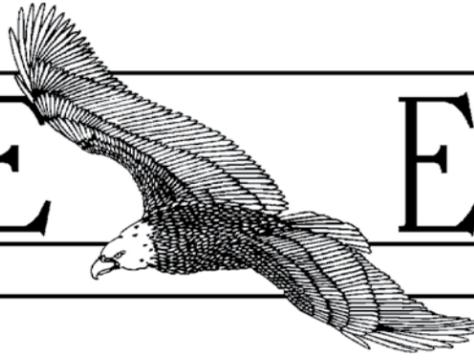


The CRESTONE EAGLE



Crestone, Colorado Volume 28, Number 4

April, 2017 \$1

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Mountain goat kids can't resist climbing up every surface, even Mom's back when she's bedded. This one appears to be trying to nurse on her horn!
photo by Wendy Shattil/Bob Rozinski To see this photo in color and more, visit our website at www.crestoneeagle.com

Colo. Legislature considers capping marijuana home grows

by Lisa Cyriacks

The Colorado House of Representatives just passed a measure that places a 16-plant count limit for cannabis plants grown at residential properties. The 16-plant per home limit would apply whether the cannabis is grown for medical or recreational purposes. The bill will go on to the State Senate and then the Governor.

Saguache County Commissioner Jason Anderson says these rules, if adopted, would only apply where there is an absence of local

regulation. Saguache County does have its own regulations. However, many areas in Colorado have not adopted their own regulations.

This legislative issue is being debated in the uncertain climate caused by the Trump Administration indicating a crackdown on states with legal recreation use—states like Colorado.

Colorado state legislators cite the legislation limiting plant counts as part of an expanded effort to crack down on the “gray market” in which marijuana is grown legally but sold illegally.

Rules adopted by President

Barack Obama’s administration allowed cannabis industries to operate safely in states where weed is legal, but there is no certainty under the Trump administration that will remain the case.

Four Congressional Representatives have formed the bipartisan Congressional Cannabis Caucus. California Representative Dana Rohrabacher introduced The Respect State Marijuana Laws Act to exempt individuals and businesses from federal law as long as they comply with state cannabis law.

Recent raids in Colorado

continued on page 28



Just a couple of the many demonstrators at a “we need to talk” action in Alamosa on March 4. Senator Cory Gardner and Congressman Scott Tipton have not been holding any town halls with their constituents despite repeated requests. So citizens showed up at a Republican fundraiser to encourage them to do so. **Reports from those ‘Inside & Out’ on page B-3**

Resiliency Conference plans future of Crestone/Baca

by Mary Lowers

Nearly hundred community members concerned about how our residents will plan to thrive and survive in the tenuous times we face attended a weekend conference March 24-26. After months of careful planning, Colorado College at the Baca Grande hosted the Resiliency Conference, which took the participants through the Search Conference model to action groups creating plans for commu-

nity sustainability.

The Search Conference model was developed in England in 1959 to find common ground between two corporations who were merging. The model using a “funnel” process to find common ground and themes for change is very successful. A Search Conference held in the Crestone/Baca community in 1995 set many goals in motion and into creation, including the Crestone Charter School.

Among the professional staff brought in from Denver to facilitate this gathering was Elaine Granata, who facilitated the 1995 conference. Comparing the 2017 process to the 1995 conference she said, “The two conferences are very comparable in terms of energy and engagement. People who attended the 1995 conference report it was critical to accomplishing desired changes.”

Beginning with large group

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The Crestone Eagle

Publisher & Editor: Kizzen N. Laki

Copy Editor: Janet G. Woodman

Advertising: Shoshannah Asha, Stacia Burton

Production: Carrie Caverly

Photo Editor: Diane Bairstow

Contributing Writers:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| David Nicholas | Matie Belle Lakish |
| Amni Kohn | Kim Malville |
| Larry Calloway | Gussie Faunteroy |
| Ed Lyell | Earl W. Sutherland |
| Keno Menechino | Sandia Belgrade |
| Lisa Cyriacks | Paul Shippee |
| Lori Nagel | Dorje Root |
| Mary Lowers | John Rowe |

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

Contributing Photographers:

Lori A. Nagel, Matthew Crowley, Kate Steichen
Bill Ellzey, Wendi Shattil/Bob Rozinski

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Editor's Notes

A round of applause

Nearly 100 people attended the Resiliency Conference held the end of March at the Colorado College Seminar Building. It was a wonderfully dynamic weekend. The purpose of the conference was essentially: how could our community be more resilient? What needs do we have that are not being met? What can we do to create a better future for our community? I watched with great appreciation as ideas were shared, respectful discussions took place, priorities were chosen and action groups were formed. I really love this community.

I was reminded of many prior planning and action groups over the past 30 years that decided to identify problems and needs and do something about them. Some of the results were: The creation of the Saguache County Credit Union (later Aventa) because lenders in Alamosa and Salida did not well serve Saguache County; the Crestone Charter School, because many families wanted an alternative choice in education; the Crestone Baca Land Trust, in order to save sensitive wildlife habitat and corridors; Baca Grande lot consolidation, to affordably reduce potential population density and keep more open space; and in order to protect it, supported having the Baca Ranch become National Forest, Wildlife Refuge and National Park.

We are an activist community. We helped stop two huge water exportation projects, got the Colorado Air National Guard to stop using the Crestone area as a low-flight training ground, and fought an oil company to a standstill.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." —Margaret Mead

Give yourself a round of applause—and keep on working.

With deep appreciation,

—Kizzen



Good job

Dear Editor,

I was happy to read Vince Palermo's letter to the editor in the February issue of the *Eagle* "In praise of POA maintenance crew." He stated that the crew "makes our lives more manageable and safer." I couldn't agree with Vince more. I have the highest appreciation of Shawn and his crew. About every three or four years we have these torrential rains that wash out some of the roads here. A few years ago a car even fell into a wash out alongside the road on Panorama. Shawn was out in the middle of the night in a heavy rain, trying to save houses from being flooded. He was digging trenches and so forth. I appreciated him then and I appreciate him now. I really think that he and the others who work on the maintenance crew are incredible assets to those of us who live in this community.

Terry Godfrey

Key Club thanks

Dear Community,

We did it! Thanks to your generous support, Moffat School Key Club raised over \$1000 during our annual Prime Rib Dinner. Your support is an investment in our students and is helping to create our future community leaders, entrepreneurs, educators and so much more. For the last five years your help has shown that investing in our students has ripple effect through our community.

Our students devote their time to social enterprise, service to community, and supporting their peers. All of the Key Club members have been open to learning a multitude of lessons that will help carry them into the future. This year our Key Club has started a school-wide recycling project. We donate new stuffed toys to the Heart of the Rockies Hospital to comfort children having surgery or staying for an extended time in the hospital. Key Club also donates monies earned during Trick or Treat for Unicef to provide clean drinking water and nutrition around the world. We collect items to create blessing bags for the homeless and we do a Can Food Drive for our local food banks.

Thank you,

Moffat School Key Club

Into the great unknown

Dear Editor,

For the past decade I have had the great honor of being the Group Event Coordinator for Joyful Journey Hot Springs and a Victim's Advocate for the Saguache County Sheriff's Department. This has been one of the happiest and most joyful times of my life. I have shared love and laughter and tears and hugs with so many of you. If you are reading this, there is a great chance that you have touched my life.

On May 1 I will leave Joyful Journey and my volunteer work with the County to move on to the next phase of my life. As many of you know, I have been a non-denominational minister for over 21 years. I am now taking that ministry to Central America where I have joined the Ministry of Compassionate Care and will be working with the Belize Chaplain Services to try and make peace among the gangs as well as those in prisons. I also hope to start a program for the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. So, in a nutshell, I am "taking it to the streets" (feel free to hum a Doobie Brothers tune now).

As I leave here I take with me every drop of love and compassion and light that you have bestowed upon me during my time here. None of it will be wasted. It is with much gratitude that I take what you have given and will spread it to the world.

I will be at Joyful Journey between now and May 1 giving and receiving all the hugs I can. I will remain a part-time resident of my beloved Villa Grove until October.

There is a Zen saying I follow . . . "Go, not knowing where. Do, not knowing what." So . . . as I go off into the great unknown I wish you the best day ever, my dear friends, family and neighbors. Thanks for all the love.

Reverend Marquita M. Oliver

Violence not a tall tale

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to Slim Wolfe's letter in the March issue questioning Kizzen's assessment of her old neighbor's bedside visit late one night. Many a woman has been saved from attack by trusting her gut and using her wits in the way that Kizzen described. Probably just as many have been violated when they override their gut with rational thoughts like, "Maybe he's just being friendly." Violence against women is no tall tale. It happens every day. Denial and trivialization help to keep it alive.

Jan Foster Miiller

Long lost integrity

Dear Editor,

Last month's *Eagle* editorialized and agonized against "loss of integrity" in an untested POTUS while ignoring irony or the serial lack of the same within itself. This is, after all, a "news"paper that was so wrong for so long regarding any such assessments or aspersions regarding the reign of King Barry, who literally punctuated *his* lies with literal punctuation! With the exception that Obama's deceptions became those laws that he did deign to implement and enforce. (As opposed to those laws he fecklessly failed to execute or unilaterally, and *unconstitutionally*, declared void!)

Examples such as: "If you like your Health Care plan you can keep it—period!"—even as it ceases to exist along with such nebulous concepts as choice, autonomy or affordability. (Apparently putting it in the title was enough to leave it out of the law!)

Or that there "isn't a smidgen of scandal at the IRS-period!" even

as the IRS continued the exposed scandals of partisan parsing and application of tax trust and laws it otherwise ignored (including the current illegal leaking of even non-damning proprietary information on the current POTUS).

So editorializing with hyperbole, hysteria and hypocrisy a President constitutionally selected, and democracy demonstrated by scores of millions, endures the typical progressive perversion of actual meanings. By these means "discussion and disagreement" morphs into endless opposition and resistance, regardless of what's actually opposed or whatever efforts demand resistance—the source being sufficient for those too intolerant for either.

Even if The Donald "merely" heralded heroes or honored widows, the hate-filled and fueled of the pure and progressive would still oppose and resist—as has already happened. Even the wife and children of this POTUS aren't immune from invective and insult, since common decency and respectful restraint eludes the self-designated elites, their mindless minions and the mendacious parrots of progressive mantras.

Jeffrey H. Miller

Saguache, CO

Pet Partners issue call for help

On the average Pet Partners receives about a dozen calls for help each week. The vast majority of those calls come from community members here in Crestone and the Baca. A small number of calls come from further out like Moffat and other small communities along Highway 17. If at all possible, we try not to ever turn down a call for help. Generally we find a way to help or make a useful referral.

About half of the calls relate to an animal's need for food, shelter or medical care. We work with the pet owner and arrange to take care of those needs. This is where all of your financial contributions go. Thank you so much for your consideration, compassion and generosity.

The other half of calls for help relate to unattended or neglected animals, rescues from abusive situations, finding new homes when a household's circumstances change, finding loving homes for new litters (minimal now that we have regular spay/neuter clinics), and the need for immediate, temporary pet care when the owner has medical or other emergencies. Pet owners, community members and neighbors know to call us in most of these situations. Our local sheriff and EMTs also know to call Pet Partners in emergency situations.

Most of these types of calls can be handled on the phone or by posting needs on Facebook. A small portion of these calls require a person to go see what the situation is or to go pick up an animal. Generally Elaine Johnson or I handle all of these types of calls. Recently it has become apparent that sometimes in emergency situations neither of us is immediately available. In some situations it is vital to go right away.

This is a call for help from Pet Partners! We need help from

community members who can be “on-call-as-needed” to help with looking into an animal’s needs, or picking up animals in emergency situations and/or providing immediate, temporary foster care. If you can help please call Patrick at Pet Partners at 719-588-6431, or Elaine at 719-256-5887 so we can put you on the “on-call-as-needed list.”

Our goal is to establish a list of community members we can call on for help when needed. We do not anticipate this to be a large or continuous burden for any one volunteer. Thank you for considering helping in this way. Please volunteer.

Thank you!
Patrick Meyer

Alternate news on executive orders

President Trump this week signed an executive order repealing gravity. “Oh yeah,” he tweeted, “the cosmos has been messing with us, but that stops today, believe me.” He signed another executive order repealing evolution.

Deputies cleared in shooting incident

Early last month two Saguache County Sheriff’s Deputies were put on suspension from the Saguache County Sheriff’s Office (SCSO) to allow the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate their role in a shooting incident off Road EE in the unincorporated county. Two deputies and a Colorado State Patrol (CSP) officer responded to a call about an angry male with a gun. When they got to the residence the law enforcement officers approached the house asking the man in question to come out and speak with them. The man emerged from the dwelling shouting and waving a gun. SCSO deputies fired two shots at the raging male suspect. One of the rounds hit the suspect, after which deputies were able to disarm and arrest him. The suspect was taken to San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center where he was treated for a gunshot wound and soon released. He was booked into the county jail on the day of the incident. Both SCSO deputies have been cleared of any wrongful use of weapons in the apprehension of the suspect.

News about the Crestone Library

by Thom Ontko & David Lee

The talk of building a new library in the town of Crestone has been running for about three years now. A committee surveyed the viability of lots in Crestone and made an offer to the owner of six lots kitty corner to the Crestone Charter School. This past December, despite raising more awareness and pledges towards that purchase, the deadline for having the full amount in hand was passed, and our contract ended. In searching for an alternate location, we became interested in the lot adjacent and to the west of the Charter School. That property is owned by the Town of Crestone. The NSCLD presented our interest in this property to the Town Council at the beginning of February, and found the Council to be amenable to further talks. We are going to explore the possibilities of this location together with the town, the school, and most importantly, the community.

This all begs the question of who are “we.” Originally the “we” was an informal development committee. Then it became the Friends of the Library, who exist to support the Crestone/Baca branch of the NSCLD (the Northern Saguache County Library District which will ultimately own and operate the new library). The Friends of the Library has tax-deductible status, and can receive funds both for the maintenance of the existing Baca Grande Library, as well as a new Crestone Library. However, it is not set up for fundraising of such a scope, as well. Current thinking is to establish a non-profit foundation for the exclusive purpose of raising funds for the purchase of the land and construction of the library. This is a strategy successfully employed by the town of Delta for their new library. That foundation would be composed of local people who strongly support this project and have good connections within the community. Thus, the next step is to establish the foundation, and then to develop very simple plans for the location of a library at the new site adjacent to the school. This should be done soon.

Also, the Friends of the Library will hold its annual event, the IRS deadline bake sale, on the Monday, April tenth (8:30 AM til 2:30 PM), on the porch of the building opposite the Aventa Credit Union, supporting both the present library and purchase of a lot for the new library.

“I know some people may think I’m a bully, but don’t worry, America, just trust me. Americans will never again have to be descended from monkeys, well, not not tall white Americans with big hands, anyway.”

In a separate action the president abolished the order of President. “From now on, you will refer to me as the Prince of Humbug.” Prince of Humbug was originally the domain name claimed by sensationist showman P.T. Barnum over a hundred and fifty years ago, who made a fortune with public displays of freaks and other fake oddities. The President’s legal advisors explained that Barnum’s copyright had expired and had not been renewed. “America shouldn’t have to settle for a president, when it can have its own prince,” they added. “Now we’ll enjoy a leadership wearing gold-striped trousers, frilly shoulder-pads, and jewelled crowns.” Asked how much the transition might cost, the Press Secretary Spicer said, “five million Filipinos illegally voted for crooked Hil.

Fool’s Network News 4U
Slim Wolfe

Saguache County Crime Report

by Mary Lowers

The warm weather seems not to be positively affecting people’s judgment in Saguache County when it comes to criminal behavior! Several citizens could not keep their wits about them in court. A Center woman, 19, was jailed with no bail for contempt of court charges, and another Center woman, 24, was jailed on the same charge with \$3000 bail. A Moffat man, 22, a fugitive from justice out of Alamosa, was jailed with no bail listed on contempt of court charges. A La Jara man, 34, was jailed on contempt of court charges. His bail was listed at \$500.

Several burglary suspects went to jail this past month. A Center woman, 40, was jailed for burglary as a habitual offender. She faces charges including two counts, one a felony and the other a misdemeanor, with no bail listed. A Moffat man, 18, was taken into custody in Center on charges of first degree burglary and third degree assault. His bail sits at \$20,000.

Criminal mischief charges sent a Villa Grove man, 38, to jail with no bail listed. The same charge sent a Center man, 47, to jail with no bail listed. A Clifton man, 25, was jailed on charges of third degree assault, reckless endangerment, child abuse, and domestic violence. No bail was set for him. A Center woman, 32, was jailed on charges of third degree assault and domestic violence with no bail amount listed. Charges of child abuse and driving while intoxicated landed a Center woman, 29, in jail with \$500 bail listed.

An Arvada man, 47, was jailed for driving with a restrained license; no bail was listed. A Monte Vista man, 20, was jailed for failure to comply with a warrant, felony menacing, and menacing with a real or simulated weapon. No bail was listed.

A Center man, 40, was jailed with \$500 bail listed on charges of violation of a restraining order. A Superior man, 37, was apprehended in Saguache and went to jail in Boulder with \$5000 bail listed, charged as a fugitive from justice. A Center man, 38, was jailed on failure to appear charges with \$100 bail listed.

The Saguache County Sheriff’s Office lost a dispatcher. Jess Cox passed away on March 20. Cox was a thirty-year law enforcement veteran. Deputy Wayne Clark said, “Jess would call me at 3am and when I would answer the phone would tell me, get going someone needs you.” Cox will be missed.

Trash fire in Baca Grants causes concern

by Mary Lowers

On Monday, March 20 multiple fire departments reported to a fire on Homestead Rd. in the Grants portion of the Baca Grande, according to Deputy Wayne Clark. As it turned out the owner of the property was burning trash without the proper permits. All fires are a real concern for residents in the current dry spell. Investigators believe the fire up near Boulder in March was started by a campfire.

Baca Grande Property Association rules require a burn permit for outdoor fires. The Town of Crestone does not allow any open burning. In fact, according to Colorado burning and air pollution requirements distributed to county news outlets by Sheriff Dan Warrick, regulations state that throughout Colorado no open fire of any sort may be set without authorization and permits from the jurisdiction of the fire. So for a campfire, party, or trash burning you need to go to the city, county, state or subdivision governing body before you strike a match. When burning trash there are specific regulation on what can be burned to avoid toxic pollution.

ICE conducts raid for illegal aliens near Hooper

Homeland security informed the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency of a tip they were given that there were several illegal aliens taking refuge at the UFO Watchtower near Hooper, Colorado. There had been reports of unusual activity and frequent unauthorized air traffic at the tower. An ICE team who conducted a late night raid on April 1 reported that they had spotted at least half a dozen aliens when they arrived, but the aliens fled in an unmarked, unknown aircraft with flashing lights before they could be apprehended. Judy Starway at the Watchtower said that this sort of alien activity happens all the time and it has never been a problem. She didn’t know why ICE was deciding to take action now. Adding “I’m not sure if this raid will help business or hurt business. Nobody except an April Fool would want ICE to scare our alien visitors away and hurt tourism in the San Luis Valley.”



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“With over 3 million women battling breast cancer today, everywhere you turn there is a mother, daughter, sister, or friend who has been affected by breast cancer.” — Fashion Designer Betsey Johnson

Free screenings for qualified women. Call Brenda Gentile, HRRMC community health worker, at 719-207-2088.

County Assessor news—2017 is a property tax reappraisal year

by **Pete Peterson,**
Saguache County Assessor

Tax year 2017 is a reappraisal year. This means property values will be revalued based on the market, cost, and income information available for analysis. All classes of property are analyzed. Sales are collected for each property class over the sales period which is typically defined as an 18-month period between January 2015 to June 30, 2016. Assessors are allowed to use up to 5 years of sales if there are too few of sales in a class of property. Residential properties are revalued strictly on the market analysis as this is written in state law.

All sales are reviewed and only sales determined to be arms-length transactions are used for analysis. An example of non-arms-length transactions are sales between related parties, quit claim deeded sales, sales of adjacent owned properties, and multiple parceled properties. The sales that are determined as being arms-length transactions are then analyzed based on the median of sales and the coefficient of dispersion. The median ratio of all classes of property must be between .95 and 1.05 and the coefficient of dispersion must be less than 20.99 for commercial and vacant classes of land and less than 15.99 for residential class of property.

Notices of Valuations reflecting the 2017 values will be mailed to property owners by May 1. From May 2 through June 1, owners of real property may protest the value or the classification established by the Assessor. This protest period provides an opportunity for taxpayers to inform the Assessor of errors in classification, property description, or other discrepancies that may result in a reduction in value or a change in classification.

Protests to the Assessor must be postmarked or presented in person on or before June 1. The Assessor must make a decision concerning your protest and mail you a written Notice of Determination on or before the last working day in June. If you are satisfied with the Assessor's determination, the tax bill you receive next January will be based on the value and classification reflected on the Notice of Determination.

If you disagree with the Assessor's decision, you may file an appeal with the County Board of Equalization. An appeal to the County Board of Equalization must be postmarked or hand-delivered no later than July 15. The County Board will notify you by mail of the hearing date, time, and place where you may present evidence to substantiate your case. Evidence includes documentation such as

the sale prices of properties similar to yours that sold between the sales dates the Assessor used for your classification of property. Check with the office for those dates as they vary by classifications of property. The County Board will conclude hearings and render decisions by the close of business on August 5. If you are satisfied with the County Board's decision, the tax bill you received next January will be based on the valuation and classification reflected in the County Board's decision.

If you disagree with the action of the County Board, you may file an appeal with the State Board of Assessment Appeals or the district court, or you may request a binding arbitration hearing. Your appeal must be made within 30 days of the date of the County Board's mailed decision.

Please feel free to contact the office if you should have any questions concerning the information listed above.



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214 Edison Ave.
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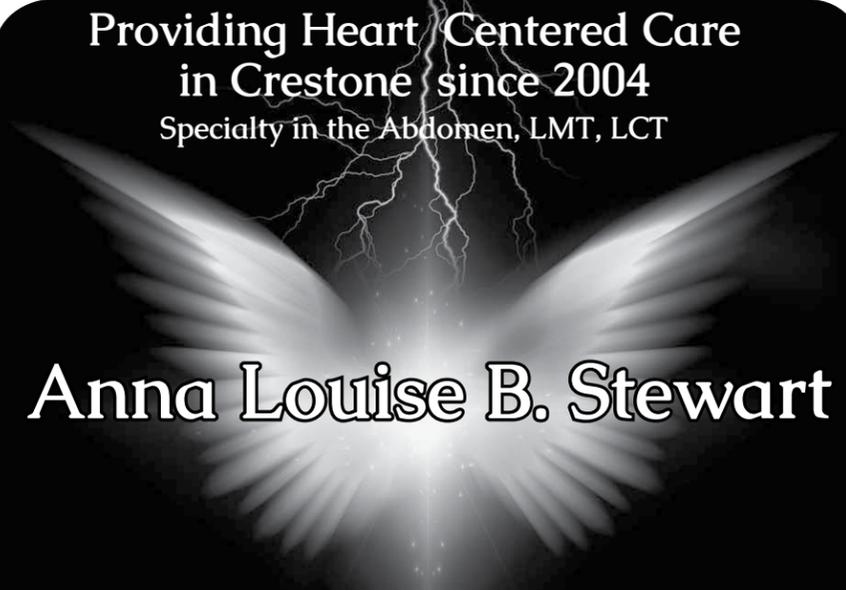
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Saguache County News

by Sandia Belgrade

The entropy of rural infrastructure

Applied to social structures, the term entropy represents a decline into the “disorder” of a system. We are not a dystopia, it’s not that all things are falling apart, but entropy and the breakdown of infrastructures is occurring. The reduction of funding along with the increase in population is taking its toll. For example, more than 70 rural hospitals have closed since 2010. One quarter are facing closure. Counties such as Saguache are seeing a severe decline in services particularly in the jail system. Rural counties in southern and southeast Colorado are seeing their jails falling apart. Inmates are having to sleep on floors. Overcrowding happens regularly; sometimes Saguache is having to send inmates as far away as Jefferson County outside of Denver. The cost of overflow is fiscally hurting counties, and the inmate in Jeff. Co. will be there for a while as he is a behavioral problem and that was the only place that could handle him. Jails have also become holding cells for the mentally ill as services for them are being reduced or are non-existent. It seems that all of southeast Colorado needs a jail. Counties are entertaining several ideas. It may be that all the counties will jointly build one for the valley. Another possibility would be temporarily placing overflow prisoners in Walsenburg in what was formerly a women’s prison. Warwick wonders if it couldn’t be made more permanent since it has 700 beds.

Note: The Saguache dispatcher Jess Cox, died while on duty March 20.

He had over 30 years in Law Enforcement. We extend condolences to his family.

Myths about rural life

Commissioner Jason Anderson attended the rural action caucus while at the National Association of Counties in DC. He learned that contrary to widely held belief, country life is not always healthier than urban life. Residents can be sicker because of the lack of access to health care, and there is often less money available for help with substance abuse or domestic violence. In addition, agricultural pollution has as much toxicity as urban areas.

And now for some good news

On a positive note PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) looks good. These are Federal payments that compensate local governments to

help offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable Federal lands within their boundaries. 72% of Saguache County is comprised of Federal land. PILT has more support and is written better than in previous years. The stability of PILT is welcome news.

Social Services progress

Linda Warsh, Director of Social Services, was accompanied by mentors Lee Hodge of Pueblo and Meryl Tolsma, Child and Adult Protection Manager in Chaffee County, for an update. Hodge noted that the department has moved from grasping basic policy and is now working with the finer details. The staff is on their way to being self-sufficient and functioning within their social culture. Understanding the local culture means they know the particulars of what families face in our county and can give appropriate support in child welfare. Even better, the State gave credit for the progress they’ve made in a short time. Warsh also said the Center Food Bank now has a place, but it is small and may need to be on an interim basis.

Attorney on seniors, marijuana

Ben Gibbons, County Attorney, is working on an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with senior citizens who meet in the Social Services building. The MOU provides for use of the dining hall, activity room, alcove, restrooms, and kitchen for water, not cooking. The hours are expanded. Activities will be coordinated with Linda Warsh, but the seniors will be responsible for staffing, supervision, and maintenance. There is a proviso stating that the County may at times need the building. One question came up: should they have insurance? Gibbons suggested a minimum of one half million/event. The BOCC affirmed they will not charge seniors for long term usage of building.

Gibbons also asked if the County needs to consider a moratorium, a pause, in approving marijuana operations. There will be a joint meeting with the planning commission and then discussions when the enforcement officer is hired concerning the County’s ability to enforce the codes. Gibbons will draft a proposal for their perusal. What’s occurring is that perception of illegal operations may be out of hand: that we’re growing too big, too fast. The County needs to know the impact on Social Services i.e. are more folks applying for benefits?

Public Health finances

Commissioner Tim Lovato reported that Public Health finances are sorting out. The revenues and expenditures are being balanced. Public Health Director David Daboll said immunization funds need better managing and noted it is not required that the Department give immunizations, but they must

make them available and assure standards or provide a list of places where people can go to get immunization. They meet the requirements for funding if they assure that immunizations are available. Immunization funds are significant, amounting to \$20,000. Public Health gets \$3,750 for vaccines alone. Refrigeration is a problem if vaccines are not used.

Saguache is on a flood plain

Commissioner Ken Anderson said county residents need to pay attention to the fact that we are on a flood plain, an area of low-lying ground adjacent to a river, formed mainly of river sediments and subject to flooding based on many factors: rainfall, river-flow and tidal-surge data, topography, flood-control measures. Depending on conditions, we could expect a rush of water to happen as snow melts on the high mountains.

He also remarked that while industrial hemp strains have proven successful in the valley there are no processing facilities.

Progress on elevator

Wendi Maez met with DOLA to discuss and finalize the elevator grant request, the elevator structure study grant, and the airport’s study grant. The original grant for \$40,000 included moneys for a study of all of the upgrades we would like to see done. It was decided that at this time to only do a study on the elevator location. Maez will submit a request to change funding to the amount of \$14,275 due to the fact that the County is only conducting a study for the elevator design and installation.

Is the Sunshine Law being followed?

National Sunshine Week and National Freedom of Information Day occurs in March. Teresa Bennis, of the *Center Post Dispatch*, and Lisa Cyriacks, Crestone resident and *Eagle* reporter, appeared appropriately at the first meeting in March with four pages of talking points to inquire whether the County is adhering to the Colorado Sunshine law. They said their concerns were to encourage public discussion on the importance of open government and the methods by which open public meetings are conducted. Bennis feels the Commissioners have stalled over obtaining affordable quality recording equipment that would distinguish voices. She also wants them to state specifically why they’re going into an executive session and feels they never have done it the way it is described in the statutes. The Sunshine Law states that all meetings of two or more members of any state public body, such as our County Commissioners’ meetings where public business is discussed, must be open to the public and fulfill the Open Meeting Law (OML) which is part of the Sunshine law. The OML requires full and timely notice of meetings and the topics to be discussed. Further, it requires

that discussions held in an executive session must be electronically recorded.

In response, County Attorney Ben Gibbons said they already do record executive sessions with a tape recorder. Bennis said that there is technology out there to make it easy to know who is speaking or what they are saying. Cyriacks said the library district has a digital data recorder which costs only \$38.00 plus a good mike. Commissioner Jason Anderson said they have inquired how other counties do it, and Saguache will explore electronic equipment. There will be a work session March 28 at 9:30am on the progress of obtaining better equipment.

County website update

Mark Talbot, who is in charge of the design of the County website, presented ideas for a different concept for the website. He provided the Commissioners with colorful images to review. Other issues are privacy, the SSL certificate, broken links, and maintenance. The website is a tool most used by residents to access County information and forms. The BOCC approved the new ideas for the website. The costs he quoted are rather minimal given what websites are costing these days: among the charges are \$30/mo. for security monitoring; a one-time charge of \$50 for SSL certificate (small data files that digitally bind a cryptographic key to an organization’s details, like a padlock which allows secure connections from a web server to a browser, assuring security).

Can the County afford new voting equipment?

Carla Gomez, County Clerk, appeared again to inquire if the County will buy into a Dominion voting machine contract. The State is going to a system with Dominion features. She does not have it in her budget nor does the County, but she was focused on the fact that nearly half, or \$8,000, will be reimbursed by the State if the system is bought in 2017. Did she grasp that committing to nearly \$18,00 per year for perhaps 8 years is an enormous sum and may not be a wise decision given the financial situation of our county? There are only 4,000 registered voters and only 1/3 of them vote.

Sales Tax Grants announced

The County awarded grants for these groups in the Crestone area:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| CA Business Alliance | \$5000 |
| Living Wisdom | \$5000 |
| Town of Crestone | \$5000 |
| Crestone Performance, Inc. | \$5000 |
| Crestone Youth Plaza | \$5000 |
| Kundalini Fire Mgmt | \$3000 |
| No. Saguache Cty Library | \$5000 |
| Friends of BG Library | \$1350 |
| Baca Grande POA | \$5000 |
| Crestone Charter School | \$5000 |
| Crestone Food Bank | \$5000 |
| Neighbors Helping Neighbors | \$5000 |
| Informed Final Choices | \$3000 |
| County Search & Rescue | \$4928 |

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After repeated notices from the POA, the owner of this lot in the Baca had his container home removed from his lot, after all items inside were placed on the property.

photo by Lori Nagel

POA removes shipping container home

by John Rowe

Early Friday morning, March 10, a large crane, two semi trucks, and two Saguache County Sheriff's vehicles entered the Baca and removed three large steel shipping containers from a Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) member's lot in Chalet II and drove them away. This was much to the consternation of the land owner who had been living in one of the containers and proceeded to chain himself to the top of one, vowing to stay there until everyone left him alone. Saguache County Deputy Wayne Clark managed to talk the man down, who ran off into the woods, not to be seen again until the incident was over. No legal charges are believed to be pending against the homeowner. This sad event marked the end of a long and torturous process by the POA to attempt to get the man in question to comply with POA regulations and change behavior that had prompted numerous complaints by neighbors to the POA about him.

About two years ago, this man had come into the POA offices to meet with the EAC with a plan to use steel storage containers as a home on his lot in the Baca. He was told that he could certainly do that, provided that he get water and sewer hooked up first, used a concrete foundation, and put on a pitched roof. He told them he would not do any of that and left the office. Some months later the POA was informed that these containers had been moved onto the lot in question, and the POA began a series of communications with the homeowner to get him to comply and to make sure he knew that there would be consequences if he did not. Several meetings later he seemed not to really understand this information and further measures to help him with this were sought. Ayla Hoovers, POA Manager, accepted an invitation to visit the man's home on two occasions and had lengthy and cordial talks with him there. Ayla said that she tried to convey how serious this situation was and what needed to be done. She stated that the man seemed to comprehend what she was saying but would forget it soon after. Social Services and San Luis Valley Mental Health were called and could not really help without due consent. A search for the young man's family went for naught. The Saguache County Sheriff's office is still open to try to find family members if they get any more helpful information along these lines. During the several months that this part of the story took to play out, three or four complaints were lodged against this fellow, most falling in the category of hostile and aberrant behaviors towards neighbors.

The process continued until last December when injunctive relief was granted by the court and the decision to remove these containers was legally granted and this information was related to the violator. The man was non-responsive, as he had been in all previous letters sent to him.

At this point, a few concerned citizens interceded and were told by the POA about the things that needed to be done to bring the homestead into compliance. Ayla stressed to them that there was still time to act and that perhaps all those things did not need to be done immediately, that if progress was made and a doable plan made and adhered to, that the drastic solution of removal could be avoided. Ayla said she never heard from them again and so the injunctive order action continued to move along. More complaints about this man continued to come in and finally, the action detailed above took place.

When asked why this fellow Baca member was given only two years to comply when there are many egregious violating properties of POA covenants that have been festering for ten years or more, the POA cited the many neighbors' complaints against this man, the complete unresponsiveness of the homeowner, and that the POA felt they had to continue their new dedication toward covenant enforcement. And while Ayla Hoovers and Board President Steve Dossenback expressed sadness that it all came to this, and they felt awful about tossing someone out of their home, they are convinced that the majority of Baca residents want severe blight gone and covenants respected and enforced and that the POA will act accordingly. Several more properties are somewhere in the legal process and that action will continue.

Information about this man's behavior given by the POA and detailed here are not to cast dispersions but to illustrate that from the POA's point of view, they did everything they could to avoid this situation and found no other solution. Far from castigating this young man, all concerned hope he can find the help he needs.

This is big news in our little corner of the world because no one this reporter has talked to can remember the POA ever taking such drastic action and vowing to continue on a humane but firmer path in the future. The Board welcomes all constructive commentary on this issue and all other community issues during Member Forum by all members in good standing at POA Board meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 6pm. These are listed on the website and calendar section of the *Eagle*.

Fair currents of the Baca POA Survey, dues, lot consolidation & some fun

by Robin "Raboon" Durance

Finally, the green should be showing soon and the good earth opens with warming energy. Gardeners look forward to turning the spade in the soil. Always a good grounding experience.

Let's begin with a report on the 2017 survey. As you know, amending the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) governing documents is similar to amending the Constitution. It's like requiring an act of Congress. The BGPOA requires a consensus of its membership, a quorum to change our governing documents. This is why the return of the 2017 survey is so important.

Reaching the membership and conveying the importance in returning the 2017 survey is challenging. We do have a website. We request members to sign up for emails. We have monthly BOD meetings. We have an office open five days a week. We will have a semi-annual newsletter this year. These avenues for members are the means to inform and educate members on POA activities, business and decisions. We can emphasize subscribing to *The Crestone Eagle* or going online to get the news.

Here is the incentive to opening, reading, filling out and returning the 2017 BGPOA Survey—your wallet! The survey is to examine what should be voted upon to amend the BGPOA governing documents.

These last days of March, I've witnessed POA members coming in to pay their membership dues. I've overheard the POA staff speaking to members about the dollars owed. I hear the POA staff objectively convey information and explanations on dues owed, penalties for not meeting the due dates, the various methods of payment and the payment plan for which they can apply.

The POA is a service business. As with all businesses, it needs revenue to serve its constituents. When revenue is low, the service declines, or services are omitted. The POA's governing documents state we supply certain services. In order for service to be main-

tained at a certain level, revenue must be procured by a membership dues increase.

Exploring one reason why dues must increase, the POA staff and Board observe an increase of lot consolidations. It is believed that Lot consolidation is helpful with population and housing density. This is not a fool-proof resolution to reducing this kind of density.

The main reason for this 2017 survey is to explore what effects lot consolidation has on increasing BGPOA membership dues. Part III of the 2017 survey concerns lot consolidation. This is our main focus for this survey. To make change possible, people must be involved.

Now for the fun stuff. I've been meeting with our veterinarian Linda Behrns & our retired Ambulance Administrator Pam Gripp. This August 12 and 13, the Community Outreach Advocate is creating a Fundaze for the community. August 12 will be a dog show in the Casita Park playground. There will be serious classes, fun classes and demonstrations on agility and obedience. To enter the showgrounds, there will be a onetime fee to be donated to Pet Partners. We will be requiring a pre-entry registration for classes. As August 12 nears, look for registration forms from a variety of places. Safety rules and regulations will be in place, one of which is a certificate of current vaccinations. If you plan to enter the dog show, acquire this document from your veterinarian, or get your dog's vaccines up to date and keep the record.

Reminders for ya'll: sign up for Baca e-mails so you get the blasts. Tad Crawford, the Baca Fire Department Captain has been doing burn site inspections the month of March. If you are new to this process or you need a burn site inspection for this year, you can contact Tad at 719-256-4171 ext. 15 and he'll make an appointment with you to begin the burn site inspection process. The new Baca Grande logo/brand contest ends this month. If you were thinking about submitting an entry, stop thinking, get to it, and do it.



PO BOX 237; CRESTONE, COLORADO 81131 PHONE: 719.256.4171 FAX: 719.256.4173
WWW.BACAPOA.ORG INFO@BACAPOA.ORG

Outdoor Burn Regulation Update

Outdoor burning can have long lasting and hazardous impacts on public health and on the environment. Burning garbage can expose you and your family to hazardous toxins. Due to the Colorado Air Quality Control Regulation 9, burning garbage is no longer acceptable, and it states that the only items that should be burned are untreated, natural wood (sticks and branches), leaves, dry prairie grass, slash and weeds. A permit is required for all outdoor burn permits through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Baca Grande POA. To report an outdoor burn that does not include the approved burn material, contact the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment at 719-587-5206. Please visit our website, www.bacapoa.org for more information regarding outdoor burning.

POA wants to improve communication; forgives music fest debt

by John Rowe

The Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) Board held a meet-and-greet gathering at the POA Hall on Monday, March 13. The purpose of this event was for the membership get to know and ask questions of the POA management consultant representative, Tim Larsen, of Westwinds Management, a mostly Denver HOA manager, and the POA's attorney, David Graff. This was also an opportunity to interact with the Board on a more informal basis than the monthly official Board meeting allows. About 25 members attended as well as all five board members and the two gentlemen referenced above.

The first topic of general discussion was the need for much better communication between POA management staff and the membership. This meeting was used as a prime example as it was not announced in the *Eagle*, barely mentioned in social media such as Facebook, and many attending, including this reporter, were somehow not on the POA emailing list to be notified of such goings-on. Those attending also mentioned the lack of any newsletters being sent out for some time now as a real issue. Tim Larson and the Board agreed that better communication was essential, and at this time, introduced their newest hire, Community Outreach Coordinator Robin Durrance, as a integral part of 2017 goals of communicating better with the membership and bringing the community together to discuss and implement new ideas

for the Baca. Robin let it be known that she is available to talk to and to reach her at the POA main office where she has an extension and voicemail—719-256-4171.

Tim Larson and David Graff both consider it to be important to send out new surveys soon on all pertinent questions as to establish a vision statement and direction forward for the Board. A couple of oldtimers in the audience were skeptical and told of many surveys they had been part of, and here-to-date, had seen little or no good come out of these. Steve Dossenback, Board President, vowed to have the community wishes resulting from these surveys to be put into a plan of action as soon as possible. He also told everyone how helpful it would be if we all came to more Board meetings and brought a friend while we were at it.

Several people made mention of wanting better and more amenities and cited our very low dues (\$335/lot/year) as evidence that there is room to consider this, for just a little extra money per lot from the 3,500 lots that make up the Baca.

It should also be noted here that there was a delicious assortment of finger foods made by POA staff for attending members. They were much enjoyed and appreciated by all.

The regularly scheduled POA monthly Board meeting was held on Thursday, March 16, at 6pm at the POA Hall. All five Board members were in attendance as were about ten property owners, with

Board President Steve Dossenback presiding.

Membership Forum included an announcement by local website developer, Ryan VanMeter, that he would like to interview for the position of website renovator or redeveloper and was asked to make an appointment for just that. Another member asked the status of the Crestone/Baca Land Trust incorporation into the POA holdings and was told that this was in progress and very nearly done.

Noteworthy among department reports was an announcement by Kristen in Accounting, that the POA is about \$50,000 ahead of last year, due mostly to less spending needed and a little better collections results. Shawn Hollmer of Maintenance said his crew is hand-watering the golf course, as it is already warm enough and dry enough that the course needs protecting and, hopefully, some rain soon.

Tom Dessain and Eli Dokson of Crestone Performances asked to have \$1000 owed to the POA from last year forgiven in part or in whole, as the music festival lost money for the third year in a row and really has no cash to spare. They announced that this year's festival will feature only local musical talent and primarily be a carnival for families with young children and be held on Friday night and Saturday only. This represents a marked departure from years past when an expensive and well-known headliner would be featured on Saturday night and the festival would span three days. Two audience members implored the Board to support this community-defining charitable event and do everything in its power to preserve and nurture CRESTFEST as this event enhances us all. These poignant comments

were well-taken, widely agreed with, and the Board voted unanimously to forgive the entire \$1000 and will considering sharing financial sponsorship of the early August CRESTFEST with Crestone Performances. It was an uplifting moment for a community that has often thought that having the lowest possible dues and offering little in the way of amenities is the way to go.

A real community spirit seems to be taking hold and the POA Board shows signs of being part of it. It was noted during the meeting that each of the 3,500 dues-paying lot owners will each be out about 50 cents for the year if the POA forgives this debt and sponsors about half of this summer's family party. Most will surely consider this a bargain indeed for an event that defines the heart and soul of our beloved little town. Hooray for us all.

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 4/14 - Not From Around Here
 4/21 - Luna Verde
 4/28 - Nikki Z

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 Thursday - New Beer Release
 Friday - Live Music (9:00)
 Sat/Sun - Bloodies at 11am

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by Allyson Ransom,
Crestone Town Clerk

As unseasonably warm weather motivates many of us to get outdoors, now is a good time for prepping garden beds and also spring cleaning in general. The key to a healthy, safe and attractive town begins in our own backyards. We thank you, Crestone residents and business owners, who care about our town and environment.

March 13 Board of Trustees meeting

- Crestone residents were on the agenda to voice concerns over zoning and code violations in their neighborhood. The Trustees assured them that they were taking the matter seriously and were focused on the health, safety and welfare of the residents with a newly hired code enforcement officer and part-time law enforcement position open as part of their 2017 goals. It was also noted that the Town of Crestone is a Court of Record with a court clerk and Judge Powell of Alamosa presiding over any court dates scheduled.

The Trustees reviewed and amended a job posting seeking a parttime law enforcement officer to patrol within the Town limits and directed the Clerk to publish the announcement in several newspapers; meanwhile, Attorney Farish advised the Crestone Board of Trustees on avoiding conflicts of interest and other details in confirming Benjamin Byer as the new code enforcement officer. Trustee Kinney stated for the record that Trustee Byer was being hired for a transitional contract position as code enforcer while the Board's intention was to create a long-term law enforcement position, which had been budgeted for 2017. The Board requested that Attorney Farish amend the organizational chart to include code enforcement as an appointed position supervised by the Board of Trustees.

William Martino also spoke about the Crestone Awareness Network and gave an update on their activities to help keep the town safe.

It is important to have the community involved and engaged in the process of keeping the town safe, and the Crestone office staff is not trained in law enforcement to deal with possible felonious activity. We ask that you please call the Sheriff's office or 911 if you see any possible criminal activity taking place in town or county. In the past month, a couple of people came to Town Hall concerned about alleged drug deals taking place at the information kiosk off of County Rd T, and we called the Sheriff's office for them.

- The Board agreed to accept Fedrica Solano's request for a six-month lease for the CYP thrift store that will be reassessed after five months and approved to renew the apartment rental lease for another year from June 2017- June 2018, to be reassessed after eleven months.

- The Board approved hiring William Martino as the 2017 Fourth of July event coordinator. All those interested in volunteering, participating, or renting booth space,

please contact the Town Hall. The following fees were approved: food booths \$75, regular booths \$15 and non-profit booths \$10. The higher cost for a food booth reflects the extra electric usage the Town will need to cover.

- The Board agreed to allow Trustee Kizzen Laki and Patrick Moore to use the Town Hall greenhouse during the late spring and summer months to store and grow plants for the downtown beautification project and grow seedlings for the new planter beds throughout the downtown commercial zone. Laki reported on the areas to be planted and donations received. She requested help from the Public Works staff and asked for volunteers on planting day as well. She presented a helpful list of hardy, deer-proof and drought-tolerant plants as recommendations, which is available at the Town Hall office. She also asked for businesses and individuals to adopt planting beds and maintain them throughout the growing season as part of a municipal-community collaboration effort. Bed adopters should contact Patrick Moore who is heading up the bed planting project. See "Fellowship of the Flowers" article on page 21.

Other requests for using the greenhouse included an educational collaboration during the school year with the Crestone Charter School, Colorado College, and Shumei. Mayor Danforth recently met with representatives to discuss a coordinated program. It was also noted that Patti Jackson submitted a letter stating that the Food Bank was interested in participating in growing food in the greenhouse.

- A recent Conservation Trust Fund mini-grant of \$5000 was awarded to the Town for use this summer in the parks for mosquito control supplies and materials to build ADA handicapped-accessible paths.

- In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act requirements, the Town has installed car wheel bumpers along West Silver Avenue near the Crestone Inn where the new sidewalk was being blocked. By May, three ramps will be installed for wheelchair accessibility to the Town Park pavilion, the Crestone Community Building front door and from the Plaza into Little Pearl Park. A reminder to visitors and residents that there is a marked handicap parking space and ramp in front of Town Hall, and we ask that non-handicapped vehicles avoid parking in this place. We have continued to have situations where handicapped persons have needed access and unauthorized vehicles blocked the ADA parking.

- Adam Moore of the Colorado State Forestry office presented a thorough explanation of the Fire Wise Community Program and what services he provides as a state forestry employee and coordinator of the program. Various Trustees suggested that he have a booth in the park during the Fourth of July event to educate and promote the

program. For more information, feel free to contact the Town Hall office.

- Northern Saguache County Fire District Chief, Wes Moores, spoke to the Board, answering questions and explaining progress made towards updating Crestone's municipal ISO rating. This is an important rating system that can often lower homeowners' insurance.

He announced that the tender truck had been repaired and was ready to be returned to Crestone. Further discussion with the Trustees included the severe decline in fire volunteers and reduced funding throughout the county and ways to recruit new volunteers.

- Property owners are reminded that March was fire protection month and bills were sent out to lot owners for the specific purpose of maintaining fifteen fire hydrants and pumps that provide pressurized water year-round to protect all properties in town whether or not an owner is hooked up to town water services. Coordinating with the fire departments, hydrant locate data is entered into GPS systems to provide residents with reliable fire protection in the event of an emergency. Providing excellent water service for both safe drinking water and in case of a fire emergency will always be a Town priority.

Land Use

Property owner Stephen Hume, attended the meeting and spoke about building a house on his land and needing better access to his property for large trucks delivering supplies, which was previously annexed into town with an agreement that provided land for the town's water plant. Attorney Farish reviewed the original agreement and exhibit regarding this rural tract in the northeast corner of town. The agreement included access from E. Iron Ave while providing an emergency access off of E. Galena at N. Piñon St. The Trustees discussed options and directed the Clerk to add this item to the April agenda and get quotes on straightening the east end of Iron Ave., as well as cutting in a 150-foot roadway with culverts on N. Piñon St. off of E. Galena Ave. Mr. Hume said he could help pay for the costs and didn't expect the Town to cover all of the expense.

Members of the Northern Saguache County Library Commission spoke to the Board about being part of the planning process for Tract 1 property belonging to the Town.

They are interested in acquiring an acre of land bordering Lime Ave. in the future as a library site, which would be ideal as it is adjacent to the Charter School property and convenient to all utilities. The Board of Trustees was favorable to the plan and will keep the Library Board informed while a Tract 1 Master Plan is created.

Other news

- Town Hall office hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm. We are closed Fridays.

- "Meet-the-Board Mondays" are scheduled the first Monday of each month 1-3pm at the Town Hall meeting room with the following schedule confirmed:

April 3 - Trustee Diane Bairstow

May 8 - Trustee Benjamin Byer

June 5 - Mayor Kairina Danforth

- Regular Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 1:30pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room (108 W. Galena Ave.) 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 any documentation. Presentations should be kept to a maximum of fifteen minutes. The Planning Commission meetings are also held in the same location on the first Monday of each month at 6pm.

- Meeting agendas are posted in the locked bulletin boards at Town Hall, the US Post Office, the online calendar section of *The Crestone Eagle*, and will soon be included on the updated Town of Crestone website.

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

- A Certified Notary Public is available during regular office hours, and the cost to notarize each signature is \$5 as per the Colorado Secretary of State guidelines. A current and valid ID must be presented.

- Other services available in Town Hall include copies made in limited quantities, faxed or scanned documents sent for a minimal fee, table and chair rentals, and Community Building rental availability for private events. For more information, contact our office at 256-4313.

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Washington DC: a Commissioner's report

by Jason Anderson,
Saguache Cty. Commsr.

Note: All accounts below should be considered commentary: political leanings and personal bias may be present.

"I don't know where the funding is, did they tell you anything?"

—Colorado Democratic Congressman, referring to our previous meeting with a Republican counterpart

My trip to Washington and the National Association of Counties (NACo) conference was different this year as my role as a representative had changed. In years past I was on a specific steering committee (public lands) and committed to the meetings of that committee. This year I was the representative to Colorado's Southern District. The district encompasses the San Luis Valley and the southeastern plains up to Pueblo and out to the state's eastern border. Although the Southern District is very different geographically, it is predominantly rural and shares many of the same issues. As a result I was able to attend a variety of meetings and workshops. These are my observations.

The "healthy country-life" may not be true

I was able to attend the meeting of the National Rural Action Caucus and the National Committee of Agricultural and Rural Af-

fairs. The information was not particularly encouraging. Statistics show that rural populations are as a whole older, sicker, and poorer than their urban counterparts. Some of this can be attributed to younger people moving to the urban areas for economic opportunity; however our rural areas face a wide range of challenges. It was shown that roughly one forth of the nation's rural hospitals have closed in the last five years, and another quarter are in danger of closing. Lack of health care also brings other issues to light. Because of a lack of services we are in a situation where county and municipal jails have become the holding facilities for the mentally ill for lack of other options. This causes our officers to try to work with populations that they are not trained for, as well as putting those individuals at risk. Another related issue is the sweeping opioid epidemic in rural communities. With rapidly increasing rates of overdose deaths (53,000 rural deaths in 2015), an abundance of the drugs (the majority coming from a doctor's prescription) and little-to-no treatment infrastructure, local officials are struggling to find answers.

Another rural issue that was focused on was housing. According to statistics rural residents pay a greater percentage of their overall budget (30-50%) for housing than other areas. Not surprisingly a speaker on community health strategies pointed out the biggest hurdle to addressing both mental health and addiction issues in rural areas was stable housing.

Everybody wants public lands, but for different reasons

The meeting of my past appointment, the National Public Lands Steering Committee, and the meeting of the Western Interstate Regions (representing the 14 western states) both discussed the possibility of revising the Endangered Species Act under the new administration. The debate was fairly heated. Some saw the act as one of the few remaining strongholds of species diversity, while others saw it as a tool that had been abused in order

for special-interest groups to undermine economic ability in rural areas. Another issue being discussed was the push from some western states or regions to acquire public lands within their borders. Again both sides have what they see as legitimate arguments. One point of view being that moving public lands to new ownership would endanger them to private sale, to be lost forever for the enjoyment of future generations.

The second point of view is that the people who live there should know what is best for those lands rather than those back in Washington, and there is no proof state democracy is less effective than federal. The largest issue for this movement at this time is the cost of wildfire. With the magnitude of forest fires recently, few western states would have the budgetary means to address such an event. An interesting twist I heard on the subject this year came in the idea of "Could there come a point where the populace just feels public lands are safer in the hands of the states than a compromised federal government?"

Chaos reigns

I am not a Washington political expert, but I can tell when none of our representatives are sure what to do. I was left with the impression that rather than there being a master plan, there was actually no plan at all. Or as if those in power never expected there to be. My group of commissioners went to our Congressmen and Senators with a clear list of "asks", those things our counties needed. Support PILT (federal



Saguache County Commissioner Jason Anderson—representing us in DC.

payments for counties made up of public lands, like us); rural school funding; address mental illness in jails; increase investments in early childhood development; and support for rural infrastructure funding, including broadband access. All these requests have a price tag and the answer was always the same: "We don't know if there will be any money". What surprised me from these meetings was it almost seemed less stressful in Washington to be a Democrat who says "its not my mess" than a Republican who has more of a "how in the hell are we going to do this?" attitude.

Political insider Jim Vander-Hei, co-founder of both Axios and Politico, spoke to NACo members about political changes brought by President Donald Trump and advised local governments what to expect from the White House over the next four years: "Keep expecting volatility, then just be delighted when normal stuff happens."

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Liam Christy returns for matinee at Shumei April 9

Shumei International is happy to host Liam Christy on Sunday April 9 at 2pm. After many years of touring as a soloist and with The Reventones guitar duo, he has built up a loyal following. Liam plays an intriguing mix of traditional flamenco along with Brazilian, Cuban, classical, popular and some surprises. He is known for his beautifully inventive original compositions and passionate performances.

There is a \$10 suggested donation at the door.

Liam is an independent recording artist and has 2 CDs and 2 singles available. In 2015 Liam released a remake of Summer Breeze by Seals and Crofts under the name Barbary Saints. It's a unique, international mash-up of styles; Cuban, flamenco, hip hop, soul.

In addition to playing solo, Liam has also worked with a number of singers and groups such as Cuban artist Lázaro Galarraga, Pia Toscano (American Idol) and singer/songwriter Dana Larson.



Liam Christy returns to Shumei April 9 at 2pm with traditional Flamenco, Brazilian and Cuban classical music.

CDs are available on SoundCloud and iTunes and will be available for purchase at the performance. Please join us on April 9th for an afternoon of excellent entertainment. For more information visit www.shumeicrestone.org or call 719-256-5284.

CrestoneArtists offering ON CALL studio visits for Crestone visitors

CrestoneArtists is offering a new opportunity to check out the hidden Crestone art scene and expand your vision. The project is called ON CALL and at this point there are a dozen artists and growing who are willing to allow into their private studio lairs all manner of Crestone pilgrims—retreatants, visiting friends and relatives, and folks just coming to explore the beauty and possibilities. We welcome you to come on your own or small groups for a glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes of a piece of artwork. ON CALL artists working in such diverse media as copper, paper making, watercolors, oils, pastels, encaustic and upcycled finds offer a rare private view into their creative process. We are very private beasts, however, so you do have to call first to schedule your visit. Participating artists can be found online under the ON CALL tab at CrestoneArtists.com or contact Shahna at 719-256-5442 to guide you through the process if you've arrived unplugged.

Before your transformative peek behind the veil you'll want to do a little homework and have some questions ready. On the CrestoneArtists.com website you can get an idea of your artist's medium and artistic style. You may want to inquire about the impetus which propelled them toward their chosen medium. What is their source of inspiration? What steps are involved in their process?

Should you be drawn to a particular piece of work, don't be shy about asking the price. The artist may not bring it up if you don't. A bit over your budget? You can always inquire if payment plans are a possibility. You may think of commissioning a special gift or something for your own sacred space. You are creating a personal relationship with an artist and it really does change the playing field!



Share a cuppa creativity juice with the Crestone Artists.

During your visit you could also inquire if that artist offers private instruction and group workshops if that is of interest to you.

So, go ahead, create an adventure and share a cuppa creativity juice. Schedule your Crestone art studio visit today!

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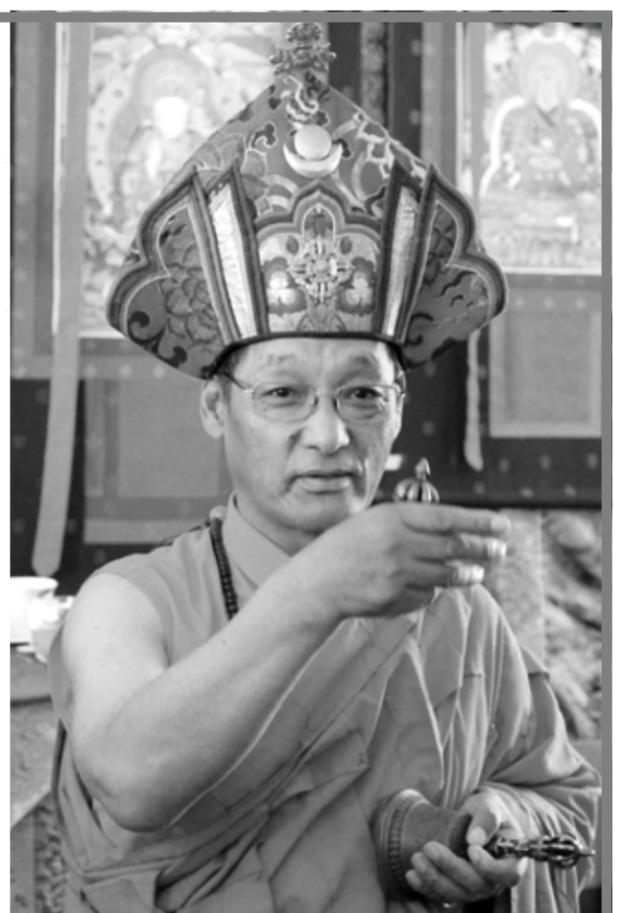
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at Choying Dzong
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 Longchenpa's Trilogy of Finding Comfort & Ease (Part III)

May 7, 10am–12pm
 Stories from the Pema Lingpa Lineage Masters

Program is subject to change. For more info, email choyingdzong@yeshekhlorlo.org or visit www.yeshekhlorlo.org



Welcomed changes at the Crestone Artisans Gallery

It is that time of the year again where the exhibits rotate at the gallery. Come see our newly designed displays featuring paintings, photography, sculptures, textiles, jewelry and more by our talented local artists. There are too many new collections to list so if you have not been by in awhile, this will be eye candy for the art enthusiast.

We not only have a fresh look but also a new member artist. The gallery welcomes new artist, SD Youngwolf. SD brings to the exhibit a colorful selection of native inspired works. The major mediums for art offered by SD are oil painting, pastel, gourd art, and mask making. Much of his work is influenced by his Cherokee heritage. He has shown and won numerous awards at Native American art shows across the country. His hope is that the art will speak to the viewer's sense of wonder and connection with Earth and Spirit. SD's collection of new works is displayed in the back exhibit room of the gallery and is a must see!

Spring brings the next phase in the development of the Sculpture Park on the lot next to the Brewery, at the corner of Silver and Cottonwood. New trails were added last summer. Now gallery artist, Patrick Moore, and his team will landscape and define spaces



Carrie Caverly's hand painted furniture, Bill Elzey's mounted photographs and Bob Long's stone sculptures.

for about six outdoor sculptures. The goal is to make the space from Silver Street to the gallery one big, beautiful outdoor art space. If you are a sculptor and would like to be considered to lend a piece of your work to the space call Patrick at 719 588-6431.

To reiterate from last month's article, the gallery has applied to become a non profit. With this status, the members plan to offer future community outreach programs spanning from workshops to public exhibits and more. The gallery is excited about all the future possibilities.

As the days have become longer, the gallery hours have extended. We are open during this season from Wednesday through Sunday from 11 to 5. Be sure to drop by to see all the fascinating new rotated works and stay tuned for the upcoming sculpture garden.



The Gallery's new look and new art.



Pat Tesauro-Jackson's lamps, SD Youngwolf's gourd masks, drum, paintings, and Kathy Strathearn's woven rugs.

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CRESTFEST August 4 & 5

Accepting applications for vendors

It's official! The new CRESTFEST will be held at Challenger Golf Course Friday August 4 and Saturday August 5. CRESTFEST will be similar to the now-retired Crestone Music Festival. We will have a cool collection of eclectic and culturally diverse music along with an increase in contests, rides and carnival games. The main differences will be no Sunday, smaller headliners and a smaller price.

The carnival will have "under-tent" games for all ages with prizes. We also want safe open air activities and contests and are considering things like pedal car races, a bell ringing high striker, putting, pitching and hole-in-one golf contests, bean bag toss tournaments, dunk tank, football punting, basketball shooting, volleyball, soccer and more. If you have any ideas for fun activities, let us know.

CRESTFEST will also act as an "end of the year" showcase of presenters who have participated in our school performances. Our usual

libations and food will be available as well as arts & crafts vendors and camping. For more info go to www.crestfest.org. or please call 719-256-4533. CRESTFEST is a production of Crestone Performances Inc., a 501(c)3 community service organization.

Vendors

CRESTFEST, August 4 and 5, is looking for vendors! We are accepting applications for vendors who wish to sell their work or services in the following categories: Hand-made arts and crafts, unique re-sale items, clothing, jewelry, healing arts, massage, astrology, information and of course, food and drink. Deadline for applications is May 10, with acceptance/rejection letters mailed by June 1. To download an application visit www.crestfest.org. Questions? Give us a call 719-256-4533 or email info@crestfest.org. CRESTFEST is a production of Crestone Performances Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit community service organization.



The new Crestone Creamery owners during their busy opening weekend March 18. L to R: Haley Marcus, Jake Marcus, Richard Adams, and previous owner Alberto Olivias, who is helping the new owners get started. photo by Lori Nagel

The new Crestone Creamery opens

Marijuana retail shop on the way

by Lori Nagel

There was some extra excitement on this particular St. Patty's Day in Crestone. On Friday, March 17, the Crestone Creamery reopened its doors to the public, serving fantastic homemade ice cream and some of the best pizza this town's ever seen. With substantial support from the previous owners, the creamery relocated from 152 Silver Ave. to the cabin situated next door on 150 Silver Ave. Jake & Haley Marcus partnered with Richard Adams as the new co-owners of this new establishment.

Birth of the idea

First, they had the thought of only obtaining the back building to house the retail shop. Then Don Gifford, one of the 6 previous owners, suggested they carry on the dream started by those 6, since the community had loved the ice cream shop so much! So now we have this brand new pizza and ice cream shop, which has become their way to give back to the town.

The creamery makes its own ice cream using natural and organic ingredients, and also serves hand-made, fresh pizzas. Drinks and solar-roasted coffee are also available. The new owners hope that the creamery will create a new buzz in town—which it has!—and that the addition of this small business will

add to the vibrancy of Crestone.

Retail marijuana

The next plan of action is to open their marijuana retail shop in the latter part of April, which will be in the previous creamery's location at 152 Silver Ave. They plan to carry edibles, oils, tinctures, vape pens, and CBD oil with no THC for medicinal purposes. They will offer discounts to veterans, and will also honor discounts for medical patients, even though they're currently not a medical facility. Initially, they'll be buying edibles from Denver, and have future plans to manufacture their own to sell in their store and to others in the recreational market.

Jake and Haley met 10 years ago while working at the Cheeseburger in Paradise restaurant during their senior year in high school, and have been happily together ever since. They met Richard 2½ years ago, and the connection to begin this endeavor was instantaneous.

Jake would like to make a dedication to his father, Robert Marcus, who died 5 years ago and made this all possible. His eyes filling with tears, he said, "Since he passed, every day has been filled with synchronicity, to the point where I have to pinch myself to make sure I'm not dreaming." Their phone number is 719-256-5656.



Crestone End of Life Project

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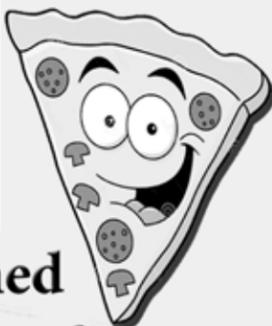
Monthly open meeting **Wednesday, April 12th**, at 7pm, at the Fellowship Hall of the Little Shepherd Church, Crestone. Call 719.588.7415 for information/directions.





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Unitive Justice

“Lovingkindness is the moral principle upon which unitive justice is grounded.”

Cristina Cabeza-Kinney invites you to this introductory class on Unitive Justice (UJ). Learn the Arc of Justice which demonstrates the difference between punitive and unitive justice by comparing 12 structural elements. Restorative circles are the application of the UJ philosophy. It is a process in which space is held to reveal underlying core issues therefore allowing conflict to achieve a natural course of resolution and transformation.

Join us at the Little Shepherd in the Hills Episcopal Church in Crestone Wednesday, April 26 from 4 ‘til 6pm.

For more information on Unitive Justice and Restorative Circles visit www.AwakeningThePhoenix.com/circleup. Connect with Cristina Cabeza-Kinney by phone at 719-480-2814 or by email at awakeningthephoenix@gmail.com with any questions regarding the Intro class in April.

Latest on the library

The Library District will be holding an informational community meeting about the new library project on Monday, April 10 at 6pm at the Charter School. Please join us for the latest updates and information!

Branding the SLV— Vote on a logo April 27

Valley Initiative Partners (VIP) invites you to vote on a logo and tagline for the San Luis Valley on Thursday, April 27 in Carson Auditorium on the Adams State University campus. Several logos and taglines will be presented and your vote is essential to this process. Refreshments served at 5:30, followed by a short program, then voting.

VIP was formed with the intention of creating economic, sustainable growth for the entire region by bringing awareness of its vast potential for tourism and business opportunity. VIP’s motto is to “awaken potential and sustain opportunity” for the region.

Joyful Journey 2nd Inner Vision Conf. June 21 -25

We’re happy to announce this year’s conference theme, “Transitions” with celebrations, music, speakers, and vendors. Details coming soon! For more info and/or to be a vendor, email: groups@jjhotsprings.com.

Youth Conservation Camp registration open!

If you know a child between the ages of 8-13, they will love the experience of Youth Conservation Camp at Beaver Creek in South Fork. This three day, two night camp is directed by the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative. Children may choose between sessions like forestry, wildlife, soil & water conservation, rangeland science, or hunters’ safety (must be 11 years old to participate in hunters’ safety). To register online or access paper registration, please visit www.rgwcei.org. Capacity is limited, so don’t delay! Registration closes June 6, 2017. For more information, email rgwcei@gmail.com or call Bethany Howell at 719-480-4864.

Becoming One?

After a decade of meetings The Crestone Spiritual Association is realizing there’s really not much difference between all of our member’s practices, lineages and traditions. It is now being proposed that all of Crestone’s many spiritual groups finally just join together and “Become One”. We are soliciting input from the community as to how we might refer to this new entity. Perhaps something along the lines of “Indigenous Hindu Christian Judiastic Agnostic Buddhist Shintoism”? The Spirit-BaS-One?

County grants available

The Saguache County Tourism Council announces grant support for organizations and groups sponsoring events in Saguache County. Grants up to \$300 are to be used for promotional and outreach efforts. All grants are offered on a first come basis until allocated funds are exhausted. All groups planning 2017 events are encouraged to apply. Find forms and information on the Saguache County web site, saguachetourism.com.

Prescribed burns planned at wildlife refuges

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducting prescribed burns this spring on the Alamosa, Baca, and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuges to remove old, matted vegetation to improve wildlife habitat. The exact burn dates will depend on weather conditions and other prescription requirements. Smoke will be visible to adjacent neighbors, towns and highways during and for a few days following burning operations. Signs will be posted along the nearest major roads and all burns will be monitored until they are declared completely out.

Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information see www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health.

For more information, contact Baca Refuge Manager, 719-256-5527 or Alamosa and Monte Vista Refuge Manager Suzanne Beauchaine 719-589-4021 x1003.



Kelly Hosner takes her turn reciting poetry as the other poets look on at this year’s Cabin Fever event, held at the Crestone Charter School on March 11. photo by Lori Nagel

Easter potluck & egg hunt

Join us for the 19th Annual Easter Dinner Potluck & Egg Hunt at Earth Knack on Sunday, April 16, starting at 1pm. This will be at Earth Knack at the corner of Cordial and Rarity (for directions visit www.earthknack.com).

Bring a potluck dish, dessert, beverage, your own plates and utensils and something to hide for the kids! Dinner will be served outside around the fire. Bring warm clothes, instruments, and a song, story or blessing to share. See you there!

Saguache Commissioner to meet with Indivisible

Saguache County Commissioner Jason Anderson will be a special guest of the Indivisible Crestone/Baca group on Friday, April 14 at the home of Sarah Hoeninger at 3687 Enchanted Way in Chalet 2, Baca Grande. He is expected to share observations stemming from his recent meeting with all of federal-level Colorado representatives in Washington, D.C. as a representative of Saguache and numerous other counties in the state’s southern district.

Mr. Anderson has also expressed his eagerness to meet and work with what he happily termed as “an ‘engaged’ group of constituents”, with an eye to explaining and exploring ways that local grassroots efforts can make a difference when affecting change at the federal level may seem less possible.

The meeting will start at 5:30pm and interested constituents are invited to attend.

Food Bank fundraiser

On Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 from 5:30 to 9pm, Joyful Journey Hot Springs Conference Center will host the event “Birthing of the New Aquarian Earth”, a benefit and fundraiser for the Crestone Food Bank. What a better day than Earth Day to gather and express our gratitude to Mother Earth for her abundance which nourishes our bodies and souls. The event will feature drumming, flutes, bowls and free notes led by Bill Aldinger and accompaniment. Refreshments will be served and admission is free. Donations are requested in the form of cash and/or non-perishable food items. For each donor, Joyful Journey will discount soak passes to \$10. These passes may be used later that evening or at any time in the future.

The Crestone Food Bank wishes to thank Bill Aldinger, Joyful Journey and attendees in advance for their support which benefits those in need of supplemental food sources in the Crestone area.

For more information, contact Patti Jackson at 719-992-1920 or crestonefoodbank@fairpoint.net. Please join us!

POA office is back in original building

A reminder to all searching for the Baca Grande Property Owners Association office: They’re back! They moved a few months ago into their beautifully renovated offices on Rd. T. They can be reached at 719-256-4171.

Crestone Shotokan Karate Club

A 6-week Introductory Course to Karate-Do: The Way of Karate
Beginning Tuesday, May 2

• Instructor: Sara Grimes,
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• Crestone Charter School Rainbow Room

• Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting promptly at 6.15 p.m to 7.30 p.m.
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Course fee: \$20 donation

Contact: debon.natalie@gmail.com - 1-719-588-6396

The Crestone Shotokan Karate Club is a member of the Mountain States Region of the International Shotokan Karate Federation.

Community Calendar—April 1917

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monthly Events

Sunday, April 2

- Mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage chapel 9am
- Children's Day, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 11am-noon www.babajashram.org 719-256-4108
- Holy Eucharist – Little Shepherd Church 2-3pm

Monday, April 3

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

Wednesday, April 5

- Health Empowerment Group meeting, Little Shepherd Fellowship Hall 2-5pm free 575-779-5213

Thursday, April 6

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

Sunday, April 9

- Mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage – Nada Carmelite Hermitage chapel 9:00 am
- Liam Christy at Shumei International Institute 2pm \$10 www.shumeicrestone.org 256-5284
- Qur'an Class & Potluck – 3:00 pm-6:00 pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602
- Relax & Renew Restorative Yoga, 5-6:30pm \$15 www.igniteyourinnerflame.com 310-924-9223

Monday, April 10

- Full moon – All Day
- County Commissioner hours in Crestone – Downtown 10:00 am-2:00 pm
- FOL IRS Bake Sale – Porch across from Aventa 12:00 pm-2:30 pm 719-298-3007
- Monthly Crestone Board of Trustees Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 1:30-6pm 719-256-4313
- No. Sag. Co. Library Dist. meeting, Crestone Charter School 4:45-6pm <http://NScd.colibraries.org>
- Informational meeting re:library project, Crestone Charter School 6-7:30pm <http://NScd.colibraries.org>

Tuesday, April 11

- Full Moon Fire Ceremony Haidakhandi Ashram 10am-noon www.babajashram.org 256-4108
- Full Moon Riwo Sangchö (Outdoor Smoke Offering), Yeshe Khorlo (Choying Dzong) 10-11am

Wednesday, April 12

- Crestone End of Life Project meeting, Fellowship Hall, Little Shepherd Church 7-9pm free 719-588-7415

Thursday, April 13

- Free Kinship Caregiver Clinic, Alamosa CO Legal Services 4-6:30pm <http://bit.ly/2eRyn9E> 589-4993
- Holy Thursday Mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage – Nada Carmelite Hermitage chapel 7:00 pm

Friday, April 14

- Good Friday Mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage – Nada Carmelite Hermitage chapel 3:00 pm
- Sag. Co. Commish meets w/Indivisible – Hoeningering residence 5:30 pm

Sunday, April 16

- Easter – All Day
- Easter Vigil Mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage – Nada Carmelite Hermitage chapel 5:00 am
- Easter potluck & egg hunt – Earth Knack School Site / Blankenship Residence 1:00 pm

Wednesday, April 19

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

Thursday, April 20

- Andrew Harvey SufiWay Class – 3:00 pm-5:30 pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602
- BGPOA Board meeting – BGPOA Meeting Room 6:00 pm-8:00 pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Friday, April 21

- 2nd Annual Inner Vision Conference – Joyful Journey Hot Springs All Day jjhotsprings.com
- Dakini Tsok (Feast Offering Potluck) – Yeshe Khorlo 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Saturday, April 22

- Earth Day – All Day

- Earth Day Yoga practice 10:00 am-11:30 am www.igniteyourinnerflame.com 310-924-9223
- Crestone Food Bank Fundraiser, Joyful Journey 5:30-9pm \$10 soak w/food donation 719-256-4328

Sunday, April 23

- Mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage chapel 9am

Tuesday, April 25

- Lectures on rebirth & evolution, Sri Aurobindo Learning Ctr 6-8pm free www.sriurobindolc.org 256-4917

Wednesday, April 26

- New Moon Fire Ceremony, Haidakhandi Ashram 10am-noon www.babajashram.org 256-4108
- New Moon Riwo Sangchö (Outdoor Smoke Offering) – Yeshe Khorlo (Choying Dzong) 10-11am
- Unitive Justice & Restorative Circles, Little Shepherd Fellowship Hall 4-6pm free www.AwakeningThePhoenix.com/circleup 719-480-2814

Thursday, April 27

- Sufi Dhikr. All welcome! – 3:00 pm-5:00 pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602

Friday, April 28

- Start of Annual Ashram On-Line Auction Fundraiser – 11am-8pm www.biddingforgood.com/babajashram/babajashram-10 719-256-4108

Saturday, April 29

- Climate March on Washington, DC – All Day
- Short, simple, strong & sweaty yoga class, 10-11am www.igniteyourinnerflame.com 310-924-9223

Sunday, April 30

- Mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage – Nada Carmelite Hermitage chapel 9:00 am
- Grange potluck& meeting 12:30-3pm 256-4768
- Restorative Yoga & Self Care, 4-6:30 pm \$25 www.igntieyourinnerflame.com 310-924-9223

Monday, May 1

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

Monday, May 8

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

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, www.babajashram.org
- Jyorei, Shumei Sanctuary, please be seated by 7:50am and 5:50pm, 256-5284
- Tours, gallery & 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
- Tours, Temple, & Gift Shop ~ Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 256-4108, www.babajashram.org
- Evening Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 6-7pm. Chanting in Sanskrit and Hindi. All are welcome. 256-4108, www.babajashram.org

Sunday

- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone

Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm www.slvaa.org

Tuesday

- Zumba Crestone Community Fitness Studio 8:45 am-9:45 am \$10 719-937-3361
- Yoga & iRest Yoga Nidra Crestone 9-10:30am www.igniteyourinnerflame.com 310-924-9223
- Tai Chi & Baqua Little Shepherd in the Hills Fellowship Hall 10:00 am free 719-256-4531
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting marijuana users welcome Baca Grande Library back door 7:30 pm-8:30 pm 970-309-0710

Wednesday

- Tai Chi Crestone Community Fitness Studio 10:00 am-11:00 am \$10 719-937-3361
- Gentle Movement & Yoga for all Crestone 11am-noon www.igniteyourinnerflame.com 310-924-9223

- Stretcherize Crestone Community Fitness Studio 4:00 pm-5:00 pm \$10
- Spanish Conversation Little Shepherd in the Hills Fellowship Hall 6:30-8:pm free 719-256-4644

Thursday

- Fairy & Magic Discussion Group Elephant Cloud Cafe 9:00 am-10:30 am free 719-480-5014
- Tai Chi & Baqua Little Shepherd in the Hills 2pm Free 719-256-4531

Friday

- Prenatal Hatha Yoga Crestone Community Fitness Studio 10-11am \$10 719-937-3361

Saturday

- Dorje Trolo Practice White Jewel Mountain 10:00 am-12:00 pm no charge 719 256-5773
- Children's Yoga Crestone Community Fitness Studio 10:00 am-11:00 am \$10 719-937-3361
- Stretcherize Crestone Community Fitness Studio 11:30 am-12:30 pm \$10 719-937-3361

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Out & About with Lori Sunflower

• Part 1 •
How can we as a community become more resilient?




Matthew Crowley

By spending more time outdoors! I need to spend more time outdoors. And I think it would serve us well as a community to spend more time outdoors. I read Mary Oliver this morning, and it brought me to that simple metaphor of—we have all this wind in the spring in the valley, and the bushes and trees that bend in the wind are resilient. The ones that are rigid and inflexible break and fall to the ground. So it's very simple, but we put up with 4 or 6 weeks of wind here, so those of us who have been here for a while are pretty resilient to things like that. The sand blows in the wind, and it doesn't matter. The seeds blow in the wind and they land where they do and the plants and the trees that will grow in this harsh environment grow. There is great, profound, simple wisdom all around us on how to be resilient. We all know how beautiful this place is, but I am as guilty as anyone, I don't spend enough time in it. When we get together and spend more time in it, it really helps. Right away it changes our attitude when we're outside. The sky is blue, the sun is shinin', Spring is here, the birds are singin' and it's like right away I feel more resilient. Of course, there's the tangibles we're all thinking about in terms of resiliency—being sustainable, growing as much food as practical, being more energy independent—but it starts with our sense of community, with our compassion towards each other, our flexibility with each other. I think we get jaded, or I have become jaded, being here 13 years. A lot of initiatives come and go. I met a new person to the community yesterday who was filled with inspiration and enthusiasm. I don't want to just talk them down and say, "you're just not being realistic," like I'm jaded. We need that inspiration and somehow as a community we need to learn how to channel that, to sit down with new people and say, "yeah, you're right, you're inspired and enthusiastic—let's support that!" I think we need to know each other's stories. If we consciously bring new people and longtime people together and really listen to the stories of new people, and share our own experiences of living in this community for a long time, that may help us become more resilient as community to old-timers

and the constant tide of people coming and going. Maybe we're missing the boat with a lot of that energy that comes to this community.



Nick Chambers

That's an interesting question. There's a lot of kind of resiliency that I think about. There's the emotional, spiritual, familial, which entails practicing forgiveness, having love in your heart, being good people, staying close to your family, etc. Then there's the resiliency as far as a society, a community, food, energy, utilities, waste water treatment, and those types of things. What I think about then is standing on the shoulders of what's already been done and what infrastructure is already there. I think we have a great backbone infrastructure as far as the great stores that we have—the Mercantile, Elephant Cloud, the hardware store, the Brewery—there's also that kind of resiliency. And so I think that's really important. Baca Water & Sanitation and the town government and the Saguache government, I think we have a really great support network—they all want to see us be resilient, too. I think it's in their best interests. I'm in the food business, so utilizing what we have as far as food in the valley is huge, and realizing that we have an amazing farming community and producer base here, and that our restaurants and our grocers are great supporters of that, so, go to the store! Go to the local stores, more than City Market and Safeway, and really invest here and buy here. It goes a long way to tap in to what we have growing in the community. I mean, Crestone's local food has been a clear demand of expression here. A great dis-

service to achieving our resiliency is putting a ton of energy and time and money into, for example, the free-energy thing. I don't think anything comes out of anything that's free. And I don't think humans deserve anything that's free. And there's no excuse or substitute for just rolling up our sleeves and just gettin' going. And I think that the greatest limiting factors that I see are labor and capital. There's no shortage of ideas and there's no short of opportunities, there's really just putting the boots on the ground and gettin' r' done! Capital and labor are the big constraints.



Kate Steichen

I looked up "resiliency" in the dictionary, because I love words, and it's, "the capacity to recover from or adjust easily to difficulties or change." There's inner resiliency, of course, and there's outer resiliency. We often don't think about both of those. The inner-resiliency to me is having a spiritual practice that creates inner peace, appreciation, and acceptance of all. So, I lead the Sufi circle chants. I find now, in this time, even just my own personal, daily practice is so important. People are more fearful than usual now and that tends to make us contract. So we need a practice, whatever it is, we need something, that can day-to-day help bring us back to ourselves and bring us back to what we love. And then of course there's the outer resiliency, which is probably more what you were thinking of when you asked this question. Again, I think first of all it's the ability to work and play well with others. That's a real outer resiliency which involves an individual sort of integrity, but especially acceptance of differences and especially forgiveness of ourselves and others. And minimal drama (laughing)! This community is like one big family, and family has good and bad aspects. The bad aspects are, when we have an unpleasant experience, we tend to hold that against the person. "Oh, I don't want to do anything with them cuz they're blah-de-blah." We've got to get over that. Going outward more, how do we develop community independent systems that are flexible with backups? That

could be solar/wind power, access to water, access to local food, security, care for the least among us, the elderly, the children, the sick, the needy in whatever way. And I also think we need to look at governmental solidarity. Having a town government and a POA that are distinct doesn't really make sense in terms of our own resiliency. We need to develop co-ops. We need to develop our own banking system. There are a lot practical things and the ideas for these things will come out of this Crestone Baca Resiliency Search conference that will already have happened by the time this comes out. The conference brings people together to get to know each other better and meet people they'd never maybe talk to or meet. And then to work together to make this place more resilient. I don't know what's going to come out of that. People keep asking me, "Well, what's your action plan?" Well, there's no action plan. Whoever comes will create the action plan. I'm just setting it up and offering it as a gift to the community because I can do that. And it'll be up to us what happens. And then what happens long term after that. That's the key, is how do we do these other things, how do we forgive each other? How do we appreciate each other no matter what? Because that's what it takes to create, to work together. So that's the place where I see us falling apart. This is a place where it's easy to have ideals, that's the energy of this place. It's really hard to implement those ideals.

I'm in my 27th year here and I've seen a lot of community projects succeed. There's a lot here that wasn't here 27 years ago, including a lot of people, of course. One thing I've seen over the years is that sometimes someone has an idea for something, and it doesn't manifest for 5-10 years afterwards because the right people have to move here to make it happen. So, even if things don't look like they're happening on the surface, they really are underneath, the seeds are planted. This search conference should plant a lot of seeds like that, and they will mature. Most of them do, actually!

If you have feedback or suggestions for future topics, please email peacelori@comcast.net. 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.

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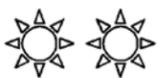
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Shumei hosts long-time activist Satish Kumar for a visit in May

by Matthew Crowley

The Shumei International Institute (SII) is delighted to announce that longtime peace and environmental activist, founder of Schumacher College in the UK, and Editor Emeritus of *Resurgence Magazine*, will be visiting the greater Crestone community from May 15-20. SII is sponsoring Satish's visit, firstly, to be a special guest speaker at its upcoming 15th anniversary celebration to be held on Saturday May 20 this year.

Beyond the anniversary event at which Satish will speak there is a blossoming relationship taking place, a "bridge over the pond" so to speak, between Schumacher College in South Devon England and the greater Crestone community. In service to this relationship SII is exploring a few further possibilities by which Satish may engage with individuals, groups and existing initiatives underway in our community. It is likely that there will be a program taking place in Rainbow Hall at the Crestone Charter School where Satish can engage and share his experiences with young adults in the community as well as anyone else who would like to participate.

At 79, Satish, being a Peace Pilgrim since the 8,000 mile walking pilgrimage he undertook in his

early 20s, still loves to walk. SII is exploring the possibility of organizing a "mini Camino de Crestone" with Satish in which we would also invite people from the community to participate in. Of course with the fickle nature of Crestone in May, that may be contingent on the weather.

There are also some initiatives already underway from various aspects of our community such as the Crestone Baca Resiliency conference that took place in March, the Crestone Creative Arts District and the Ecology and Spirituality Initiative, which includes a 5-week Colorado College Block class starting June 1. SII is exploring how Satish's visit may serve in furthering and inspiring some of these and perhaps other initiatives. If you have ideas or suggestions please contact Matthew Crowley at SII via e-mail at matthew@shumei.us or at SII's office at 719-256-5284.

For more information about SII's 15th anniversary on May 20 please see the ad in this month's *Eagle* and visit shumeicrestone.org. There will also be further information about that event in the May *Crestone Eagle*. For more information about Satish Kumar, please see the accompanying article about Satish on this page.

Satish Kumar—working to make the world a better place

[The following is an excerpt from Satish Kumar's bio provided by Schumacher College & *Resurgence Magazine*]

A former monk and long-term peace and environment activist, Satish Kumar has been quietly setting the global agenda for change for over 50 years. He was just nine when he left his family home to join the wandering Jains, and 18 when he decided he could achieve more back in the world, campaigning for land reform in India and working to turn Gandhi's vision of a renewed India and a peaceful world into reality. Inspired in his early 20s by the example of the British peace activist Bertrand Russell, Satish embarked on an 8,000-mile peace pilgrimage. Carrying no money and depending on the kindness and hospitality of strangers, he walked from India to America, via Moscow, London and Paris, to deliver a humble packet of "peace tea" to the then-leaders of the world's four nuclear powers.

In 1973, Satish settled in the United Kingdom, taking up the post of Editor of *Resurgence Magazine*, a position he has held until stepping down to become Editor Emeritus in 2017, making him the UK's longest-serving editor of the same magazine. During this time, he has been the guiding spirit behind a number of now internationally respected ecological and educational ventures including Schumacher College in South Devon, where he is still a Visiting Fellow. In his 50th year, Satish undertook another pilgrimage—again carrying no money. This time, he walked 2,000 miles to the holy places of Britain, a venture he describes as a celebration of his love of life and nature. In July 2000 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Education from the University of Plymouth. In July 2001, he received an Honorary Doctorate in Literature from the University of Lancaster. And in the November of that same year, he was presented with the Jammalal Bajaj International Award for Promoting Gandhian Values Outside India.

His autobiography, *No Destination*, was first published by Green Books in 1978. He is also the author of *You Are, Therefore I Am: A Declaration of Dependence*, *The Buddha and the Terrorist* and *Earth Pilgrim*. In 2005, Satish was Sue Lawley's guest on Radio 4's Desert Island Discs. In 2008, as part of BBC2's Natural World series, he presented a 50-minute documentary from Dartmoor, which was watched by over 3.6 million people. He appears regularly in the printed media and a range of radio programs including Thought for the Day and Midweek. Satish is on the advisory board of Our Future Planet, a unique online community sharing ideas for real change; and in recognition of his commitment as a vegetarian, to animal welfare and compassionate living, he was recently elected vice president of the RSPCA. He continues to teach and run workshops on reverential ecology, holistic education and voluntary simplicity and is a much sought-after speaker both in the UK and abroad.

Shumei International Institute's 15th Anniversary

ecology and spirituality
think globally - ACT LOCALLY

Saturday May 20th 2017

10:30am

Anniversary Sampai at the Shumei Sanctuary
Immediately following Sampai
Community Luncheon
Open Garden Tours
Art Exhibition in the Shumei Gallery
Come experience the power of Taiko
at the Shumei Amphitheater

3:45pm

Satish Kumar
Indian Activist, Editor of *Resurgence Magazine* and
founder of Schumacher College in the UK
will be our special guest at this year's anniversary.

6pm

Sampai prayer for world peace at Shumei Sanctuary

Sunday May 21st 2017

A day of Peace and Action
Follow up to Crestone Community
Resiliency Conference



Adopt a bed, donate plants, volunteer in the greenhouse, create flowers!

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

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

Update

The town gave us permission to use the greenhouse next to Town Hall to stage donated plants and plant starters. Several households have pledged flowers from their gardens. Twenty six community members have joined the Fellowship as volunteers to do “whatever is needed” and/or to be team leaders on a bed. And thirteen, yes 13, beds have been adopted! This is a great start.

Plans: The trees will arrive from the nursery the last week in May and will be planted right away. Once the trees are in, then the beds can be planted with new perennials. In the meantime, the beds will be prepared with new topsoil to receive the trees and flowers, plant donations will be gathered from the community and nurtured in the greenhouse until time to plant, and the irrigation systems will be completed and tested.

Needs: The Fellowship still needs plant donations, financial donations, volunteers and bed adopters. Volunteers are needed to gather donated plants, transplant them into holding containers and keep them healthy in the greenhouse until June. And as every college student has ever said to the parents, “Please send money.” We need money for good transplant dirt, new perennials and mulch.

None of it will be spent on beer (unless you insist and specifically so designate it).

Although June seems distant, now is the time to act. Our good friend Walt Disney always said “The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.” Because “The most effective way to do it, is to do it!” - Amelia Earhart. Which reminds me of another profound motto from her: “There is more to life than being a passenger.” We are a fellowship because “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” - Helen Keller. And it’s “Better to do a good deed near at home than go far away to burn incense.” - Amelia Earhart. “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” - Ann Frank. “Everyone here has the sense that right now is one of those moments we are influencing the future.” - Steve Jobs. Which brings us back to Walt, who lived by “If you can dream it, you can do it!” We can do this!

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 Crestone Town Hall 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!



Harvard geneticist George Church is also working to clone woolly mammoths, in a race against Japanese and Chinese scientists.
photo by Renegade Pictures

Mammoth theme park planned for San Luis Valley

A consortium of county commissioners in the San Luis Valley announced recently that they have reached an agreement with a group that specializes in amusement parks featuring local nature and history.

The recent discovery of woolly mammoth remains in the San Luis Valley has reinforced the unique suitability of the valley as the location for the new mammoth sanctuary and eventual theme park. According to Commissioner Jarod Andersen, a park on 25 acres west of Villa Grove is planned to be up and running by summer of 2020.

The first phase of the park would include the controversial inclusion of actual “resurrected” woolly mammoths. Scientists were able to obtain the mammoth’s nucleus from hair cells of frozen baby mammoth carcasses found in Siberia in 2013. Chinese scientists reported in February 2017 that they have achieved the second step of resurrection: embryonic cells. Chinese scientist Xu Xun explained to online journal Ecns.com that “scientists injected the mammoth’s nucleus into the Asian elephant cells from which the nucleus had been removed. Now the nucleus of the cell is the genome of the mammoth, showing the characteristics of the mammoth.” The third and final step involves finding an eligible elephant surrogate to birth the mammoths.

San Luis Valley commissioners are elated to be on the cutting edge of genomics research. “People per-



Chinese scientists display “Lubya” one of the frozen baby woolly mammoths found in 2013 in Siberia.
AP photo

ceive the San Luis Valley as being so rural—so backward—but with this theme park we will be global pioneers,” stated Commissioner Andersen at a March press conference. “A real tourist attraction.” The second phase of the park will feature cloned mammoths in their natural habitat with visitors free to roam about and interact with the resurrected creatures. A water slide is planned for the park as well as a flint-knapping area that will allow visitors to leave with a handcrafted souvenir spearpoint.

Villa Grove Mercantile plans to add a Mammoth Burger to their menu and host a Mammoth Day event. Many in the northern valley are planning to open mammoth-themed cave-like B&Bs to give the multitudes of anticipated visitors places to stay. While the science about genomics and cloning is true, only an April fool would believe the plans of a sanctuary and theme park.

Confusion rains in English

Sum thymes English ken bee ah difficult language two spell, cinch unlike many other languages its maid from many different tungs with various spellings and weighs of pronouncing. Fur example, their is the Spanish word vaquero (cow-buoy, from vaca, the word fur cow) witch was twisted into buckarue. Ore, did yew no that hour tung is the soul language that has spelling

B’s? No won else kneads them.

Punctuation has also bin a problem for many threw the, age’s getting it rite is knot: all ways easy they’re to many acceptions too the rule. Wether buy adult ore child passed or present; thee righting is illusive.

Yew kin understand the prejudice against homophones.

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Who We Are

Sean Fletcher:

From monk to multitalented artist

by Gussie Fauntleroy

"I feel like all art is really connected. So if you have a steady hand, patience, and a meditative approach, you can create beauty—it doesn't matter the medium." As Sean Fletcher reflects on the activities that fill his hours these days, he sits in his downtown Crestone studio apartment where different areas in the clean, uncluttered room are dedicated to particular aspects of his art. In the center is a long worktable where he currently spends much of his time painting, with an easel nearby for reference photos; photography is his most recent side-venture. Along one wall sits neatly arranged tattooing equipment, a piano keyboard, and spools of copper and silver wire and tools for his exquisitely delicate wire-wrapped crystal jewelry. Almost every wall is hung with the prolific output of an art form he began just six months ago: acrylic paintings featuring iconic spiritual figures or landscapes with sacred geometry backgrounds or overlays.

It's easy to imagine the thoughtful, intensely focused artist, just past his 28th birthday, having spent four years pouring his spiritual passion and commitment into the ascetic lifestyle of a Hare Krishna monk. It's also easy to see him trading in monkhood (while keeping his personal mantric meditation practice) for challenging, worldview-expanding experiences like exploring Peru and bicycling solo across the western half of the United States. Underlying it all is a blend of spiritual questing, gentle shyness, and "super-adventurousness," as he puts it, which has shaped his life.

Barefoot boy

The adventure began outdoors in rural west-central Florida where Sean spent his first 13 years. The family's small lakeside home was a 20-minute drive from the Gulf Coast. Trees hung with fruit, and across the road was a swampy patch of jungly wildness to explore. The landscape's enveloping warmth and lushness was mirrored in the foundation of love and support Sean's parents provided for him and his younger sister. Their mother worked for AT&T and their father was an aerospace engineer with an inventive mind who once designed, built, and programmed lifelike talking-head robots just for fun.

When Sean was 13 his father got a job in Atlanta and Sean attended high school in a suburb



Sean's first serious art form was intricate wire-wrapped jewelry with crystals.

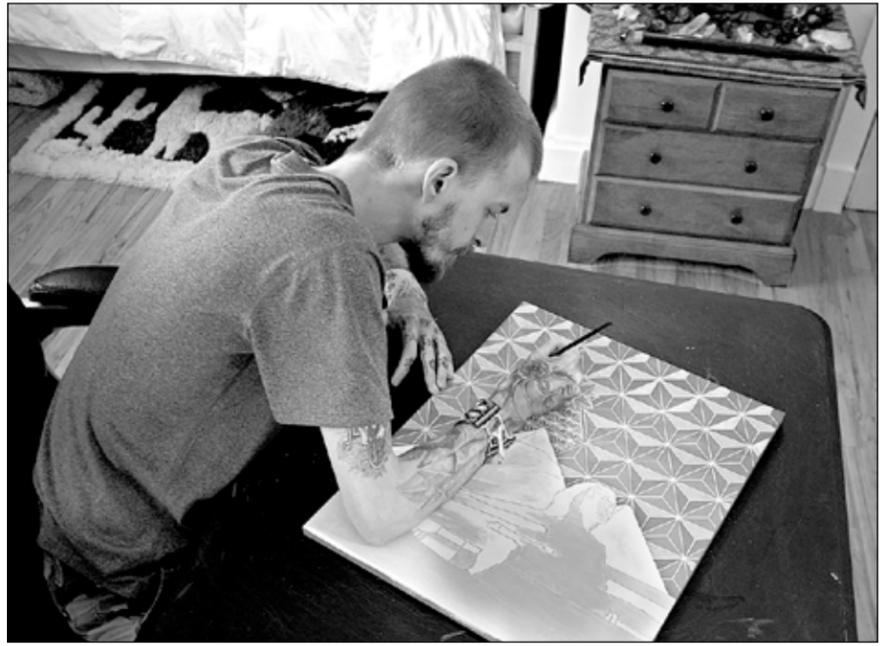


Like all of Sean's painting, *Claire de Lune* incorporates sacred geometry, here superimposed on the mountains next to Crestone.

north of the city, earning a scholarship to Georgia State University in Atlanta. A good student up to that point, at Georgia State he almost immediately "found my crew and we went bananas with substances," he says, smiling. A smorgasbord of mind-altering experiences blew open consciousness doors he didn't know existed, but it also took a serious toll on schoolwork. When he was arrested for growing marijuana in a closet, everything changed. A lawyer got the charges dropped, Sean quit school, and he distanced himself from his drug-exploring friends.

A path of purity

But he was curious about what he had experienced, and began reading scientific literature on the various natural and chemical agents he'd been ingesting. "I was looking for how to get to those states of consciousness without substances," he says. That led to meditation and yoga, and eventually to becoming a monk. Initially drawn to Buddhism, he joined a Hare Krishna temple because he resonated with most of its philosophy and practice, and because it was just three miles from his



Sean often spends many hours at a time painting these days.



The walls in Sean's studio apartment reflect his newfound passion for painting.

house. After six months in monastic residence he joined a group of monks who lived in vans and traveled around North America and Mexico with backpacks of books, mostly the *Bhagavad Gita*, to give away by donation at music festival and on college campuses. He traveled for three and a half years.

Invited to help establish a Vedic organic farm in Kentucky, Sean left the traveling monks and settled for a year into milking cows and tilling the soil. Just when he needed a change from the monotony of farm life, a Vedic numerology reading gave him the spark to set off on his own. "One thing they said was so visceral, the words almost became physical and hit my heart," he remembers. Those words: "If you pursue jewelry-making as a career, you will be successful." Soon he made the difficult decision to leave the Hare Krishna organization. He purchased a used touring bicycle and tent and hit the road.

Cascade of creative energy

Having previously enjoyed simple wire wrapping, Sean bought wire, crystals, and tools as he cycled through New Mexico and Arizona. He taught himself to create intricate, delicately graceful pendants and rings. Back in Atlanta—having quickly realized Southern California was not his place—he began making and selling jewelry full time. Then a friend gave him a CD by Crestone musician Chances R. Good. With a strong desire to meet the person whose music he enormously admired, Sean traveled to Crestone and discovered, "Yup, this is where I want to live." Following his sojourn

in Peru and a short stay in Boulder, he settled here in early 2015.

About a year ago Sean decided to learn the art of tattooing. He invested in equipment and taught himself by adding to the many tattoos he already had. Today his tattoo designs echo the meticulous style and spiritually inspired symbolism that pervades his art. "Sacred geometries are woven into everything in our existence and are encoded with secrets and harmony and balance," he says. "They're like statements of the interconnectedness of everything in life. They're helping me to transform, at least in subtle ways."

In 2015 Sean published a book of his poetry and illustrations, *A Revolution in Love*. With former girlfriend Casey Arden he created the print-on-demand book, *A Prayer For Peace: A Conscious Coloring Book for Humans of All Ages*. (Contact Sean for purchasing information.) Now he hopes to expand his musical skills. Drawn in particular to classical piano, he would love to find someone with classical training to teach him to read music. He also has a vision of volunteering in the prison system, working with prisoners to help them through creating art. "Crestone is super-potent for me. There's some kind of energy flowing through this place that fuels my work," he says. "This is the coolest place I've ever lived."

Sean's jewelry (which he is phasing out to have more time for other art) is available on Etsy at [etsy.com/shop/DharmaWraps](https://www.etsy.com/shop/DharmaWraps). His paintings can be seen on his Facebook page.

Wisdom Keepers speak in Crestone

by Mary Lowers

The Rainbow Room of the Crestone Charter School hosted “wisdom keepers” from around the globe on the evening of March 23. This event, brought to the community by global and local activist Hanne Stong, celebrated “cultures, consciousness, sustainability and creativity.” Cheyenne River Lakota international speaker on peace Tiokasin Ghosthorse opened the gathering by “inviting Mother Earth to be here.” Telling the packed auditorium, “I’m here because of Mother Earth not because of you . . . because she has caused it all.”

Crestonian Lee Temple, sustainability guru who has lived with his partner on the Baca Grande producing and generating his own solar power for 20+ years, took the podium. Lee is the founder of Primamundi, a global network of activists dedicated to seeing humanity reconnect sustainably with the planet. Speaking about his latest volume in the Global Awakening series, Temple said the book “tells it like it is. We have lost something vital in our culture in the past few centuries. We are compelled to see the interlocking unity of all things and to plot a course forward.” Primamundi mantra is “every effort matters/everybody counts.” You can check out the book and find out about the “ten steps to action” at primamundi.com.

Next to speak was peace activist Dena Merriam who founded the Global Peace Initiative of Women and the Contemplative Alliance. She has worked in interfaith spiritual movements since the 1990s, working with “feminine principles and social change.” Speaking of hope in the uncertain world, Merriam said, “I am in gratitude for Standing Rock; prayers worked, rivers were freed.” She was referring to the laws passed in New Zealand and India granting rivers the same rights as humans. These statutes went into effect shortly after Water Protectors were forced to leave the Dakota Access Pipeline site. “I see the collective energy breaking through.” Merriam told the audience.

Swami Atmarupananda, an American Hindu who is a Senior Teacher in the Ramakrishna Or-

der, told everyone that “Mother Earth holds all in her clasp.” As people we need in these times, in particular, to “withdraw and find a place of safety and peace” to maintain balance. His definition of karma yoga is, “who you are becoming through what I am doing.” We are part of the larger life force. “The difference between who I am and what the universe . . . is not that different,” Swami Atmarupananda told the group.

Swamini Svatmavidyanada is an Indian teacher of the Arsha Vidya or Knowledge that Belongs to the Sages Lineage. She leads active communities in Washington, DC and Oregon, and teaches online. She spoke of the fact that humans are the only animals that have ego. She said, “Other beings do not go out of the natural order. We are now in violation of natural law.” She encouraged us to cultivate compassion which she says, “is already there but can be enacted by conscious exercises and deliberate acts.”

Tiokasin Ghosthorse took the stage again at the end of the evening and spoke of the cultural hurdles non-natives face in the world. The Lakota, he told the audience, do not see themselves as separate from the other life forces that make up Mother Earth. He said he “wants peace with earth not peace on earth.” In this view, “the body, the brain, and the heart are not separate” and “the brain is the seed of the heart.” He explained, “We can’t save Mother Earth. Mother Earth is saving us.” What we can do is work to relate as part of Mother Earth, part of the larger whole. He encouraged us to “support the cultures that were here first.”

Local artists Signe Ramstrom, Sharon Rose and her dance troop, Crestone Drummers, fluit Bruce Becker, and Alexander Koffe enlivened the evening with professional, heartfelt performances.

Doug Beechwood and his company Terra Media directed and produced technology for the evening’s event, including an in-kind donation of \$3500 worth of equipment rental and labor. Camera work was assisted by Peter Taylor, Sarah Winters, and Joshua Faust. Anna Louise Stewart facilitated stage managing.



Kate Steichen reports out from the CDC Action Group to the other 90+ participants at the Crestone Baca Resiliency Conference. Kate chairs the steering committee, which includes John Loll, Peter Gyallay-Pap, and Roland Gyallay-Pap, who worked for over 6 months in preparation. Another 20 community members were involved in the planning, including Hanne Strong and William Howell. Eight action groups emerged on the final day, committed to making our entire community more resilient. photo by Lori Nagel

Resiliency Conference

continued from page 1

participation, goals were identified. Breaking into smaller groups, ideas and concerns were established and fleshed out. Starting from planetary concerns to the small concerns of our community issues, situations were discussed and action plans formulated over the twenty-some hour event. The process was intense. Denye Scott, half-way through the event, told me, “This community is on fire to create a sustainable conscious living model for the possibility, not the probability.”

The process seemed to work, and participation was enthusiastic. Working on concerns and plans that were gleaned from the entire group on “common ground” allowed for a group consensus around issues to address in smaller circles. “My favorite piece of the conference was gathering in circles. In indigenous traditions circles neutralize negativity. Energetically there are no sides,” Malathy said.

On Saturday evening San Luis Valley troubadour Don Richmond performed for attendees. Kathryn Lorenz was inspired by “Don Richmond’s powerful vision of the valley, reminding us of the beauty we have.”

Core concepts emerged on Sunday and action groups were formed. These groups formed

around specific issues are committed to bring the core concepts into reality for the common good. Participant Paul Jackson said, “Amazing commitment and participation. I wish the whole community could participate.” It turns out the whole community can be part of this creative process. Action groups are looking for people eager to prepare and execute their plans. Listed below are the action groups with contact information so you too can help facilitate necessary change.

The event was inspiring. Doug Beechwood and his company Terra Media donated \$5,800 worth of equipment rental and labor to facilitate technology for the week-ends conference.

Action groups will show the community how they can plug in to this exciting process. Vivia Lawson described the Resiliency Conference as “a wonderful and powerful experience of community.”

How you can join in Resiliency

The following action groups were formed at the conference. If you are interested in participating in one of these areas, please call the liaison person listed.

Community Center—Goal: multi-purpose, multi-generational community center in two to three years. Liaison: Lars Skogen 719-256-5845

Community Development—Goal: form a corporation or coop to facilitate development to agreed-upon capacity. Fundraising for all action groups. Liaison: Carolanne Robinson: 719-256-4119

Energy—Goal: self sufficiency in ten years. Liaison: Janet Woodman 719-256-4956

Food—Goal: In three to five years community food self sufficiency. Liaison: Sharon Langstom: 719-937-7755

Governance—Goal: to explore options for unity in the community to implement change. Liaison: William Howell 719-588-5498

Housing—Goal: Affordable housing for Crestone and the Baca. Liaison: Adam Fries 970-426-9446

Paradigm Shift—Goal: work with awareness and support action groups. Liaisons: Sandy Skibinski 207-837-7146 & Alexander Koffi 719-221-0867

Water—Goal: safe and sufficient water for the Crestone/Baca area. Liaison: Jane Thomas 719-256-5910



Here’s most of the group that joined the Resiliency search conference the weekend of March 24-26 in Crestone. Close to 100 people attended (official count is 96) Many great ideas were expressed and plans are being made for future projects in our community. photo by Lori Nagel, also an attendee

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

Spring is here and a beautiful one at that. At the end of March we began our Spring Navratri, the Divine Festival, which will continue until Wednesday, April 5. There is 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 Tuesday, April 11 and the new-moon fire ceremony is on Wednesday, April 26. They 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 fire ceremony when we do not have a large one. Call us at 719-256-4108 for proper protocol for attending fire ceremonies and any other questions.

Our Annual On-Line Auction Fundraiser will begin on Friday, April 28 and run for 10 days only. Many of our local businesses have both donated services to the auction or are sponsors. This has both been a great way to raise money for the Ashram and to advertise our local businesses. 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/babajashram. You will notice we have been graced with several of JD Marston's fine color prints, passes to all of our hot springs, treatments and services, a signed LA Laker Basketball, get-aways to Thailand and Florida, and many other great items. Your bids are a big part of the success of this fundraiser.



Ashram Annual On-Line Auction from April 28 - May 5 at www.biddingforgood.com/babajashram/babajashram-10.

We are very excited to announce that our annual Kid's Camp and concurrent Real Love Workshop for the adults will run from Tuesday, July 25 through Friday, July 28 from 10am until 1pm. We are expecting a big turnout for the workshop as it will be facilitated by several Certified Real Love coaches from around the country. This work has made a profound difference in so many people's lives. We encourage you to enroll early (\$108 for advance and \$135 at the door) as we will be limiting enrollment to the first 45. For more information and enrollment form visit our website at www.babajashram.org/upcoming-programs. The Kid's Camp is a free gift to our community but a parent or guardian must stay on the grounds at all times.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is full and ready to serve you and if you mention this article, we will happily give you 10% off. The shop is open every day from 10am until 5pm. We invite you to come in and look around. We deeply appreciate your support. You may view some of what is in our shop on our website at <http://mahalakshmiashram.wazala.com>.

For more information about the Ashram, please visit our website at www.babajashram.org. 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.

Sri Aurobindo Learning Center The divine paradox

by Rod Hemsell

In a seminar on feminism that I attended recently, a brilliant speaker from Croatia told us about the "colonization of the female" in European academic life, and how she finally escaped, first from her war-torn homeland, then from academia, and finally from colonization of every type onto an island named Savitri, where she does organic farming, meditation and massage therapy. She was participating in the seminar at my request, and though she was an inspiration, she was regretting the exposure. Well, I said, Sri Aurobindo tells us that "There are two realities." And this is our biggest, and perhaps our only real challenge. ". . . when we have realised the eternal self that we are, when we have become that inalienably, we have still a secondary aim, to establish the true relation between this eternal self that we are and the mutable existence and mutable world which till now we had falsely taken for our real being and our sole possible status.

"We must take back in the right relation and in the poise of an eternal Truth the world of our manifested existence peopled by our fellow-beings from which we had drawn back because we were bound to them in a wrong relation and in the poise of a falsehood created in Time by the principle of divided consciousness with all its oppositions, discords and dualities. We have to take back all things and beings into our new consciousness but as one with all, not divided from them by an egoistic individuality." (*Synthesis of Yoga*, p. 368).

Escaping onto that island called Savitri, whether figurative or real, can certainly be the key. The description that is given of the union between the human soul (Satyavan) and the Goddess (Savitri) may actually inform the mind of that possible relationship to the One in All, beyond the duality which seems to be the origin of every paradox. There is the One, and there are the Many; there is the Truth, and there is the Falsehood. But uniting this duality in a transformed consciousness, above "mind", enables us to restore the true value to things that we otherwise might continue to need to reject. Like the return of spring, after a miserable, or perhaps delightful, winter. Like discovering the infinite in the finite world of all those wrong relations. As Satyavan exclaims, in the moment when he discovers the possibility of that perfect poise:

"O my bright beauty's princess Savitri,/ By my delight and thy own joy compelled/ Enter my life, thy chamber and thy shrine./ In the great quietness where spirits meet,/ Led by my hushed desire into my woods/ Let the dim rustling arches over thee lean;/ One with the breath of things eternal live./ Thy heart-beats near to mine, till there shall leap/ Enchanted from the fragrance of the flowers/ A moment which all murmurs shall recall/ And every bird remember in its cry."

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



**SRI AUROBINDO
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THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY
—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS

by Ish

1/ The Extraordinary Adventures of Adele Blanc-Sec: This delightful adventure with the intrepid authoress Adele Blanc-Sec takes place at times in Egypt as she searches for a mummified doctor who can bring her catatonic sister back to life. With this in mind she hopes that Professor Esperandieu, back in Paris, will bring the doctor back to life. But the professor has already brought to life a pterodactyl egg that is wreaking havoc in early turn-of-the-century Paris. Written & directed by Luc Besson, who is becoming a favorite of mine. (4 stars)

2/ Tower Heist: When a group of workers in a ritzy high rise condominium realize their boss has lost their pensions via a Ponzi scheme, they decide to wield their own justice. Using the building manager and a felon, they put their ingenious plot into action. A light, funny, entertaining film starring Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy, Casey Affleck, Alan Alda, Matthew Broderick, Judd Hirsch, Tea Leoni & others. (4 stars)

3/ The Enemy: Terrorists kidnap a brilliant geneticist, stealing a deadly biological weapon, holding the world as hostage. A CIA agent and the scientist's son need to decode the formula before rogue government agents can stop them. Stars Luke Perry, Olivia d'Abato, Roger Moore, et al. (3 stars)

4/ Good 'Ol Freda: A shy Liverpudlian teenager, Freda Kelly, was asked to work for a local band who were hoping to make it big . . . The Beatles. Here she tells her personal stories for the first time in 50 years. Stars Freda Kelly, John, Paul, George & Ringo . . . et al. (4 stars)

5/ Body Armor: A burned-out bodyguard is hired to protect the man he hates the most, an international assassin. He is forced to put his feelings on hold since the assassin has destroyed his career, ruining his life. The bodyguard must use his years of experience and skills to keep the assassin alive amidst a barrage of constant danger. Stars Til Schweiger, Chazz Paminteri, et al. (3 stars)

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Free Spirit Christian Church



Believe the Truth

This message was received by Pastor Earl LeRoy from Jesus through a revelation from the Holy Spirit.

Believing is not something you think, but something you know. Believing something does not make it true. True believing, however, is a rock solid statement of faith in real truth. I sent My Spirit of Truth to teach you all things and equip you to face and overthrow deception and false belief systems.

Adam was not created on earth to succumb to the temptation of the serpent. We created him here to defeat the enemy and create a heaven-like existence on earth just as it is in Heaven. Had Adam chosen to believe Me and not the serpent the earth would be like the new earth in the Book of Revelation. Today the earth is in decay until it is burned in fire.

Nothing is impossible for those who believe. I sent My word to heal you and I took stripes on My back to pay for your healing. Yet, some people believe that it is not My will to heal everyone. Some believe that I cause sickness and disease to teach lessons. The lesson I want to convey is that My Word is powerful enough to dispel any sickness or disease if one believes the Truth of My Word.

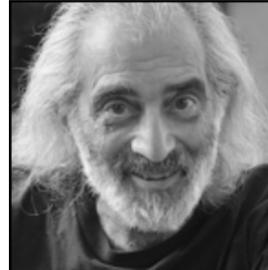
Everything works for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose. I Am the healer. The Truth is that all healing

has been purchased by My Blood at My scourging and My death on the cross and it is received when you believe the truth of My Word. I can, however, cause good to come from out of evil because I Am determined to provide life in abundance to them who believe My Word.

The Father seeks them who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. The Holy Spirit and the Truth of My Word will conquer anything that evil brings and anything that seems impossible to the world. Whenever 'believers' believe this they will see what the masses saw when I walked the earth.

When I walked the earth, the people only understood on a surface level. Many believed in Me and received My Spirit did miracles like I did. This is where the Book of Acts began and still continues today to those who believe. Some have caught the vision and have done mighty works and still do; but soon I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters will prophesy and young men will see visions and old men will dream dreams. These visions and dreams will come from a relationship with Me and My Spirit and My Spirit will direct the mighty works to be brought forth on the earth for My Glory and many will believe and be saved.

I Am looking for those of you who are anticipating and yearning for the outpouring of My Spirit so that My Power and Glory can manifest in your midst.



Aging as an art by Ammi Kohn

A Prayer for Joshua

Although I do not expect to choke up and tear, I am barely able to speak the words. I stand in synagogue with my sister, Hedy, to say the annual memorial prayer, The Kaddish (Remembrance), for my father, Joshua, who died 36 years ago. Hedy is five years younger than me, standing with very different memories of the family. My dead brother, for whom I also say the memorial prayer, would have had very different feelings and memories. He was five years older. So I stand now with my sister and remember, my brother dead 30 years, dying of a brain tumor, my father and mother gone so long ago. We stand with our different memories.

Seventy-eight years have passed since my father sat beside my bed while the summer sun set through the windows of my bedroom and I fell asleep listening to his songs and stories in the soft yellow glow of warm summer twilight. He was more of a mother to me than my mother. My child memory brings back "Pop" as tender in speech and word, loving in gesture and hug. But when I became a teenager, I was disenchanted with my father's weaknesses. Now I am fully aware of my own.

I think of the words I might have said before it was too late. So I stand now with my sister and remember, all these feelings and thoughts roiling together.

I hear time's passage behind my husky soft teared voice trying to speak the syllables of the ancient Kaddish, the Remembrance. How many times in synagogue I have seen the others stand in remembrance! Now I join them. All of us together stand, I with my sister, the others whose memorial anniversaries coincide with my own, alone but together.

So much crowding in my mind and body, all mixed and confused/fused together in this moment of remembrance: love for the good memories, regret for the bad: how many unasked questions, how many never-to-be-known answers; my imagined lives of their time before I was born and the realities of their disappointments in the final unhappy years. I stand with my sister and cry for them. The voices of the other standing mourners saying the Kaddish synchronize with mine and remind me that we do not stand and mourn alone. We do not mourn alone.

What will my children remember and feel when they say the Kaddish?

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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.*



If you allow compassion to spring from your heart the fire of anger will die right away."
-Thich Nhat Hanh

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

The Jokerster

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?
Bugs Bunny!
How did the soggy Easter Bunny dry himself?
With a hare-dryer!
Why did the Easter Bunny cross the road?
Because the chicken had his Easter eggs!
How does the Easter Bunny travel?
By hare-plane!
How does the Easter Bunny stay fit?
Eggs-ercise and hare-robics!
What kind of jewelry does the Easter Bunny wear?
14 carrot gold!

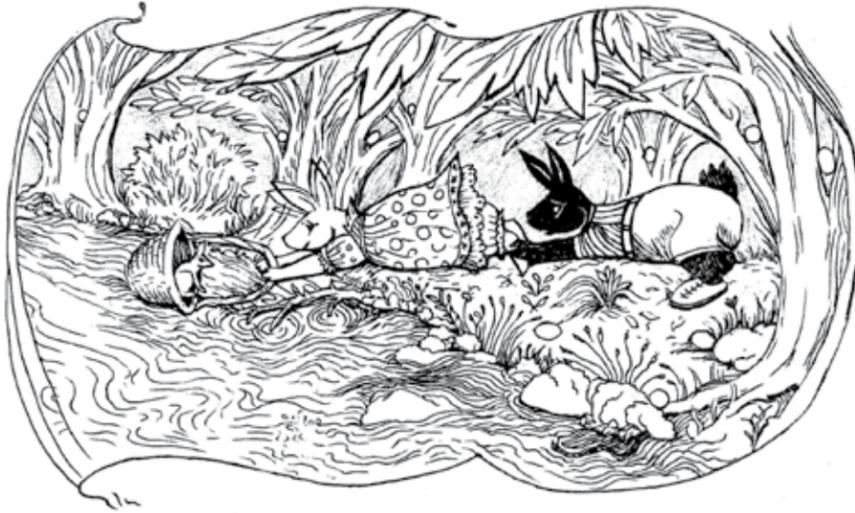


What is the bunnies' favorite dance?
The bunny hop!

What do you call a rabbit that tells good jokes?
A funny bunny!
What do you call a forgetful rabbit?
A hare-brain!
Where does the Easter Bunny like to eat breakfast?
IHOP
How do you know that carrots are good for your eyes?
Have you ever seen a rabbit wear glasses?
Where does the Easter Bunny get his eggs?
From an egg plant!
What kind of beans grow in the Easter Bunny's garden?
Jelly beans!
What did the father egg do when the mother egg told him a joke?
He cracked up!
What do you get if you cross a bee and a bunny?
A honey bunny!

The Easter Egg Hunt

*A Poppy & Pierre Adventure
story by M. Diane Bairstow
drawing by Ginny Ducale*



FIND THE 10 EGGS HIDDEN IN THIS PICTURE

Everyone was lined up in pairs with their Easter baskets. Pierre was silent and determined, and Poppy whispered over and over, "I won't stop for the sweet clover. I won't. I won't."

Miss Blakely blew the whistle, and the hunt began.

Pierre carried the basket and Poppy gathered the eggs. When she spied one in the curve of a tree limb, Pierre stretched to his tallest and gave it a little push with his paw. Poppy caught it just before it hit the ground.

"We're sure to win!" Poppy

said, very proud of their teamwork.

"I know ..." Pierre began but was stopped short by a cry for help.

Both bunnies were very quiet, and then it came again, from the riverbank. Poppy and Pierre ran as fast as they could.

Molly, a young mouse, was holding onto a tree root, but the rushing water was about to sweep her away. Quickly, the two bunnies came up with a plan.

Poppy dumped out the eggs and crawled down the river-

bank with the basket.

She stretched out on her belly and Pierre held her hind paws to keep her from sliding in too. Then Poppy stretched out the basket for Molly to climb into.

It was very tense as Molly struggled into the basket, but she finally made it

When Poppy and Pierre finally got to the finish line, Miss Blakely was counting everyone's eggs to see who would win the huge Easter basket filled with candy and toys.

"I'm sorry, you're too late," Miss Blakely was saying, but then there was a huge commotion when everyone saw Molly in the basket.

Molly's mother thanked Poppy and Pierre over and over as she wrapped her baby in a warm shawl and held her tightly to her breast. While Poppy and Pierre were told her about the rescue, Miss Blakely called all the children together

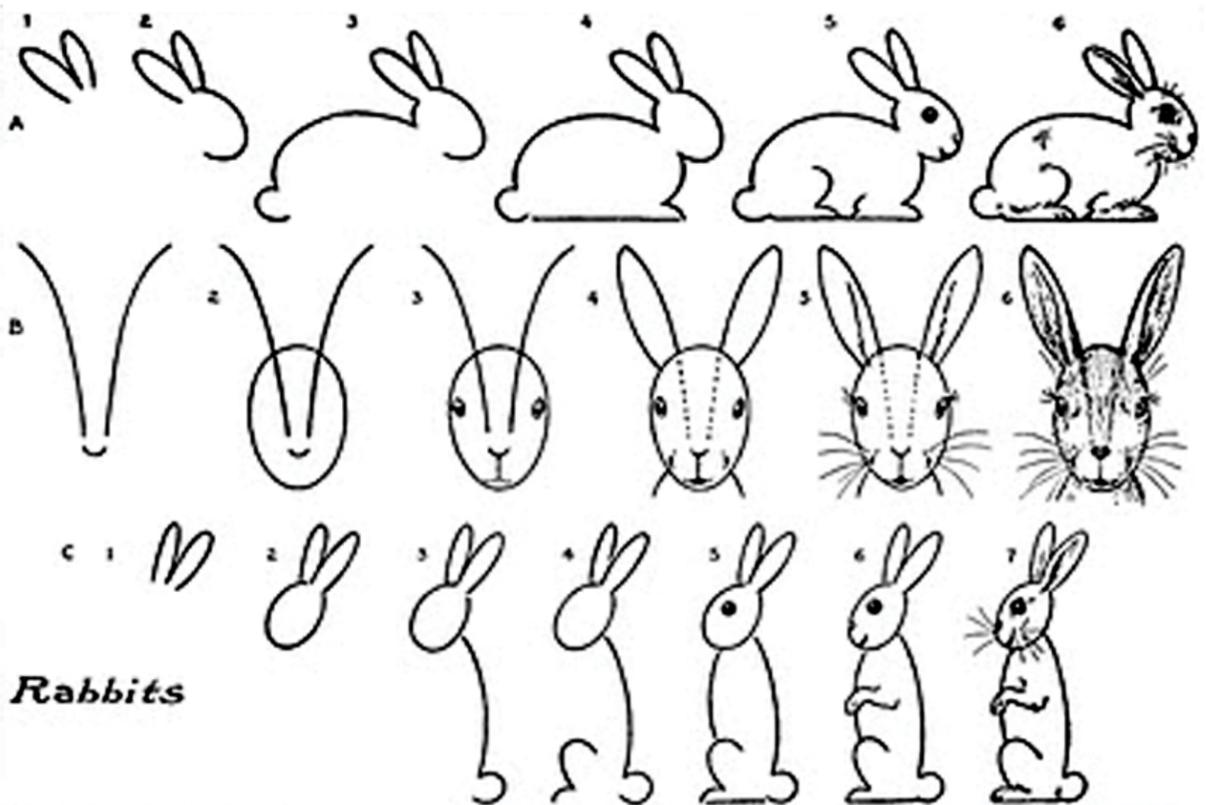
When Poppy and Pierre joined the others, they had a surprise. Everyone had agreed to give them the prize Easter basket.

Poppy and Pierre were very happy, but they didn't feel they really won it. So they decided to share the toys and candy with everyone.

"That way," Pierre said, "everyone goes home a winner."

DRAW A BUNNY

FOLLOW ALONG AND DRAW YOUR OWN EASTER BUNNY



Rabbits

How does the Easter Bunny keep his fur shiny?
With hare spray!
What did the Easter Egg say to the other Easter Egg?
Have you heard any good yolks today?
What is the bunnies favorite music?

Hip Hop!
What is the best way to send a letter to the Easter Bunny?
Hare mail!
What happened to the egg when he was tickled?
He cracked up!
What do you call a rabbit

with the sniffles?
A runny bunny!
Why does Peter Cottontail hop down the bunny trail?
Because he is too young to drive!
How does a rabbit throw a tantrum?
He gets hopping mad!

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Moffat School's 4th & 5th grades travel to Garden of the Gods

by Ms. Jones

"For our field trip we went to Garden of the Gods. We learned about three types of rock. The three types of rocks are igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary. I also learned about the Kissing Camels and that was my fun field trip."

-Will B., 5th Grade

"The Garden of the Gods is a beautiful place. When you have a guide he or she can tell you about it. What I learned is that there are 2 types of sedimentary rocks."

-Cheyenne D., 5th Grade

"The Garden of the Gods were redder than I imagined. I learned about sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks. My favorite part was the cave that we got to go into and hear the different sounds the rocks made."

-Logan G., 5th Grade

"I loved it! I went up to Garden of the Gods and there we saw the Balancing Rock. I just loved it!"

-Riley C., 4th Grade

"I went on a field trip to Garden of the Gods with my teacher and the rocks were very tall. Some

were red and some were white."

-Marie V., 5th Grade

"My favorite part of the Garden of the Gods was that I got to see the Kissing Camels and the Balancing Rock. I learned that the red rocks are older than the lighter rocks. I also learned that sedimentary means layered and that one of the highest mountains in the world is Mauna Kea in Hawaii."

-Jaiden S., 4th Grade

"The trip the Garden of the Gods was amazing. Here are some things I learned. I learned that calcium and salt make a glue for the rocks. I also learned about erosion and faulting. The thing I liked the most was finding out Theo's name. Theo is a dinosaur and her real name is Theophytalia Kerri."

-Caleb B., 5th Grade

"I loved the Garden of the Gods even though I have been there before. My favorite part of the trip was looking at the rocks. I learned about faulting and the different types of rocks."

-Matias A., 5th Grade



Moffat students went on a field trip to Garden of the Gods.

Moffat Drama Club to perform Twain's Tales

Twain's Tales includes five short stories by the master American storyteller—"The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," "Science vs. Luck," "The Joke That Made Ed's Fortune," "The Belated Russian Passport" and "Is He Living or Is He Dead?"—as well as the fence-painting chapter from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The play takes place on the front porch of a general store in what could be Hannibal, Missouri in the late 1800s. The five locals—the storekeeper and his wife, a printer, a reporter and a riverboat pilot—spend the morning entertaining each other by seeing who can spin the tallest tale. In his own lifetime, Samuel Clemens held all four of these occupations, and his ability as a storyteller may very well have

been born while listening to such individuals spinning their yarns at the general store. As the narratives unfold, the storytellers, written in the tradition of story theatre, become the characters in the tales. Twain's razor-sharp wit and ability to expose our human foibles make this play more than just entertainment.

Moffat Drama Club is an after-school program for Middle and High School students. Moffat and Crestone Charter School Students are invited to participate. We meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-6pm at Moffat PK-12 Schools. Americorp Members are helping us with this program and will be providing snack and transportation along with other support.

See ya at the theatre.

Moffat School District receives education awards

The School and District Performance Awards for the 2015-2016 school year were held at the Colorado Department of Education office on March 1. Moffat School District 2 was awarded two awards. The Center of Excellence Award

was awarded to Crestone Charter School and the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award was awarded to Moffat PreK-12 School. We are very proud our amazing staff.

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Outdoor Education with the Crestone Charter School

by *Daya Scheide*

During the cold month of February, Crestone Charter School students and teachers took the opportunity to escape from our frigid winter weather, and headed for southern Arizona's beautiful Sonoran Desert to participate in the 2017 Winter Count primitive skills camp. Winter Count is an annual gathering that draws instructors and students together from all over the continent to share their enthusiasm and knowledge of skills including archery, hide tanning, fire making, flintknapping, camp cooking, and much more.



Robert Morley, grade 5, checks his archery target at Winter Count.

photo by Robin Blankenship

Andre Claudio, a CCS sophomore, explains what a typical day at Winter Count looks like: "First thing in the morning, one of the camp leaders walks around the camp playing a flute to get us all out of our tents. Then we join all the other participants for a shared breakfast. The food was superb, by the way. Some time after breakfast, all of the mentors would stand up on ladders and shout out the skills and classes they were offering that day. Knifeblade forging, archery, didgeridoo making, flintknapping, gourd crafts, wire-wrapped jewelry making, stone carving, and of course all kinds of primitive skills like firemaking and hide tanning were just some of the things we could pick. It was hard to choose. We could pick two workshops each day, with a lunch break in between. We'd have some time to hang out before sharing an amazing dinner

with about 600 other people. It felt like a big family. At the end of the day we would relax around the fire with lots of singing, dancing, and sharing. It really was an amazing experience."

For CCS's fifth grade students, Winter Count's most memorable learning experiences included developing their tracking skills, learning to make moose calls, creating art mandalas with natural objects, nighttime scorpion hunting with black lights, working together to successfully start a fire using a hand drill (just like our paleolithic ancestors did thousands of years ago), and making their own bows and arrows. Ziah Knight-Pesqueira, a fifth grader, reflects on his time at the archery range: "It was so much fun...One day I got 17 bullseyes, and the day before that I practiced throwing a long range atlatl (a stick with notch on it that you use to throw a small spear). I threw the atlatl 254 feet!"

"Winter Count was amazing," reflects Gabe England. "I was really sad when we left. It was a lot of fun and I hope we get to go again next year."

The circus came to town

This March the circus came to Crestone! Kevin O'Keefe and Erin Maile, creators of the Circus Kids Create artist-in-residence program, came to CCS with the challenge of creating a community-based circus in just five days . . . and our students certainly rose to the challenge! This spectacular collaborative learning experience was called Circus H2O, and included all students from kindergarten through high school, as well as teachers and community members. Together, they combined acting, acrobatics, juggling, dance, improvisation, and much more to tell the story of how water transforms and nurtures all the creatures of the San Luis Valley.

Kindergarten and first grade students used their movement and balancing skills to embody foxes, bears, sandhill cranes, and all of the other animals that come to drink from our mountain streams in the springtime. Second and third graders collaborated with high school students to learn some impressive acrobatic techniques, stacking themselves into intricate human pyramids to represent mountains and bodies of water. Fourth and fifth graders used juggling and plate-spinning to represent water in the form of snow. And middle schoolers learned to use beautiful, collaborative improvisational movements to demonstrate the formation of ice and water crystals. According to Rosie Catinella, "All of the improvisation we did really forced us to build trust in each other. We learned to work together to use our bodies in a new way. I think it opened our minds to what's possible." The five days of intense circus training culminated in an unforgettable Friday evening per-



CCS high school students enjoyed their time at the Winter Count primitive skills camp.

photo by Emily Donaldson



On March 10 at the Crestone Charter School, the Circus H2O trainer looked on as the middle school students performed all kinds of dangerous acts they'd learned just that week.

photo by Lori Nagel

formance that brought the whole community together in a joyful celebration of water!

formance that brought the whole community together in a joyful celebration of water!

Other CCS news

We are proud to announce that the Crestone Charter School is a recipient of this year's Colorado Centers of Excellence Award. With this award, the Colorado Department of Education recognizes CCS for demonstrating the highest rates of student longitudinal growth, as measured by the Colorado Growth Model.

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The Washington Beat

Trump World: The Fool on the Hill

by David Nicholas

100 days are up on April 30. The 100 days has always been the benchmark pundits and voters use to measure the performance of the current administration. At day 70, Trump World is still a shambles because refuseniks (Democratic voters) will still not bow down and obey the sexual-predator-in-chief.

March was going to be the time when President Trump would have his best month yet. But hope faded as the disasters started rolling in. The Russian scandal moved from marginal to mainstream and “gotcha!” moments began to mount while the White House attempted distractions to divert public and media attention.

Worse, the rollout of the 66-page American Health Care Act (AHCA aka “Trumpcare,” “Ryan-care” or “Obamalite”) on March 6, one of his signature campaign promises, was bombed into oblivion in just three weeks. Blame for the fiasco was laid at Mr. Trump’s White House and House Republican factions. The bill was pulled March 24 just minutes before it was going to the floor for a vote, which the GOP was going to lose.

But to sum it up, March was worse than February. For the first 70 days of a “young” administration it has been a total screw-up.

Worse, after displaying glee and wallowing like pigs in mud about being in power and a presidential address on March 1, which was supposed to relieve worries that Mr. Trump could be presidential, it all got lost in the dominant news narrative.

“Trumpism”, as his verbiage is now referred to, can be added to *Roget’s Thesaurus* as another word for wallowing in lies and/or creating chaos. When you elect a boy in a man’s body who is really too old for the office, is perpetually grumpy and displays a case of the sulks when he has to share the limelight, he becomes an easy mark for those in his entourage who have a less public yet disturbing agenda for America (see Steve Bannon below).

But something else was building up during March, and this was/is one of the biggest bombshells in the Trump Era. This was Russia-gate of which please see below. But first, the really big blow-out.

Boom! Trumpcare goes down to stunning defeat

Released by GOP House Speaker Paul Ryan on March 6, the draconian American Health Care Act (AHCA) attacked the basic tenets of Obamacare. By March 24 it was dead, dead, dead. Speaker Ryan pulled the bill minutes before it was heading to the floor of the House for a vote, and it was Republicans who killed the bill.

In pulling the vote, Speaker Ryan said, “This was a disappointing day for us . . . We will need time to reflect on this moment . . . This was a setback no two ways about it.” But more importantly he said, “Obamacare is the law of the land.” This was Mr. Ryan’s resignation that Obamacare will not be over-

turned anytime soon. It may be tinkered with, maybe with Democratic support. If that happens it is essentially what Democrats want to see happen, which is key for any legislative success.

By any stretch of the imagination AHCA was mean, cruel and deserved to die. The way Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Tom Price, told it, the changes under this healthcare bill was about “care” and not about “coverage.” The Secretary wants to get single mothers and young people off Medicaid to get out and get a real job and then buy “care” from the choice of plans available.

Essentially, Dr. Price said “patient-centered” health care meant that every American would benefit from these changes. It was crap because it took health costs back to the time of pre-Obamacare and it would have been way worse. The worst feature, though, was that if the bill passed and became law it would cut Medicaid expansion which provided free healthcare for people under Obamacare; it also threatened cuts into major parts of the Medicaid entitlement program which would dispossess the elderly of their health and pharmaceutical benefits.

The signal that the bill was in trouble was when the AHCA Reform Bill was scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The CBO analysis of the bill estimated that 14 million additional people would be uninsured next year—as of January 1, 2018—if the AHCA were enacted. That number jumped to 24 million by 2026, partially because Medicaid dollars per person would be capped, imperiling the expansion of the program in 31 states and the District of Columbia. The report also estimated a \$337 billion reduction in the federal budget over 10 years.

The CBO is a nonpartisan scorekeeper that predicts the impact of legislation. Two House committees voted the legislation through before the CBO released its analysis, prompting criticism from Democrats.

Boom, Boom! The opposition to AHCA

Obviously Democrats wanted no part of this legislation, so it was left to the majority party to push this bill through in the House and it was true to Republican form, a shambles. Republican conservatives—the House Freedom Caucus (previously known as the Tea Party)—hated the bill as originally put forward, and when Speaker Ryan and Mr. Trump started tinkering with some of the details to get Freedom Caucus support, previously supportive Republican moderates withdrew their support.

Lack of unity in the GOP came down to the make-up of the member’s electoral district. The Freedom Caucus representatives’ districts hold wide electoral mar-



gins (15-20% in some cases). On the other hand, moderates came from districts in states where Democrats govern in the main, and their electoral margin is much closer (2-5%). These were also in states that accepted federal money for Medicaid expansion under Obamacare, which took pressure off a state’s budget. These states (Colorado, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Ohio) couldn’t provide major healthcare coverage or at some point wouldn’t be able to cover the increasing cost of hospital emergency room medical care.

But there was also a lot of shock for Republicans in safe red seats who were finding their town hall meeting and forums filled with angry voters who were seeing their healthcare coverage threatened if AHCA passed. The opposition was so loud that GOP members would sneak out the back way when the going got tough or wouldn’t face their constituents face-to-face but would do on-line “chats”.

Despite the attempts by the White House and Republicans to control the nightly news narrative, they never had a majority to get this bill passed in either the House or the Senate.

House number crunchers both in Congress and in the media say that up to 47 Republicans were balking at supporting the bill. There were others who had not declared one way or the other. The Republican majority needed 216 votes for ACHA to pass the House. Normally the GOP majority is 421, but two were absent for personal reasons.

In the Senate, perhaps as many as 10 Republicans were known to oppose the bill as it stood. The Senate Republican majority is 52, so just two senators who wouldn’t vote, or voted against the AHCA, doomed the bill. One Senator who was real antsy to support the bill is Colorado’s Senator Cory Gardner.

So what happens now? Nothing for the foreseeable future, there was no plan B to replace the AHCA.

RussiaGate: FBI investigating Russian influence in 2016 election

FBI Director James Comey announced at the public House Intelligence Committee hearing on March 20 that, “I have been authorized by the Department of Justice to confirm that the FBI, as part of our counterintelligence mission, is investigating the Russian government’s efforts to interfere in the 2016 presidential election and that includes investigating the nature of any links between individuals associated with the Trump campaign and the Russian government and whether there was any coordination between the campaign and Russia’s efforts. As with any counterintelligence investigation, this will also include an assessment of whether any crimes were committed.”

Under questioning, Mr. Comey revealed that the investigation has been in place since July 2016. Now that the investigation is public, questions abound now about the Director’s action concerning the Clinton campaign and the so-called re-opening of Mrs. Clinton’s emails on the private server just weeks before Election Day.

Trump humiliation—Tweets maligning President Obama repudiated

On the same day that the Gal-

lup poll put Mr. Trump’s popularity at 35% (58% disapproving), the President was publicly and justly humiliated and slapped down before a live audience of folks watching the four or so hours of testimony by the FBI Director Jamey Comey and the National Security Agency’s Director Admiral Michael S. Rogers.

The committee wasted no time. Chairman Devin Nunes (R-CA) made his opening statement, but Congressman Adam Shiff (D-CA), the ranking Democrat, asked FBI Director Jamey Comey this: “Director Comey, was the President’s statement that Obama had his wires tapped in Trump Tower a true statement?”

Director Comey: “With respect to the President’s tweets about alleged wiretapping directed at him by the prior administration, I have no information that supports those tweets and we have looked carefully inside the FBI. The Department of Justice has asked me to share with you that the answer is the same for the Department of Justice and all its components. The Department has no information that supports those tweets.”

It all began two weeks earlier, when Mr. Trump had made four maligning tweets in the early morning hours of March 4, casting slurs on President Obama, accusing the former President of a criminal felony. It immediately created a furor. Former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said on NBC’s MeetThePress on March 5 that as far as he was aware no such wiretap order was made.

The ramifications for this continued when the former head of the National Security Agency, General Michael Hayden, stated on MSNBC’s March 6 MorningJoe that this narrative is seen as weakening the US position in the world. The perception of US government entities fighting among themselves emboldens countries like the People’s Republic of North Korea to mount world tensions.

Worse, on March 17 when the President hosted German Chancellor Angela Merkel in an awkward meeting at the White House, the President was given the opportunity to back down and publicly apologize in answer to a question by a German journalist. He offered nothing. Instead of apologizing, which would have been the smart move, Mr. Trump replied that because he never said it, that it was an assertion made by a Fox News commentator, they should go ask Fox News. So there, apparently stupid is as stupid does. Stay tuned; this isn’t going away.

Steve Bannon, “Deconstruction of The Administrative State”

It was at the CPAC—Conservative Political Action Conference—meeting on February 23 that Mr. Trump’s Special Advisor to the President, Steve Bannon, who heretofore had been deemed elusive to public scrutiny, turned up at the conference arm-in-arm with White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus to deliver his view of the world in a twenty-minute set. His view of the world is dark and foreboding, in essence very Trump!

In his words, the Trump agenda is a “three vertical bucket set”; Mr. Bannon aims to reshape the

US government and the world. I kid you not. Briefly, it was pretty convoluted but they are,

1. National security and sovereignty. “That’s your intelligence, the Defense Department, Homeland Security.”

2. His version of “economic nationalism.” This means “(Secretary) Wilbur Ross at Commerce, (Secretary) Steven Mnuchin at Treasury, (Secretary) Lighthizer at Trade, Peter Navarro (Director to the newly created National Trade Council), (White House Senior Advisor) Stephen Miller, these people that are rethinking how we’re gonna reconstruct the—our trade arrangements around the world.”

3. Deconstruction of the administrative state. This means, “puts in place a constant deregulatory form within the federal government. And what it says is, for every regulation presented for passage, that Cabinet Secretary has to identify two that person would eliminate.” And that’s a big deal.

Essentially, so long as Cabinet Secretaries serving at the pleasure of the President do as Mr. Bannon dictates, we can be like Russia in four years, certainly eight if Mr. Trump gets that lucky. He has quite an agenda but it is also a lot to push uphill. It’s also a lot for Americans to swallow, even for the GOP supporters who face losing their inexpensive Obamacare coverage. But Mr. Bannon appears resolute in this matter.

Over the weekend of March 11-12, there were stories about Mr. Bannon and his status of “no fixed-address.” Apparently, Mr. Bannon kept a business manager in Beverly Hills, California but Bannon himself changed residences regularly around West Palm Beach in Florida. At the time, Mr. Bannon was registered to vote at those various addresses but never actually voted. This was before Mr. Bannon was hired by Mr. Trump to work on his election campaign.

Trump’s \$1.1 trillion budget: Punishing everyone who ain’t rich

“America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again” was released on March 16. Be clear, should this Trump budget be adopted by Congress, it promises to inflict pain upon you, me, and ironically, dragging into oblivion the very people who voted for Mr. Trump.

Most of this budget “blueprint” is a signature creation coming from the dark reaches of Steve Bannon’s mind. Mr. Bannon’s “deconstruction of the administrative state” is stark and revealing for reshaping the government. The budget plan slashes deeply into the State Department, redirects funds toward the military, guts environmental and housing programs—and continues to run a nearly half-trillion-dollar deficit.

Every dollar of proposed cutbacks to domestic, diplomatic and international aid programs that Trump makes in the spending plan will go to boost defense and law enforcement.

Beyond the headline narrative there are major cuts for domestic programs. This budget defunds Planned Parenthood and cuts out completely some very important social programs such as Meals on Wheels. Really? Meals on Wheels? .

White House Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney told reporters at a press conference on March 16 that Meals on Wheels “sounds great.” But he said that along with other anti-poverty programs, it is “not showing any results.” Meals on Wheels provided 219 million meals to 2.4 million low-income seniors in 2016.

“We can’t spend money on programs just because they sound good,” Mr. Mulvaney proclaimed, adding that, “We’re not going to spend money on programs that cannot show that they actually deliver the promises that we’ve made to people.”

Trump’s budget would strip three billion from the Community Development Block Grant program, which supports a variety of community-development and anti-poverty programs.

In the event that these budget recommendations make it into the actual GOP budget you can say bye-bye to the National Endowment for the Arts; the Corporation for Public Broadcasting which funds public radio stations such as KRZA; the big dogs such as PBS (which provides the bulk of financing for programs such as Frontline, PBS Newshour and The American Experience); and NPR (Morning Edition and All Things Considered).

If you are not quite feeling the love coming from Mr. Trump well, you are not alone. We will see how “blueprint” survives.

The Russian scandal—Sessions recuses himself

In the following days the narrative went back to the Russian Scandal—it’s officially a scandal now—no thanks to the *Washington Post*, which disclosed that Attorney-General Jeff Sessions actually met with the Russian Ambassador to the US twice during the month of December when the Obama administration was applying sanctions for Russian wiretapping. Nothing really unusual on the face of it, except he had testified at his confirmation hearing to a question by Senator Al Franken (D-MN) that he had never met with the Russians during the election when he was Mr. Trump’s acting National Security Advisor, or after the November election.

Suddenly the Democratic leadership was demanding that Mr. Sessions resign, having lied to Congress. Mr. Sessions recused himself on anything to with the Russian scandal.

Also calls mounted for a Special Prosecutor to be appointed to deal with Russia’s influence on the presidential election, Mr. Trump’s dealings with the Russians and whether they have influence over him or other members of his administration. At some point, there will be a Special Prosecutor appointed and if the President smartly overcomes his anger and petulance, he will endorse the appointment of a Special Prosecutor, if only to downplay the Russian Scandal as leading narrative for the next couple of months.

The new immigration ban—revised

The revised immigration executive action, signed off by Mr. Trump on March 6 and due to take effect on March 16, leaves out Iraq as one of the countries subject to a 90-day ban on all travellers from

Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen to come to the United States. These six countries are also denied refugee entry for 120 days.

The original ban affected all immigrants from the mentioned countries, including U.S. permanent residents. The new ban exempts current visa holders and those who held visas at the time the original ban was implemented, groups that are entitled to significant due-process rights.

Also, the original order also halted the admission of Syrian refugees indefinitely. Just like the more general refugee ban, this violated the refugees’ due-process rights. The new order makes no specific mention of Syrian refugees, so those who have already been granted refugee status will be able to enter. As under the original order, no refugee applications from any country, including Syria, will be accepted for 120 days.

As of the evening of March 15, two federal judges, first in Hawaii and later in Maryland, froze this new executive order, temporarily barring the issuance of new visas to citizens of six Muslim-majority countries and suspending the admission of new refugees. U.S. District Judge Derrick K. Watson, part of the Ninth Circuit, initially froze the order nationwide.

While GOP leaders in Congress will scream about judges acting politically, a filing by the administration to overturn has been made to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Ninth Circuit could uphold the lower court decision again, but that would be pushing it. However, if that happens it would head to the Supreme Court for a decision one way or the other.

Syria now officially a US war—a truly stupid move

President Trump stupidly ok’d a forward armament mechanized group to move to the front lines in Syria to aid in the fight. Yes, there have been US military advisors assisting Syrian opposition forces in that fight against ISIS by providing drone and aircraft coordinates to aerial attacks, but they were not flying the flag. When you fly the flag in a war zone you are engaged, and this is a serious escalation of US military policy with little or no public comment. Just for the record, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad declared it an invasion, but the domestic noise is so loud that these military movements received only cursory reporting.

More to the point, the Pentagon is seriously considering committing a further 1,000 troops on the ground, and given the sneaky lack of White House transparency in regard to foreign policy, this will likely happen without much prior notice unless the mainstream media kicks up a proper stink.

The Gorsuch hearings—Supreme Court nominee

Is Colorado son Neil Gorsuch a moderate in conservative clothing? I ask this because in listening to what Judge Gorsuch has said, he sounds more like a swing vote on the Supreme Court if he is appointed to the bench than a dyed-in-the-wool Scalian thinker. Judge Gorsuch clerked for Justices Byron White and Anthony Kennedy—both swing voters in 5-4 decisions on social issues—who were and are far wider in their views on law

than the narrow views of Antonin Scalia, which in this day in age America does not need.

It is likely he will sit on the Supreme Court, so the big question is *Roe v. Wade*: would he agree to further weaken this law which protects a woman’s right to abortion? Other than regulating circumstances to bringing a pregnancy to term in the third trimester, I don’t think he would assent to overturn it. In my view *Roe v. Wade* is settled law but that is not the view of many GOP attorneys general in conservative red states who will see a chance to mount challenges once Judge Gorsuch is appointed. I could be way wrong about this, but the sense I get is that he is both high-minded and fair-minded, so he will probably have a chance to offend everyone.

On the US 10th Circuit Court of Appeals which sits in Denver, one of his close friends is Judge Carlos Lucero from the San Luis Valley, so I think maybe there is some sensitivity to social concerns. As in all things, we shall see.

That 35-page memorandum gains further authenticity

This document is henceforth referred to as the Trump Russian Dossier and there are many people who are starting to find parts of this document verifiable. Various people from Rachel Maddow to investigative reporters from *The New Yorker* are checking the details (March 6 issue).

Its author, former MI6 spy Christopher Steele, resurfaced, and Congressional Intelligence Committee members want to talk to him. So much so that the dossier’s author was mentioned on day one of the public hearings by the House Intelligence Committee.

The good news is that Mr. Trump created a new intelligence enemy. This is the UK’s GCHQ (equivalent to our NSA). When White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer asserted that the Obama Administration had used the agency to conduct surveillance on the Trump campaign, on March 16, the British agency responded immediately, denouncing the claim.

Why that is significant in terms of this dossier is that embarrassing the UK spy agency sends a signal that Mr. Steele is likely to testify before representatives of the Congressional intelligence committees and Mr. Trump can do little to stop him.

For the record, although major parts of the report remain unsubstantiated, all the details have credence for me.

And the beat goes on.

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Society is like a stew.
If you don’t keep it stirred up
you get a lot of scum on the top.
-Edward Abbey

Clarity on medical marijuana in Saguache County

by Sandia Belgrade

It's all too facile to say, "yep lots of illegal grows going on. People who grow are just that kind of person who wants to dodge responsibility." However, every month residents in our county register. Lately several medical marijuana growers have made inquiries about becoming legitimate. These marijuana growers would like to register with the County but feel overwhelmed. Either they don't have internet access to read the County requirements, or they can't understand the regs as written in "legalese." That's true for many of us. To encourage those who would like to be legit, but are afraid it's too expensive or can't figure out the logistics, Wendi Maez, Director of the County Land Use Department, has provided a brief user-friendly summary to help those who want to understand the system.

How many plants can medical folks grow?

Each residence is allowed 12 plants *total* on each property. If you want to grow more than 12 plants at your residence you need to come into the Land Use office at the County Courthouse and apply for a variance for each plant over 12. The variance fee is \$50 plus \$5 for each plant over 12. The recreational variance fee is the same.

Is there a limit?

What about the need for extra plants, say up to 24? Or more? There is no limit set at this time. Growers just have to apply for and receive approval to grow over 12 plants.

What is a rough estimate of the least amount it might cost?

The base cost for a Conditional Use permit is \$3000 + \$20 for the Certificate of Taxes Due + \$17.50 GPS and mailings charged to mail each adjoining landowner within 1500 feet of the subject property notice of the grow. (Note: In other places this rate can be over \$5,000.)

Application process

Residents go to the County for an application. It must first be approved by the Planning Commission. Then residents appear before the County Commissioners for approval. The process could take 60 days.

How does the Excise Tax work?

The Excise is only on the first retail sale and the rate now is 5% for Saguache County.

Home grow regs

continued from page 1

Springs, Pueblo and Denver by the Drug Enforcement Administration have identified grow and out-of-state distribution rings operating in Colorado. A DEA officer indicated that the marijuana was being grown specifically for sale and distribution out of state.

The federal government considers marijuana use to be prohibited under the Controlled Substances Act. The State of Colorado has agreed to cooperate with the federal government to prevent:

- Distribution of marijuana to minors
- Transporting marijuana across state lines
- Drugged driving and the exacerbation of other adverse public health consequences
- Growing marijuana on public land
- Marijuana possession or use on federal property
- Violence and the use of firearms in the cultivation or distribution of marijuana
- Use of state-authorized marijuana activity as a cover or pretext for illegal activity including the trafficking of illegal drugs
- Diversion of marijuana to illegal markets

The new plant limits in House Bill 1220 were approved with bipartisan support, 55-10. If also approved by the Senate and signed by the governor, marijuana patients and caregivers can no longer grow more than 16 plants at home.

State law currently limits recreational plants to six per adults over the age of 21. Medical marijuana patients with larger plant counts would be forced to grow any plants exceeding the 16-count limit in industrial or agricultural

areas. It also would allow local governments to impose further restrictions by ordinance. Saguache County regulations currently limit the number of plants per household to 12 regardless of the number of occupants over 21.

A companion bill, HB 17-1221 would create a marijuana enforcement grant program for local governments for law enforcement costs related to the gray and black marijuana market. Monies would be available for local law enforcement and district attorney's office. The bill has also passed the House and is up for consideration by the Colorado Senate.

Saguache County approved marijuana regulations in December 2016. The County Commissioners and the Sheriff are in the process of hiring a code enforcement officer for that position.

Saguache County currently has licensed 14 cultivation sites. Only five are producing and paying the 5% excise tax approved by the voters in the November 2016 election. January 2017 marijuana wholesale revenues yielded \$8,404 in excise tax revenue for Saguache County.

Statewide marijuana sales for 2016 were \$1.3 million, exceeding 2015 sales by 30%. Colorado collected \$108.9 million in marijuana taxes, licenses and fees.



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Halfway point of Colorado 2017 legislation session

by Lisa Cyriacks

Sixty days into the legislative session, the list of accomplishments is rather short. Of the 462 total bills (249 from the House and 213 from the Senate) introduced, 88 (or 19%) have been defeated. Forty-three bills (or 9%) have been signed into law by the governor. That leaves 331 (or 72%) still in progress.

Many of the top issues going into the session remain unresolved. These include a major transportation bill that calls for an increase in the state sales tax to fund \$3.5 billion in road construction bonds.

Even more contentious are the handful of bills addressing construction defects. Consumer rights are up against protecting homebuilders from excessive burdens.

Marijuana regulation & State's \$28 billion budget still on table

The new laws signed by Governor Hickenlooper include a package of minor midyear budget adjustments, a measure allowing for the State Dental Board to issue rules for laser surgery, repeal of obsolete laws, and clarifying the duties of the County Surveyor.

One of the most discussed measures that was approved by the General Assembly and signed into law involved the repeal of an old Colorado law that prohibited voters from proving to others how they voted. The matter became an issue when some voters from Colorado published in social media "ballot selfies". The voters were threatened with being charged under a law that was written in the late 1800s to protect the secrecy of the ballot and prohibit the buying and selling of votes.

House Democrats successfully killed a number of bills to expand gun rights, including a measure allowing for concealed carry without a permit. Three measures regarding abortion and religious freedom bill were also quashed.

Senate Republicans succeeded in blocking efforts to fund full-day kindergarten and to abolish the Electoral College in Colorado in favor of the popular vote for presidential elections. A bill to repeal the death penalty was also defeated.

Among bills still on the table is one that increases penalties for tampering with oil and gas equip-

ment. The bill was introduced into the Senate by the Republican Jerry Sonnenberg in response to reports of escalating vandalism by protesters opposed to oil and gas drilling.

In May 2016 the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that local governments cannot prohibit oil and gas development. Boulder County is currently being sued by the state for violating Colorado law by continuing to extend its moratorium on oil and gas development in the county.

This measure comes at a time when local governments have become a battleground as corporate interests seek to limit the influence of local governments. Countless progressive reforms like fossil fuel extraction bans, police oversight initiatives, minimum wage increases, worker protection bills, and rent laws have been passed through local ordinances. Often, in response, corporate interests have used their control over state legislatures—often obtained through dark money donations—to use "state powers" to preempt these measures.

A central demand of the Standing Rock Sioux, during the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) protest and ongoing, is for self-determination and sovereignty. The protests raised mainstream recognition of the importance of the opportunity to demand local self-determination.

Currently there are four bills proposed in the Colorado legislature that would unveil the sources of dark money used to influence local and state elections in Colorado. According to Colorado Ethics Watch, in 2016 expenditures topped more than \$11.6 million into state and local races. Much of that money came from well-funded 501(c)4 organizations that are not required to disclose their donors and billionaires.

Also in the interest of transparency, there is a bill establishing an affordable mediation process for records requesters. Currently the only option open to Colorado residents who are denied public records is court—a costly proposition. Colorado courts have already established a \$75 per hour, per party, mediation cost in civil cases. The intent is to encourage residents to discuss the dispute with the denying agency prior to pursuing any legal action.

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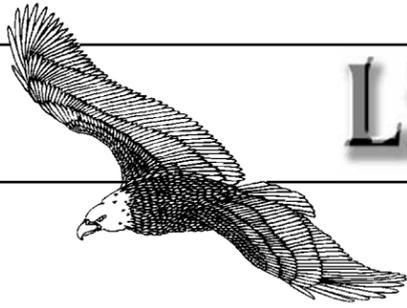
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Living on the Earth

Gone agro: Back to the future with local food

by **Stacia Burton**

What is possible when we come together as a movement, an incubating force strengthening the spokes of the wheel through sharing core values? Let us look particularly at the precedent-setting San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition (LFC), now in its 11th year. The seed of this inception dates back to 2008, when Melissa Emminger returned from Philadelphia where she attended a LiveWell Scholarship forum on Community Food Security. Upon returning to the valley, her presentation drew a record number of attendees who formed the basis of this local food coalition. The movement is roaring like spring melt down a mountain creek.

The mission of LFC is to “Foster an equitable local food system that restores the health of the people, community, economy and ecosystem.”

“Though we’re a mission-based organization, it has to be viable,” emphasizes Liza Marron, the founding director of the LFC.

As Nick Chambers, General Manager of the Valley Roots Food Hub (VRFH) is known to say: “We vote 3 times a day for the food system we want.” In other words, money can buy happiness in the sense of interconnection with the food we eat and the people who grow it. Nick & his wife Alycia also run a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) network in Crestone.

“We are reclaiming our relationships with the foods we eat, recreating our own local food systems here in the valley—where we can see the face of the farmer in the foods on our plate.” Excitedly, Liza Marron conveys the thread of how the coalition evolved initially

from a group formed for the prevention of teen substance abuse by the SLV Prevention Coalition. Apparently, the group brainstormed using a rather effective visual arts method allowing people to feel heard ~ ingenious. Thus inspired, the collective began to chart their creativity towards long-term goals as well as root-causes of addiction, finding good nutrition to be of standard importance.

In Liza’s words: Organized in 2009, the LFC began as a grassroots gathering of agricultural producers, school food service directors, the local food bank, community garden staff, nutrition educators, nonprofits and interested residents from around the San Luis Valley. Until 2016 the coalition met monthly with as many as 30-40 people participating in discussions to create a more vibrant local food system. In 2011 the LFC formed its first board and applied to become a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. In 2012 it transitioned



Nick Chambers, general manager of the Valley Roots Food Hub.



An enticing array of locally grown foods.



OFA, Our Food is Art, serving up some soul foods.

from being under the umbrella of Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. to its own separate organization. The LFC now has five full time positions and a VISTA volunteer and a Mennonite volunteer.

The LFC takes a multi-pronged approach to achieving its mission including: incubating new farmers and providing access to land, providing an aggregation and distribution service for family farms, promoting local producers through the third edition of the Local Roots farm guide soon to be in print; offering cooking, nutrition, and food preservation courses and workshops; engaging in farm-to-school efforts.

The Valley Roots Food Hub launch in June of 2015 was met with enthusiasm and wide-spread participation by local farmers and ranchers and resulted in wider access to local markets. The LFC was also successful in its effort to acquire 38.2 acres of prime agricultural land on the Rio Grande Corridor for agricultural education and new farmer incubation with five incubators on the land in 2016.

The SLVLFC is the umbrella organization for the Rio Grande Farm Park (RGFP) and Valley

Roots Food Hub (VRFH). LFC acquired title to the RGFP land in 2016. This innovative multi-use park preserves the SLV’s important agricultural heritage, precious water resources, and open public spaces, simultaneously creating economic development, healthy living, and educational and recreational opportunities for community members. A key project component is RGFP’s focus on its working farm that provides education and opportunities for aspiring farmers to access land and learn to grow food for market. The VRFH aggregation and distribution hub was launched in June of 2015 and serves as a local market for small and midsize farms in the SLV including incubated farmers on the RGFP.

Liza Marron is the founding director of the LFC. She is an experienced community organizer with a focus on social justice, wellness and prevention with extensive project development and management expertise. The RGFP director, Julie Mordecai has been a nonprofit consultant for 6 years, has extensive ED experience and has ensured the success of many



The Valley Roots Food Hub farmers.

continued on page B-9



by Kim Malville

Mercury reaches its greatest height in the sky on the first of the month. Look in the west, some 30 to 45 minutes after sunset. It will set about 90 minutes after sunset. Mars will be visible about 15° above Mercury on this day. But, catch rapidly moving Mercury while you can, because it will rapidly sink in the west, and by April 10 it should be too faint to spot in the western twilight. Jupiter dominates the heavens, reaching its greatest height at midnight on April 7, when it will be in opposition to the sun.

April 1: Look for Mercury in the west. Don't miss it. Remember that the greatest regret voiced by Copernicus on his death bed was that he had never seen Mercury.

April 6: The waxing gibbous moon will be close to Regulus, the brightest star in Leo.

April 10: The full moon will be close to Jupiter.

April 18: Ruddy Mars will be moving close to the Pleiades.

April 28: Look for a beautifully thin crescent moon in the west just after sunset.

TRAPPIST & its seven new planets

"This space we declare to be infinite . . . In it are an infinity of worlds of the same kind as our own." -Giordano Bruno (1584)

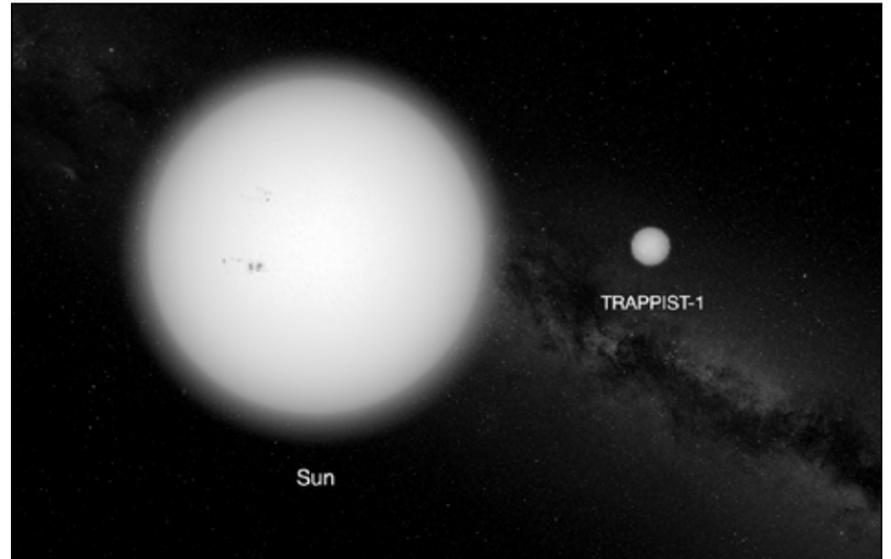
In the sixteenth century the Italian philosopher Giordano Bruno, an early supporter of the Copernican theory that Earth and other planets orbit the Sun, put forward the view that the fixed stars are similar to the Sun and are accompanied by planets. He was burned at the stake for advocating the plurality of worlds and other heresies on 17 February, 1600.

The first planet beyond the solar system was detected in 1988.

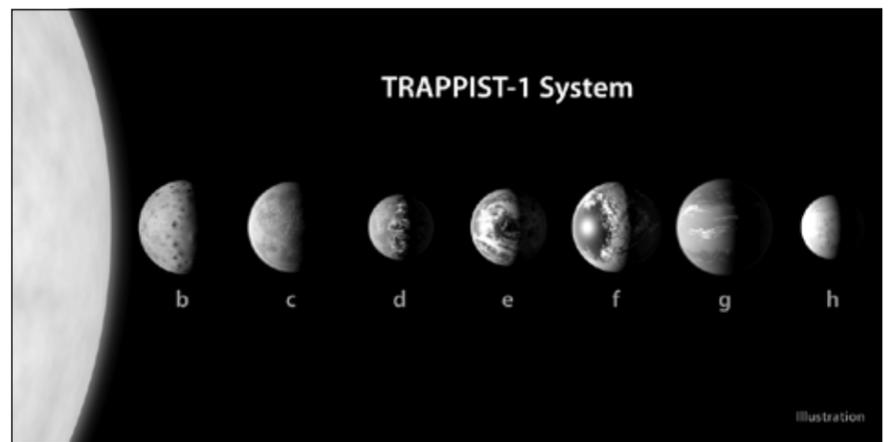
Now, as of March 2017, the number of detected exoplanets has reached an astonishing 3586. However, before this news only 10 of them are similar to earth and lie within Goldilocks' zones, neither too hot nor too cold, where liquid water can exist on their surfaces. Last month three more planets were added to that list.

On February 22 we learned the extraordinary news that seven earth-sized planets surround a star named TRAPPIST 1, some 40 light years from Earth. The star is named after the telescope that first detected some of its planets: Transiting Planets and Planetesimals Small Telescope. The star is a faint dwarf, only slightly larger than Jupiter with a surface temperature half that of the sun. Because TRAPPIST-1 has a mass 84 times larger than Jupiter, its interior can generate enough dim red light to warm the surfaces of three of the planets to allow the presence of liquid water, the holy grail of our search of life elsewhere in the galaxy. These seven planets offer a smorgasbord of opportunities for life, ranging from a very hot planet (b), similar to Io, the hot moon of Jupiter, to a the most distant one (h), similar to Europa, one of the cold moons of Jupiter.

TRAPPIST-1 is an ultra-cool dwarf star in the constellation Aquarius. These planets are probably all tidally locked, meaning the same face of each is always pointed at the star. This creates a perpetual night side and perpetual day side on each planet. The habitable regions may be at the fixed boundary line between day night, a perpetual twilight zone. It also would be a region of strong winds, blowing from the hot to the cool hemispheres.



This picture shows the Sun and the ultracool dwarf star TRAPPIST-1 to scale. The faint star has only 11% of the diameter of the sun and is much redder in color.



The family of Trappist planets.

photo courtesy of NASA-Caltech

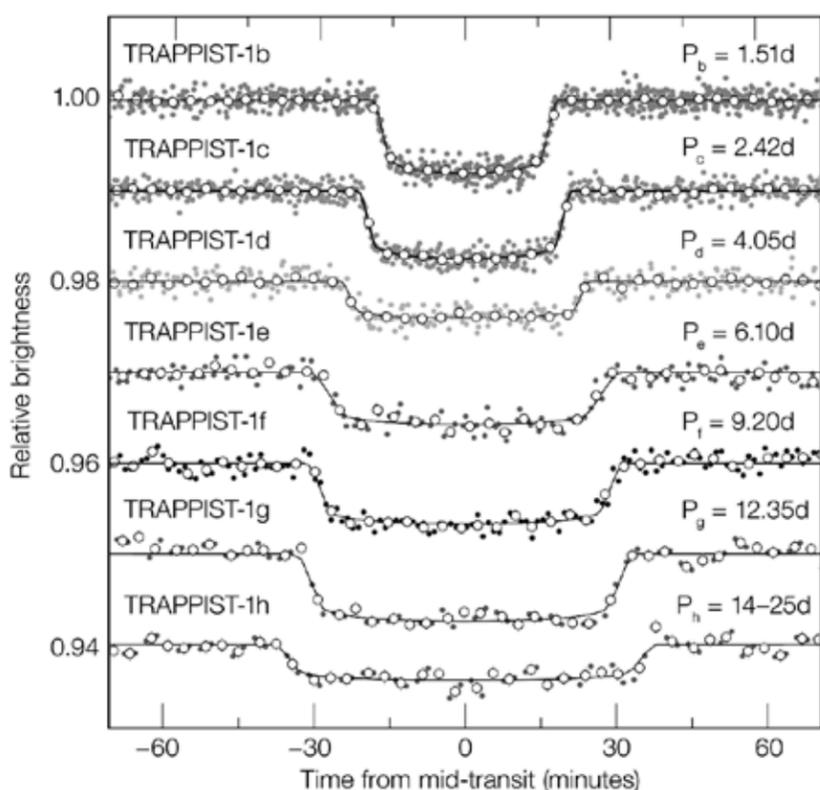
The diagram showing the detection of planets shows how the light of the star fades as each of its seven known planets passes in front of it and blocks some of its light. Looking at the figure you can tell that planets b, c, and g are the largest and d is the smallest based upon the depth of the fading. Because the innermost planets revolve faster around the star, you can easily judge the relative distances of the planets by the duration of the fading. All seven of the Earth-size planets complete a single orbit, their year, in a matter of days, ranging from 1.5 days for the nearest planet and 20 days for the farthest. The innermost four planets are locked into a fascinating coordinated dance with each other. While the innermost planet (b) circles the star eight times, the next one (c) makes 5 revolutions, (d) circles 3 times, and (e) circles once.

The life time of the TRAPPIST star is uncertain, but estimates have ranged from 3 to 8 billion years. Our sun is a little younger than 5 billion years. Thus, it is possible that life has had a chance to evolve on its planets. While our sun will run out of energy in 5 billion years, the TRAPPIST star can last whopping 12 trillion years, giving any life on its planets enough time to evolve into some pretty smart and handsome dudes.

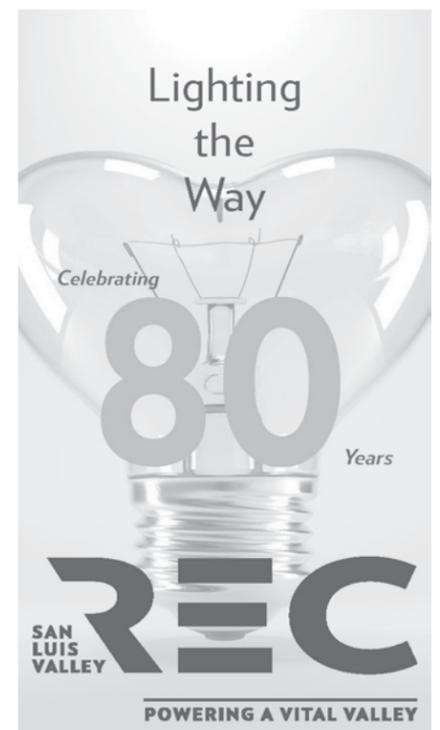
Detecting life beyond Earth would be one of the most, if not the most, profound discovery in all human history. It would mean we aren't unique, that the transformation of inanimate material into living material did not only occur on our planet, that we aren't a happy curiosity, an accident that only occurred on one of hundreds of billions of galaxies in the universe. It would show that the intense urge to live, grow, and thrive, our élan vital, may be cosmic in scope. Given the right

mixture of chemicals, sunlight, and environmental stability, the universe may be teeming with life. Discovery of life on other planets might even throw several of the world's religions and their concepts of God into a chaos from which they would never recover.

Future telescopes, including NASA's huge new James Webb Space Telescope to be launched in 2018, could help resolve such questions by closely analyzing the atmospheric gases of the TRAPPIST-1 planets. If one of these telescopes were to discover water vapor, oxygen, and methane, it would be a strong indication of life-bearing worlds. TRAPPIST has been radio quiet so far. A search for signals from its planets by SETI radio telescopes has not detected any signals. Forty years ago, they may not have been interested in talking to us.



This diagram shows how the light of the dim red ultra cool dwarf star TRAPPIST-1 fades as each of its seven known planets passes in front of it and blocks some of its light. The larger planets create deeper dips and the more distant ones have longer lasting transits as they are orbiting more slowly. Data obtained from observations made with the NASA Spitzer Space Telescope.



Inside the Lincoln Day Dinner

what the representatives had to say

by Jan Foster Müller

An estimated 150 to 200 people attended the Republican Lincoln Day Dinner inside the Adams State student union building. Trump/Pence stickers were available for participants at the check-in table but noticeably few people wore them inside the dining room. Conspicuously wearing a sticker was Master of Ceremonies, Alamosa County Commissioner Darius Allen. His first announcement in greeting the crowd was that this was not a town hall, the guests were to be treated with respect, and anyone who did not abide by that would be asked to leave.

In addition to Republicans from throughout the San Luis Valley, there were a number of Republican officials from outside the valley who were introduced. Also in attendance were several non-Republican

members of the public who chose to pay the \$30 admission fee to hear what their elected representatives had to say and possibly be able to speak with them. They were acknowledged later when Commissioner Allen mentioned that some in attendance probably never thought they would write a check to the Republican Party.

Following are highlights from the evening's speakers:

Colorado Secretary of State Wayne Williams noted that there were 22,000 spoiled ballots in the last election, 2000 because they were returned with no signature and 20,000 with unproven signatures. He explained that if a signature does not match the signature on file as determined by both a Republican and Democratic election judge the voter is notified and has a chance to correct the problem. If the voter does not follow through, the ballot cannot be counted.

State Senator Larry Crowder asked the question, "Is healthcare a right?" He answered himself saying, "Yes. It became a right when Reagan signed EMTALA into law." EMTALA is the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act which requires any hospital emergency department that accepts Medicare to provide treatment for anyone presenting with

an emergency medical condition regardless of citizenship, legal status, or ability to pay. Senator Crowder affirmed his commitment to the nine rural hospitals in the district and their need for funding. Then, in what seemed like a warning to his Republican colleagues, he said, "We need to be very careful how we handle this. If Obamacare goes away, we are in charge."

U.S. Representative Scott Tipton spoke about getting people back to work saying the 3rd District has not yet recovered from the recession. He stated he is not anti-



Cristina Cabeza-Kinney and Alison Wonderland greeted Colorado politicians in Alamosa March 4. photo by Sophia Dillo

regulation but is trying to "pull the plug" on what he sees as federal overreach. He also said it is time to support the military again. He acknowledged people both inside and outside the hall saying these are the people that make the country work, who care about their country.

U.S. Senator Gardner brought his wife and three children for the evening. Much of his time was spent giving a lesson about the Federalist papers. He affirmed his belief that limited government makes great people but also said, alluding to a story his son had told, "We need to help people carry big rocks when they cannot carry them for themselves." He expressed great enthusiasm for "Justice Neil Gorsuch" and stated that the healthcare system needs to be better than it is today. He ended by citing American exceptionalism to great applause from most of the audience.

Local resident and director of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council Chris Canaly was able to speak with Senator Gardner briefly. She thanked him for his support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and stated her concern about proposed changes in law enforcement on public lands. Gardner affirmed his support for the importance of maintaining our natural resources.



Local activists assembled outside Adams State's student union building March 4.

photo by Sophia Dillo

Outside the Lincoln Day Dinner in Alamosa March 4

by Susannah Ortego

Approximately 200 cheerful but determined constituents from the San Luis Valley and elsewhere, including a host of people from Crestone, turned out at Adams State University's (ASU) student union building Saturday, March 4 to greet Senator Cory Gardner and Representative Scott Tipton when they arrived as honored guests at the Republican Lincoln Day Dinner.

Valley residents joined at the gathering by constituents from Pueblo, the Arkansas Valley, Durango, Mancos and Pagosa Springs. Also attending were sign-carrying dogs claiming to be "unpaid protesters". The Durango contingent had driven three hours to signal their disappointment with Senator Gardner for turning down their many requests for face-to-face meetings. They came bearing signs such as "MIA" in Durango and "Deserted in Durango".

It was like "chasing Elvis"

In spite of the stream of arrivals, to passersby and other observers it must have seemed for a while that the planned gathering hadn't attracted much of a crowd. Perhaps that's because half of the assembled constituents were gathered at the front entrance while the other half gathered at the back entrance of the student union building in the hopes of seeing and being seen by their elected, paid representatives when they arrived for dinner.

But alas: the two men were spirited inside through the east-side kitchen door.

In fact, as Howard resident Linda Heltzel noted afterward in an "open letter" to Cory Gardner: "We felt rather silly running around the building trying to find the entrance you might use. I felt as though we were trying to track down Elvis!" "Unfortunately," she wrote to Mr. Gardner, "you're no rock star, just an elected representative, and we should not have to work so hard to speak to our senator."

It is also true that early in the evening, constituents arriving to participate in the well-advertised, peaceful gathering found themselves outnumbered by city policemen, campus security, canine officers, sheriff's officers, state troopers, a waiting ambulance and fire trucks. No sign of ICE or Homeland Security, but nevertheless it was apparent from the yellow

low tape and flashing lights blocking entrance to the student union parking lot that, as Crestone resident Katie Getchell put it: "Taxpayer-funded emergency vehicles and personnel were [about to be] engaged for much of an evening in shielding public servants from the constituents to whom they have a constitutional responsibility."

From the outside—a rare opportunity

In view of the heavy security it does seem ironic to note that after weeks spent futilely lobbying for the Senator to appear in person at a town hall in Colorado, and for Rep. Tipton to agree to meet with District 3 constituents here and near the San Luis Valley, the appearance of both men together at the same place and time seemed to have created an opportunity that couldn't be missed. Especially since voters had learned that Senator Gardner and Rep. Tipton had found time to meet with special interest groups all over the region and to attend fundraisers like the one that Alamosa Republicans invited them to on Saturday.

That's how it came to be that everyone gathered outside of the building was united in at least one common cause: they were there to remind Senator and Mr. Tipton that they work for all of us and that all of us want to be heard, as indicated by a large banner that said "We Need to Talk". To non-elected Lincoln Day Dinner guests making their way inside the student union building while the cordoned-off, peaceful protesters stood by under the watchful eyes of two friendly young state troopers—such a sign must have been of little relevance. After all, they would soon be enjoying a ticketed event where they could fully expect to hear and be heard.

After all was said and done, and all the sign holders and dogs packed up and went home to have their own dinner, the consensus from the outside looking in was positive. People in the valley and from throughout Colorado have effectively made it clear to our elected representatives their constituents are not willing to accept phoned-in town halls as a way of engaging with them. And they are united in the belief that having understood this, they will meet voters in person come their next recess, or in April.

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Standing Rock—what's next?

by Melinda Myers

I peek out the window again but can see nothing and hear only the unceasing prairie wind. Still no headlights. We've been snowed in for three days and got badly stuck trying to get the kids to the school bus. Eventually, the neighbors show up and tow us out, ready to try again in the morning to make it the two miles to the highway. Life on the rez? Or somewhere deep in the Grants? Similarities are everywhere—long distances, rugged landscape, limited shopping, few work opportunities, little cash. Us valley folks have lots in common with the resilient Lakota.

Arrived in Eagle Butte, South Dakota intending to deliver the canvas tent for the grandmother's council at camp and get back home between storms. Fate had other ideas and my van made a loud metal noise and died. With amazing calmness, I unload whatever I think I will need into Martina's van and off we head into Standing Rock. I am no longer just a representative of all the donors and well-wishers, giving our support from afar. I am now living in the fallout of the No Dakota Access Pipeline (NoDAPL) effort.

The abrupt closure of the camps shocked the world and

threw many of us into confusion. Lending support to the Water Protectors and the struggle for indigenous rights gave millions hope for the brighter future we've been growing towards in our country. I realize I'm presuming to speak for others, no labels, but that feeling we have of what America stands for truly. Fair, just, open, accepting, inclusive, let-all-work-together America. It's surprising how quickly folks got behind the Standing Rock Youth as they questioned the pipeline and demanded a voice. We got it! Right away. We mobilized, fundraised, marched, divested and showed up with our bodies to stand by the Great Sioux Nation as they showed the world the proper way to respect our Mother Earth. Finally putting our beliefs into practice, (bonus: remediating some European guilt), and making a difference for the planet.

The good news is a new camp, less than a mile from the former Sacred Stone Camp, is being set up on reservation land the Cheyenne River Sioux purchased from the Standing Rock tribe. The Great Sioux Nation Camp is organized under the direction of the CR Council Chair, Harold Frazier, with camp coordinators establishing an operating structure. I was handed a list of rules and etiquette at the headquarters/temporary kitchen/bunkhouse tent. The feeling around here is the shortcomings of Oceti can be resolved and we can create a tight community of organized Water Protectors. They salvaged materials from the camps before the evictions and are cob-

bling together a new village. And with it, a new opportunity for all of us to support these important efforts. They want to educate, collaborate and practice traditional life skills while incorporating cutting-edge technology; solar, wind, composting and communications. They welcome assistance and materials. Crestone is ideally suited to help in these areas.

The Four Bands Camp has already experienced harassment from local, state and federal law enforcement but has so far avoided any clashes. The oppressive presence of the powers that be is everywhere on the reservation these days. Usually, several times a year there is the "surge", a week of traffic stops, undercover cops looking for informants, a dragnet of subjugation. These days the surge has become a never-ending high tide. Then there are the petty jealousies and old grudges being carried out amongst the residents, with NoDAPL supporters being blamed for causing unrest. Traditional Indians being looked down upon. Perhaps more troubling are the natives that moved to the camps permanently and gave up their homes, jobs and school. Now, they've been unenrolled from their housing, food, heat assistance, headstart and jobs programs. They will have to start over, reapply to the wait list and sometimes face discrimination for being a Water Protector. In a land of little resources, their situation is grim.

Fortunately, there are families that look after those less fortunate.

continued on next page



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What's next?

continued from previous page

Elders visited, food shared, children picked up, errands and rides, whenever there is a need, somehow a way is found to fill it. The true feeling of communal continuity is reflected time and again with these close-knit people. There is always this sense of the generations passed and the children cherished as the future, a timeless, living nation. A pleasant surprise was the great humor and impishness from the oldest grandma to a 5-year-old who kept asking me riddles. After 500 years of oppression, laughing at life's craziness is really the only option.

Everywhere I went, people thanked me for standing with them. Whenever I could, I would thank them for hanging onto the ancient wisdom and sharing it, perhaps saving us all in the process. This is an experience I shall never forget and it only serves to reaffirm my belief that the arch of history does bend towards justice. Despite the current political climate, a storm is brewing, oppression will be resisted. The NoDAPL movement has spread across the land; San Francisco, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Iowa, New York, DC; like a starfish that is shattered and grows a new starfish from each piece, every city and town in America has people who care.

We all know that Crestone cares. Let's continue to support the pipeline protests, indigenous rights and oppose every wasteful, polluting venture that brings us closer to the tipping point. Mni Wiconi – Water is Life.

US pipeline resistance camps

- Cheyenne River Sioux Pow Wow Grounds, Eagle Butte, SD
- Earth Mother/Little Creek Camp, Iowa City, IA
- Lancaster Against Pipelines: The Stand, Lancaster, PA
- Split Rock Sweetwater Prayer Camp, Mahwah, NJ
- Diamond Resistance Camp, Mvshoke County, OK
- Two Rivers Camp, Marfa, TX
- Sabal Trail Resistance Camp, Live Oak, FL
- Crystal Waters Teaching Camp, Osceola County, FL



Longtime Crestone resident Jeff Winsett (right), with visiting Water Protector Wahi Wetbeard, recently returned to Crestone after spending the winter helping Water Protectors at Standing Rock. photo by Lori Nagel

Standing Rock stalwarts come to Crestone

by Mary Lowers

Many Crestonians have followed and supported the efforts of the Water Protector movement, begun by native grandmothers' prayer, spread by the Cannonball, ND Youth Pun from their home all the way to Washington, DC. The movement then spread from Oceti Sakowin around the world. According to Water Protectors, the movement at all Dakota Access Pipeline (DALP) protest camps continued until all camps were illegally encircled and destroyed by order of Dave Archambault, Standing Rock Tribal Chairman, "Out of spite" while the DALP pipeline is being completed

The pipeline plans to take oil, extracted at great environmental cost, from Balkan Oil Shale and from the tar sands region of northern Canada. The oil is then piped through sensitive environmental, cultural, and archeological areas. It will tunnel under a reservoir on the Missouri River, the second largest river in the country, from which the Standing Rock Sioux get their drinking water. Eventually the pipeline will deposit the oil it carries in refineries in Oklahoma and Louisiana, and from there the oil will be transported to China. These oil pipelines have proven very vulnerable. They frequently break and pollute water, earth and endanger wildlife. Quite a few of our community members went to help at Standing Rock and many of us supported the cause.

Last fall we helped raise money to send local Jeff Winsett up to Standing Rock to the Sacred Stone Camp where he and other Water Protectors built a community kitchen and other facilities. Jeff explained, "The camp had long-term plans to be a Lakota cultural camp and green technology school to teach holistic ecological living." The Sacred Stone Camp was the vision of LaDonna Bravebull Allard, who with her extended family owns the land the camp was on. Many Water Protectors chose to hold their ground through the harsh ND winter to stop the Black Snake, as they call the oil pipelines. Jeff came home after the Sacred Stone Camp, one of the last to be closed, and brought seven other Water Protectors with him. Jeff said, "They walked us off at gunpoint." All the work put into

the schoolhouse and other structure at Sacred Stone Camp was reduced to rubble after Water Protectors were run off. Standing Rock veterans stopped by my house to talk to me about their time working to stop the Black Snake and the environmental movement that's growing from it.

Homeboy Jeff Winsett has participated in the indigenous Sundance tradition for many years. He told me, "I did a medicine journey which told me to be at Standing Rock to help build a sustainable community." Jeff pointed out that there are "many facets to the movement to crush the Black Snake, to work for the water which is life." Water Protector Wapiti said he had grown up with Lakota traditions and had been up to Wounded Knee "reconnecting with people." It was at the Tribal Vision Gathering in Santa Fe, NM where he met "representatives from Standing Rock" and decided to join the protest.

Water Protector Wapiti was part of a confrontation between protestors and DALP security in November 2016 when Water Protectors were trying to stop the pipeline advance. He said, "I took a lot of licks." He was hit with rubber bullets first near the heart then on the right hand. After that confrontation in which many of the unarmed prayful protestors were hurt, he went to Sacred Stone Camp where he worked to build a school which he called, "a warm safe place."

Water Protector Minerals told me, "I went in solidarity with native leaders who asked for support." And support they got. The Water Protectors ranks swelled to include indigenous communities worldwide. US military veterans went up to put themselves between the protesters and DALP. The United Nations and Amnesty International investigated human rights violation at Standing Rock. At one point the camps of the Water Protectors were great enough in population to be the thirteenth largest town in ND.

Water Protector Afton Fleming said, "It was an inspiration being up there, living in community, in prayer . . . putting community needs before your own needs and seeing the larger picture." According to Water Protector Alex Arbor, "It was the most intense time of my

life. There was no leader and we needed to learn to work together." It was a new way of doing things, leaving the old model of the colonization and manifest destiny behind. Water Protector Minerals added that "we were working to establish a sustainable relationship with each other and the planet."

Water Protector Wahi Wetbeard spoke of internal Standing Rock tribal politics which seemed to "sell out", and of BIA corruption. Wetbeard said, "Unfortunately politics are not going to let things out of the courts for two to five years." Even though it looks like the DALP pipeline will go through, the activists from Standing Rock I spoke with were optimistic. As Water Protector Minerals said, "this is long term decolonizing work."

Water Protector Mike saw whole movement as "very spiritual . . . the Standing Rock actions are a springboard to defend the sacred" nationwide. He encourages folks to join the movement. Of Standing Rock, Mike said, "It is the greatest gathering of nations ever. For all the bad things that went down and the way it ended, it will stand out."

Water Protectors encourage us to speak out about the environment and the last breaths of the oil economy. Water Protector Wahi Wetbeard encourages people to "organize collectively to defend your own land and repair relationships with native peoples. Water Protector Jeff Winsett said, "You may support us but it needs to be more; you need to take time out of your lives, everyone needs to stand up for the earth." The water protectors I spoke with are committed to their environmental mission and plan to invest time in the other actions inspired by Standing Rock popping up worldwide.

When asked how to best support other environmental actions, Water Protectors suggest sponsoring a local activist who is able to go to the action and see the best use of collected resources. It is important to get organized at home to be ready with effective support. The Water Protectors currently are connected to all the camps from Standing Rock and are living and building community on Jeff Winsett's land, "Building the foundation of peaceful transformation. Come share and build with us."

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Garden Guru

Germination:
How do those seeds grow?



by **Matie Belle Lakish**

Most gardeners know that putting your seeds in the ground without assuring the proper conditions is likely to mean you won't have much of a garden. And most people learn, with that first bean seedling you probably grew in kindergarten, that seeds need at least some things in order to grow into plants: water, light and warmth come to mind. But what is it, really, that precipitates growth and inclines one type of seed to do one thing, while another behaves quite differently? How does the plant know to send a root toward the earth and a leaf toward the sun? And what is the mystery that allows plants to produce chlorophyll and grow? While we can't begin to answer all the questions in one short article, I hope to touch on some highlights.

What is a seed? Wikipedia says "A seed is an embryonic plant enclosed in a protective outer covering." Most plants have male and female parts that can breed. The male part, the pollen, brings half the DNA and penetrates the female ovary which holds the other half of the DNA. The result is a zygote, or the tiny beginnings of a brand new plant being. In animal terms

we might think of it as an embryo that is awaiting an opportunity to grow. But the seed, like the egg of a chicken, has other parts as well. Besides the reproductive DNA, a seed stores food for the young embryo in the form of starches, proteins, and oils. Most of us are familiar with a grain of wheat which has a germ, the smaller DNA portion of the seed, with a much larger starchy food reserve. This is covered by what, in wheat, is called the bran, and that is further covered by a harder outside husk. It is a compact and sturdy package to store that DNA for an extended time until the seed encounters the proper conditions to awake and grow. The proper conditions include water, oxygen, appropriate temperature and light.

The presence of water seems to be an important signal for a seed to begin growing. In the presence of water, seeds will soak up a lot of liquid in a process called imbibition. This leads to the swelling and breaking of the seed coat. When the seed imbibes water, enzymes are activated which break down the stored food reserves into metabolically active substances that provide nourishment for the growing embryo.

But the germinating seed also needs oxygen. We don't think of soil as being a source of oxygen, but the space between grains of sand and humus in the upper layers of soil is oxygenated. If seeds are soaked in water too long they will die from lack of oxygen. Really soggy soil can have the same effect, as can hard packed clay.

Temperature is more of a variable, depending on the genetic preference of the seeds. Most seeds germinate, or begin to grow, at a temperature range between about 60° and 80°F. However, plants are often very specific in their temperature needs, and some seeds prefer a much warmer or much cooler temperature to germinate. You may have seen package instruction to chill seeds before planting. Often this is to simulate the conditions the seeds would encounter in the wild. For instance, I bought some strawberry seeds that must be chilled for two weeks before planting, no doubt simulating the cool temperatures our wild strawberries encounter.

Another factor is light, or darkness. Most seeds will germinate in the dark, but once they begin to grow they need light, and will adapt their growth to seek light. Have you ever seen the elongated stems of bean sprouts seeking the light? Plants can grow for a while using the food stored in the seed, and will often grow long spindly tops seeking light. However, once they have exhausted the food supply stored in their seeds, they will die if they can't reach light. It is light that somehow, mysteriously, stimulates plants to begin the formation of chlorophyll, which allows them to use sunlight to create food for further growth and development.

But back to that seed. Once you put it in soil, soak the soil, but don't drown it, and expose it to light and a proper temperature, what

is the magic that says *grow*? That seems to be the mystery no one can really answer. What is known, however, is that once that initial spark of growth begins, gravity seems to play a part. If you plant 2 bean seeds, one with the eye, or germ, facing up and one facing down, the tiny root will always grow toward the center of the earth. The stem and leaf, however, will always seek the light. It is important, in planting, to not bury those seeds too deeply, or they will exhaust their reserves before they make it to the surface. As a general rule, plant seeds in soil to a depth of about 4 times the diameter of the seed.

There are some wonderful videos of plants germinating and growing in speeded-up time on a website from the University of Indiana. To see plants germinating and dancing under various conditions go to <http://plantsinmotion.bio.indiana.edu/plantmotion>.
Happy Spring.

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There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root, RH (AHG)
Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*)



Although Comfrey may not be native to this area, it grows happily in many local gardens. Comfrey is the most amazing plant. In the spring and summer when it receives ample water, it can grow so fast you can almost see it happen. Then the tall flower-laden stalks outgrow themselves and fall over on the ground, where they again turn towards the sky and continue their journey, flowers sprawled on the ground. Hound's Tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) is a local relative of Comfrey, and can be used similarly (and with similar caution).

Growth seems to be the keyword of Comfrey. Also known as "Knitbone", this member of the Boraginaceae family is known for repairing broken bones, healing torn skin, and in general doing rapid repair work where needed. A dear herbal teacher, Rosemary Gladstar, talks about severely breaking her ankle in a motorcycle accident in her twenties. She drank Comfrey tea every day for two weeks, until her ankle had healed stronger than before. The problem here, which my personal jury is still out on, is that it has also been suspected of causing veno-occlusive disease of the liver, a disease where the blood

vessels in the liver grow so fast as to block themselves causing severe liver problems. This is another example of Comfrey's tendency towards growth and repair, sometimes to excess! I err on the side of caution and do not suggest taking Comfrey internally. Comfrey poultices and compresses applied over the broken bone or damaged body part work well. The leaf and root are used. The root is considered more potent and is more often used from broken bones. An easy poultice patty can be made by blending

leaves with a very small amount of water in a food processor. It becomes a lovely green mousse which can be used as is or mixed with a stabilizer like flour, made into patties, and frozen for winter. Comfrey is also a great salve herb for healing many surface wounds, but not for puncture wounds or other deep wounds. It will heal the surface quickly when the deep wounds need to heal slowly from the inside out.

Homeopathic Comfrey, or *Symphytum off.* can be taken internally with good results for helping broken bones heal quicker and stronger.

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.



Comfrey.

Crestone Mountain Grange A local grassroots collective

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Celebrating historical heritage in the San Luis Valley through a \$43,000 National Park Service Communities Program grant

With a \$43,000 grant from the National Park Service, the History Colorado Preservation Planning Unit will increase representation of the San Luis Valley and its Hispanic heritage in the National Register of Historic Places. History Colorado will partner with the National Park Service, Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, and local stakeholders for this important project.

The grant funds will be used to hire a consultant to prepare nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for four prop-

erties in the San Luis Valley area that are deeply significant to local, state, and national history. History Colorado anticipates research and recordation to begin later this summer.

“With a backdrop of the majestic Sangre de Cristo mountain range, the San Luis Valley—encompassed by the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in Conejos, Costilla, and Alamosa counties—features Hispanic cultural traditions and practices, including language, architecture, and crafts,” stated Astrid Liverman, National

and State Register Coordinator. “Designation can celebrate the stories of the valley and complement regional heritage tourism.”

The grant is through the National Park Service’s Underrepresented Communities program, which provides support for the designation, inventory, and survey of historic properties that have an association with communities that are underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places.

This grant also complements the History Colorado Heritage Diversity Initiative, which seeks to

crowdsource information on historic buildings and resources related to Colorado’s African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Women’s, and Urban American Indian history, with the goal of getting more of these significant places listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. This grant is also in line with the goals of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area to preserve and protect the unique cultural heritage within the region.



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APRIL 2017 Listings

SOLD!



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.



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.

UNDER CONTRACT



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.



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!



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



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.

New Listings



1390 Wilderness Trail - \$299,000
This spacious contemporary 3BR/2BA 2380sf custom home is located on 3.2 acres in the Grants. Large windows, lots of light & views. Spacious great room. Granite & marble counters.



147 Moonlight Way - \$269,000
Spacious 2600sf 2 story 3/2.5/Office w/ garage backing to Crestone Creek greenbelt. Upstairs master suite w/soak tub & double vanities & separate wing w/2 BR's, BA and living area. Downstairs is living, dining, kitchen & office.



2145 Indian Well Way - \$266,500
This 1331sf modern 2BR/1BA bldt in 2016 makes exceptional use of space, design & views. Detached 144sf bonus room. Upgrades include 5-piece bath w/stm shower, soak tub & heated floors, beautiful kitchen w/copper sink, maple hardwoods.



4275C Fallen Tree OL - \$169,000
Well maintained 2BD/1.5BA 1380sf 2-story home high up in Ch2 on 1.029 ac. Spacious great room, concrete floors, radiant heat, woodstove, lovely kitchen. Hot water baseboard heat upstairs, balcony, 2nd bedroom, full bath w/soak tub.



35 Camino Baca Grande - \$155,000
Lovely 3BD/2.5BA 2013sf 1.5 story home remodeled in 2010, incl. wiring, plumbing & steel roof. Lg living w/cathedral ceiling adjoins spacious kitchen that opens to a paved stone patio w/gorgeous mtn views. Close to Crestone, great value!

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



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.



4519C Grayline Ct - \$429,000
Elegant 2BR 2BA 1932 custom strawbale built in 2003 by Paul Koppana. A refined Asian/Southwest blend. On private cul-de-sac 5.35 acres backs to greenbelt. 30' yurt w/kitchenette & bathroom.



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.



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!

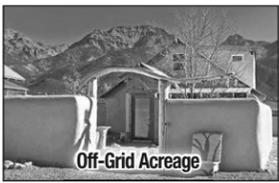


786C Panorama Way - \$419,000
This Lee Mitchell custom 3bd/2ba/ sunroom/library/balconies 2428sf home with fabulous gardens sits on 2.14 acres w/ 2-car garage/studio. Exquisite - Must See!



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!

Grants



1381 Saddle Rock Trail - \$280,000
Light-filled 1902 sf 2BR/1BA strawbale off-grid home w/stunning views. Radiant in-floor heat & hearthstone woodstove. Open living space, private gardens, walled patio, greenhouse, shed & heated garage. 8+ ac incl lots 1381, 1444 & 1445



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.



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



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.



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.



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!

Chalets



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.



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.



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 HWBaseboard heat, honeycomb blinds. Landscaped courtyard.



4485 Ridgecrest Way - \$74,500
Unique, small 394sf home, with 2nd structure in Chalet 3. Fixer-upper, but can be a home in the Baca at an affordable price. Woodstove, loft sleeping area w/wood ceilings. Full kitchen w/cookstove, fridge & combo w/d. Shower bath.

Casita Park



354C Huerta Court - \$89,000
1,984sf 2BR/1BA home on .347 acres (2 consolidated lots) in Casita Park. Open floor plan & lots of light. Propane forced air heat, kerosene Toyostove & 2 wood stoves. Lg yard w/stucco walls & fencing, patio, landscaping, & storage shed.

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Megumi at Moki mobile kitchen demonstrations.



The Hub-to-Hub network.

Gone agro: SLV Local Foods Coalition

continued from page B-1

initiatives throughout her career. Nick Chambers is VRFH GM and has extensive sales and produce experience. He runs a small family farm in Crestone, and is an accomplished educator on biofuels and biomass.

The LFC participates in the Double Up SNAP Colorado launch at three SLV sites thanks to a generous match from 1st SouthWest Bank and partnering in a Veteran to Farmer project with the Women Veterans, the Veterans Coalition of the SLV, Conejos Clean Water, the Food Bank Network of the SLV and Community Partnerships at Adams State University.

So, there you have it. We glimpse here evidence of the spin-

off effect, if not the butterfly effect itself. Please refer to slvlocalfoods.org for additional information, links, class schedules and general information likely to inspire hope for the future.



Stretch your food bucks on 4th Street in Saguache

If you're like most Saguache County residents, it can be a struggle to afford healthy food for yourself and your family.

The 4th Street Food Store is offering multiple ways to help. Thanks to generous support from the Saguache County Commissioners, county seniors 60 years of age or older are eligible for a 20% discount on all food purchases.

Stop in at the store, at 404 4th St. in downtown Saguache, or call 655-0216, and ask about the SHED (Saguache Healthy Elders Discount) program. It is intended to assist seniors on a fixed income who earn too much to qualify for other assistance but still are challenged to make ends meet.

If you are a SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) recipient of any age, you can earn Double UP Food Bucks every time you shop with your EBT card. Offered in partnership with LiveWell Colorado, the Double UP program provides free Colorado produce dollar-for-dollar (up to \$20)

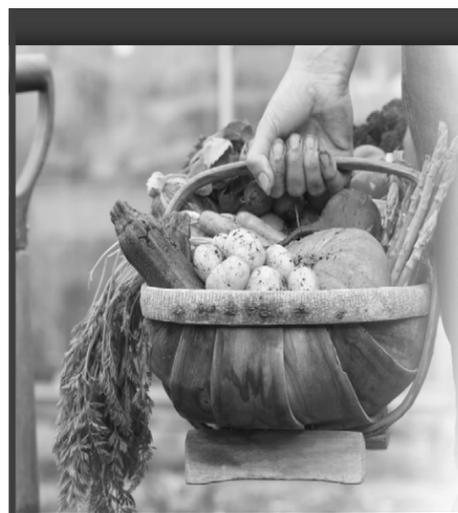
for each dollar you spend on food.

A nonprofit project of Saguache Works, the 4th Street Food Store features a wide variety of local meats, including Blue Range beef, Haugen lamb and Gosar sausage, as well as fresh eggs, dairy products and valley-grown produce at extremely reasonable prices.

Our mission is to support local food producers and to make fresh, healthy foods accessible and affordable to low-income residents. Blue Earth Thrift & Mercantile next door, supported by community donations and staffed exclusively by volunteers, helps to subsidize food prices.

Other Saguache Works projects include the BEBOP Studio for Dance, Exercise and Yoga, which offers free classes and free exercise facilities to county residents of all ages; and Homegrown Totes, our cottage industry, intended to create jobs and promote recycling.

For more information, or to get involved in any way, please call 655-0216.



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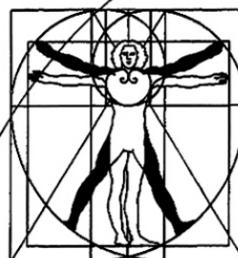
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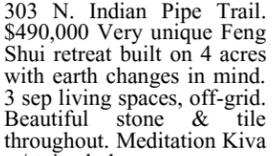
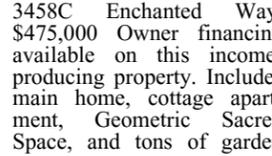
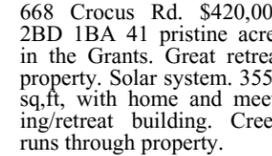
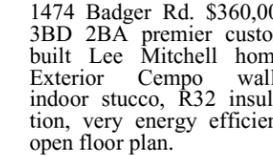
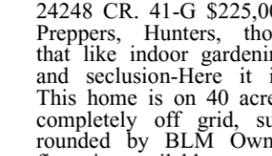
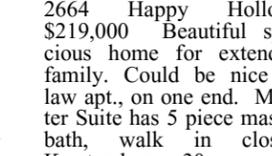
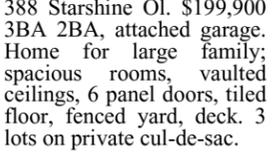
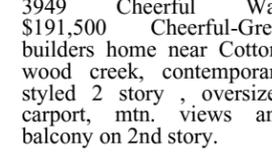
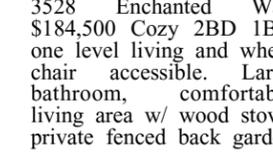
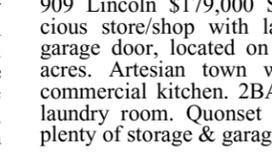
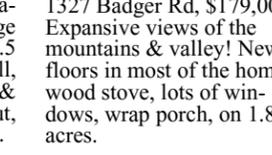
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|  <p>303 N. Indian Pipe Trail. \$490,000 Very unique Feng Shui retreat built on 4 acres with earth changes in mind. 3 sep living spaces, off-grid. Beautiful stone & tile throughout. Meditation Kiva w/stained glass.</p> |  <p>3458C Enchanted Way. \$475,000 Owner financing available on this income-producing property. Includes main home, cottage apartment, Geometric Sacred Space, and tons of garden space.</p> |  <p>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.</p> |  <p>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.</p> |  <p>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.</p> |  <p>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 .</p> |
|  <p>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.</p> |  <p>2035 Lost Cave Way \$194,900 Special little hide-away Deltec home in Chalet 11. Features art studio, sauna, beautiful little fenced garden & deck, all one level.</p> |  <p>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.</p> |  <p>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</p> |  <p>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.</p> |  <p>1327 Badger Rd, \$179,000 Expansive views of the mountains & valley! New floors in most of the home, wood stove, lots of windows, wrap porch, on 1.81 acres.</p> |
|  <p>3901 Rarity Way \$175,000 Motivated seller! 2BD 1½BA. Backs to greenbelt & creek. Passive solar, year-round warm earth mass floor. Custom kitchen. Bathroom with garden tub, screened-in porch.</p> |  <p>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.</p> |  <p>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.</p> |  <p>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.</p> |  <p>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.</p> |  <p>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.</p> |
|  <p>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.</p> |  <p>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.</p> |  <p>392 Charolais Tr., \$155,000 Cute earthbag/stucco cabin on 3acres with creek. 2 wood stoves, aspen ceilings, homey floor plan. Fenced-in garden, lush soil, large trees. Some finish work to do.</p> |  <p>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.</p> |  <p>51952 CR T. \$49,500. 5 acres, DOMESTIC WELL! outbuilding/garage, our own little mini farm, move-in ready. 3BD 2BA</p> |  <p>165 Verano Court, \$39,500 Priced for quick sale! 3BD 2BA, open floor plan with wood stove. Great views, outdoor workshop with attached carport, room for a garden.</p> |

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In Search of Economic Reality

Trump/Ryan class warfare budget

by Dr. Ed Lyell

My attack on the new Trump/Ryan budget is that this is a budget designed to help the richest 5% of Americans while damaging and taking away much of what the 95% currently enjoy. Worse, it is taking hope from millions and destroying America's future as a world leader in anything but military power. It is a focus on hate not hope.

First is the GOP healthcare plan, which will deny 25 million people their health care while giving the richest 1% a \$125 billion tax cut next year and every year thereafter. This has been labeled the largest redistribution of wealth from the middle class to the richest 1% in history.

America rose to lead the world in economic prosperity and opportunity after WWII, based on providing free higher education to millions of veterans while investing in science exploration, graduate education and research. This created an upward virtuous cycle of investing in people, including the working class, who improved their skills, created institutions for innovation, and spun off new huge corporations based on the taxpayer investment in R&D and education. Most new industries grew up around our world-leading universities, including in Colorado. Colorado universities, research centers,

and regional governmental agencies are projected to lose the most money per capita of any state.

Now Trump/Ryan wants to kill and bury the golden egg. The GOP cuts research spending, shuts down scientific labs, eliminates programs for sharing ideas, creates more monopolies and cuts off education at all levels. President Trump is a narcissistic sociopath who has always put his personal interest and gain in front of all others. After his fourth bankruptcy, US banks stopped lending him money, so he turned to Russian billionaires for his loans. Some might compare him to England's King Henry VIII, only Trump divorces wives instead of killing them. Congressional hearings about his administration's ties to Russia make one think of treason, or Russia conquering the USA without firing a shot.

Speaker Ryan and his Congressional supporters get most of their economic positions from the novelist Ayn Rand. This objectivist philosophy focuses on the absolute rights of the individual with no concern for others even if they die in the streets. What surprises me is how many Republican Senators and leaders who claim to be Christians follow this Ayn Rand atheist philosophy. They, and most of today's generation, have never read 1984: "Brave New World or Lord of

the Flies, and thus seem OK with creating that kind of world.

The Republican health care plan cuts benefits to the sickest and shifts Medicaid to the states alone. Presently Medicaid is paid for roughly one half by federal taxes and one half from state taxes. In Colorado this is been very painful since we cannot just raise taxes as Medicaid costs go up. Since the 1970s when I worked for the legislative Joint Budget Committee, the share of the state general budget going for health care has gone up from 1% to over 20% of all state spending. With taxes capped, the education community got a constitutional amendment passed that guarantees them an increase of state tax money per student over the rate of inflation. Over the last 40 years higher education funding has gone from 25% of the state budget to under 7%. This is why students must take out massive loans to go to college.

By taking away university education for the working class, the super-rich help their less talented children finish college and get top jobs without having to compete with the masses. By doing away with government-funded research only large corporations can conduct research, shifting societal gains into private gains. Of course many of the Trump/Ryan budget cuts are

just to help their oil and coal friends by shutting down research and development into long term renewable healthy energy while taking away the evidence of rising climate change. By denying the masses access to quality health care at taxpayer expense the wealthy get rid of those who do not already have the financial resources for health care, surgeries, and life-enhancing new drugs and procedures.

The GOP healthcare plan and other national budget changes shift America fundamentally from a nation based on a motto of "E pluribus Unum", (out of many, one), to "Dog eat Dog", or "Survival only of the rich". Of course we still have the motto "In God We Trust" and we hope that is true since we can no longer trust our government.

Ed Lyell PhD is a professor of business and economics, Adams State University (ehlyell@adams.edu, or dredlyell on Facebook)



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Baca Grande Library News



by Suzanne McGregor

April is a very important month for libraries across the nation. Please help us celebrate National Library Week, April 9-15, by making use of your library, one of the most valuable resources available to our community members. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to visit us, please come check us out. For a small rural library, we have a great selection of fiction and non-fiction books for all ages, videos, magazines, and reference materials. There is a resource center with public computers connected to WiFi—so you can bring your own device. Printing, copying, faxing, laminating and interlibrary loan services are available. We belong to a union catalog called AspenCat that gives our patrons the ability to search almost 100 libraries and over 1,400,000 items online and to have their selections sent here.

National Volunteer Week (April 23-29) is another celebration this month, and the library extends much gratitude to our on-call front desk volunteers and to our Friends of the Library

group (FOL). This dedicated group of volunteers provides many enhancements to our current library and integral support to the planning of a future library in town. Fundraising projects need to be organized, and we encourage community members to support these efforts. Their upcoming fundraiser is the Pre-Tax Day Bake Sale on April 10 (look for flyers around town for more information). Please consider joining this group—they need your input and your talents!

April is also the month for celebrating Earth Day on Saturday, April 22. It is important for the future custodians of our planet to be introduced to its wonders at an early age—and these wonders are right outside our front doors! The library has a great selection of “earth-friendly” books to guide children and caregivers along the path. “The children and nature movement is fueled by this fundamental idea: the child in nature is an endangered species, and the health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable.” -Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*

Notice: An informational meeting on the progress of the new library project will be held on Monday, April 10 from 6-7:30 pm at the Crestone Charter School. We hope to see you there!

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

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1. Bunch of VIPs?
6. Parents + teachers, acr.
9. Sour milk sign
13. Meltable abode
14. Oui
15. Jessica Rabbit's true love
16. Fix a program
17. Hi-_____
18. Assuage
19. *Where Tom Hanks was sleepless
21. *Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr's liaison
23. Jack Kerouac, or _____ Paradise
24. Medieval domain
25. Roll of bills
28. Inauguration event
30. Like olden day toy
35. Bypass
37. Encore!
39. Blood line
40. Collier's office
41. Deflect
43. Indigo user
44. Petri dish medium, pl.
46. "At _____, soldier!"
47. Hindu wrap
48. Everyday
50. Ego's main concern
52. Bad-mouth
53. Schooner pole
55. Corn unit
57. *"Shakespeare _____"
60. *What Audrey Hepburn had in Rome
64. Clive Bixby to Phil Dunphy
65. Plays for pay
67. Harry Potter's antagonist
68. Neopagan religion
69. _____ Aviv
70. Say something
71. *"The _____ House" with Keanu Reeves
72. *Affleck's character chased her
73. Waxing crescent, e.g.

DOWN

1. Auction actions
2. S-shaped molding
3. *"Valentine's Day" actress
4. Disorderly crowds
5. Battlefield ID
6. Combustible heap
7. Golf starting point
8. Allegro _____ in music, Italian
9. RC or Pepsi
10. Tangelo
11. Back seat
12. Brut, as in champagne
15. Basket-making fiber
20. Camel's kin
22. Marines are this and proud?
24. Where Japan is
25. *Pretty one
26. Friend from Mexico
27. Iraqi money
29. *It actually happens
31. Nonverbal O.K., pl.
32. Tree nymph in Greek mythology
33. First cradles
34. *"Midnight in _____"
36. Four years to a President
38. Gaelic
42. Ma Bell, e.g.
45. Indian restaurant appetizer
49. Head or john
51. Collapse a chair, e.g.
54. Mordane in "Game of Thrones"
56. Occasion for pink or blue balloons
57. One of the hipbones, pl.
58. *Male lead in "The Prince of Tides"
59. Pretty undergarment fabric
60. Has divine power
61. Subject of stats
62. Single pip cards
63. Yesteryear
64. Hole punching tool
66. "Losing My Religion" band

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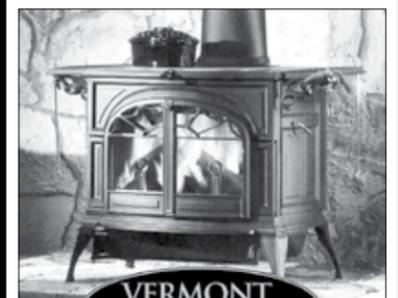
Shoshannah Asha
719.937.3547

local references available



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...Classifieds
continued from
Page B-14

Recycling

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

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Computer Service/Repairs—PC consultant/technician since 1985 with a full shop in the Baca. VIRUS fixes and prevention, hard drive data recovery, networking. Call Dennis 256-4110

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Recent work includes: Dharma Ocean, Sangodo Palri Temple, Aventa Credit Union, Kongtrul Rinpoche's home, Curt's Store, Avalon Wellness Center, plus many local residences. Free estimates and color consults. Drywall repairs. 256-5243.

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Experienced laborer available to assist on construction jobs. Call James Henwood @ 719-937-3547. \$15/hr. min.

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Help Wanted

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Needed: 1 Carpenter & 1 Laborer. Salary commensurate with experience. Contact Dave Wilson at Reliable Carpentry: 719-992-0093

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

Executive Director for Community Foundation

1/2 time Executive Director for newly started community foundation. See CFSLV.org for job description. \$30k – \$35k/yr. Open until filled.

New Full Time Accounting & Admin. Position with Shumei

The Shumei International Institute, a 501(c)3, spiritually based NPO is accepting applications for an accounting and administrative position. Candidates must possess advanced accounting skills, including working experience with QuickBooks and good all around computer skills. General administrative experience and/or knowledge of NPO's is a plus. High level communications skills, detail orientation, flexibility, willingness and ability to work with other cultures in the setting of a spiritually based NPO is required. BA degree or equivalent experience with references required. Company sponsored health, dental and vision program available after 90 day initial trial period. Salary commensurate with skills, degree and life experience. This is a new full time position M – F, 9 – 5 in our Crestone office working closely with Shumei's Operations Manager and will be involved with creating a new unified administrative office for 2 of Shumei's U.S. based NPO's which will include broad involvement with accounting, bookkeeping as well as HR, insurance and property management and other administrative responsibilities. Send resume including at least 2 work references to: matthew@shumei.us or Attn: Matthew Crowley Shumei International Institute PO Box 998 Crestone, CO 81131. Shumei will contact applicants that we wish to interview. No phone calls or walk ins please.

Wife

Looking for a "good" woman to just be there for me. Need a clean house and warm meals nightly. Applicant should expect to work closely with my mother. Pref. applicant speaks foreign language (NOT English). Have tried dogs in the past; they keep dying. Call 719-257-754X.

*****TAKING BIDS!*****

The Northern Saguache County Library District is taking bids for replacing the bathroom flooring in the Baca Grande Library AND for replacing gutters at the Saguache Library. Bid one job or both. For more information, contact Sarah Koehn Frey at librarydirector@nslibrarydistrict.org or 719-849-1710.

EMT's Wanted

The Baca Grande Emergency Services is hiring FT and PT EMT-Basics, Intermediates, and Paramedics. Our service is a rapidly growing inter-facility and 911 ambulance transport and fire service. We offer competitive pay, flexible hours and FT benefits. Contact Darrick Garcia 719-256-4172

Saguache Works Opportunities

Saguache Works seeks part-time administrator/ property manager and/or grant writer. Nonprofit experience preferred. Potential full-time opportunity. Call 655-0216.

Part-time Law Enforcement Position

The Town seeks applicants that are post certified, trained officers or retired with certification and able to perform a variety of law enforcement and code enforcement duties as contract part-time labor up to 20 hrs. per week. Pay rate \$18-\$28/hr. DOE. The Town of Crestone has less than 150 permanent residents, but frequent events take place and there is a steady influx of visitors. The position will remain posted until filled. Please submit resume, references and copy of certification to: Town of Crestone, Attn: Town Clerk, PO Box 64, Crestone, CO 81131. crestoneclerk@fairpoint.net. The Town of Crestone is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on any basis including race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or genetics. In addition to federal law requirements, the Town of Crestone complies with applicable state laws.

Misc. for Sale

Batteries For Sale

Batteries for sale. 5 Year old gel batteries-work good for solar. 12 available. \$75 each. Call Mike: 256-4901.

Carrion

Have sixteen animals (dead) that I have been saving in the freezer. Some in better shape than others (bullets). Some real good. All sorts of critters. Might be good taxidermy project? Pet food? Or??? \$75 firm, obo. Call Joe Ben 257-3X45.

Vehicles for Sale

32" ft. Trailer

32 ft. PULL BEHIND "Hornet" trailer. New vinyl oak plank floor recently installed. Comes with a pull out living space, electric/propane refrigerator, propane heater, sliding glass door and stereo console. Ready to move in. Asking \$5300. Call Mike @ 719-256-4901

Free

Advice

Your business is my business! Ample experience analyzing and interpreting other peoples' problems. Sometimes all you need is a little brutal honesty to get you on your way. Call 256-094X or email iknow@alltheanswers.com or watch my youtube series at //www.busybody.youtube//.net

Free Manure

Free horse manure. Call the Baca Grande Stables to arrange pick up. 256-6200.

PUBLIC NOTICE Ordinance # 2017-002

The Town of Crestone Board of Trustees adopted and approved an ordinance on March 7, 2017. An Ordinance amending Ordinance #2017-002 (an ordinance repealing previous Ordinances #2003-005 et al, identifying, making illegal, and abating certain ordinances). To view the ordinance with the Nuisance Code Exhibit in its entirety, please come to Crestone Town Hall, 108 West Galena Ave., Crestone CO. Submitted by Allyson Ransom, Town Clerk.

Published: April 1, 2017

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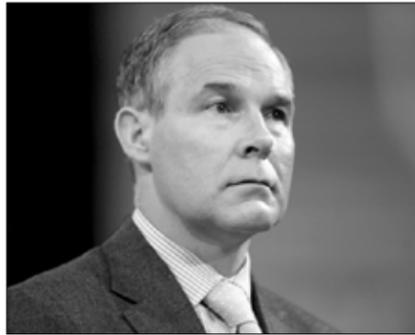
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EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment



Scott Pruitt, now head of the Environmental Protection Agency, plans to greatly cut their budget.

Dear EarthTalk,
I would like to know what good the EPA has done for the environment.

-Mary W., via e-mail

Without the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Americans would breathe dirtier air, drink more polluted water and live and grow food on contaminated soils. Polluters wouldn't be held accountable for their irresponsible behavior, wildlife would have a more difficult time finding suitable habitat to raise their young, and greater and greater concentrations of greenhouse gases would jeopardize the ability of our own atmosphere to protect us from the heat of the sun. In short, the United States and the rest of the world would be a nasty place to live, resulting in shorter life expectancy for humans and a decrease in biodiversity overall.

The EPA was created via Executive Order by Republican President Richard Nixon in December 1970 in response to rising concerns about pollution in an increasingly industrialized United States. Its purpose, then and still now, is to ensure that all Americans are protected from significant risks to their health and the environment where they live, learn and work. To accomplish this, the EPA develops and enforces environmental regulations based on laws passed by Congress; monitors environmental quality across the country; funds states, non-profits and educational institutions to address local and regional problems; and educates the public about how to avoid and mitigate environmental risks. Laws implemented and enforced by the EPA to protect our land, air and water save hundreds of thousands of Americans from premature death every year and keep our ecosystems healthy in the face of innumerable threats.

The EPA's very first major accomplishment back in the early

1970s was setting standards on common air pollutants plaguing urbanized and industrial areas across the U.S. Other highlights from the EPA's first decade include: banning the pesticide DDT and requiring extensive environmental reviews of all pesticides; establishing the first fuel economy standards for cars and trucks on American roads; overseeing the phase-out of PCBs, chlorofluorocarbons and leaded gasoline; and setting nationwide benchmarks for drinking water quality.

Some of the EPA's notable achievements since then include: implementing "Superfund" (Congress' billion dollar plan to remediate the most hazardous of industrial waste sites across the country); establishing protections of endangered wetlands as a top agency priority; cleaning up Chesapeake Bay, the Hudson River and other major waterways; launching the Toxic Release Inventory program to inform the public about the discharge of specific pollutants from industrial

facilities in their communities; creating the Energy Star program to force appliance makers to toe the line regarding energy efficiency; forging a market-based system to reduce acid rain pollution; prioritizing environmental justice to protect low-income and minority communities from disproportionate exposure to pollutants; and setting new standards to clean up emissions from diesel fuel. More recently, the EPA has started the process of regulating the emissions of greenhouse gases contributing to global warming.

Beyond the agency's direct actions on behalf of the environment here at home, its very existence serves as an important model for other countries to follow, and indeed most nations of the world now have their own environmental oversight authorities to keep tabs on pollution and set standards for the safe use, handling and disposal of pollutants. As more and more of our lands are paved over, our natural resources extracted and our air and atmosphere compromised, we can all be thankful for the foresight of Richard Nixon in establishing the world's first government agency devoted to environmental protection.

Contacts: EPA History, www.epa.gov/history; Energy Star, www.energystar.gov.

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Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno
 February 21 to March 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip: 0.31"
 Snow: 4.7"
 Measurable precipitation fell on 3 days.
 Measurable snow fell on 3 days.
 No rain, thunderstorms or hail occurred.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1: 1.75"
Total snow to date:
 Since Jan 1: 23.7
 Snow Season *: 42.5"
 *Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 68.8°F on March 19
 Low temp: 4.6°F on February 25
 Avg. high: 53.4°F
 Avg. low: 22.4°F
 Number of days with the high temperature at or above 60°: 11 (all in March)
 Number of days with the high temperature at or above 50°: 17
 Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: 24
 Number of days with the low temperature at or below 10°: 5

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 4.2 mph
 Highest gust: 41 mph on February 22
 Main direction: Out of the east at night, out of the southwest during the day.

Weather summary:

Temperatures were considerably above normal for the period with only 3 days of snowfall, whereas March should be normally the snowiest month of the year in the greater Crestone area.

Daytime high temperatures were at or above 60° on 11 days in the first 20 days of March alone, with 4 record daytime highs broken during that time.

Outlook for April:

April is our fourth wettest month of the year, with 1.25" of precipitation falling on average, along with 10.7" of snow accumulating on the ground. The most precipitation to ever fall in April was 3.41" in 1990; the most snow in the month took place in 2009 when 47.3" stuck to the ground.

Temperature-wise we see nice mild temps overall on average, with the highs and lows in the first week of the month being 52° and 24°, and then warming up to 61° and 31° by the last week of April. The warmest it's ever been in the month was 80° in 2000, with the coldest reading being 6°, set first in 1983 and then again in 1997.

The 30-day outlook set by the NWS as of March 22 was calling for above-normal temperatures along with average precipitation.

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

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