master bath, walk in closet. Karstan home, 30 yr. roof.



388 Starshine Ol. \$199,900 3BA 2BA, attached garage. Home for large family; spacious rooms, vaulted ceilings, 6 panel doors, tiled floor, fenced yard, deck. 3 lots on private cul-de-sac.



2035 Lost Cave Way \$194,900 Special little hide-away Deltac home in Chalet 11. Features art studio, sauna, beautiful little fenced garden & deck, all one level.



3949 Cheerful Way \$191,500 Cheerful-Great builders home near Cottonwood creek, contemporary styled 2 story, oversized carport, mtn. views and balcony on 2nd story.



370 S. Alder St. \$189,500 Recently remodeled, bright, spacious, cozy duplex with private patios 5BD 2BA. Conveniently located on the edge of town. Close to Charter School & grocery store.



3528 Enchanted Way \$184,500 Cozy 2BD 1BA one level living and wheel chair accessible. Large bathroom, comfortable living area w/ wood stove, private fenced back garden area.



909 Lincoln \$179,000 Spacious store/shop with large garage door, located on 1.5 acres. Artesian town well, commercial kitchen. 2BA & laundry room. Quonset hut, plenty of storage & garages.



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



3901 Rarity Way \$175,000 Motivated seller! 2BD 1 1/2BA. Backs to greenbelt & creek. Passive solar, year-round warm earth mass floor. Custom kitchen. Bathroom with garden tub, screened-in porch.



3705 Carefree Way \$164,000 This home includes all the extras you are looking for! Spacious 3 BD 2BA, garage, greenhouse, 2 lots, mountain views, backs to greenbelt, open floor plan, spacious bathrooms.



40 Crestone Overlook. \$171,000 2BD 2BA close to Crestone Charter school. New paint, newly remodeled kitchen features stainless appliances, Brazilian granite counters. Lovely sunroom, and workshop/studio.



250 S 2nd St. \$169,500 2BD 1BA Last century feel! Private, mountain views. Home sits on 1 acre, has a deep well, landscaped, with new roof, new paint. Wood shed, partial fencing, woodstove.



2024 Lost Cave Way \$165,000 2BD/1BA with den/ office/extra sleeping area on upper level. This home backs to greenbelt with close, easy access to paved road.



107 E. 9th St. \$159,000 Unique home on 1.5 acres, 4BD 2BA. Spacious living room with sunroom, large, fenced-in yard, carport. Adjacent shop with commercial well also for sale.



17 E. 10th St. \$159,000 An adorable café with commercial well, 3 acres. Excellent views. Commercial kitchen & appliances, spacious dining room, 2BA, office space and storage room.



31 Sunset Overlook. \$155,000 Great home at a great price! Sold partially furnished, all appliances, garage, workshop, greenhouse. On quiet cul-de-sac, within walking distance to town.



3860 Cordial Way \$139,500 Great getaway home near Cottonwood Creek. Builder's own home, great room with vaulted ceilings, quality craftsmanship; loft could be guest area.



6 Baca Grant Way \$136,500 2BD 1 1/2BA vacation home, high up on the mountain, unsurpassed mountain & valley views. 1 car garage, all appliances, chest freezer, washer/dryer. Large windows, solar.



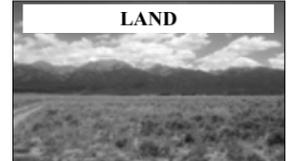
4440 Rarity Way \$89,900 Creative cozy Earth Ship privately located at the southern most border to the Baca Grande Chalets next to National Wildlife Refuge.



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- 530 North Hillcrest Overlook: quiet, secluded cul-de-sac, \$3,800
- 755 North Cedarwood Overlook: nice close-in lot, cul-de-sac, Chalet I, paid tap \$5,000
- 1231 Suncrest Overlook: high-up lot, cul-de-sac, Chalet I, \$6,000
- 1233 Suncrest Overlook: cul-de-sac, 2 adj lots available for sale sep. \$6,000
- 1232 Suncrest Overlook: paid tap, nice high-up lot, Chalet I \$6,000
- 2805 Brook Overlook: level building lot, Chalet II, motivated seller, \$4,500
- 3369 Carefree Way: nice cul-de-sac lot with panoramic views, \$5,500

- 1920 Lone Pine Way: great location, tap paid, sewer close-in, \$7,500
- 1320 & 1321 Clear Creek Overlook: quiet cul-de-sac on the creek \$23,000
- 1322 & 1323 Clear Creek Overlook: backs to greenbelt & creek \$23,000
- 3472 Splendid Way: corner lot, close to paved road, \$2,900
- 1044 Homestead Road: off-grid lot with panoramic views, 1.48 ac, \$4,000
- 1131 North Homestead Road: off-grid lot with adj. lot available, 1.7ac, \$4,000
- 1292 Paradise Trail: cul-de-sac, views, close to creek, 2.3 ac, \$4,000
- 1601 Silver Spur Trail: nice secluded lot, off-grid, 1.83 ac, \$4,000

Full Baca Grande maps are available for sale at our office!

# Mammoths

*continued from page B-1*

bian Mammoth and Extinct Bison bones along with over a thousand projectile points. “Thick peat deposits at the site show a localized rising of the water table resulting in wetlands conditions.” The Scott Miller Site is considered favorable for finding evidence of early human occupation. This site has been continuously used by Paleo-Indian and historic people.

The Magna Mammoth Site was identified first by the University of Colorado Field School in the 1970s. The site now is in a subdivision south of Villa Grove. The site consists of peat layers below covered by rich organic deposits. One of these layers is yellow-greenish clay, where human remains have been found. “The best chance for finding evidence of pre-Clovis people at the Magna Site is to find and analyze additional mammoth remains.”

Steve Holen is an expert on how humans break bones to extract marrow and how they fashion tools. Holen has studied this early

human hunting behavior in North America and East Africa. He says, “Humans leave distinct patterns on the bones that are different from lions, hyenas or being trampled by elephants.” At the Villa Grove Site Holen has uncovered mammoth bones with a possibly human-made green fracture, which can only happen when the bones are fresh and still supple. While not conclusive evidence of pre-Clovis human occupation of the SLV with the Columbian Mammoth at the end of the Pleistocene, this sort of find keeps the mystery alive and gives a reason to research further.

As for the disappearance of megafauna in the SLV, researchers do not agree on the cause of the extinction. One theory holds that humans’ hunting wiped them out. Another idea is that disease ended their existence. Some scientists think an asteroid or a comet may have killed off these giant beasts. Others suggest their demise may have come about due to climate change depleting the environment of the volume of food necessary for the megafauna’s survival.



ASU students excavating a mammoth rib bone from the base of Villa Grove's gully fill.

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# In Search of Economic Reality

## Donald Trump & organized crime?

by Ed Lyell

Since the 1980s many award-winning investigative reporters have found evidence that the Trump family has worked with multiple organized crime families. Many have pointed out that you cannot be a major builder in New York City without at least having a working relationship with "Mafia"-like powerful people who ran the unions, concrete companies and helped with building inspections. Russian billionaires who have been convicted of making money through securities fraud dominate Trump's Wall Street building. Then there is the casino industry. Whether in Atlantic City or Nevada this industry was built by organized crime families who moved from providing desperate average Americans' quest for quick cash through loan sharks and numbers players to legalized gaming and lotteries.

The payday loan business is like the old illegal loan sharks of my childhood who hung out at the factories on Friday afternoons collecting and loaning money to borrowers who kept getting deeper and deeper into debt. The Mafia business plan was to never let someone pay off their debt, but to keep them just paying the interest, "vig", each week. Now most Americans are in debt to the big banks

that use Mafia-like loans and minimum payment schemes to keep the working class in debt and just paying the interest. This has created a nation afraid to lose jobs, change jobs, or seek real freedom. The working classes, and many small business owners, have become indentured to the rich who loan them their weekly money.

President Trump is the first president to refuse to disclose his tax returns, thus hiding the sources of his loans. Multiple investigative reports from many different media companies have alleged that the Trump empire has been based on money borrowed from generations of "shady" characters from long-term organized crime families in New York, Nevada and Russia. Trump may not have direct links to Russian spies, but he is supported by billionaire Russian oligarchs. David Cay Johnston has been writing well researched articles and even a book about Donald Trump's connection to organized crime leaders:

"The picture shows that Trump's career has benefited from a decades-long and largely successful effort to limit and deflect law enforcement investigations into his dealings with top mobsters, organized crime associates, labor fixers, corrupt union leaders,

con artists and even a one-time drug trafficker whom Trump retained as the head of his personal helicopter service ([www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/05/donald-trump-2016-mob-organized-crime-2](http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/05/donald-trump-2016-mob-organized-crime-2)).

Working with alleged, and proven, mob figures started for Donald Trump in 1968 just after he graduated with his Bachelor's degree. "Within a few years Donald J. Trump had made friends with the city's most notorious fixer, lawyer Roy Cohn, who had become famous as lead counsel to Senator Joseph McCarthy. Among other things Cohn was now a mob consigliere, with clients including "Fat Tony" Salerno, boss of the Genovese crime family, the most powerful Mafia group in New York, and Paul Castellano, head of what was said to be the second largest family, the Gambinos (ibid).

I believe these reports because my only brother worked for the major Mafia Don in San Francisco. For years my brother would take me to meetings with organized crime bosses in San Francisco and Reno. It was his way of showing me how successful he had become even though he was officially just a cab driver who had served time in San Quentin and Soledad prisons. My brother died at 41

years of age from a heart attack allegedly induced by his bosses after he had stolen a lot of money from them in one of his drunken rages. Many of the mob bosses that I met through my brother were very much like President Trump. Like my brother they were narcissistic, sociopathic, racist people who lived for power and were abusive, especially to women.

The big New York banks now use Mafia-style practices and had federal and state legislators do away with usury laws while creating state lotteries managed by them. Illegal mafia techniques and businesses have become big business normal practices. Extortion is how the billionaire NFL, and other sport, owners get taxpayers to build them billion-dollar stadiums in which the profits go to the owners, not the taxpayers. If you don't vote to do this then the billionaire owner moves that city's team elsewhere, as in San Francisco, Oakland, and other cities.

Most of today's banking charges were illegal in the 1950s. Gambling was illegal, and seen as immoral by the majority of Americans. One person working in the household was able to support a family with little debt and lots of time for their children. Thus President Trump and his style is not a surprise but makes me sad for what America has become.

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

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## Mountain Mamas Tell Tall Tales

With a thumb & a prayer  
across the southwest

by Kizzen Laki

It was March, 1973 and we had almost made it through our first difficult Colorado winter. My husband Earl and I and friend John had arrived at the 1000-acre Gumm Ranch the previous fall. Greenhorn as they come. The ranch backed up against the foothills and forest of Mount Antero. Star Route, Nathrop, CO.

We had gotten word that Earl's mom, a widow since Earl was a baby, had married a widowed highschool friend and moved to San Bernadino, California. We thought longingly about warm places and decided to hitchhike out to visit her (our old truck would barely make it to town 20 miles away).

Backpacks loaded, full of our fearless youth and sense of adventure, John dropped us off at Hwy. 285 and we headed south, aiming for Albuquerque and the junction of I-40 heading west. We travelled smoothly, catching rides through northern New Mexico, seeing country we'd never seen before. It was tricky getting through Santa Fe to I-25, but by afternoon we'd made Albuquerque. By nightfall we were dropped off in Flagstaff, Arizona. Route 66, singing the song.

In Flagstaff we made a fateful decision. It was cold there with

some fresh snow on the ground. Keep going on I-40 and roll into Los Angeles? Or, looking at the map, head south to warmer country and cut through Sedona (Earl had heard, even back then, that it was a "special place"), then down to Prescott, follow 60 to catch I-10 and get easily to San Bernadino?

For those who take to the open road hitching, there develops a sense of trust, synchronicity, and hope of meeting the right people. The right ride. Timing comes together with a sense of magic. You just get to the road, stick your thumb out and then leaning into it, wave that car down. Rolling, rolling, stories unfolding.

Or you get stuck. Like the time we spent a rainy night sitting on packs crammed into a phone booth in rural Michigan.

We chose south. From Flagstaff we got an easy ride down to the junction of 89-A. Nighttime now. Hardly a car heading off to Sedona. The few that passed were not about to pick up two strangers in the dark. It was cold out. But there was a Denny's restaurant at the junction and we'd go in and warm up now and then. By midnight we gave up on trying to catch a ride and sought the warmth of Denny's. A sympathetic waitress let us oc-

cupy a back booth where we nursed a coffee through the night.

At first light we went back out to try our luck and were picked up by an old man in an old pickup truck. We were so glad to see him—until we realized that 20mph was his top speed. He was a wood cutter and drove slowly to spot dead trees. Slowly, slowly we headed towards Sedona. By then we were impatient. Come on old man, go!

But he told us stories of the area. Pointed out features. We were tired and lulled into a calm. "Be here now" was the hippy mantra. OK. Be grateful for the ride. Maybe there's a reason. There was.

With the early morning sunrise we drove into Oak Creek Canyon, one of the most beautiful places on earth. Then 20mph became almost too fast to take it all in. Timing, synchronicity, pure magic.

He dropped us off at the east end of Sedona where we came upon a crowd of people dressed in green. What? The road that was Sedona's main street was closed! It was Saint Patrick's Day! But the road was the parade route. Bands and floats were lining up. We were faced with a very long walk carrying our packs to get all the way across Sedona.

Then a man filling up a open-topped double decker bus waved us over. "Climb up" he said. So we found ourselves up on the open bus waving and smiling to the crowd. The bus went the entire parade route. We had a view of beautiful rosy cliffs, floats and festivities and were neatly dropped off at the far west end of town. Perfect.

From there we hitched on. I saw my first rattlesnake. We went through the hillside town of Jerome. In 1973 it was a derelict abandoned mining town with a handful of hippies fixing up old buildings. 20 years later it would be full of yuppies.

We made I-10 late in the day and got picked up by three Mexican migrant workers in a small pickup with a topper shell. They loaded us into the back where we piled in on top of clothes and gear. They were coming from Florida, going all the way to California. We'd ride through the night and catch some sleep in the back. Oh yay!

Oh no. The beer flowed freely. Can after empty can tossed through the cab window into the back.

Oh no! FOG. Thick fog through the canyons of the eastern California mountains. In the middle of the night. Zero visibility. With all the traffic going 70mph! Just some little bumpy reflectors in the road to indicate where you were. Headlights only lighting up thick fog. I was scared to death. Californians are crazy. I really had to pee.

We indicated such and they pulled off at a cluster of gas stations. They stocked up on more gas and beer. We bailed. Gracias, señor. I'm not feeling well. We'll stay here. Thank you very much.

We waited out the night and the fog.

In the morning we rode on into the freeways of the tangle of LA suburbs and towns. Searching for San Bernadino, finding some part of it according to an exit road sign. Getting dropped off along the freeway in a neighborhood where we had no idea of where we were.

Flashing lights, tap of a siren. A cop pulling over to check us out. Oh no, now what? We must have looked a sight. Two road-worn scraggly young people with backpacks. Husband with a pony tail. Very out of place for this nice palm-treed neighborhood. "Where you going?" the patrolman asked. "To see my mom," said Earl. "And we're lost". What's the address" asked the officer. We told him. We hoped he had a mom somewhere he loved. He looked us over and then said "get in". After locking us securely in the back, he then promptly delivered us to mom's door.

Being on the road can teach you the kindness of strangers. It also comes with many risks. We had a great visit with Earl's mom and new husband. Stayed a week warming up, then hitchhiked back home. We had many more adventures on the long way home. Like how we took a "wrong" turn in Española. But that's another story.

*In the 1970's Kizzen lived with her family in the off-the-beaten-track places of the Colorado mountains. They chopped wood and hauled water. This is a story from those days.*

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# LEAP offers Coloradans more than just help with home heating bills

## Weatherization & crisis intervention programs ensure efficient home heating

The Low-income Energy Assistance Program's (LEAP) primary mission of helping Coloradans pay winter home heating costs is complemented by two crucial programs: the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program.

LEAP is a program of the Colorado Department of Human Services that helps eligible Coloradans from November through April with cash assistance for their home heating bills. As of Feb. 3, LEAP had approved more than 58,000 households, and the average benefit was \$344.

But LEAP's support doesn't end there. The Crisis Intervention Program operates year-round and provides assistance with the repair or replacement of the home's primary heating system, such as a furnace or wood-burning stove.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a program from the Colorado Energy Office. It is designed to improve energy efficiency in homes throughout Colorado,

thereby helping to reduce heating costs permanently.

"Our clients have a wide variety of circumstances, and we want to make sure they have the resources they need to stay warm during the winter," LEAP Manager Aggie Berens says. "Those resources extend beyond just finances. We're proud to support our clients and other eligible Coloradans with two programs that help them with adequate home heating equipment and facilities."

For CIP, households that qualify for energy bill payment assistance through LEAP and have a non-working heating system can call toll-free 1-855-4-MY-HEAT (1-855-469-4328) to request repair or replacement, as well as snow removal for fuel delivery in rural areas. The program does not provide regular maintenance and servicing of heating systems.

Coloradans who qualify for LEAP can also access the Weatherization Assistance Program. Weatherization is a blanket term for a variety of measures that improve a home's energy efficiency. These cost-effective improvements

and upgrades will reduce energy usage, save money, and improve the overall comfort of a home year-round.

Weatherization improvements may include:

- an energy audit;
- Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb retrofits (CFLs);
- air sealing;
- insulation in the attic, floor and walls;
- furnace safety testing;
- furnace repair or replacement;
- refrigerator replacement;
- storm windows; and
- energy conservation information.

Eligible Coloradans should contact their local weatherization agency for more information. Contact information for the state's weatherization agencies is available at 1-800-462-0184 or the following website: [www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/GovEnergyOffice/CBON/1251599946156](http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/GovEnergyOffice/CBON/1251599946156).

LEAP applicants must be Colorado residents and U.S. citizens or legal aliens. They also need to provide a copy of a valid identification

and a completed affidavit to comply with Colorado Revised Statutes regarding documentation of lawful presence.

Applicants also must be responsible for paying heating costs, either directly to a utility company or to a landlord as part of rent. Applicants' income cannot exceed 165% of the federal poverty index.

People interested in applying can call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) to order a mailed application. Alternatively, applications are available at every county department of social or human services, most utility companies, and many community agencies, like Catholic Charities. Applications also can be downloaded from [www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap](http://www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap).

LEAP accepts applications until April 30.

Colorado also offers a rebate of property tax, rent and heat expenses to low-income seniors and disabled persons. Please visit the Colorado Department of Revenue's website at [www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/104PTC.pdf](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/104PTC.pdf) for more information and the rebate application booklet.

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# Baca Grande Library News



by Suzanne McGregor

The month of March seems like a long stretch with little breaks in it—except for the week-long spring break for the school students from the 20th through the 24th. This is the perfect time for parents and caregivers to come into the library and check out some books during that time off. As series are always fun, we have added some new collections to keep you reading! Included are the I Am...(Ordinary People Change the World) series (ages 5-8) highlighting Rosa Parks, Albert Einstein, Jim Henson, Amelia Earhart, Jackie Robinson, Jane Goodall and Helen Keller, among others. For the older ones (ages 9-12), The Wrinkle in Time Quintet, complete Little House on the Prairie series (always favorites), and the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. If there

are books or series that you want, please let us know! There is a suggestion box at the front desk where you are able to submit recommendations for books and videos that you feel would be important and popular additions to the library shelves. All of these recommendations are carefully considered, and we will do our best to accommodate your requests. However, always remember the perks of being part of a library union catalog (ours is AspenCat). There are over 105 libraries and nearly 1,400,000 items available for you to check out. As we share our inventories, chances are good that you will find what you want—and more! Come take a look at our new back deck, steps and ramp (ADA-approved for those with disabilities). Staff and patrons alike are very impressed with the beauty and expert workmanship of this brand-new addition. Many thanks to the Library District and to Michael d' Ambrosia, the designer and builder who has been working many days from early morning until it is too dark to see in order to complete it! Baca Grande Library, 256-4100. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11:30am-5pm; Sat. 10am-2pm.

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**ACROSS**

1. Upright monument
6. Likewise
9. \*Eagle's talon
13. \*Entrances to groundhogs' burrows
14. Objective male pronoun
15. CuraÁao neighbor
16. Islam's Supreme Being
17. A in IPA
18. More silent
19. \*Beaver-like rodent
21. \*a.k.a Brown bear
23. Popular Thanksgiving tuber
24. SWAT attack
25. Between game and match
28. O. Henry's "The Gift of the \_\_\_"
30. Make numb
35. \_\_\_sack
37. Drinks through a straw
39. Red Sea peninsula
40. Beyond natural
41. Single-mast boat
43. Soda pop recyclables
44. Little Boy and Fat Man
46. Way, way off
47. "Cogito \_\_\_ sum"
48. It's meant to be
50. \*Great leaper
52. Who's from Mars?
53. Not that
55. Bobby sox dance
57. \*Nocturnal mask wearer?
61. "Red sky at night, sailor's \_\_\_"
65. Cool & distant
66. Public health approver
68. One who dares
69. Reg. alternative
70. Singer-songwriter Stewart
71. Accustom
72. One of many in an arena
73. "Four score and seven years \_\_\_"
74. Norbert, to his momma?

**DOWN**

1. Pillow that's not for sleeping
2. Cough syrup balsam
3. Corner pieces
4. Prone to communicate secret info
5. Hindu retreat
6. Not this
7. Tin Man's necessity
8. Last letter of Greek alphabet
9. Actress Penelope
10. Figure skating jump
11. Cain's unfortunate brother
12. Extra cautious
15. NaNH2 and H3CONH2, e.g.
20. What hoarders do
22. Human cage part
24. Heists
25. \*Striped stinker
26. Boredom
27. Flyer holders
29. \*Desert monster
31. Likable
32. Take a piece from
33. Canine affliction
34. \*a.k.a. buffalo
36. Poe's "Annabel Lee", e.g.
38. \*Fly like an eagle
42. Nasa mission, e.g.
45. Depart
49. Short for although
51. \*Not Bald one but \_\_\_
54. Prefix with red
56. Baby grand
57. X-ray units
58. Away from wind
59. Kind of cola
60. \*Snowshoe's seasonal change
61. Carpenter's groove
62. \*Earthworms to a badger, e.g.
63. Lemongrass, e.g.
64. 3-point shot
67. \*Prairie \_\_\_

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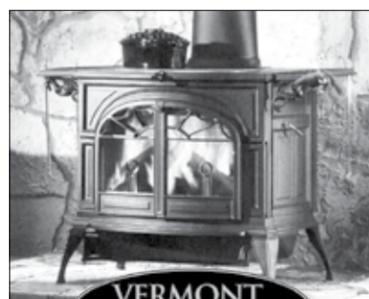
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continued from  
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contact us for more information: Darrick Garcia: ems1admin@bacapoa.org, Ryan Daugherty: emscaptain@bacapoa.org, www.bacapoa.org 719-256-4171. The Baca Grande Property Owners Association

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# EARTH TALK

**Questions & Answers About Our Environment**

## Dear EarthTalk: Is alternative energy still the next big thing for American venture capitalists?

—Jeffrey Moss, Fairfield, CT

A decade ago, in the wake of Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* and rising gas/oil prices, many of the same venture capitalists (VCs) who had made fortunes betting on software, hardware, internet and biotech start-ups began shifting significant chunks of their investment dollars over to alternative renewable energy and related investments, putting the so-called "cleantech" sector in the spotlight as the "new new thing." Given growing global concern about greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution, it made sense that our highest stakes investors would be attracted to placing big bets on little companies jockeying to be the next major players in the fast growing alternative energy sector.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the next round of initial public offerings (IPOs): the cleantech bubble burst. According to a July 2016 report from the MIT Energy Initiative, some three dozen U.S. venture capital firms poured some \$25 billion in cleantech start-ups between 2006 and 2011—and lost over half their money: "The results are stark—cleantech offered a dismal risk/return profile, dragged down by companies developing new materials, chemistries or processes that never achieved manufacturing scale."

The MIT researchers studied the performance of hundreds of cleantech investments and compared the results against medical and software technology investments over the same six-year period. Their conclusion? "The VC model is broken for the cleantech sector, which suffers especially from a dearth of large corporations

willing to invest in innovation."

So where did cleantech go wrong? Unlucky timing may have had something to do with it, given the overall market collapse at the end of 2008. But the MIT researchers point out that cleantech start-ups have a longer timeframe of growth than, say, software ventures—and VCs don't want to wait around for 15-20 years to cash in on their bets. Also, the cleantech sector suffers from underdeveloped supply chains and an "immature acquisition space" compared to more conventional tech startups.

The result is that most of the 150 renewable energy start-ups launched in Silicon Valley since 2006 are long gone. The flame-out of high-flying solar tube manufacturer Solyndra—after securing \$500 million in federal loan guarantees—undermined investor confidence in cleantech, while cheap natural gas and a glut of Chinese solar panel exports undercut the competitiveness of American start-ups in the sector.

But cleantech's fortunes may be turning around, given an influx of interest in leveraging technology and efficiency to help the U.S. meet its emissions reduction commitments under the Paris Climate Accord. Just prior to the landmark December 2015 Paris meeting, Bill Gates announced he was launching a new venture fund, the Breakthrough Energy Coalition—with a little help from 27 mega-rich friends like Jeff Bezos, Richard Branson and Mark Zuckerberg. The nascent billion dollar fund is focused on "fighting climate change by investing in clean energy innovation" and represents



February has given us a lot more soggy and sunny days as opposed to all the bitter cold and snow we saw the preceding month. This was captured the morning of February 13 from the corner of Golden & Alder, looking down Golden on a very wet, yet relatively warm day. photo by Lori Nagel

a new type of venture financing that aims to not only make money but to help solve social and environmental problems as well. Gates and company are optimistic that other funders will follow in their footsteps to re-energize American cleantech innovation, create millions of new domestic green jobs, and help finally move us beyond fossil fuels.

Contacts: MIT Energy Initiative, [energy.mit.edu](http://energy.mit.edu); Breakthrough Energy Coalition, [www.b-t.energy.com](http://www.b-t.energy.com).

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Note: For current Crestone weather conditions visit Keno's web site: [www.keno.org/vws](http://www.keno.org/vws).

## Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

January 21 to February 20

**Total precipitation for period:**  
Liquid precip: 0.58"  
Snow: 8.2"  
Measurable precipitation fell on 6 days.  
Measurable snow fell on 5 days.  
A trace of snow fell on 3 days.  
No rain, thunderstorms or hail occurred.  
Total precipitation year to date:  
Since Jan 1: 1.44"  
Total snow to date:  
Since Jan 1: 19.0"  
Snow Season \*: 37.8"  
\*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

**Temperatures for the period:**  
High temp: 56.9°F on February 10  
Low temp: -9.9°F on January 27  
Avg. high: 38.8°F  
Avg. low: 21.2°F  
Number of days with the high temperature at or above 50°: 4 (all in February)  
Number of days with the high temperature at or below 32°: 8 (all in January)  
Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: 30  
Number of days with the low temperature at or below zero°: 3 (all in January)

**Winds for the period:**  
Avg. speed: 2.0 mph  
Highest gust: 33 mph on January 23.  
Main direction: Out of the east at night, out of the southwest during the day.

**Weather summary:**  
Temperatures for the last 11 days in January were well below normal with slightly above normal snowfall. Then February 1 came around and our winter seemed to suddenly end and go into an early spring mode, with temperatures well above normal (averaging where they should be in early April), along with well below average snow. Up to February 20, the month saw well above average temps on every single day, with the average daily temperature a full nine degrees above normal, along with 5 record highs broken. The average low so far for the month at this writing, is just half a degree off from making February 2017 having the warmest nighttime temperatures ever seen in the month.

**Outlook for March:**  
March averages just .88 of an inch of precip, with almost all of that falling as snow. 2.89 inches is the highest amount of precipitation ever seen in the month, taking place in 1995. Average snowfall is 11.7 inches, making it the snowiest month of the year, with the most snow falling being 40.4 inches in 1982.

Temperatures normally start to warm up in this month, with the first week of March seeing highs and lows of 43° and 18°, and by the last week averaging 50° and 21°. The record high for the month was set in 2012 when it hit 71° on March 31. The coldest reading was -10°, set on March 3, 2002.

The 30 day outlook for March from the NWS is calling for average temperatures along with below average snow falling.

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