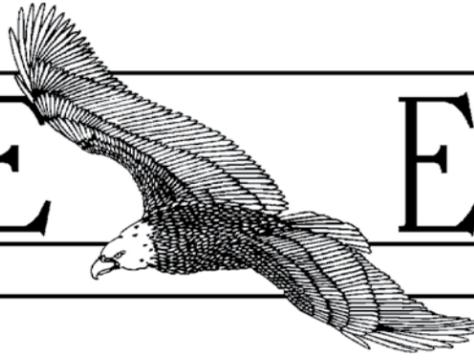


The CRESTONE EAGLE



Crestone, Colorado Volume 28, Number 5

May, 2017 \$1

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The beautiful Great Sand Dunes National Park. photo by Lisa Haskins

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President Trump issues ‘National Monument Review’ order that could greatly affect Colorado *Regional environmental groups respond*

by Chris Canaly, SLV Ecosystem Council and Anna Vargas, Conejos Clean Water

An Executive Order was signed by President Trump that will require a “review” of monuments that have been protected by presidents using executive action under the Antiquities Act since 1996. This review could result in monuments being shrunk or completely losing their protections.

In Colorado, this means that

three national monuments are in the crosshairs: Browns Canyon near Salida (designated in 2015), Chimney Rock, near Pagosa Springs (designated in 2012), and Canyons of the Ancients, near Cortez (designated in 2000). The Río Grande del Norte National Monument (designated in 2013), in northern New Mexico, will also be under review.

Scott Braden, Wilderness and Public Lands Advocate at Conservation Colorado, responded to the

Executive Order: “With this review, the Trump administration has launched an attack on Colorado’s heritage and the iconic public lands that are critical to our economy and way of life. The fact that the current administration is attempting to overturn protections for our lands is deeply offensive to those of us who live in the Colorado and the West.”

The Antiquities Act was signed by republican President Teddy Roosevelt in 1906 to safe-

continued on page 32



2MX2 will perform at this year’s Crest-Fest. See story about festival acts and fun activities on page 9

Citizen questions Saguache County property tax valuations

by Lisa Cyriacks

Saguache resident Don Geddes has questioned the County Assessor about the ongoing decline in property values, particularly in the Northern Saguache County Library District.

The Library District Board of Directors had met with the County Commissioners on November 15, 2016 to discuss why the District’s taxable Net Assessed Valuation for 2017 is the lowest it has been in the history of the District. Geddes attended that meeting but was dissat-

isfied with the answers received, so wrote a letter on March 14, 2017 to County Assessor Peter Peterson.

Geddes writes, “Please explain why the property tax revenue for this district and the rest of the county districts’ revenue appear to be significantly down. From your perspective what can be done to restore the lost revenue?”

Saguache County Assessor Peter Peterson responded using the final Net Assessed Valuation that was updated on December 10, 2016. “The certified assessed value for

the Northern Saguache County Library District for tax year 2015 was \$39,947,175 and the certified assessed value for tax year 2016 was \$39,996,173, an increase in assessed value of \$48,998. In all reality, the Northern Saguache County Library District should have lost a total of \$511,384 in assessed value . . . The increase in value was due to the diligent work of my staff adding new construction properties and other situations within that district.”

Peterson goes on to reference

continued on page 8

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The Crestone Eagle

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Editor's Notes

Monumental 'review'

On a flight from Denver to Phoenix I was able to get a good window seat. I love being able to see the landscape from high above. After cresting the San Juan Mountains and flying over southwest Colorado I found myself puzzling over what I was seeing. Cleared square spaces with roads going to each one. All about the same size. Housing? Some huge subdivision? But it made no sense. As we flew I saw hundreds of these clearings with roads, stretching for miles and miles over three states. What? Then I realized, oil wells. Fracking wells. The scope was astounding.

Unless you see it from the air, I don't think most people realize the scope of oil and gas development in our country. It's like a cancer eating up everything in its path. Taking over public land. Decimating ranch land with its toxic spills. Butting up against homes and towns. Creating earth quakes, polluted ground water, stream water, and drinking water that can be set on fire.

It's a madness on an unprecedented scale. And the giant maw wants more.

I'm horrified that Trump wants to "review" our National Monuments. An obvious plan to reduce them in size or just eliminate them (their development value the main criteria, of course).

Oil wells already edge ever closer to our monuments with a blatant disregard for unique places being damaged for very short-term gain.

Ironically, and very importantly, National Parks, Monuments and public land create billions of dollars in tourism revenue. Money that mostly stays local. I hope our congressmen, who may be blind to natural beauty or historic value, will at least see these renewable billions and speak strongly for preservation during these "reviews." Let me encourage you to give them a reminder call.

Happy Mother's Day,
—Kizzen



Thank you, thank you!

Dear Editor,

The Northern Saguache County Library District recently received two grants from the Saguache County Commissioners totaling \$14,075. These grants will go towards our books/DVD budget and several necessary repairs/upgrades to our two library branches. Next time you see one of our County Commissioners (Jason Anderson, Tim Lovato, Ken Anderson), thank them for supporting your library!

Additionally, we want to thank the community members who came to our latest community informational meeting on April 10. We appreciate your enthusiasm for the continued forward momentum of the new library, and we look forward to more such meetings in the future. Thank you.

Sarah Koehn Frey, Director
Northern Saguache County
Library District

Thank you, Denise

Dear Editor,

As manager of the Crestone Food Bank, I want to first thank Denise Peine for her faithful seven plus years as Manager and for her mentorship in the past year. Denise has been awesome in being available and staying involved to answer any questions as this transition is being made. Much gratitude, Denise!

The Food Bank welcomes Wendy Chanden on board as Co-Manager at the Food Bank. Including myself and Wendy, the Food Bank volunteers now consist of Stuart Sapadin, Alex Villa, Carmin Teeple, Claudia Brownlie, Linda Hunter, Joan Marie Stock, and Nick Carpenter.

The Food Bank is extremely grateful to Commissioner Jason Anderson and all of the Saguache County Commissioners for the County's award of \$5,000 to the Food Bank from the Saguache County Sales Tax Grant. This infusion of cash is much appreciated, as we are seeing an increase in the number of Food Bank clients and expansion of our line of offerings. We continue to appreciate the offerings of the local community, especially the regular offerings of Crestone Mercantile,



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Sen. Cory Gardner
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Rep. Scott Tipton
719-587-5105

Elephant Cloud, Dharma Ocean and Gracie's Farmstead.

Also, on April 22, a fundraising event for the Food Bank was held at Joyful Journey Mineral Springs. Over \$500 and numerous canned goods were donated. We wish to thank Bill Aldinger for creating this event; Joyful Journey for donating space, discounted passes, and cash; Gracie's Farmstead for donating the proceeds from food sold at the event; and the Merc for donating drinks and supplies.

Did you know that individuals or businesses that donate \$100 or more to the Food Bank are eligible for a 25% tax credit through the Colorado State Enterprise Zone?

Patti Jackson

Co-Manager, Crestone Food Bank

Here we go again

Dear Editor,

Kizzen's April editorial lauded five major community accomplishments that sustain our quality of life, three of which involve the permanent preservation of our quiet, open spaces. Lot consolidation is one. Yes, it's a done deal even though the POA [Baca Grande Property Owners Ass'n] Board seems to think otherwise.

Page six of the April *Eagle* reveals that the Board isn't aware of the finality. Quoting the article, the Board wants "to explore what effects lot consolidation has on increasing . . . membership dues." The tool? A survey of opinion vs. fact. "This is our main focus [and here is the incentive] . . . your wallet!" The survey would be deceiving if it suggests that the Board can instigate a process to change lot consolidation. Our governing documents have, since the POA's creation, assessed fees based not on the lot size, but on a per-lot basis whether or not consolidated.

We've been through this before. The last Board appointed an "ad hoc" committee that spent months poring through documents to ascertain the facts (not a biased opinion) that underlie consolidations and explain the limitations on the Board. However, the last Board disbanded the committee without ever listening to the facts. Apparently, some holdovers from the previous Board will neither listen nor let go.

The Board's approach reminds me of our current federal government, so intent on undoing what's been done that it can't govern. The Board members must think that they "have a mandate from the people," that justifies giving their time and our money to further their own "personal vision" ("let's make the POA great again"—logo and community activities) without regard to legal constraints. The past does shape the future when matters are settled. Continuity is the basis for a property owner's association where we have expectations and rights that run forever with our deeds.

Also, this settled issue is being kept alive by divisiveness stemming from prejudices and fear (sound familiar?), not from hard facts. The complaints are: "it's not fair," "the 'rich people' can afford to pay more;" "what if someone comes along and consolidates all the rest of the land?" Whose duty is it to read

the covenants before buying?

Look around. Building is happening and people are moving here. Dues are being paid. The Board is collecting past dues and taking some enforcement actions. The Board's role is simple. The Board has a fiduciary duty to protect property values, take care of routine business, and enforce the covenants as they are. Take another look around. There's a lot of work to be done.

Alicia Mason Miller

Emergency services readiness concern

Dear Eagle,

It has come to my attention that our Crestone Baca community is not receiving the emergency service protection it is paying for and depends on. In March there were about fifteen days without Advanced Life Support (ALS) coverage, and a couple of days with no ambulance coverage at all. The job of emergency services is to be there, in case of emergency.

Crestone Baca residents need to realize the ramifications of this lack of coverage. ALS provides for the ability to administer pain medication, advanced airway control, cardiac medications and other meds a patient might need.

Darrick Garcia, a paramedic who was hired to be the Baca Grande Ambulance Administrator, does not allow the ambulance to transfer patients to the Salida hospital, because of concern about the extra few minutes the ambulance might be out of service taking a patient to Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center (and because it is a lower level trauma facility than Alamosa). However, this week, April 24 thru 28, there were two days with no coverage and three days without Advanced Life Support.

In the job description for Ambulance Administrator, it states that if no other Advanced Life Support personnel are available, the Administrator will provide the coverage. This is not happening. It's a very dangerous situation, in my opinion.

Since I am no longer part of the ambulance service, I don't have a say in how it is managed. But it is imperative that our community be made aware that currently there is a possibility that if someone needs an ambulance, no EMTs will be available.

I hope that the POA Board of Directors will take immediate action to remedy this egregious situation.

—Pam Gripp

A Place of the Heart

Dear Editor,

This month's *Eagle* announces the first in what will be an annual community "Spotlight" series, highlighting the work and history of a local artist. In partnership with Crestone Films, this year, the Crestone Creative District is spotlighting the many filmographic achievements of 30-year Crestone/Baca resident Mark Elliott.

The Crestone Creative District today is one of only twenty-one Colorado Creative Districts. Early on, our creative district set out to create something that described

our community. Towards that end, we turned to Crestone Films. With a small amount of funding from the Saguache County Tourism Council, matched three-fold by Crestone Films (Mark Elliott and Doug Beechwood), the resulting film made its premier at the Rainbow Hall in November 2015. Today that short (eight-minute) film, called *A Place of the Heart* has traveled around the world unfolding the timeless beauty and creative talent so abundant in our one-of-a-kind community. Since creation of *A Place of the Heart*, Mark and Doug have continued to give unstintingly of their time and talent to help the district and our community.

On May 26, in the Colorado College auditorium, you will see again the creative genius of Crestone Films, as their special film tribute to the extraordinary life and work of filmmaker Mark Elliott is unveiled.

There will be a \$10 admission fee, proceeds of which will go to support the work of Crestone Films in creating this unique film tribute especially for the event.

Come join us.

Kairina Danforth

Gird up for M-season

Dear Editor,

Mosquitos be alert! There is a new kid on the block and he uses a spray that will come between you and your next blood meal. His name is the picaridine kid, and his spray is non-toxic to humans.

Picaridine has been around a few years and was originally sold by Cutter Outdoor in a spray bottle. But the manufacturer of DEET persuaded Cutter to stop marketing it. Picaridine has all the good features: non-toxic, lasts up to 12 hours, and is as effective at repelling mosquitos as is DEET. Purchase it at Amazon in the Sawyer-labeled spray, and at Wal-Mart in the Natrapel spray bottle. The Natrapel spray nozzle is problematic.

An indispensable weapon is a bug zapper which looks like a small tennis racket. It instantly electrocutes and incinerates mosquitos on contact. Amazon name: Elucto. It is one of those things that works.

—Vince Palermo

Saguache County crime report

by Mary Lowers

Except for those stopped and ticketed by the Saguache County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), speeders continue to race through the San Luis Valley, mostly cruising at ten to twenty mph above the posted limit and disappearing like the snow of spring. In addition to speeding, Sheriff's deputies have issued an increased number of other tickets, particularly for no seat belts and not signaling.

Tensions and tempers got the better of Michelle Hashberger, Moffat School Principal, and Moffat School District Acting Superintendent, Karen Hazard. On Tuesday, April 4 at 8:15am, Hashberger, who was worried that the District would not call a snow day when teachers were unable to make it to the school, came to blows with Hazard, who refused to call a snow day school closure because the busses had been able to safely make their rounds picking up students.

According to a SCSO report, "A written statement says that both Hashberger and Hazard had yelled and cursed at each other and that it became physical and another staff member had to get in between them to stop the incident." Both Hashberger and Hazard were summoned to appear in County Court following the incident which had been reported to SCSO by District employee Gene Berry.

A total of seven individuals were listed as witnesses to the incident. Students were sent home from school early after the incident occurred. Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warrick is the investigating officer in this case. In his report Warrick said, "Due to the nature of this happening on school property and during school hours with students and parents around charges of Disorderly Conduct were filed on both Hashberger and Hazard."

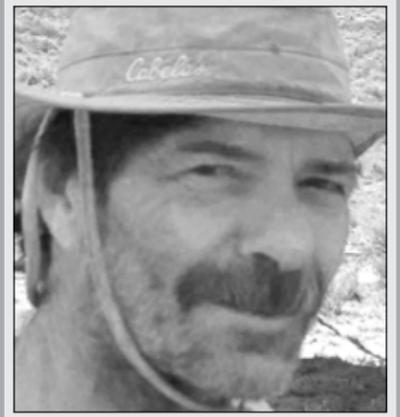
In other news, a Center man, 32, was jailed with \$150 bail on charges of failure to appear in court. A Hooper man, 30, was jailed on two failures to appear charges with his bail set at \$500. An Alamosa man, 36, was jailed on contempt of court charges. A Saguache man, 72, was summoned to appear in court on charges he drove with a suspended license and drove a defective vehicle.

A Center man, 29, was taken into custody on fugitive from justice charges with \$1,500 bail set. A Black Hawk man, 38, was arrested in Saguache on criminal mischief charges with his bail set at \$2000. A Center man, 30, faces charges of possession of a controlled substance and two fugitives from justice charges. His bail is \$16,500. A Kansas City, MO man, 35, was jailed on charges of first degree criminal trespass, false imprisonment and third degree assault. His bail is listed at \$5000.

A Center man, 40, was taken into custody in Del Norte for violation of a restraining order with no bail amount listed. A Baca man, 56, was summoned to appear in court on charges of criminal trespass. It appears that despite this reporter having heard reports of breakins to cars and homes in the Baca, no reports have been filed with the SCSO. Deputy Wayne Clark says, "If your house or vehicle have been broken into, don't touch anything and immediately contact the sheriff's office." That number is 719-655-2525. Deputy Clark also indicated the investigation into the disappearance of Khristal is still active.

Report of shots fired in Moffat

According to Deputy Wayne Clark, a report of three possible gun shots fired in Moffat on April 25 caused the Moffat School to go into lock down for a few hours while law enforcement investigated. The Saguache County Sheriff's Office, Center Police Department, Colorado State Patrol, and Division of Wildlife all converged on Moffat to look into this incident. No weapons were found. Three people were detained by law enforcement and then released. No charges have been filed and no one has been taken into custody as a result of this incident.



Paul Douglas Rovinelli

December 9, 1952—March 12, 2017

Paul Douglas Rovinelli, aged 64, longtime Crestone area resident, transitioned from his battle with cancer on March 12, 2017. He was preceded in death by his father, Arnaldo Albert Rovinelli and his mother, Frances Parish Rovinelli of Cleveland, TX.

He is survived by wife, Mary Rovinelli of Pagosa Springs, CO; son, Paul Jr. Rovinelli of Houston, TX; daughters, Lisa Rovinelli Anderson of Auburn, WA, Ashley Borgan of Colorado Springs, and Gina Shannon of Phoenix, AZ; along with four beautiful grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Theresa Rovinelli Macko of Brandon, MS; and brothers, Richard Albert Rovinelli of Livingston, TX and James Christopher O'Brian of Tijeras, NM; dear friend and cousin, Todd Macko; as well as other family members that remained close.

Paul was born in Harris County, Texas on December 9, 1952, and was raised in Cleveland, TX. He was passionate about architecture, construction, horticulture, and stretching the limits of his imagination. While never formally educated, he had a brilliant mind and could sketch complex architectural drawings on as little as a napkin. One of Paul's most satisfying accomplishments was using his masterful and creative building skills to construct booths and various structures for the Renaissance Faires.

Paul could be generous to a fault. He delighted in telling jokes and often laughed harder at the punch line than those hearing them. Considering his carefree lifestyle, social attitudes, and spirituality, it was inevitable that he would one day become a part of the Crestone community. Colorado became the home he had spent his entire life searching for.

Paul's wish for the body that he left behind was that it be cremated in the open air of the Crestone community and so early in morning of March 16 of 2017, that which was physical was reduced to ashes and the peace that is death ascended to the heavens, carried by the fragrant smoke of Juniper, Palo Santo, and Frankincense.

The family is eternally grateful to the Crestone End of Life Project and would ask that those wishing to honor the memory of our Beloved brother Paul consider making a donation to this organization.

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A capacity crowd waited to address questions to Representative Scott Tipton at the April 18 town hall.

Tipton town hall cordial & civil, frustrating & fruitless

by *Susannah Ortego*

A capacity crowd of constituents, including more than a dozen people from Crestone/Baca, attended Rep. Scott Tipton's town hall Tuesday, April 18 at Alamosa City Hall.

The format was, as one attendee put it "very egalitarian." People who wanted to ask questions took a ticket and questioners were chosen at random. No questions were screened. Mr. Tipton was cordial, polite and professionally sincere and the crowd was generally civil even though frustration with the Member of Congress's cherry picking and misdirection in response to pointed questions generated lots of groans, rolled eyes and raised signs such as "answer the question" and "disagree".

If people left the meeting wondering "what was the point?" perhaps it is because what the evening's format did not allow for was any rebuttal. For example, in answer to a question about the deleterious effects of fracking on ground water and seismic activity, Mr. Tipton said he knew of no instances of water contamination occurring from fracking. This prompted Baca resident Meryl Ennis to send Mr. Tipton a rebuttal letter and links to three articles to support it the very next day.

Chuck Tidd, a Saguache-area resident, in a detailed and substantive post on the Indivisible Crestone/Baca Facebook page the next day, managed to both address and alleviate town hall participants' frustration with Mr. Tipton's an-

swers to questions ranging from the military budget to environmental regulations to healthcare.

To readers looking for a fuller report on the long-awaited town hall please see the whole video on Indivisible Crestone/Baca's Facebook page, Indivisible Del Norte's Facebook page or by clicking on the following link: <http://bit.ly/2p0eF0l>.

Bennet opposes President's plan on Bears Ears National Monument

Calls on Trump Administration to meet with tribal leadership

Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet on March 22 released the following statement amid reports that the Trump Administration will consider abolishing or significantly reducing the size of the recently created Bears Ears National Monument.

"For years, the tribes and communities in the Four Corners region worked together to protect Bears Ears National Monument for future generations," Bennet said. "The ancestral lands and cultural sites at Bears Ears are sacred to this region, including to the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian tribes of Colorado, both of whom strongly support this designation. To even contemplate abolishing this new Monument before formally meeting with tribal leadership disrespects those who have had a deep connection with this land for centuries.

"Any executive action to diminish Bears Ears National Monu-

ment is an unprecedented attack on the integrity of the Antiquities Act, which has been used to protect areas like Browns Canyon, Chimney Rock, the Great Sand Dunes, and many other iconic sites in Colorado and across the country," Bennet continued. "Before taking any action, the Trump Administration at the Secretary level should meet with tribal leadership and hear why Bears Ears is worth protecting."

Under the Antiquities Act, presidents have designated more than 150 National Monuments. According to the Congressional Research Service, "No President has ever abolished or revoked a national monument proclamation, so the existence or scope of any such authority has not been tested in courts." Several legal analyses have concluded that the Antiquities Act does not authorize the President to repeal National Monument designations.



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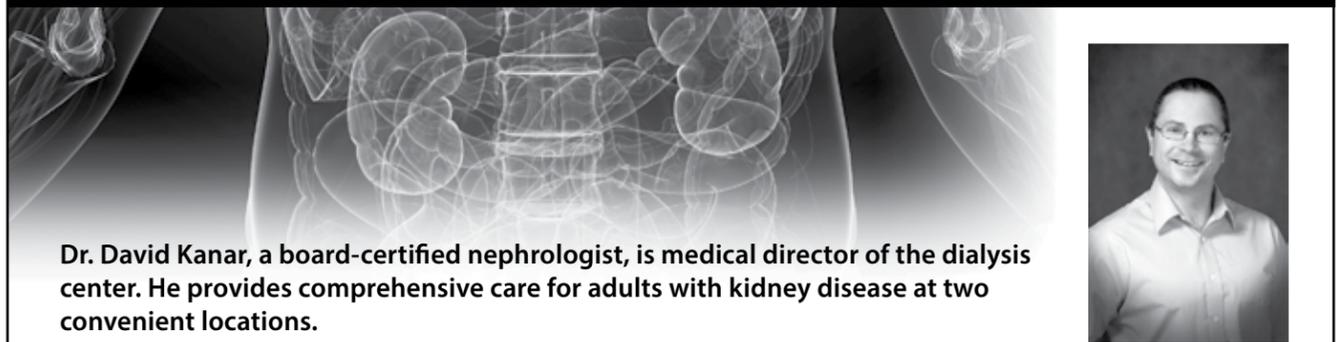
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Saguache County News

by Sandia Belgrade

A Saguache County day of celebration

A day of festivities is planned as Saguache County Museum has their 59th Opening Day Celebration on Sunday, May 28 in Otto Mears Park. Saguache County will also celebrate its 150th birthday that day. Dorraine Gasseling of the Museum sent a thank you note to the Saguache County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for their sales tax grant support and invited the BOCC to participate in the parade saluting the county. It starts at 11am on 4th Street. Businesses, farmers, ranchers, and all residents of Saguache County are invited to participate in the parade. The parade lineup begins at 10am in front of Mountain Valley School. Contact Lynn Sutherland at 719-256-4279 or Dorraine at 719-256-4281 for further information.

This pioneer museum, which is a national historic site, is truly unique. It has functioned as a school, a courthouse, and a residence for jail-keepers and their families as well as a women's V.I.P. cell, and a "bull pen" with an escape-proof maximum security "cage" This jail was used until 1958 and original graffiti done by prisoners still adorns the walls. The museum includes historic artifacts concerning Alferd E. Packer, who was charged in 1874 with eating portions of his five prospecting companions. It is also home to one of the largest arrowhead collections in Colorado, and there is a renovated Mineral Room.

Let the summer festivities begin

The events start with a pancake breakfast at 7am followed by a hot dog lunch at the Otto Mears Park Pavilion from noon to 2pm. Friends of the Library will be serving their famous Root Beer floats in the museum yard. There will also be cake, cupcakes, and brownies, along with lemonade and iced tea. Vendors will be in Otto Mears Park and the Community Building. Contact Jeannie Ewing at 719-480-2920.

Flood plain information

Tom and Pat Brown of the Lazy KV subdivision informed the Commissioners that to get a reverse mortgage they need proof that their property is not located in a designated flood plain. Borrowers whose properties lie in a hazard area must purchase federally backed flood insurance as a condition of receiving a federally backed mortgage loan in accordance with the Federal Disaster Protection Act of 1973. Wendi Maez of Land Use sent correspondence to FEMA but received no reply. She said the property is not really on a flood plain, but FEMA hasn't mapped that area of the county. Ben Gibbons, County Attorney, will look into what other information they can provide such as GPS. The County's Land Use

website has more details: www.saguachecounty.net/index.php/land-use.

The Browns also expressed concern about people coming into KV estates to grow marijuana. According to the Browns many are living in shacks or older mobile homes which reduces home values, and they are stealing water at night to fill their tanks. They asked if a compliance officer has been hired—one has been who understands the complexity of the situation. Yes, one has been hired. Read on.

Wayne Clark named code enforcement officer

Congratulations to Deputy Wayne Clark who has been named the code enforcement officer for the County. Several people interviewed for the position but didn't have the qualifications Clark had. Wendi Maez, Land Use Coordinator for the County, supported the idea of hiring from within, and the Commissioners moved to authorize Clark. He has been in law enforcement for 18 years and will function as a deputy assigned to code enforcement, working with both Maez and Sheriff Dan Warwick. While Maez clarified that this will not be just for marijuana enforcement, but also for other violations of land use ordinances such as septic tanks, Clark will concentrate on illegal grows to get the situation under control. He has already hand-delivered violation notices throughout the county. For those who wonder if this puts Clark in an unsafe position, it is no different than any other difficult situation an officer may face. He'll have the backing and access to all resources and manpower of the Sheriff's department. Wayne Clark and his family have been part of the Crestone community for several years and they love being here.

Medical marijuana costs

The information concerning medical marijuana in last month's column was incorrect, and while I reported on what was stated at the County meeting, I still take responsibility for the error. Medical, non-commercial growers only pay \$50 registration to the County (not \$3,000). They pay \$5 for each plant over 12. Thanks to Jason Anderson for the correction.

Moratorium being considered

The Commissioners are weighing the possibility of a moratorium being implemented on approving commercial marijuana recreational growers. Several people have offered opinions, as might be expected. One resident said without a legal option there is only the black market to provide enough marijuana. They feel that if legal marijuana is not available, the black market will thrive. Licensed producers are growing for a profit and they don't want an illegal market that hurts their profits. Colorado requires medical and recreational marijuana plants be tracked through radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to follow every pot plant "from seed to sale," much like companies in other industries track their inventory. RFID aims to prevent plants from leaking onto the black market but

also assures businesses that they are using legal plants. Whatever decision happens, several residents stated they're concerned that medical marijuana will become stigmatized. According to several County employees and Jason Anderson, it is important not to try to legislate morality.

Medicaid system temporarily broken

The State's Medicaid system has been down for 2 months now. There are ongoing problems with Colorado's new Medicaid system which reimburses hospitals, doctors, caregivers and public entities such as the County's public health and social services departments. The new technology is rejecting many claims for various coding errors. When people call for help, they are waiting hours on hold. The glitches put services at risk for thousands of Coloradans. Many in our county are still awaiting funds to pay departments and staff for services already provided. It may take weeks to fix the system "hiccups."

Joyful Journey Conditional Use Permit

Elaine Blumenhein, Owner of Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa, requested a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Modification. To meet demand they want to add more lodging including yurts which people love, a therapy building, and more soaking facilities as the spa is filled every weekend. Joyful Journey contributes sales and land tax to the County. The water for the pools is supplied by an existing well and 2 springs. A modern septic system was put in 2 years ago. Caren Kershner wrote a letter of concern regarding the front entrance gate. It will be modified to improve congestion and visibility. Both the Planning Commission and the BOCC approved the additions and modifications to their CUP.

Can subdivisions be subdivided?

There was a request to subdivide the Reigel Subdivision. Residents sent letters regarding the request and several county residents came to comment. One gentleman said that back in 2000 he was told it couldn't be subdivided anymore. His concern is that water dried up during the drought and still hasn't fully recovered. He can only pump 1 hour/day and feels the subdivision can't handle 8 more lots or wells. It

would cost him \$30,000 for new one. The additional lots may also entail a new road. The present one is in bad shape. Jeff Shook, who is on the Planning Commission in Villa Grove said another concern is population density. County attorney Ben Gibbons said there are legal precedents for dividing subdivisions. The BOCC will do a site visit to evaluate the property and postponed any decision until May 16.

Saguache County Airport news

Constantin Diehl, President/CEO of Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) has submitted a proposal possibly to lease a hangar, perhaps to manage Leech Airport. The proposal is under consideration and there is a contract that's been drafted but there are many things to consider if the County is to get revenue from the airport. Diehl would pay an annual leasing fee. There will also be a service fee, and the County could have a license fee. Additionally, for all users there will be a landing fee. Diehl's focus may be on drones, but the County will ensure that the airport serves others and meets the needs of the county.

Education discussion

The secretary of the Moffat/Crestone Board of Education, Matthew Crowley, appeared before the BOCC. A key reason he came was that the unique nature of the Moffat Board is that it functions by policy governance, meaning that the governing authorities must interact with the community. Crowley discussed the benefits of having 2 schools in the community but also noted the tensions that can arise. Half the area students choose to go to the Crestone Charter School; the other half to Moffat School which follows a more traditional curriculum. Moffat has a 50% dropout rate, which Crowley and others would like to remediate. Small schools have benefits, but Secure Rural Schools funds may be cut, and the two schools will have to divide any funding. Commissioner Ken Anderson noted that Center is going to a 4-day school week.

Dental contract

Valley Wide Dental Clinic in Center is calling for new contract. The head of Valley Wide has announced that it won't extend dental care to Saguache because of the lack of facilities, such as the x-ray machine, which is no longer functioning.

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram Annual On-Line Auction Fundraiser April 28 ~ May 7

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POA Board eliminates Community Outreach Coordinator position, dealing with those out of compliance

by John Rowe

The POA Board of Directors held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, April 20, at 6pm at the POA Hall.

All five Board members were present with President Steve Dossenback presiding. About eighteen audience members were on hand for the meeting as well. A short executive session preceded the public portion of the meeting that stated at 6:20pm.

Shortly after opening the meeting, President Dossenback announced to the audience that

the purpose of the executive session was to eliminate the newly created position of Community Outreach Coordinator. Not much explanation was given for this but there are definite indications that the Board still sees the need for improved communications with its membership and will continue to look for ways they think better serves that purpose. In conversations with Board members after the meeting, thanks and good wishes were given to Robin Durance, who lost her job with the elimination of the position.

Audiences questions and commentary in Member Forum was next on the agenda. One woman suggested to the Board that they perhaps try to find more in the way of mental health services available to the community and incorporate them into an approach to its membership, where appropriate. The Board expressed regret that there did not seem to be much in the way of this in the valley but said they would stay open to this suggestion.

It was also suggested that the Board issue some sort of public statement dealing with the removal of a man's home in Chalet II last month to clear up some of the misconceptions and wild accusations surrounding the incident. The Board indicated that a detailing of the legal process involved in trying to pull all egregious code violators into compliance might be helpful and hopefully will be forthcoming. They stress that the unpleasant and expensive solution of removal of a home is the last op-

tion they wish to pursue and many opportunities are given the violating member to begin the process of moving into compliance with community standards. There are sixteen more gross violators of covenants somewhere in this same legal process and the Board stresses that they will continue to pursue this until satisfactory resolution of compliance is achieved.

Emergency Services had good news for the year: \$35,000 has been earned in running ambulance transfers, this as a result of having an extra ambulance and more fully trained personnel to staff them. The combining of the ambulance and fire departments continue to go smoothly and more transfer income is expected throughout the year.

Joanna and Eli Dokson came to the meeting seeking \$500 for their annual summer children's riding program at the Baca Stables and it was unanimously granted as it has been for years. Joanna made it clear that the stables are operated under the umbrella of the non-profit Atalanta Association and they are set up to take donations from all interested in supporting this and any other community riding programs available. Please contact either Joanna or Eli for details at 719-256-6200.

The Board announced that they need three members for the Nominating Committee for Board candidates and encourage all interested to contact the POA. Also look for an announcement in May's Eagle.

The last twenty minutes or so of the meeting were given to an organically evolving bull session on the future of Crestone and the Baca. It was encouraging and refreshing to see the Board interested and open to any and all ideas about this. I would even say it was fun.



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 CIRCUS CARNIVAL ALPINE PARK 11:00AM- 3:00PM
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SUNDAY MAY 28
 OPENING ACT BLUEGRASS ON THE ARKANSAS - RIVERSIDE PARK
 WALK FOR SUDAN RIVERSIDE PARK 1:30PM
 POTLUCK BIRTHDAY DINNER RIVERSIDE PARK 5:30PM

MONDAY MAY 29
 CONVERSATIONS ON CIRCUS SALIDA COMMUNITY CENTER 10:00AM - \$10
 CHILDREN'S SHOW BUILD A BETTER WORLD STEAM PLANT 3:00PM - \$8
 CIRCUS SHOWCASE STEAM PLANT 7:00PM - \$15

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Town of CRESTONE News

by Allyson Ransom,
Crestone Town Clerk

“The world’s favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May.” -Edwin Way Teale

April 10 Crestone Board of Trustees meeting

• The Board held a detailed discussion on tiny homes. Brent Vandever had comments and questions about which municipal documents prohibited living in tiny homes. Attorney Farish verified that Ordinance #2003-007 defined the minimum square footage as 300 sq. ft., but it was inadvertently rescinded when the ordinance was replaced by another in 2009. Farish presented the Board with a draft ordinance to impose a moratorium on building or installing tiny houses for the next six months while research could be conducted by the Board with advisement from the Crestone Planning Commission. The majority of the Board agreed that tiny homes could be a useful option to help the housing shortage, but that they would have to meet state plumbing code requirements with water hookups and approved sanitation. Ordinance #2017-003 was adopted and passed to impose a moratorium on the building and installation of residences within the town of Crestone with a living space of less than three hundred square feet.

• Benjamin Byer reported on his code enforcement work to date. Byer discussed restorative justice, dogs at large and a property where a bus had been parked and used illegally for living accommodations. The bus has been removed since a warning letter was delivered. Further discussion included sanitation allegations and past issues with a well. It was confirmed that the sewer on the residential property was repaired thirteen years previously. An update from the cClerk included mention of one application for the part-time law enforcement position, but the Board requested advertising for one more month.

• The Board adopted and passed Resolution #005-2017 for a new personnel handbook and organizational chart, which had outdated information from 2009.

• The Trustees briefly discussed the trail plan that Burt Wadman created for the perimeter of the town that will eventually connect to the north end of the Eastern San Luis Valley Trail system (ESLVT). Discussion and questions regarding the town trail included how the town’s proposed trail plan might impact existing areas and the maintenance of privacy in neighborhoods. The Trustees requested that the plan be amendable to keep the trail along the most eastern perimeter of town.

The Board motioned and approved the adoption of the Master Plan for the town trail and open space within the Town of Crestone as amended regarding the following locations: the proposed Pine St. trail to be moved to Piñon St, the proposed Granite Ave. trail to be

moved to Mica Ave., and the exact location of the trail segment passing through the Town’s Tract 1 property to be determined after completion of the Tract 1 Master Plan.

• Attorney Farish explained the Code of Ethics that was presented, which was created as a collective valley-wide policy for economic cooperation among towns and counties, and he noted that most of the local mayors and county administrators had signed it.

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to authorize:

• Mayor Danforth to sign the Code of Ethics.

• Mayor Danforth to sign a contract agreement to hire Burt Wadman to create a Master Plan for Tract 1.

• Cristina Cabeza-Kinney to conduct a three-hour paid conflict resolution training class for Town officials and employees in May. Trustee Kinney abstained from the vote due to conflict of interest.

• Patrick Moore to start purchasing plants from the flower fund for planting in the downtown beautification beds.

• Office staff to order and have installed an electric meter at the plaza in Little Pearl Park so that the lights and automatic irrigation systems will be operational.

• The Trustees requested that the Clerk send their prepared letter to the POA Board to invite them to attend a “Meet and Greet” with the Crestone Trustees and discuss shared goals and concerns.

Public Works

• The Board approved the creation of an emergency access and oversized truck access point for the Hume property by opening up 150 feet of N. Piñon St. off of E. Galena Ave.

• The Board agreed to close the Crestone Community Building from November 1 through April 30 in an effort to save on expensive electric costs for heating water pipes with space heaters and other caretaking and maintenance costs associated with renting it out during cold weather months.

• Diane Bairstow requested that the Town start spraying for mosquitoes in preparation for the Saturday Market that will be held in Little Pearl Park. The Public Works staff will begin a Friday evening fogging schedule, using the natural repellent that worked well for the 2016 Fourth of July celebra-



Lisa Bodey, Brent Vandever and Amulya Dawn Beechwood had a great time catching up at this year’s first official downtown Saturday Market, held on Earth Day.

photo by Lori Nagel

tion. Garlic control and mosquito dunks will also be ordered for the summer. Further discussion included weed management and a request for all residents and businesses to keep weeds cut down. Stagnant water is a breeding ground for larvae and adult mosquitos live in bushes and tall grass. Even small amounts of standing water in buckets and old tires that trap water can breed thousands of mosquitoes.

• Lars Skogen presented a parcel map to the Board showing the Tract 1 area and discussed the land needed for a community center. Trustee input included historical information and a timeline to create the Master Plan for Tract 1, which would have to be completed, as well as a public engagement process before any decisions were made on what facilities to include on the property. Also discussed, was the importance of cooperating with several entities including the Crestone Charter School, Northern Saguache County Library District, Baca Grande POA, and the Resiliency Group in the plans.

• Fourth of July—for anyone interested in volunteering, participating, or renting booth space, please contact Melinda at the Town Hall, 256-4313. Booth fees are: food vendors \$75, non-food booths \$15, and non-profit booths \$10.

• Downtown Beautification—Bed preparation, tree planting and perennial planting days are coming up in early May, May 27 and June 10, so please contact Town Hall for more information. In June plaques for the donated trees will be installed and a map to tour the memorial arboretum will be available.

• The annual spring brush clean-up will take place in June this year. Look for the announce-

ment in next month’s edition of the *Eagle*.

Other news

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

• “Meet-the Board Mondays” sessions provide a great opportunity to talk to a trustee every first Monday of the month from 1-3pm. Trustee Benjamin Byer will be available at the Town Hall Meeting Room, 108 W. Galena Ave. on May 1.

• Regular Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 1:30pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Contact the Town Clerk one week in advance to be placed on the agenda and/or submit any documentation. Presentations should be kept to a maximum of ten minutes.

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

• To view agendas, check the bulletin boards at Town Hall and the US Post Office or the *Eagle’s* online calendar and the Town of Crestone’s new website at townofcrestone.org. The town appreciates Trustee Diane Bairstow and Rodney Volkmar’s work on this project.

• If you wish to have agendas and approved minutes sent to you directly via email, please join our listserv by contacting Town Hall with your name and email address.

• 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 (Mon-Th 9am-2pm), and the cost to notarize each signature is \$5 as per the Colorado Secretary of State guidelines. A current and valid photo ID with legible signature must be presented.



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Tax assessments

continued from page 1

the removal of taxable property specifically from the Baca Grande subdivision due to delinquent taxes. “After 5 years of no payment in taxes, the County takes ownership of the property. The County then offers the property to the public by auction. Not all properties sell that quickly, which means no taxes are paid on said property.” This, combined with the loss of \$360,000 in assessed value based on SLV REC equipment that was thought to be located in Saguache County but was actually in Rio Grande County, resulted in the decline of revenue for the library district.

In response to Geddes’ query about what can be done to restore the lost revenue, Peterson replied, “It would take \$6,420,351 in actual value in residential classified property to make up the loss the Northern Saguache County Library District had in one year.”

Peterson indicates that he has requested additional funds from the Saguache County Commissioners for one fulltime employee to assist with adding new construction to the property tax roll. Saguache County Commissioner Tim Lovato says the 2017 budget includes an additional \$18,000 for a part-time position to assist with the fieldwork necessary to collect data on new construction. According to County Co-Administrator Lyn Zimmer-Lambert, no

monies have been expended under this line item year-to-date.

Zimmer-Lambert also confirms that there are currently five full-time employees in the Assessor’s office including Peterson and former Saguache County Assessor Jackie Stephens, who is paid \$2,400 monthly with benefits.

2017 is, by statute, a reappraisal year for all classes of property and includes the opportunity to add new construction to the tax roll. Notices of Valuation are mailed May 1 of years ending in an odd number, to give time for property owners to lodge any protests or to request revaluation. Property values are calculated based on the market, cost, and income information available for analysis.

The statewide annual audit for 2015 shows a total of 2,204 residences in Saguache County. The State Demography Office shows a total of 2,598 households in 2015 for a population of 6,108 (US Census 2010) with an average household size of 2.37. Taking the difference of 394 homes times the median value of owner-occupied units in Saguache County (\$142,200) results in \$56,026,800 actual value.

In 2012 and 2013, the State Property Tax Division ordered reappraisals specifically for residential improvements that were not added to the property tax roll. At that time, the assessor and her staff were able to complete physical inspections on approximately half the identified residences outside the Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District boundaries and approximately one-third of those within the District.

Numbers from the San Luis

Valley Development Resource Group show that Saguache County lags in total valuation behind Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla and Rio Grande Counties by several million dollars. Even though Saguache County has 74.5% in federal lands, it still has over 500,000 acres in private ownership subject to taxation. The only county in the valley that has more acres in private ownership is Costilla County.

In the response letter Peterson also provides a comparative table that shows a decline in value for vacant land in Saguache County of \$5,297,309. He attributes that decline to the change in market value for vacant land, especially in the Baca Grande and the Lazy KV Estates subdivisions.

Peterson calculates that properties classified as residential have actually increased \$2,945,011 over time while agricultural property has increased very little in assessed value since 2013.

In conclusion, Peterson states, “The value of vacant land is decreasing in the Baca Grande subdivision and the Lazy KV Estates. Also, the price per square footage for residential structures is decreasing due to the sales that transpired during the two year time period our office uses for analysis. At this time I am predicting a drop in value for the entire county as a whole.”

Meanwhile the Northern Saguache County Library District board is concerned about how to fund ongoing services to their patrons. The majority of their operating revenue comes from property tax revenue.



BACA GRANDE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

Call for Nominating Committee Members 2017

Would you like to be more involved in the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (BGPOA)? Would you like to assist with the 2017 Board of Directors Election? The BGPOA is looking for at least three eligible Members to volunteer for the Nominating Committee for this year’s Board of Directors Election. Candidates must be Members in good standing and must provide a written letter of interest. Interested Members, please respond no later than 5:00 P.M. on Monday, June 5, 2017.

Please drop off your written letter of interest at the BGPOA office or email to: info@bacapoa.org

CRESTONE MERCANTILE

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Open 7 Days a Week 8a.m. to 8 p.m.
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Early bird prices for CRESTFEST

Get your Early Bird tickets now for CRESTFEST! It will be held Friday and Saturday August 4 and 5 at the Challenger Golf Course. The Early Bird discount applies to adults and seniors only and ends May 31. Early Bird prices are \$10 for adults and seniors for Friday and \$25 for adults and seniors for Saturday. Teens will be \$5 for Friday and \$10 for Saturday. Under 12 are free. Tickets are available on line at crestfest.org or call us at 719-256-4533.

We have a talented and eclectic array of performers coming this year. Comedy music was such a hit last year that we're bringing the genre back with Zoltan and the Fortune Tellers Saturday afternoon. All original material covers subject matter like cheese, snake oil men, a multitude of human anatomy parts, poker, golf and just silly stuff. All delivered in a gypsy swing style that's danceable, lively and fun. Next we'll have 2MX2 who are a part of our school performances program. They are a positive-message, bilingual hip-hop group that frequently tours with the Flobots. Their shows are tight and full of energy and love. When I have taken them to the schools, they turn the place into a Beatles concert with screaming, dancing and face autographs. 2MX2 is possibly our most popular show with students and we have had 36 different performers over 15 years. They will be followed by one of the hottest Latin/salsa fusion bands in Denver. I'm talking about Onda. This is a 9-piece full blast band featuring three horns, all kinds of percussion, beautiful female vocals, bass, guitar and keys. We had them here many years ago and they have since grown in number and stature. They get a full 90 minutes so come fully prepared to enjoy.

Our Saturday headliner will feature full-fledged funk by Groovement. This is a 6-piece funk-rock band that is fun, forceful and unpredictable. They play originals, and their catchy melodies, big harmonies, tasteful solos, and funky grooves will drive you to dance. The playful personality and strong, soulful voice of front man Alex Carr helped him win a ticket to Hollywood as one of the 2011 American Idol contestants. He can croon it or slay it with the best of them. Groovement has a reputation for putting on one of the tightest, hottest, high-octane shows around. That's why we booked them. Come

check them out and have a blast. We will also have our best local acts plus a few more surprises, so stay tuned and check-out our website at crestfest.org.

Now about the family fun part. CRESTFEST will have under-tent carnival games, rides, contests, and outdoor activities. Carnival games could include balloon pop, tattoo booth, fishing games, lucky ducky matching tank, toilet target toss, rain gutter races, milk bottle bash, ping pong toss and more. Different rides will include the ever-popular Euro Bungee jump, a slide and obstacle course, a Dalmatian bouncy house, cool pedal cars and race track plus more. We also want safe open air activities and contests like putting, pitching and hole-in-one golf contests, dunk tank, bean bag toss tournaments, football passing skill games, basketball shooting, baseball pitching, a volleyball court and more. The Salida Circus will be returning with their usual array of activities. They bring costumes for parades, tumbling and circus act lessons, a magician, a clown, and stilt walkers. CRESTFEST will also act as a showcase of presenters who've participated in our school performances or may in the future. These will include Andy Skellenger with his Tablas Tarong, African dance, Sonic Apothecary and more. There will be a demonstration and performance tent with hands-on learning workshops as well as learning opportunities.

Well, there ya go, we're gettin' there. CRESTFEST should be a real hoot this year and we hope you will all come out and enjoy yourselves. For more info go to crestfest.org or call 719-256-4533.



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Groovement coming to town.

Bored?

Crestone Performances Inc. is extending an invitation to those in the community who might be interested in joining our board of directors. They meet once a month and also participate in fundraising events and the production of CRESTFEST. The focus of CPI has changed, recently, and we need new board members to help steer us into the future. The meetings are predominately fun and our mission is certainly rewarding. Our mission is: To create a positive cultural, educational and economic impact in our area through the production of arts representing a variety of traditions and cultures. CPI is a 501(c)3 community service organization now in its 15th year. For more information please peruse our web site and call us at 719-256-4533. Thank you!

CRESTFEST openings

CRESTFEST 2017 is looking to fill the following *paid* positions: Box Office Coordinator, Parking Coordinator, Camping Coordinator, Games Coordinator. For more information and to apply visit www.crestfest.org/jobs. Questions? Call 719-256-4533 or email info@crestfest.org. CRESTFEST is a project of Crestone Performances Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit for the arts serving the San Luis Valley and surrounding areas.

CRESTFEST vendor deadline extended to May 20

We are accepting applications for vendors who wish to sell their work or services in the following categories: Handmade arts and crafts, unique re-sale items, clothing, jewelry, healing arts, massage, astrology, information and of course, food and drink. CRESTFEST dates: August 4 & 5. Deadline for applications is May 20, with acceptance/rejection letters mailed by June 1. To download an application visit www.crestfest.org. Questions? Give us a call at 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.



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Spring Hours:
Monday-Saturday ~ 10am-6pm • * • Sunday ~ 10am-5pm

H.E. Gangteng Tulku Rinpoche in Crestone May 5-7

by Shauna Ianson

The Yeshe Khorlo sangha in Crestone, Colorado is delighted to be hosting public teachings by our root teacher, H.E. Gangteng Tulku Rinpoche from May 5 to 7 at Choying Dzong, the Yeshe Khorlo Retreat Center. Gangteng Rinpoche is coming to Crestone via La Puebla, Mexico where he has spent the last several weeks giving the first part of the Kunzang Gongdu teachings to a diverse array of students from Mexico, Estonia, Singapore, mainland China, Taiwan, and Canada. He also gave teachings in Los Angeles before coming to Crestone, and will visit Vancouver, Canada, on his way home to Bhutan.

For Rinpoche's visit to Crestone, we are excited to offer the third and final part of Longchenpa's trilogy, Finding Comfort and Ease. Rinpoche has previously taught on the first two volumes, Finding Comfort and Ease in the Nature of Mind and Finding Comfort and Ease in Meditation. The trilogy,

know in its entirety as "An Ocean of Fine Explanation", provides instruction on the ground, path, and fruition stages of Dzogchen, or Great Perfection teachings of the Nyingma lineage of Vajrayana Buddhism.

Gangteng Rinpoche is the ninth body emanation of the King Tertön, Pema Lingpa. As the reincarnation of Longchenpa, Pema Lingpa and his lineage holders have a special connection to these profound teachings. The third part of the trilogy, Finding Comfort and Ease in the Illusoriness of Things, focuses on the stages of conduct while we are practicing the path. It is a clear instruction on how to relate to phenomena using the eight similes of illusion, to see our experiences as a dream, a magical illusion, a hallucination, a mirage, an echo, a city of gandharvas, a reflection, and an apparition.

The second part of Rinpoche's program will be stories of the Pema Lingpa lineage masters. The Peling

lineage is a rich tradition rooted in Bhutan and connected to the teachings of Guru Padmasambhava and Yeshe Tsogyal. The lineage is comprised of three core cycles of teachings of Dzogchen, Great Compassion, and Lama Jewel Ocean, which emphasizes the importance of the guru's blessings. Learning about the lives of the Peling lineage masters may help to catalyze faith in anyone on a spiritual path.

On his visit Rinpoche will be accompanied by Lama Pelbar, who has studied at the Gangteng Sangag Choling monastery in Gangtey, Bhutan since age 13. After completing his studies and receiving the transmission of the Peling and Nyingma lineages, he has spent the last three years serving as the Dorje Lupon of Gangteng Monastery. Lama Pelbar will be staying in Los Angeles as a resident teacher for Yeshe Khorlo and will be available to visit Crestone for teaching programs at Choying Dzong in the future.



H.E. Gangteng Tulku Rinpoche at Gangteng Monastery, Bhutan.

Later this year, Rinpoche will visit Pema Yang Zang, in Blye, France from August 5 to 25 to bestow the complete transmission of the Pema Lingpa treasures. This will be the first time the Pedling Chokhor will be given outside of Bhutan and Tibet. Anyone interested is invited to visit www.yeshehorlo.org.



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MAY 5-7, 2017

H.E. GANGTENG TULKU RINPOCHE

at Choying Dzong, Yeshe Khorlo Retreat Center, Crestone CO



May 5-6, 10am-12pm & 2pm-4pm (Friday & Saturday)

Longchenpa's Finding Comfort & Ease in the Illusoriness of Things

The third and final part to the trilogy of Finding Comfort and Ease, presented in eight chapters, is a rarely given teaching of Longchenpa's instruction on how to experience freedom from clinging to our everyday existence by relating to phenomena through the 8 similes of illusion.

May 7, 10am-12pm (Sunday)

Stories from the Pema Lingpa Lineage Masters

The Tertön King Pema Lingpa, a blacksmith born in the Bumthang Valley of Bhutan in 1450 was the final pure reincarnation of Lady Pema Sel, the daughter of King Trisong Detsen. His lineage is carried by himself, his son, and his grandson as the body, speech, and mind incarnations of Pema Lingpa. H.E. Gangteng Tulku Rinpoche is the 9th body emanation of Pema Lingpa. Hear Rinpoche share stories of this dynamic lineage of the Nyingma tradition.

FOR MORE INFO
Email: choyingdzong@yeshehorlo.org
Website: www.yeshehorlo.org

\$40 per morning or afternoon session.
\$200 for full program.
No one turned away for lack of funds.





Saguache County Museum reopens Sunday May 28.

Saguache County Museum opening festivities

150th birthday celebration for Saguache County

The Saguache County Museum is “back in the saddle” again, planning the 59th Opening Day Celebration for Sunday, May 28. In addition, it will indeed be a day of celebration as Saguache County will be 150 years old!

The Pancake Breakfast kicks off the day in the Otto Mears Park Pavilion, 7 to 11am. Come hungry for pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee—all for only \$5 a person.

At 8am Gaylon Myers will conduct a Cowboy Prayer Service in Otto Mears Park.

At 9am the Museum opens for its 59th year. New to the Museum this year is a display of Gotthelf furniture in the Virginia Sutherland Room, a renovated Mineral Room with a new blue light, and a Memorial Case honoring Jim Coleman. The new *Images* book, #7 in the series, will be on sale, plus other historical books will be on sale for \$5 each.

Admission to the Museum is \$7 for adults and \$1 for each child 12 and under. The Museum will be open 9am to 4pm through mid-September.

Visit the vendors in Otto Mears Park and in the Saguache Community Building, beginning at 9am. If you would like to be a vendor, please contact Jeannie Ewing at 719-480-2920.

The Happy 150th Birthday Parade honoring Saguache County starts at 11am on 4th Street. Larry Ward, longtime Saguache County rancher, will serve as Pa-

rade Marshall. The parade line-up begins at 10am in front of Mountain Valley School. Any businesses, farmers, ranchers, and residents of Saguache County are invited to participate in the parade. Please contact Lynn Sutherland at 719-256-4279 for further information.

Enjoy a hot dog lunch at the Otto Mears Park Pavilion from noon to 2pm for \$5 a plate.

The kids will have fun at the fish pond in the park.

At the Museum, Margaret Mizushima will be signing copies of her latest book, *Stalking Ground*, published by Crooked Lane. It was named a finalist in the 2017 Colorado Book Awards mystery category. This is the second in the series of her Timber Creek K-9 mysteries.

Friends of the Library will be serving their famous root beer floats in the Museum yard. And Larry Ward will be available to sign T-shirts with his picture—be sure to get yours while they last.

At 2pm in the Community Building enjoy cake, cupcakes, and brownies, along with lemonade and iced tea to celebrate Saguache County’s birthday. Elvie Samora, and others, will provide the entertainment.

For further information about the day’s events, or to participate in the 59th opening celebration of the Museum, or for information about Saguache County’s 150th Birthday Celebration, contact Dorraine Gaseling at 719-256-4281.

You’re invited to the Gallery’s 13th Anniversary Gala

May is a very special month for the Crestone Artisans Gallery. We will be celebrating our 13th Anniversary Gala Saturday, May 27 from 4 to 6pm. The gallery will be serving Mexican food with art. CB Jazz will be performing as well.

The gallery is looking amazing with the newly arranged works, changed out last month. Many different subjects, styles and textures are exhibited. New art from Paula Hudson is displayed, featuring a fresh spin on painting. She is infusing acrylic paints into resin which creates a bright and free flowing result. Come see her spring-inspired art collection, created in this new method. Desi Faraci has also added some new oil paintings, from Native American portraits to landscapes of the San Luis Valley. One series is a four-canvas wrapped quadtych of the Great Sand Dunes called “Panorama View”. Drop by and discover the incredible oversized exhibit of canvases that are stretched 48” x 72” by Stephen Futral, aka Ish. He brings a Picasso-like style that will make some reminisce about browsing a gallery in Soho.

New wall hangings, woodworks and pottery are also available. Kay Litz has added some new works part of her chain wall hanging series. Kathy Strathearn has hung some beautiful Native-inspired wall tapestries. She also has woven small sling bags, available in a similar motif. Don’t forget to see the unique gourd mask art by new artist SD Youngwolf. Earthy and functional new pottery is displayed by Jim Moore. Lynn Drake has some new fun and pearlescent vases and dishes. Bob Adler always brings a fine assortment of custom woodworks to his display.

Mother’s Day is around the corner. If you want to shop local and give Mom a unique gift, the gallery is a great place to find that perfect present. We have some talented local jewelry artists. Dancing Elk Designs has added some unique pendants, broaches and



One of Dancing Elk Design’s antler necklaces.

earrings made out of hand-carved and humanly acquired antlers. Bob Long displays a selection of custom crafted heart necklaces carved out precious stones. Sasha Lovelace always brings a fine assortment of beaded jewelry. We also carry a large array of greeting cards, matted prints, ceramics, textiles, custom lamps and more; wrap them all up in one of Janet Woodman’s *Crestone Eagle* gift bags.

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Don't Miss a Trip to The Saguache County Museum
on Hwy 285 in Saguache
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Open for special groups until mid-October
Admission \$7.00 adults- children 12 and under \$1.00



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Shumei International Institute celebrates 15 years of Crestone community

by Matthew Crowley

On Saturday May 20, 2017, the Shumei International Institute (SII) will celebrate the 15th anniversary of its Crestone center. The theme of this year's event is "Ecology and Spirituality—Think Globally, Act Locally". In a departure from previous year's events, SII's anniversary will take place all in one day on Saturday. In place of previous year's interfaith events this year, SII will be host to a community-wide followup event to the Crestone Baca Resiliency Conference. This will take place following the anniversary on Sunday, May, 21.

For Shumei, the annual anniversary event is first and foremost our opportunity to express gratitude to you and this entire community. To that end, you are all invited to join us for part or all of the day's festivities. All events are free and open to the public and do not require any RSVP, just come and join us! A complete schedule is listed in an ad in this month's *Crestone Eagle* and can also be found at our website: www.shumeicrestone.org.

The Shumei International Institute is very honored to have Sensei Tamao Koyama, from Shumei's headquarters in Japan, joining this year's anniversary celebration and presiding over 2 special sampai prayer services. "Sampai"

literally means "going to a higher place" and is Shumei's term for its prayer services. Sampai services involve chanting and the sharing of Jyorei, a spiritual healing practice whose intent is purification, spiritual transformation and . . . happiness!

The 15th anniversary event will begin with the anniversary Sampai starting at 10:30am on Saturday. Sensei Tamao Koyama will deliver a keynote speech following the Sampai. Immediately following Sampai, SII will offer a complimentary lunch to the community as an expression of our gratitude. There will be time for garden tours and to view the special art exhibition in SII's gallery featuring the work of acclaimed UK artist Deborah Lomas. In the artist's own words "This collection 'While I breathe I hope', is the result of more than 30 years of pure love and respect for the many groups who make up the global tapestry of indigenous peoples. To me they represent the greatest of environmentalists." This exhibition features a selection of Ms. Lomas' stunning paintings of indigenous children from around the world.

At 2:30 on Saturday the always-popular Taiko concert, which will feature members of Shumei's Los Angeles-based Makoto Taiko



"The children that find their way onto my canvas seem to have a life of their own. I always begin with the eyes that seem to reach into my soul, allowing me to find a deeper connection to the earth. This exhibition then is a visual call to action. It is to continue that ancient call from deep within where all is one... To feel that call, open our hearts and love more." - Deborah Lomas, Shumei's 15th anniversary featured artist.

collaborating with some local Crestone performers, will (weather permitting) take place in SII's outdoor amphitheater. In the event of rain, the concert will take place beneath the large white tent.

Shumei is very pleased to be hosting Satish Kumar, Indian Activist, Editor of *Resurgence Magazine* and founder of Schumacher College in the UK, as our 15th anniversary special guest. Satish will be in Crestone the week before the anniversary and will speak in the

Sanctuary at 3:45 on this year's anniversary theme, perhaps blending his own experience of his visit to our community. There will be an opportunity for audience questions of Satish who has lead a truly extraordinary life.

The final Saturday event will be the annual World Peace Prayer Sampai lead by Sensei Tamao Koyama. Shumei centers from around the world simultaneously join us in

continued on next page

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

1:30pm
Art Exhibition in the Shumei Gallery

2:30pm
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
1 to 5pm at Shumei
A day of Peace and Action
Follow up to Crestone Community
Resiliency Conference
Eight action groups, each committed to community wide
resiliency, invite you to join them
crestoneressilience@gmail.com-719-937-7757

*Plan to arrive early to give yourself time to park and be seated as all events start promptly at times listed
Shumei International Institute, 3000 East Dream Way Road, Crestone, CO 81131, 719-256-5284, www.shumeicrestone.org



Members of Shumei's Los Angeles-based Makoto Taiko performance group collaborate with local taiko artists.

Shumei

continued from previous page

chanting with the intention for a world free from poverty and strife for this sampai.

Sunday's day of peace and action is being organized by the Crestone Baca Resiliency Hub. It will take place from 1-5pm and will be a highly participative afternoon immersion in our community's work to create a more resilient and sustainable community by 2020. Are you interested in helping create more resiliency in water, food, energy, housing, government? Interested in seeing a community center, a community development organization or a paradigm shift? There are 8 action groups in these areas that have formed following the resiliency conference that took place in March. Each action group is committed to community-wide resiliency; and everyone is invited to join in working toward these goals. Please see the accompanying article for more details about these action groups and the Sunday event. Or you can contact crestonerresilience@gmail.com or call 719-937-7757 for more information on how you can support these initiatives.

The Shumei International Institute is a Colorado not-for-profit organization and is the third of three sacred sites for Shumei worldwide. Nestled on the shoulder of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, SII represents the Earth element. SII's unique mission within the greater worldwide organization is: "Inspired by the philosophy of Mokichi Okada, Meishusama, Shumei International Institute helps people of the world realize that they are world citizens able to act for the common good."

Please see the accompanying schedule in this issue of *The Crestone Eagle*, visit www.shumei-crestone.org or call 719-256-5284 for further details and information. Please note all events start promptly at the times listed. Plan to arrive early in order to park, walk to event locations and for best seating. Some events fill to overflowing and parking on the high road is sometimes challenging. Please consider carpooling. The Shumei International Institute invites you to join in community to explore ecology and spirituality—thinking globally while acting locally.

May 26 "Spotlight" features filmography of Mark Elliott

by Peter Anderson

The Crestone Creative District announces its first in what will be an annual community "Spotlight" series, highlighting the work and history of a local artist. This year, in partnership with Crestone Films, the Creative District is presenting the filmography of 30-year Crestone/Baca resident Mark Elliott. The evening will include films on International Tibetan Buddhism, Native American culture, and the San Luis Valley. The event will take place at the auditorium on the Colorado College campus in Crestone on Friday May 26 at 7pm. There will be a \$10 entry fee, proceeds of which will go to support the filmmakers. Also the Creative District will have a silent auction

at the event to raise money to support the arts in Crestone. Prior to the event, Bhutanese chef Tshering Dorji will be serving a Himalayan buffet at the Desert Sage Restaurant beginning at 5:30, an excellent way to begin the evening.

Plans are also underway for a Community Celebration of the Arts in downtown Crestone on Saturday August 15 from 12 till 5. The Celebration will include music and dance as well literary workshops and readings. Local artists and craftspeople will have their work on display. Books and CDs from the day's performers will also be on sale. For more information contact Peter Anderson: pilgrimage@fairpoint.net.

County grant to fund educational efforts in End of Life Choices

by Gussie Fautleroy

Informed Final Choices (IFC), sister organization to the Crestone End of Life Project (CEOLP), is happy to announce that IFC has been awarded a \$3,000 Saguache County Sales Tax Grant for 2017. The County Board of Commissioners approved the grant to assist IFC in offering end of life and advance planning educational opportunities for individuals and groups countywide.

According to CEOLP founder Stephanie Gaines, \$1,500 of the funds will go toward the continuation of content management on the IFC website. The other half will be used for a variety of IFC-hosted workshops and classes. Gaines and the IFC and CEOLP boards and membership extend heartfelt gratitude to Saguache County for its continuing support of their work, Gaines said.

As an example of the kinds of outreach IFC volunteers provide, members of the organization have

been invited to share their knowledge and experience during a 3½-week course, "Ecology and Spirituality: The Crestone Initiative," in early summer for university students from Colorado College and elsewhere. IFC/CEOLP's contributions to the course may involve a guided visit to the cremation site, information about the services CEOLP provides to the community, and hands-on art making or writing exercises in which the students can reflect on and express their experiences of thinking about death and dying and its spiritual dimensions. Representatives from other locally based spiritual centers also will present programs during the course.

CEOLP is a local, volunteer-run non-profit organization that facilitates open-air cremations for registered Crestone area residents. IFC serves as the organization's educational outreach arm. For more information, visit informedfinalchoices.org.

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New Girl on the Block is not so new to the area

by Lynn Ertle

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The business has taken me to heights unimaginable and has allowed me to provide for my family. I have been in the Crestone area since 2004 and have made it my home.

I look forward to serving our community. Please contact me, Lynn Ertle, at 719-256-4845 or 719-580-9146.



Lynn Ertle, licensed in Cosmetology, is now taking appointments for treatments at her full service salon in Moffat.



The Neighbors Helping Neighbors annual yard sale will be happening June 3. Money raised goes to help neighbors in need. Please donate and shop! photo by Elianna

Annual NHN fabulous garage sale June 3

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 3, when the annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors Garage Sale will take place. Thanks to the generosity of Michelle and Benjamin Byer-Beelendorf, the Elephant Cloud parking area on Cottonwood Ave. in downtown Crestone will host the event.

If you have items to donate for the NHN Garage Sale you may bring them to the Elephant Cloud on June 3 from 8am to 9am. We can use some volunteer help for the sale. If you can help please use contact information at the end of this article to sign up!

This sale is always full of treasures and surprises from the practical to the artistic—the vast array of items for sale will amaze and astound you. The sale commences at 9am and will end around 3pm. All proceeds will directly benefit Neighbors Helping Neighbors, your local non-profit who has been helping people in crisis for two decades in eastern Saguache County.

If you would like to help or have items to donate please contact Mary at 719-256-4185 or lowers_mary@yahoo.com.

2nd ann. Inner Vision conf. June 21-25

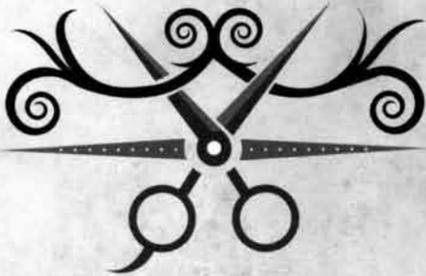
Joyful Journey Hot Springs is hosting the 2nd Annual Inner Vision Conference with the theme: "Transitions". The event starts with a Summer Solstice Celebration on Wednesday evening the 21st, and the week will feature speakers, programs and music to help you access, educate and apply tools to assist you on your journey. Continue celebrating all day Saturday, June 25 with our Outdoor Marketplace and a variety of speakers, topping it off with Peter May's Sonic Apothecary

at 7pm in the Conference Center.

We invite you to stay in our hotel, yurts, tipis, RV area or tent spots throughout the event and welcome folks who want to join our Outdoor Marketplace. For more information, please visit the Inner Vision website at: InnerVision-Conference.com. To secure lodging, please call 719-256-4328. For a spot in the Outdoor Marketplace, call 719-256-4329 and ask for Leigh Mills. Come join us in awakening your inner essence.

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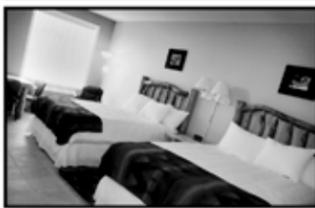
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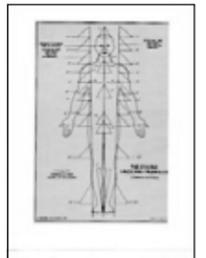
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When: May 13 - May 14 (8:30am - 5pm)

Where: 1356 Brookview Way, Crestone

Facilitators: Lonnie Nichols & Debbie Sawtell, AESC Teacher/
Facilitator—School of Chiron/Australia

Fee: \$150 (value = \$400), includes manual

Call: 520-282-1294 (or) 719-588-3499 for further information, Thanks!



**What's going on?
A community forum**

Your participation is needed in an afternoon of transparency and discussion. Bring your questions and concerns. You have a say in the direction this community is heading! Invitation is extended to every one who has a vision and heart-centered solutions to the issues our fair town faces right now. Representatives of the POA, CBR, Town Council and City Planners may be available for clarification. We look for broad participation in bringing to light these issues while planning to reach our collective goals, finding some middle ground, again creating here a harmonious hub, considering everyone's perspective.

You have a voice! . . . Please join us! Saturday, June 10, 1 to 6pm at the Crestone Charter School. Food and beverages will be served.

Open house

Anna Louise Stewart is excited to invite existing clients, friends and any curious parties to come bless her new office space on Thursday, May 4 from 4-7pm.

There will be offerings of food, wine and treatment coupons for her Core Chi Transformation and Therapeutic Bodywork. Optionally, bring a small sprig of juniper or sage for a smoke offering. Anna Louise is now at the Professional Building, upstairs to the left.

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, June 20-22, 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.

Garden on the curve

Garden this season and grow your own food! Join the Crestone Curve Cooperative Gardeners and be a Plot Partner: 15' x 6' plots available for the 2017 season for \$50, fencing and water provided. Soil amendments and mulch available free to Plot Partners. Provide your own tools. No dogs, please. No marijuana. Call Robin at 256-4909 to get started.

Crestone Creative District

Crestone Creative District holds meeting at the Crestone Town Hall on the second and fourth Friday of each month at 9am. Anyone who wants to help support the arts and the arts community in Crestone is welcome to attend.

Green power from SLVREC

If you are a customer (member) of SLV Rural Electric Coop you can pay a small monthly fee to sign up for green power. On an average it's about \$4-\$8 more on your monthly bill, and this is based on your current usage. All of the renewable energy you purchase through the Green Power Program will be charged the base energy rate of \$0.40 per kWh block (in addition to your regular monthly kWh charge). Each block is 100 kWh. For a 1000-square-foot home this came to under \$4. You can go to the SLVREC website and search for the green power program, or call them at 800-332-7634.

The Resiliency Energy Group can be contacted by calling Janet Woodman at 719-256-4956.

Sculptors Invited to Enter Creede Sculpture Show

The Creede Arts Council is inviting sculptors to enter the Creede Sculpture Show. The deadline for entries is May 15th. Accepted artists will be provided with space to show and sell their work. The opening will be August 18th at 6:00 pm and the show will be held on August 19 and 20, 2017 in the Basham Park area and around downtown Creede. The Call for Entries and additional information is available at www.creedeartsCouncil.com.

For more information, call 719-658-0312 or email creedesculpture@gmail.com.

Your vehicle WILL be towed from the kiosk!

The Saguache County Sheriff's Department would like to remind people that overnight parking (from 10 pm to 6 am) in the kiosk area outside of Crestone and the Baca is not allowed. The department says they will soon begin towing vehicles.



Robin Blankenship got everyone's attention to explain how the Easter Egg Hunt would work at Earth Knack's annual Easter potluck. photo by Lori Nagel



These eager children (some with homemade baskets!) are getting ready to head up to the Easter Egg Hunt at Earth Knack's annual Easter potluck. photo by Lori Nagel

Live music at Cloud Station

Come out to hear some great live music at the Cloud Station in Crestone! The popular band "We Dream Dawn" featuring Sage Cook, founding member of Elephant Revival, will be playing, plus "Stimulus" Friday May 12. Doors open at 7 pm.

Keep your land mosquito-free!

As summer approaches, all residents and businesses are requested to keep weeds cut down. Adult mosquitos live in bushes and tall grass. Stagnant water is a breeding ground for larvae, and even small amounts of standing water in buckets and old tires that trap water can breed thousands of mosquitos.

Democrats Central Committee meeting May 24

The Saguache County Democratic Party Central Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 24 at 6pm at the Saguache Road & Bridge Meeting Room, 305 3rd St. to fill Precinct Committee Person vacancies in Precincts 1 (Saguache), 2 (Sargents), 3 (Crestone), 4 (Moffat), and 5 (Baca) and discuss establishing an Executive Committee. If you are interested in serving as a PCP, please contact Kevin Noland 970-351-6747 nolandkk@gmail.com.

Central Committee members who are authorized to vote to fill the vacancies are officers, precinct committee persons and elected officials of the County party.

The meeting is open to the public. All are welcome! Please join us!



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Out & About with Lori Sunflower

• Part 2 •
How can we as a community become more resilient?




Laurie Jimenez

I have to say that first off, as a community, we have to coalesce together. In any kind of emergency, you're going to have people coalescing to help the situation. So, as far as the town goes, I'm not worried too much about their survival. There's enough people out here to help. As far as coalescing, that's being able to trust your government officials as being trustworthy, as your community being trustworthy, your small niche of friends that you know will be there no matter what. And those are the people you want to coalesce with because they're going to help you. Resilience also means to be prepared. The town could be more prepared in the sense that they are actually buying up water rights to protect it for ourselves, not just the town protecting the water rights for the community, because water in the desert is like gold, and once the well dries, everybody's moving out. That's part of it. Another thing is that we could be putting together co-ops. One of my suggestions would be a computer center, where people can come and be able to rent the computer, the space and the internet to be able to do online business for themselves, whether that's data entry, change of address card, transcribing, computer design, or whatever. People doing the at-home kinda thing can get a little lazy but if they have the discipline to get up and go to this place where they check-in, sit down, check in with the company and start transcribing for a court, hospital, coding, any of those things, you're creating jobs for people who need jobs. And Crestone is small enough that it's hard to find a job, so put in a community co-op computer center and then people can go from their campsites if they have to, because

they need work, down to this place to sit down and do data entry and make a paycheck. It's as simple as that. And the computers could be donated by the community.

Being resilient also means being prepared and having some kind of preparation. That also means individually. If that means having to figure out how to can food, dry deer meat, take care of chickens or milk goats, that's also part of being resilient. Because as I like to put it, there are too many chiefs and not enough Indians. And we need the cooperation of Indians to be more resilient as a community. I know there are a lot of great ideas out there, and they need to come to the surface and we need to step on it, do it. And co-ops I think are the best way to go because everybody gets to share in the process, not just the one-percenters. And I think that will also help to improve our community and bring more people in. We could have a community college at the Charter School, an adult night school where people are learning Spanish, computer programming, or auto mechanics. We need those out of this community and there are a lot of people who want to be chiefs, but not Indians. We need more Indians and we need to do the job and not just sit around and talk about it.



Hanne Strong

First, we should look at a little history. Bringing the community together was attempted 10 years ago, to do exactly this, and it didn't happen. But now, the signs are there that things are really changing, and changing very fast, which gives the push we need for everybody to come together and do something about it. The big push came when William Howell heard what Amma said last summer in Santa Fe. Someone asked her about the future, and she said, "Children, you have 3-5 years." To me, that means no electricity, no oil and gas, no food, no medicine. Bottom line,

we're going to be on our own! And if we're gonna be on our own, we better do something about it and quick. Very quick. So that is the history of what happened. It was attempted before but the urgency wasn't there. Now it is.

What is it we can do? First of all, we're going to have to totally get off the grid. Nobody can depend on the so-called "co-op". There needs to be land to put up a solar park that would fuel the entire community. We just need the right solar technology, which should be Tesla. They're the most advanced in batteries and the most advanced technology at this time, so that's what we're going to go for.

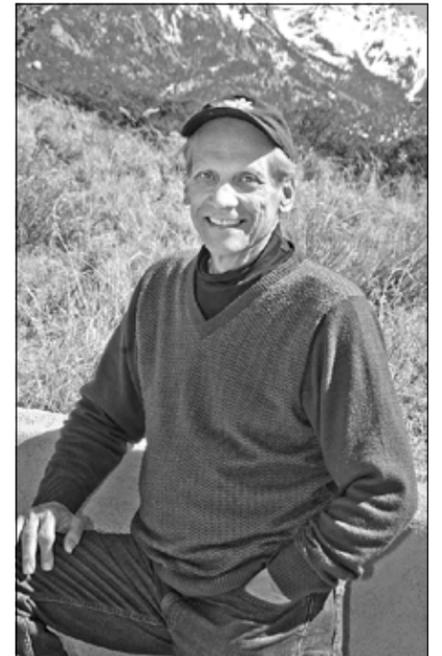
And everybody's going to have to grow food. Whether it's in the backyard or we get together in our food co-op—we're going to have to do everything we can to grow food. And we're going to have to put up huge greenhouses to grow our food in the winter. And we're going to have to do grains, because OK we can grow vegetables, but we need to do grains on a large scale if we're going to feed 1500 people, and refugees coming in because the cities are not going to be viable. That's another big question. What do we do about that? And we're going to have to make our own medicines. We have a lot of gifted healers here who know all the plants and know the combinations of plants. We'll need our own natural antibiotics and, bottom line, we're going to have to do everything ourselves and money is going to be utterly useless—it's not going to buy you anything. So we're going to get back to barter. You work, you get food. You work, you get medicine. Everybody's going to have to chip in.

This community's going to have to learn how to love each other because we're in this together and if we're not in this together, we're going to be caught like everybody else with their pants down. Bottom line. Let's get together. That's the key. If everybody got together, pooled the resources, pooled the knowledge, we have a chance of becoming completely self-sustaining and self-reliant, but it's going to take all of us to do it. That is the prediction for this community anyway.

Also, what is the purpose of this place? The purpose is for us to bring forth a new civilization of people that are evolved, good-hearted, loving, the people who go after the highest aspect of being human, the human spirit, and the human culture—culture and spirit. The highest aspect of being human is what we're all here for. We're here to develop the highest aspect of ourselves. It should be doable if we all get together, and of course water is going to play a major role. We're one of the few places in the country that do have water, but how to secure that water? There's going to be a lot of people after it. Everyone's going to have to be out there, helping to protect our water.

Look at it—10 years ago, we had a society that functioned, and now we're going into a society that does not function, where black, red, white, racist, liberal, un-liberal, I mean, everybody's fighting amongst each other, and when

people have that much animosity and hatred for each other (this is my biggest fear), the land dries up. When you have that energy of conflict, the land dries up. And this is the Hopi prophecy—this entire country is going to dry up and there will be no food available for anybody. And that's the biggie. Huge. And of course, we wasted most of the water. The Ogallala aquifer is down to nothing and it's completely polluted. And now they're fracking and drilling and bombing and tearing the rest of it apart, so we have to be ready to protect what we've got.



Peter Gyallay-Pap

The first take on answering the question "how" is how we can get our community together given all the divisiveness that we've had in terms of all the political and personality differences. The greatest resources here in the community are the spiritual retreat centers, so I think we should draw on that resource to develop some principles of spiritual ecology that can guide the whole process of resilience. Once we have a vision of working towards an organic community with a spiritual purpose, miracles can happen. Then all the practical things can fall into place because it's at the spiritual level where you can bridge a lot of the divisions that exist in the community. People can meet at that level, and under the rubric of what defines us as a community more than anything else—it's the spiritual aspect. So that's the starting point, for me, as opposed to trying to come up with various specific, detailed, practical ideas. If we can just unite based on, I would call them "principles of spiritual ecology," however vaguely that may be understood or defined. I mean, Hanne [Strong] embodies that, for example, that's who she is. And in many ways she's the matron of this community and she's part of this process, too. So, I'm hoping, if we have that kind of vision, miracles can begin to happen and that's what we need here in this community.

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

New cannabis shop opens in Moffat

by Melinda Myers

I spent April 20 visiting a new cannabis shop that has just opened in Moffat. One: Eleven is a retail and medical sales operation in the duplex on the corner of County Road T and Highway 17. A beautiful new little log cabin, next to the octagon Wildwood Botanicals, One: Eleven is ready to meet just about everyone's cannabis needs.

Fortunately, I was able to pin down Dan, owner and managing partner right at closing time. They had only been open 5 days and were already super busy. I asked about the history of the company.

We began in Alma, CO growing the highest altitude cannabis in the country. Our main operation is a five-acre organic farm in

the San Luis Valley with certified alfalfa, asparagus, and potatoes. In the future, the cannabis will finish the organic certification process also." Healthy soil is the heart of organic gardening, so they built a custom soil facility selling both wholesale and retail. Growing in harmony with nature to create clear, clean medicine is the main focus. This mission is expressed in the name, One: Eleven—one love, one planet, one unity. One: eleven numerically is 111, which multiplies the strength of the power of oneness. The normalization of this natural medicine which has served mankind for 1,000 of years is their goal. Starting out working with cancer and MS patients with great results, they knew they had to ex-



New cannabis shop in Moffat.

photo by One:Eleven

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pand to bring the healing to more people. "I think everyone needs to grow this plant." Dan's enthusiasm is clear.

The walls are adorned with local art from Chances R Good and Anne Marie. Sales counters by Crestone company Blue Earth Designs features etched wood and laser-cut displays and are filled with beautiful blown-glass pipes, a good selection of rolling papers and other equipment.

Great care has been taken to offer quality genetics with 21 strains to appeal to any taste or symptom. They source local seeds from Colorado Seed Inc. and 303 Seeds. One: Eleven even sells clones and can customize orders of the various strains. There are three levels of product: bargain, top shelf, and high grade, offering

affordability or indulgence to your inner connoisseur. The hash bar features an extensive line of concentrates and vape pens, including rosin which, extracted through a hydraulic pressure device which fuses the trichomes together without any solvent, creates a clean easy smoking product. The medical dispensary side is able to fill a doctor's recommendation for medicine and clones. Out-of-state patients can access the medicine on the retail side.

The owners of One: Eleven have gone to great lengths to provide a powerful clean safe experience, and it shows in the integrated organic production and motto. Walking their talk, they have created a community asset and pushed for greater unity.

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Crestone Baca Resiliency action groups move ahead

by Mary Lowers

The action groups that were the product of the Search Conference held in April are moving ahead with their plans for community sustainability. Each group is hoping other interested people will join the Crestone Baca Resiliency (CBR) and help create the kind of resilient and sustainable community we envision.

The short reports below show what action groups have been up to in the past month and where they see their group going. On Sunday, May 21 from 1pm to 5pm action groups will be at Shumei and eager to show the community what CBR has been doing. They invite people to join an action group. A film of the April Search Conference by videographer Doug Beetchwood will be shown at the event.

Housing

Group liaison Adam Fries explained that affordable housing has been this action group's focus. Meeting with County Commissioner Jason Anderson, the group researched the history of affordable housing in Saguache County. The role of the federal government through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of Colorado are being studied by this group. Fries told us at the CBR meeting at Shumei on April 17, that the action group has started "a dialogue with the Town of Crestone Planning Commission" about the needs of affordable housing in the community. More than anything,

the group is asking for community feedback to better understand the affordable housing problems that currently exist in the community.

Community Center

Lars Skogen, liaison for the Community Center Action Group, told the group that "the group was ready to run with shovels" and build a community center but saw through their research that there are groups who already have a stake in this process. So far the group has talked with the Town of Crestone about a Master Plan study which would include a community center. They are talking with the POA about getting an inquiry about a community center on the member survey coming out in May. Skogen said, "These results will affect POA support." The group sees a "buy in" from the Town and the POA as necessary supports which will facilitate the two groups working together.

This group sees community education as an important role. They will research design options and maintenance costs for the proposed center. Skogen said the group is looking to build on work done toward a community center over the years and see "how we can be supportive so it happens."

Governance

Group liaison John Luke Wall said this action group was "facilitating government that supports our values" as a community. They are planning to "work with existing structures," the Town of Crestone,

the POA, and Saguache County, on value-based governance. A big focus of their inquiries so far is to "change POA regulations to work for residents." The group is researching state laws and plans to support and endorse candidates for POA and governmental offices. Wall said the group is looking for an attorney to help with their goals.

Paradigm Shift

This action group takes on the task of holding a space of love as our community evolves. As liaison Signe Ramstrom said, "Our mission is to kindle and strengthen the Resiliency initiative through being the keepers of the Rhythms of Gaia" for the community . . . As John Loll said, "an alliance grounded in the spirit can allow communication to break through fear."

Projects on the table involve dialog and collaboration with existing community organizations and spiritual centers with a view toward co-creation of events and projects that build "connections to sacred nature, source and heart." The Paradigm Shift Group will be opening and closing the program at the May 21 event at Shumei and will lead an invocation for our community.

Community Development

Group liaison Carole Anne Robinson said this group's mission "is to be here in support of each action group, to facilitate goals with funding and business plans." The group is working hard on a "funding search." The group has hosted several economic development speakers who have pointed them toward funding sources. This group has a community sponsor, ScSEED that is accepting tax deductible donations toward resiliency goals. If you wish to contribute through ScSEED, please put CBR and the action group's name in the memo space.

Food

Sharon Landrith was the liaison for the Food Action Group. The group has five community gardens going into production for this season. They are hoping to bring onboard more stewards for gardens. The Food Group has designed agreements with "gardener owners" that will benefit owners and the community with food.

Sharon pointed out, "to feed the whole community is a huge deal." This group sees us being part of a valley-wide sustainability goal, with one third of our food being produced locally and two thirds coming from the greater San Luis Valley (SLV). This group is researching to answer questions such as: "Where's the water coming from and who's paying for it?" The

Food Group's looking into getting an alternatively fueled truck to facilitate food distribution. Nathan Good commented, "We are working with the Valley Food Hub and Elephant Cloud."

Water

Water Action Group liaison Janie Thomas, told the meeting that this small group has hit the ground running. They have attended a public meeting at the Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District (BGWS) which included a multi-agency discussion of potential purchase of water rights. This action group discovered that we are in a rare period where water rights can be purchased.

According to the action group's report, having had expert advice as to the "current state of our water district infrastructure, water rights, and an emergency plan in the event of a long term power outage" they feel the action group is "ready to receive feedback and ideas as to whether as a community would like to buy the water rights from the USFWL and if so, how to raise the money."

This busy action group is also researching the Town of Crestone's water system, catchment of water and other water questions and issues. Liaison Thomas said, "If you love our sacred water and would like to assist us in our vital effort, please join us Sunday, May 21 at 1pm at Shumei."

Energy

Group liaisons Janet Woodman and Kathryn Lorenz reported that this action group had begun their quest to become experts on how we can become energy self-sufficient by talking with community members Vince Palermo and Lee Temple who have been energy self-sufficiency experts for years, working on this very issue. The action group realized the resources we have in the community and the importance of documenting all the action groups' endeavors, as past work has not been saved.

The group wonders: "if we are cut off from the grid can alternative energy meet our needs?" In quest of answers the group is "mapping an energy footprint" for the community. They are talking with emergency planners and with the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Coop (SLVREC). Janet said the group is looking into "where politicians are on energy." They are connecting with the Crestone Energy Fair and researching individual energy systems to provide energy-saving information and assistance for residences, and looking into community energy solutions.

Crestone Baca Resiliency invites you to a day of peace & action May 21

by Mary Lowers

On Sunday, May 21 the Crestone Baca Resiliency (CBR) group will be introducing themselves to the larger community at Shumei from 1pm to 5pm. Action groups will be present to clearly say what they need from the community, and the larger community can see where they would like to plug into this dynamic solution-oriented process.

On their anniversary weekend Shumei is generously giving CBR use of their facility to present their vision to the public. Matthew Crowley of Shumei said, "Shumei is here to support the community in peace and action." CBR is about peaceful action toward resilience and sustainability in our community.

Alexander Kofi, CBR participant, spoke of the process, "What we are going through is like teaching a child to ride a bike, you can't force the process." The event at Shumei on the 21st will present this process to the community through a video filmed at the three-day intensive Search Conference held in late March. Each action group will present where they have gotten toward goals in the past month and, most importantly, where you can join in the work.

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(Baha'u'llah, Most Holy Book #30)



Baha'i Meeting
Saturday, June 17th
Location to be announced

Contact Marko Townsend
marko1844@gmail.com

A book review—*Heading Home: Field Notes* by Peter Anderson

A new book and a celebration

Why do people choose to live at the end of the road? Ask anyone in Crestone how they came to live here and you are likely to hear an interesting story—one with many of twists and turns and detours, plenty of roadside attractions and adventures, and maybe a few dead ends along the way.

Crestone author Peter Anderson came here looking for a place to finish a book on mountains and the life of the spirit. Having just graduated from Earlham School of Religion, a Quaker seminary, he was drawn to the space, silence, and mountain geography of Crestone. He found a small house and moved in with his wife and a baby daughter. They were only planning to spend the winter. That was seventeen years ago.

In 2015, Conundrum Press (Golden, Colorado) re-published *First Church of Higher Elevations*, the book that Peter finished up in Crestone. In May 2017, Conundrum will be publishing another book called *Heading Home: Field Notes*, which includes flash prose and prose poems about Anderson's home territory in the San Luis Valley, as well as brief dispatches from other out-of-the-way places where Anderson lived and worked as a river guide, backcountry ranger, and small newspaper reporter. He currently teaches composition and

creative writing at Adams State University in Alamosa, Colorado.

Peter describes his new book as “a gathering of field notes—observations, recollections, and stories along the way, where home is understood as a work in progress and the way is a road that never ends.”

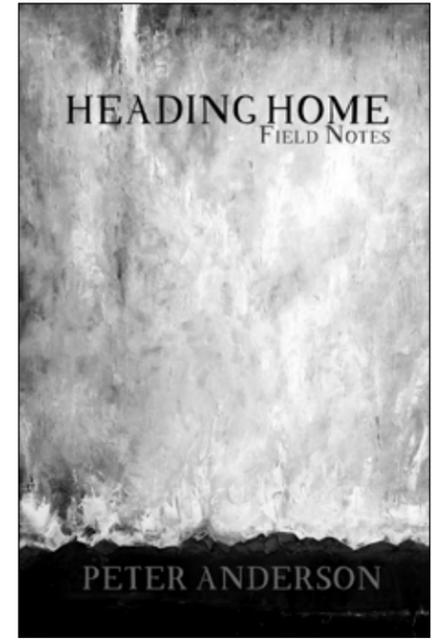
“Poetry, humor, wisdom, grace: these words best describe *Heading Home*,” says Colorado author Laura Pritchett, author of *Stars Go Blue* and *Red Lightning*. “Part cultural critic, part poet, part wanderer, Anderson is a funny gentle guide, whether pondering the sorrows of loss, the joys of the seasons or the cultural eccentricities of the modern day west.”

Writing in the *Midwest Book Review*, senior staff writer Diane Donovan described the book as “a powerful cocktail of evocative, beautiful prose that is not to be missed by any who appreciate a literary voice from this part of the country. It is award-quality writing that should please readers who appreciated *A River Runs Through It*. Yes, it's that good.”

The book can be purchased locally at Crestone Mercantile and the Desert Sage. It can also be found at regional and online book outlets. Come celebrate the launch of *Heading Home* at the Living Arts Center (also the home of Alycia and Nick Chambers) at the bend in the road



Author & storyteller Peter Anderson.



Cover art by Crestone artist Beatrice Burgoin.

just north of Crestone on Saturday May 20 from 4 to 7:30. In addition to music, food, and refreshments from the Crestone Brewing Company, Peter will be reading from *Heading Home* and Kizzen Laki, editor of the *Eagle*, will be sharing some of her Mountain Mama tales. There may be another guest storyteller or two as well.



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The SummerFest on the Rio Committee would like to thank the following sponsors, the many volunteers, city employees, musicians, vendors and the community for what looks to be another successful summer kick-off.

Committee: Angel Hart, Carrol Rogers, Andy Rice, Lenny Martinez, Rob Bosdorf, Roman Valdez, Stephanie Lewis, Uriah Valdez, C.J. Jiron. Poker Run Committee: Victor and Kim Duran



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Friday June 2
North Stage 6:00-9:00 ~ The Damn Band

Saturday June 3
8:30 ~ 5th Annual Poker Run - proceeds to benefit Valley Humane League

<p>South Stage 11:00-12:00 ~ The Riffers 1:30-3:00 ~ Low Dead 4:30-6:00 ~ Salt and Pepper</p>	<p>North Stage 12:00-1:30 ~ Pedro & the Pistons 3:00-4:30 ~ Rachel and the Ruckus 6:00-9:30 ~ Jet Black and the Cadillacs</p>
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Sunday June 4

<p>South Stage 12:00-1:30 ~ Sneakers 3:00-4:30 ~ Radio Action</p>	<p>North Stage 11:00-12:00 ~ Lenny 1:30-3:00 ~ Tucker Hill 4:30-6:00 ~ Ernestine Romero</p>
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2017 Community Supported Agriculture Open Houses and CSA Sign Up Events

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May 20th Living Arts Institute CRESTONE:
Peter Anderson Book Release & Reading:
"Heading Home: Field Notes"
Food by OFIA, beer by Crestone Brewing Co.
459 North Alder St, Crestone, CO 81131
4:30-6:30

May 26th Locavores ALAMOSA:
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Awakening into Unity, excerpts from the author's preface

by Lee Temple

This piece introduces a series of excerpts from Lee's new book, *Awakening into Unity*, a comprehensive, richly illustrated compendium of the entire Global Awakening series, and a powerful healing balm for these troubled, turbulent times:

... There are indestructible, unifying bonds between the various parts that compose each and every one of us, between all of us as humans, and between our species and our world. Contrary to divisive popular propaganda, these bonds are right here for each one of us to experience. The ways we can employ them to heal our world are also right here, ready for each of us to use. . .

This series summary/overview volume—*Awakening into Unity*—maps a big-picture view of the essential features of our intrinsic unity, and brings their immensity and importance within everyone's easy, confident grasp. Perhaps more than any other series installment, it affords a grand, breathtaking journey hall-marked with many vital and inspiring stories. First, it presents the story of my life's work and awakening into inspiring nuances of the unity perspective that I'm certain will help birth a vibrant, healed future. It also shares important aspects of unity uncovered through my extensive research into Big History—the specific mechanics of the universal creation process that made us and our world possible.

I also share an integrative vision of how we humans have pursued a communion with this underlying oneness through time; via scientific, religious, spiritual, philosophic, environmental, indigenous perspectives, and more. This investigation ultimately delivers an expansive worldview and a compelling environmental ethic designed to help us re-ground our essentially creative human nature within the larger universal creation process.

Significantly though, and far beyond simply presenting my own prescriptive sense of how this restorative planetary shift might best occur, *Awakening into Unity* chronicles myriad ways that others

are already employing this perspective to turn our ship around. These are the stories of us in our striving billions, woven together in an informative, celebratory narrative that brings our diverse world-healing efforts alive, front and center, for all to see. This grand saga evidences and honors humanity moving past climate theory, discussion and debate into decisive, active engagement; the true global awakening and life-saving transformation that's happening all around us in real time.

Unifying threads of this holistic tapestry source from my own efforts and those of others in every facet and type of human entity on Earth today, the pivotal achievements of notable contributors seeking to co-create a better future. Together, these examples provide a wealth of wisdom and practical solutions helpful to all.

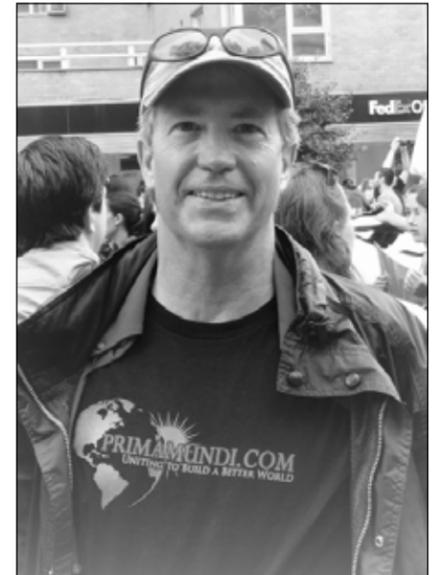
Awakening into Unity thus captures the vital, living, unprecedented truth that all parts of our

world are now rising and shining into a bright, new, Earth-healing day. No other movement, tradition, belief system, or collective enterprise can claim such broad-based evolutionary inclusiveness. Ter-ragenesis, Gaia enthroned, is indeed here; her heart is beating, and she's alive! Quite simply, and without exaggeration, this has become the single most important collective human effort ever undertaken, and the zeitgeist, the defining feature and spirit of our time.

May this book serve as an energizing catalyst and helpful road map for our great leap. And may it help you move confidently into a brighter future filled with grace, intelligence, effectiveness, compassion, comradeship, integration, and Joy!

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The book *Awakening into Unity* is available at Elephant Cloud Market at a generous locals' dis-



Lee Temple at the People's Climate March in Manhattan September 21, 2014.

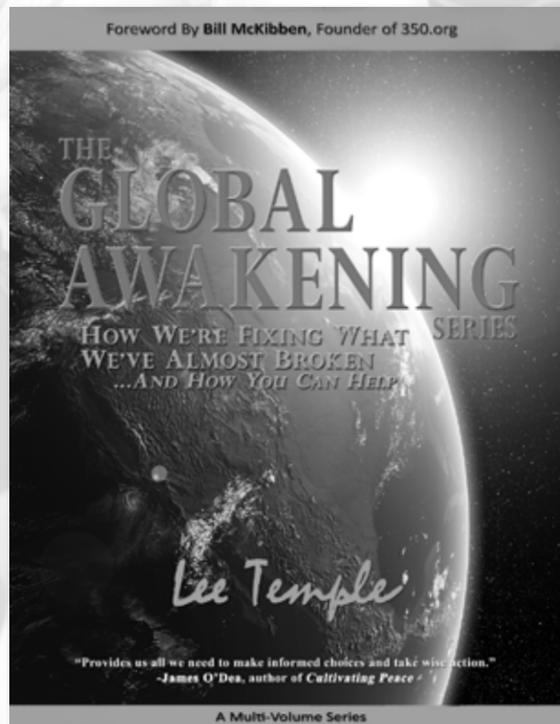
count. Learn more about Lee Temple, *Awakening into Unity*, and the *Global Awakening* series at www.primamundi.com.

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Who We Are

Curtis Goodnight: Face into the winds of life

by Gussie Fauntleroy

Note to self:

Honey

It's just a goddamned sunset.

If yer gonna cry like that

At least put on some Beethoven

In a few short lines, Curtis Goodnight—poet, high desert sailboat builder, former hell raiser, part-time hermit and longtime Crestone area resident—reveals a lot about himself. There's a glimpse at the sensitive, bookish kid whose Southern Baptist beginnings morphed into longhaired hippie redneck. There's the push-and-pull between a tough-guy exterior and the quick mind and cultured sensibility that led him to a college major in American intellectual history. And, of course, there's humor. He couldn't have made it through 65 years, with life's inherent losses, pain, confusion, and joy, without that.

The poem is from *Well Done Dawn: poetry and photography*, published in 2016. It's the kind of creative endeavor Curt is inclined to favor these days after finally completing the decades-long enterprise of hand-building a 30-foot sailing catamaran and getting his house at the mouth of San Isabel Canyon in reasonably comfortable shape. Now he's up for mellower pursuits like travel, sailing, quiet morning meditations alongside his partner, Norah Tunney, and watching the 50-plus trees he's planted on his land as they grow. It's a welcomed plateau after a lifetime of not-always-gentle inclines and dips.

Untamed, then corralled; wild, then free

The eldest of five children, Curt grew up in an army family that relocated every two or three years, mostly in the South. With a "Huck Finn exuberance for nature," as he puts it, he imagines his parents' dismay when by the tenth grade he was "still out there playing in the creeks." They were clearly pleased when their son enthusiastically embraced the Bible in his mid-teens. In Southern Baptist culture, heading toward the ministry was "kind of a high profile thing to do," he says.

He got as far along that path as enrolling in Furman University in Greenville, S.C., at the time a nominally Christian school. There he encountered "whiskey, women, and Nietzsche," which effectively dissolved his allegiance to the restrictive norms of family and church. Or as he remembers it, "Oh look! There's no fences!" Kicked out of school at one point for breaking rules, he succeeded in shedding a drug habit, re-enrolled, and graduated with a 4.0 in his major, vaguely imagining grad school and perhaps a career in law. But the pull of the outdoors was too strong.

Captured by nature; delivered West

With his first wife, Curtis helped run his in-laws' family summer camp in North Carolina, later establishing a wilderness program for older teens. In 1982, divorced



Maiden voyage on Twin Lakes, sailing with only the jib because the mainsail would take the cat across the small lake too fast. photo by Norah Tunney

and remarried, he moved to Albuquerque for further training in outdoor education. He worked as a professional whitewater river guide and he and his wife personified the quintessential ski bum hippie couple: living in a tricked-out former school bus with raised roof, maple floor, wormy chestnut paneling and two-person hot tub inside. They discovered Crestone for the first time while heading south from a road trip as they were grieving the death of their infant son.

In Crestone, Curtis remembers, "I just had the great sensation of having arrived. Even after my father retired, I never lived in one place long. I thought, boy, this is the place I want to quit moving." He and his wife bought 40 acres bordering San Isabel Creek, land that rancher Gary Boyce would have snatched up if Curt had waited one more week, he says. Settling into the community, he worked one summer with Lorain Fox Davis as onsite director of Rediscovery Four Corners, a wilderness immersion camp for Native and non-Native kids. He served as an EMT and volunteer firefighter, was on the Baca Water and Sanitation Board, built houses, and opened a storage unit business.

Riding the troughs and crests

When his second marriage dissolved, he "spiraled down." A period of craziness and frequent run-ins with then-Sheriff Mike Norris finally led to rehab and once more becoming clean. Then followed eight years in Aspen, where at one point Curtis owned a busy construction company during a high water season in that city's growth. But Crestone, and in particular the land, kept calling him back. Every available weekend, he found himself making the long drive south. In 2007 he sold out his share of Maya Construction in Aspen and returned for good.

Poetry emerged out of Curt's interest in developing a humorous



Curt on a job site near Salida.

photo by Hunter Goodnight



Catamaran coming together in the driveway.

photo by Norah Tunney



Norah and Curtis on the Drifter. photo by Dan Frelka

written voice, which, like stand-up comedy, involves timing, cadence, and rhythm. While recuperating from a motorcycle wreck in 1996 he expanded his scope of reading, dipping into Rumi and Hafiz and discovering that "800 years ago men and women were talking about some of the same stuff we are—wrestling with getting themselves right-sized in the world," he says. When he and Norah connected he found not only a fellow poet and lover of a quiet lifestyle on the land. She also helped put wind in the sails of his boat-building project, which (mostly) followed plans by British catamaran-building pioneer James Wharram. (Among the modifications, at Norah's request, is a mini library on board.) Last fall the cou-

ple christened the boat with five days on Twin Lakes.

Life as a verb

One of the deep dips in Curt's life took place in 2009 when his then 21-year-old son Hunter suffered a serious motorcycle crash that left him with traumatic brain injury. Now living on his own in Salida, he visits his father regularly. On a recent visit Hunter trailered his own small boat along so he and Curtis could do some work on it. Life isn't easy or even necessarily happy, the elder Goodnight reflects. But it goes on. And that in itself represents an under-

current that keeps hopefulness alive, he says. Outside his house, he climbs a ladder propped against the dry-docked, double-hulled sailboat and stands in the wind on the deck. A favorite line from a Rumi poem, written when the Sufi mystic was just a little younger than he is, comes to mind: *For sixty years I have been forgetful, every minute, but not for a second has this flowing toward me stopped or slowed.* Curtis translates that feeling into his own words. "Life is an unfolding," he says, "and I like to think of the sacred as a verb."

Gussie welcomes ideas for this ongoing series on Crestone area residents: gussie7@fairpoint.net, gussiefauntleroy.com

Baca Grande Stables offers 2017 Summer Children's Riding Program

by Joanna Dokson

The Baca Grande Stables' 2017 Summer Children's Riding Program for children ages 6 to 15 will begin the week of June 5. Please note that there will be two sessions in June, two sessions in July and one session in August. Session 1 will be June 5-9; Session 2, June 26-June 30; Session 3, July 10-14; Session 4, July 24-28; Session 5, August 7-11. Each session is five days for 2 1/2 hours, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. Lessons include riding in the arena and on trails and general horsemanship—safety, grooming and tacking up. Class size is limited to 5 students per session, so sign up soon. The cost will be \$150 per week-long session.

As in years past, the Baca Grande POA has generously agreed to underwrite a portion of the summer children's riding program in order to reduce the cost of lessons for local residents who demonstrate financial need. With the POA subsidy, the full cost of \$150 per weekly session will be reduced to \$100 for eligible students.

Summer is a busy time at the Baca Grande Stables. Private and group lessons are available for beginners through intermediates. We teach both English and Western riding. Our philosophy is based on discovering and establishing a loving, safe and knowledgeable partnership with horses. Body awareness, boundary setting, effective communication with honest intention and self confidence are all enhanced by equine sports.

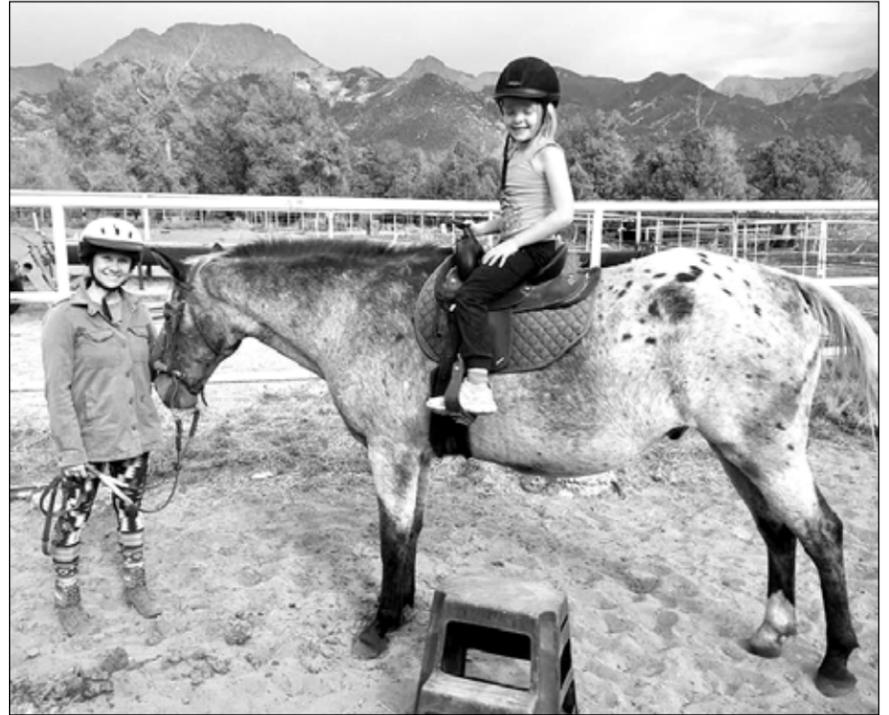


A group lesson in the arena.

Trail rides are available year round by appointment, weather permitting. These are usually one to two hours long and can feature a variety of terrain and areas of interest. Ages 6 and above are welcome.

Community members who believe in the value of this program for local youth and would like to underwrite a partial scholarship for families in financial need, can make a tax-deductible donation to the Atlanta Association (the 501[c]3 non-profit organization that leases the Baca Grande Stables), earmarked "Summer Children's Riding Program." We will gratefully accept donations of any amount and will send a receipt to donors for tax purposes.

To sign up for the summer children's riding program, schedule a lesson or trail ride, inquire about horse boarding or arrange to pick up free manure for your garden, please call 719-256-6200 or e-mail us at info@bacagrandestables.com.



Getting ready for a ride.

photo by Eli Dokson

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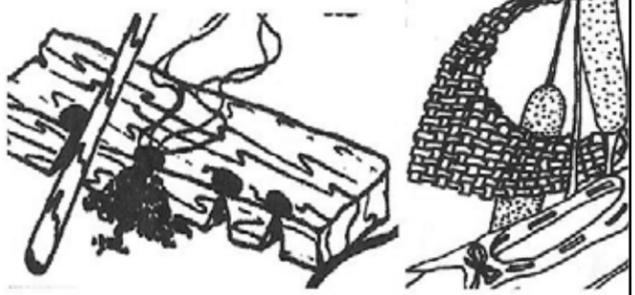
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27th Annual Earth Knack Family Gathering in Crestone, Co. at the Earth Knack School Site

Thursday June 8 - Tuesday June 13

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See www.earthknack.com for details.

***You can apply for the Jerry LaVelle Primitive Skills Learning Scholarship to help with your 27th Annual Earth Knack Gathering tuition. Jerry was passionate about learning and sharing primitive skills. His wife Kathi, family and friends have contributed to this memorial fund so others may continue to learn and share./ To apply: Write a one page essay on why you want to attend the Gathering and how you will share the skills and knowledge you learn. Send to: Earth Knack P O # 508 Crestone Colorado

Earth Knack Robin Blankenship PO Box #508 Crestone, Co. 81131 www.earthknack.com earthknackschool@gmail.com 719 256 4909

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

The completion of our Spring Navratri was lovely and well attended. The Annual On-Line Fundraiser Auction began on April 28 and will run through Sunday, May 7. 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 who participate in it. You can view the auction and also donate an item or become a sponsor by going to www.biddingforgood.com/babajashram or to <https://bforg.com/babajashram> on your cell phone.

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, Florida, several of our B&Bs in Crestone and many other great items. (All available at amazing prices!) Your bids are a big part of the success of this fundraiser and a large part of our yearly budget.

Our full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Wednesday, May 10 and the new-moon fire ceremony is on Thursday, May 25. 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.

We are very excited to announce that our annual Kids' Camp and concurrent Real Love Workshop for the adults will run from Tuesday, July 25 through Friday, July 28 from 10am until 1pm. We



Ashram On-Line Auction runs until Sunday evening, May 7. If you are a JD Marston Photography fan you can add to your collection for a fraction of their value. The over 150 items are on the web at: www.biddingforgood.com/babajashram and on your mobile device at <https://bforg.com/babajashram>. We appreciate your support of the Ashram.

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 40. For more information and enrollment form, visit our website at www.babajashram.org/upcoming-programs. The Kids' 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://mahalakshishop.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

Yoga Mantra

by Rod Hemsell

Sri Aurobindo defined mantra like this: "The Mantra is a direct and most heightened, and intense, and most divinely burdened rhythmic word which embodies an intuitive and revelatory inspiration and ensouls the mind with the sight and presence of the very self, the inmost reality of things." And the "things" that he referred to were spiritual things, beings, states of inner experience. These were the realities that he wished to be seen and known through the power of mantra. Specifically, his source of knowledge, and the mantric technique of transmission that he used, was the ancient Veda. For example, in this hymn to Savitri, the goddess of illumined speech and sight, from Rg Veda III.61, he translated her as the "dawn" to whom the inspired Rishi addresses his call.

"1. Dawn, richly stored with substance, conscious cleave to the affirmation of him who expresses thee, O thou of the plenitudes. Goddess, ancient, yet ever young thou movest many-thoughted following the law of thy activities, O bearer of every boon. 2. Dawn divine, shine out immortal in thy car of happy light sending forth the pleasant voices of the Truth. May steeds well-guided bear thee here who are golden brilliant of hue and wide their might. 3. Dawn, confronting all the worlds thou standest high-uptilted and art their perception of Immortality; do thou move over them like a wheel, O new Day, travelling over an equal field."

The fundamental principle of the mantra is that it is an intense call to the immortal powers of consciousness above the mind to descend and illumine us with their light and

truth. In the Gayatri Mantra, with which practitioners of various forms of yoga are familiar, there is the call to Savitri to inspire our understanding with the divine light: "Tat Savitur Varenyam, bhargo devasya dhimahi, dhiyo yo na pracodyat", which Sri Aurobindo translates as "O Savitri, Light of the supreme, illumine us with the Truth".

And then, in his own Savitri, a long poem of many cantos which are mantras to the goddess, he incorporates this Vedic call with almost identical images and sounds:

"And now diviner voices fill my ear,

A strange new world swims to me in thy gaze

Approaching like a star from unknown heavens;

A cry of spheres comes with thee and a song

Of flaming gods. I draw a wealthier breath

And in a fierier march of moments move.

My mind transfigures to a rapturous seer . . .

Come nearer to me from thy car of light . . .

Descend, O happiness, with thy moon-gold feet

Enrich earth's floors upon whose sleep we lie."

The secret of the Vedic mantra is in "the call". When the aspiration of the mortal is intense enough to generate this call, there is a response to its vibration from our higher planes of consciousness, and those higher powers of peace, luminosity, sweetness, and inner sight descend and literally seem to move over us like a wheel on an equal ground, spreading delight over all.

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



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Company of Players

An interview with Allison Wonderland

From time to time, as opening evening approaches, the Company of Players' interviews and introduces new members to the community.

This month we interview Allison Wonderland who will debut in the Company's newest creation, *Herstories: a Journey Through Time*. The production plays at the Charter School on Saturday, June 10 at 7pm and Sunday afternoon at 2pm. Kelly Crowley is Producer-Director, Cristina Cabeza-Kinney is Co-producer and Allison Wonderland is Art Director. This production departs from the Company of Players previous productions by offering a more theatrical performance featuring dance, music, and sets. This interview has been edited for content and length. Ammi Kohn (AK) interviews and Allison Wonderland (AW) responds.

AK You said your life is art and theater?

AW Not a day goes by without art and story. When my kids were younger, my husband and I had an interactive childrens' theater, The Living Place. We performed in libraries, festivals, parades and community centers. We played a lot.

AK Where was this?

AW I grew up and raised my two kids on Cape Cod in Brewster, MA.

AK How did you support yourself in Brewster?

AW I was a Hospice caregiver, art classes to children, put on events and retreats, sold art, and many other odd and creative endeavors.

AK Academic background?

AW I have a BFA in "Studio of Interrelated Media" from Massachusetts College of Art. Lots of creative collaborations.

AK Describe one of your favorite college collaborations.



Allison Wonderland.

AW Beings Being Beings, a performance art series; exploring inherent animation from within. We painted our bodies and moved together, once within a white canvas draped space during a multi-media art opening. I have always loved creating sets and installations.

AK What is your passion for this production?

AW For this, as for every one, collaboration in community. Joining our imaginations. I really enjoy engaging with Kelly and Cristina in the creative process.

AK What in particular catches your fancy in "Herstories: A Journey Through Time"?

AW I love each monologue and theatrical scene; from an Irish Queen circa 100 to an 18th century Chinese garden entourage to a looney modern day falconer.

AK Any last words?

AW My joyful work is to welcome mutual authentic experiences of presence, love and wonder. To become curiouser and curiouser together. Thank you, Ammi.

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1/ **Kill Speed:**

★★★

A group of friends fly home-made high tech planes that deliver drugs from Mexico to California, to fund their Hollywood lifestyle, until their group is infiltrated by a beautiful young woman who is not what she pretends to be.

2/ **The Red Machine:**

★★★★

A crisp spy adventure taking place at the height of the Great Depression. A charmingly irrepressible young thief is forced to help an icy and mysterious US Navy spy steal a new device the Japanese are using to code messages. During the mission the two discover they are pawns in a larger game. They devise an intricate scheme to outsmart the people trying to use them.

3/ **Code Red: The Rubicon Conspiracy:**

★★★★

A psychologically disturbed soldier is forced to come out of retirement to find his brother, missing in the jungle. But he is unprepared for the alien nightmare he is plunged into.

4/ **Father of Invention:**

★★★★

An eccentric inventor loses it all when one of his inventions maims thousands of customers, landing him in prison for 8 years. When he gets out he is ready to redeem his name and rebuild his billion-dollar empire, but can he do it without becoming the ego maniacal infomercial guru he once was? He must convince his estranged 22-year-old daughter to let him live with her. Starring Kevin Spacey, Camilla Belle, Heather Graham, John Stamos et al.

5/ **Foolproof:**

★★★★

Kevin, Sam and Rob are friends that started a theatrical group that pull off theoretical foolproof heists, with meticulous planning and precision, though they never carry them out. Leo, a gangster, blackmails them by stealing their plans and pulling off the heist. Now they have to figure out how to get out alive.



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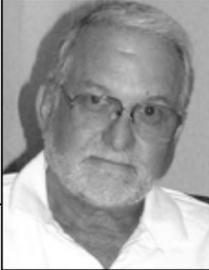
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Pastor Earl LeRoy received this message from Yeshua, Jesus the Christ through a revelation from His Holy Spirit.

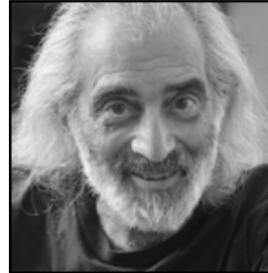
"When a person enters military service he/she goes through boot camp to learn to basics of warfare and to prepare his body for war. When a person becomes a believer in Me the new spiritual birth is the same as being a baby. A baby knows nothing at birth but a new believer knows of the world when he is first born again. The new believer tries to understand his new life through the knowledge of his old life. Because this cannot happen, the new believer's growth in spiritual training depends on his commitment to My Word and the teaching of My Word through godly ministers of My Word and the Holy Spirit's involvement in their lives. 'So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.' (Romans 10:17)

"When a new believer enters his new life, he does so with the Holy Spirit in him. The Spirit of Truth will lead people into all Truth and protect believers as long as they submit to His authority. Whenever a minister preaches My Word, the Holy Spirit will confirm the Word or give a check in their spirit to prove that word by My Word. Deception causes much hurt and confusion in My Church, but if the people honor My Word by My Spirit they will be led into

Truth and not be deceived. 'Those that are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God'.

" 'Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.' (Psalms 119:105) Living in a darken world, it is not easy to see through the darkness. Distractions, deceptions and things that lead astray are abundant in the world. My Word is Spirit and it is Truth. My Word is given to edify your spirit. When your spirit receives My Word in Power it rises up in you to manifest the new creation that you are in Me. Water Baptism is the example of burying the 'old man' and being resurrected into a new creation with Me. Asking Me to baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in Fire is a greater help in crucifying the flesh. Receiving My Spirit by being immersed in Him and speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance is a greater submission of your life to Me, and a greater decrease of the life of your flesh. 'He must increase, but I must decrease.' (John 3:30) Your spirit is then totally surrounded by My Spirit from the inside and the outside, My Word is also revealed to your spirit to edify you and to conform you to My image.

"The days are soon coming when there will be great tribulation and death. Those who live by the Holy Spirit may die physically, but their souls and spirits will soar forever with Me in My Kingdom."



Aging as an art

by Ammi Kohn

CODA

It was the last time I would see my father.

My parents had moved to Israel in 1965 after his retirement. He and my mother lived in a small apartment in Jerusalem. Their marriage, never very strong, grew more and more destructive. As my father's health deteriorated, Mother became the resentful caretaker with power and my father could only retreat, be stubborn and quiet, and every so often suddenly explode. Two scorpions in a bottle.

It was difficult to be with them but I felt obliged to visit because my brother had recently died of a brain tumor.

The bickering was relentless, especially because my father had been homebound for weeks, not taking his daily bus trip to the Hebrew University. But the morning before I was to leave, he insisted he wanted to visit Masada, a two-hour bus ride through the Judean desert, past the Dead Sea, hot and below sea level, to the last fortress that held out against the Romans in the great rebellion of 70 CE.

My mother argued, almost violently, against this atypical spirit of independence. "Josh, you are too weak, this is just crazy". But my father persisted and I said I would be able to handle the trip with him.

We sat together, father and son, enjoying the bus ride through the dry desolation, past the caves where the Dead Sea scrolls were found, stopping at Qumran, the ruins of the ancient Essene community. At Masada we took the tram to the top of the fortress mesa, looking down at the dirt ramp the Romans built to bring up their siege engines. Every hour in the hot June sun my father grew a bit stronger and more animated.

On the return trip he insisted on stopping to walk a few steps in the Dead Sea. I very reluctantly agreed, fearful of his slipping on the mineral-coated rocks and the concentrated salts getting into his eyes. But he did not slip, though his heavy weight was difficult for me to support. We waited in the August sun for the bus which, as usual, was jammed with people standing in the aisle. A young slender beautiful Yemenite Israeli soldier got up and gave my dad a seat about four rows behind where I was standing.

He sat down, looked at me across across the crowded bus and smiled a smile I had not seen since childhood, a smile so very full of contentment, joy, and love, that I became a child again, on an outing with my tender, caring and loving father.

I left the next morning knowing I would not see him again. The last kiss, the last memory, the ending.

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KIDZ KORNER!



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

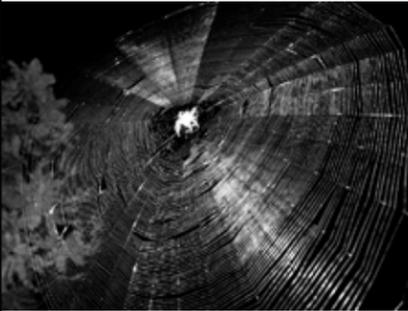
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The Jokerster

Son: "Mom can I get twenty bucks"
 Mom: "Does it look like I am made of money?"
 Son: "Isn't that what M.O.M stands for?"
 What did the baby corn say to the mama corn?
 "Where's Popcorn?"
 Why is a computer so smart?
 Cause it listens to its motherboard.

What did the mother spider say to the baby spider?



You spend too much time hanging out on the web!

Why did the cookie cry?
 Because his mother was a wafer so long!
 What do you call a small mom?
 A minimum.
 What did the mama tomato say to the baby tomato?
 Catch up!
 Why did the baby strawberry cry?
 Because his mom was in a jam!
 What did the baby Egyptian say when he got lost?
 I want my mummy.
 What did the mother broom say to the baby broom?
 It's time to go to sweep!
 My mother said, "You won't amount to anything because you procrastinate."
 I said, "Oh yea"...Just you wait."
 Science teacher: When is the boiling point reached?
 Student: When my mother sees my report card!
<http://www.jokes4us.com/holidayjokes/mothersdayjokes.html>

THE MOTHER'S DAY GIFT

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



13 butterflies are hidden in the drawing. Can you find them?

Poppy clung to Pierre's paw as they headed down the sidewalk. Hawkers called from doorways and big people hurried by. It was scary. They weren't supposed to go out alone, but they wanted to surprise Madam Colette with a Mother's Day gift.

Finally, Pierre stopped beneath a sign that said PHOTOGRAPHS. He reached for the door handle, but he wasn't tall enough. He stretched and stretched and hopped and hopped, but he couldn't grab it.

Poppy sighed plopped

down on a bench beneath a large shade tree. She closed her parasol and fanned herself with her little white paw.

"Someone will come and open it. I am certain." Pierre said and sat down beside her. They waited a long time and no one came.

"I think we better go home." Pierre finally said. "It is getting late."

Disappointed, Poppy stood up and began to open her parasol. She stared at it for a moment, then she exclaimed "Voila!"

Magic Made Easy Coin Pass



Show a coin in the palm of the right hand. Both hands are up.



The hands are quickly turned palms down upon the table. When they are lifted, the coin is under the left hand.



Coin travels when hands turn down.

The Secret: Turn the hands down quickly. This action lets the coin fly from the right to the left so rapidly that the passage will be unnoticed.

She ran to the door and hooked the curved handgrip of the parasol around the door handle. She pulled and pulled, but the door didn't budge.

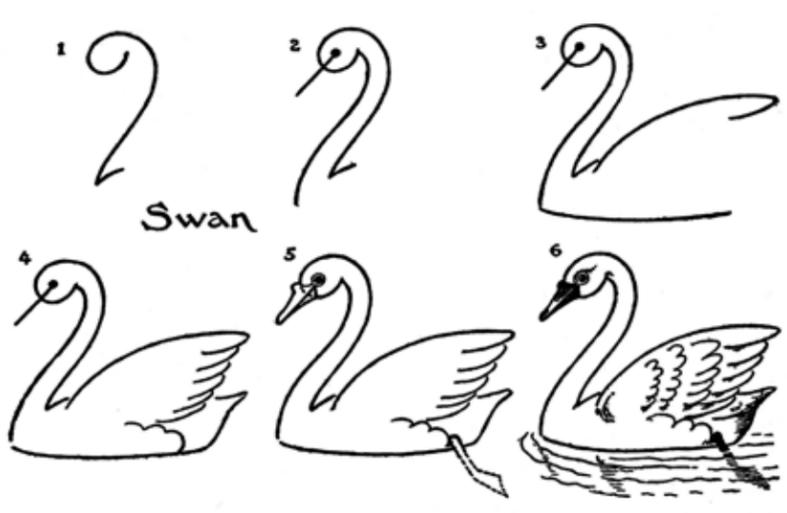
"Let me help." Pierre grabbed the parasol too, and both bunnies pulled hard against the large oak door.

Suddenly, it opened, and the surprised bunnies lost their balance. But they were quick and managed to hop inside before the heavy door slammed shut behind them.

When the photo was ready, it was dark outside. They were tired and hungry and the streets were even scarier now. Poppy was crying and Pierre was about to start when a friendly policeman found them and took them home.

Draw a Swan

Follow along and draw your own beautiful swan



They were in big trouble. Madam Colette was worried and very angry, but when they showed her the photograph, she hugged and kissed them.

"This is so sweet," she finally said, "but you have been very bad bunnies. Promise you will never do anything like that again."

Both bunnies promised, and although sometimes they did other bad things, they never went out alone again.

HERE'S PETER PIPER WHO WANTS TO PICK A PECK OF PICKLED PEPPERS. THE PEPPERS ARE HERE AND THEIR WEIGHTS, THE NUMBER OF OUNCES, ARE MARKED ON EACH ONE. TWENTY-FOUR OUNCES OF PEPPERS WILL FILL ONE PECK... CAN YOU PICK A PECK OF PEPPERS FOR PETER? START FROM ANY FOUR OF THE STARS AND TRACE ALONG THE CROOKED LINES TO THE PEPPERS. ADD THE WEIGHTS OF THE FOUR PEPPERS YOU PICK TO SEE IF YOU WIN BY GETTING THE REQUIRED TWENTY-FOUR OUNCES.

MAPLE



1 _ _ _ _
 2 _ _ _ _

TAKE ONE LETTER FROM THE ABOVE WORD, MAPLE, AND REARRANGE THE REMAINING LETTERS TO SPELL ANOTHER TREE. THEN REMOVE TWO LETTERS FROM MAPLE AND REARRANGE THE REMAINING LETTERS TO SPELL ANOTHER TREE.

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Moffat School seniors on Moffat School

Christina Chavez

My name is Christina Chavez and after being a part of this community for nearly a dozen years I can say I truly do love Moffat. I started off my career at Moffat August 20, 2004. As a first grader I was quite the shy type; now as a senior I have completely come out of my shell. I have watched many different forms of leaders and pathfinders make their way through the walls of Moffat and I must say, I sure am glad to be one of them. I sprouted my education here at Moffat, and I plan to harvest it here as well. The community is like none other. The staff and students at the school are like a family. We all are learning to grow with one another, and even though our roots tangle at times, we all still manage to get a good drink of education.

Layla Anzelc-Tolian

Moffat School makes every student feel important. The small class sizes enable students to be noticed, ensuring each student's individual needs are met. I feel Moffat gives me a voice and listens to what I have to say. The staff truly care about their students and help all of us achieve greatness. Their encouragement and understanding has helped me achieve my goals and the goals of so many other students.

Nico Anzele

Moffat School is a great school to be a part of. Not only is there a good student-to-teacher ratio, but also the teachers really care about every student's individual needs. I feel honored to have spent the last four years of high school here, and can graduate knowing I have the skills and knowledge to take on the real world. Thank you Moffat for a great high school experience.



Moffat School seniors.

Taleb Nelson

The best part about Moffat School is undoubtedly the learning atmosphere. Students are given the freedom to be mature about their work and the ability to do it on their schedule as long as they finish the work. The teachers here are great! They treat each student with a higher level of maturity so we have the option to act like mature young adults. As long as we act responsible we are treated with the same level of mentality.

Matt Potter

This school has been a different learning experience due to the fact that I went to a non-graded system to a graded system school. It has been helpful to going into my young adult life with having deadlines and applying to colleges and for scholarships. Moffat is a great place where you can be who you want to be and no one will judge.

Joedeelee Rigdon

Moffat School is great because the individual really gets attention. Each and every student is known and supported. The teachers really care about each student and give them attention. The students here are like a family, and I'm glad to be part of it. After attending this school for six years I definitely feel like a part of the school. As a senior I'll be sad to leave Moffat, but honored to be graduating from here.



New inductees join the National Honor Society.

Moffat National Honor Society inductees

Moffat School has held interviews for possible inductees into National Honor Society (NHS). These students have met the following criteria of the four pillars of NHS: Leadership, Scholarship, Character and Service, as demonstrated by

- They are sophomores, juniors or seniors in high school
- Have maintained a 3.0 GPA or higher (scholarship)
- Problem solve, make suggestions, are a positive influence, have a positive attitude, demonstrate academic initiative, and are a leader in and out of the classroom (leadership).
- Take action on behalf of others without financial or material gains, volunteer and provide assistance to others (service).
- Accept recommendations graciously, exemplify desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, etc), are honest and reliable and regularly show courtesy, concern and respect for others (character).

Based on their interview and the criteria listed above, the following students will join our previous five members, Tina Chavez, Joedeelee Rigdon, Layla Anzelc, Matthew Potter and Ryker Poor; and will become lifelong members of National Honor Society: Alyssa Chavez, Holly Fuller, Michael Richardson, Casey Groom. Congratulations to all of you!!

Southern Peaks League Art Show

This year the Southern Peaks League Art Show was hosted by Moffat Schools. Work was on display on April 6. Schools participating were Creede, Del Norte, Sangre de Cristo, Sierra Grande, Sargent, Center and Moffat. These schools have made a commitment to develop the whole student by keeping art in their curriculum.

The work ranged in categories from pencil to ceramics, and everything in between. Del Norte took home the Best in Show 2-D with an amazing pencil drawing created by Emily Hand. Center won the Best in Show 3-D prize with a folded paper sculpture of a swan by Francisco Villa-Varela. There was wonderful art from all the schools that took part. As the Art Teacher at Moffat I love this show because it is a chance for all schools to show off what they are good at. Every school that participated had at least one artist leave with an award.

Moffat's winning artists were Jared Sheppard, 3rd place for pencil; Alex Childers, 2nd place for col-

orage; Alyssa Chavez, 1st place for colored pencil; Tina Chavez, 2nd place for watercolor; Ryker Poor, 1st oil pastel; Joedeelee Rigdon, honorable mention acrylic; Soraya Grote, 1st place chalk pastel; Alice McLaughlin, 3rd place chalk pastel; Ian Horn and Ethan Richardson both got honorable mentions for chalk pastel; Kodiak Reigel, 1st and 2nd place wheel throwing middle school; Holly Fuller, 2nd place wheel throwing; Casey Groom got two honorable mentions for hand-building ceramics; Isabella Chambers, 2nd ceramic sculpture; Rochelle Childers, 1st place ceramic sculpture; Layla Anzelc-Tolian, honorable mention ceramics hand building; Mikey Richardson, 2nd place ceramics hand building; and Alyssa Chavez, again, honorable mention for ceramics hand building. As you can see we have a good number of talented artist walking the halls at Moffat. It makes this Art Teacher feel good to see that other people appreciate the work I am asking your students to create.

Key Club went to DCON

Key Club International is the high school organization sponsored by Kiwanis International. Key Club assists Kiwanis in carrying out its mission to serve the children of the world. High school student members of Key Club perform acts of service in their communities, such as cleaning up parks, collecting clothing and organizing food drives. Moffat Key Clubs service projects included a recycling project in conjunction with SLV recycling, can food and coat drives, Kuddlez for Kidz that donates stuffed toys to the pediatric ward of Heart of the Rockies Hospital, as well as collecting pop can tabs for Ronald MacDonald house. They also learn leadership skills by running meetings, planning projects and holding elected leadership positions at the club, district and international levels.

World Peace Gathering at CCS

On Saturday, April 8, the Crestone Charter School held its first annual World Peace Gathering. This unique event was conceived by Early Elementary teacher Lyndsay Duebber, who wanted to create an opportunity for CCS to deepen its creative and collaborative partnerships with the Crestone community's diverse and unique cultural organizations.

The World Peace Gathering featured songs, teachings, dance, art, and other inspirational presentations by representatives of the Crestone Spiritual Alliance, as well as CCS students, who came together to spread a message of hope and unity.

Charter School students delivered speeches inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King. Here are some highlights from their presentations:

Noble Cole, Grade 5:

"I have a dream that one day people will realize that a person's race doesn't matter, and that we can accept others by the quality of their character. We can't change who we are, but we can develop who we are. I believe that we all have it in us, and that one day soon we will all realize that we are created equal, and yet we are all different. It would be amazing to see this happen in my lifetime. Some people say it's impossible, but I know and believe that we can do it. We all have the integrity and respect to overcome prejudice. We just need to put our hearts into it."

Luna DelAmor, Grade 9:

"I have a dream that someday social injustice will be a thing of the past, and that someday I will be able to tell my grandchildren that times have changed for the better. We have been a culture blind to the needs of others, from the moment the European settlers arrived on this continent. I stand before you today hoping that I can break that chain.

If we don't start to change our ways and how we treat the people around us, things can only get worse. We have to be aware of the things we say and the actions we take. Life on earth is never going to get better if the people living on it are full of hate and violence. Please help me make this world a better place for generations to come."

Monet Meisman, Grade 7:

"Why is it that wherever humans go, they leave the earth trashed and hurt? How can we treat mother earth like this? She is the one who created us and feeds us.

I have a dream that one day we will find peace between humans and nature, and that we will learn to live in harmony with the animals and plants. The world may be in crisis, but that doesn't mean that there aren't answers. To make a difference, just start where you are: Buy fresh foods instead of packaged foods. Don't ask for a plastic grocery bag. Use less water next time you're doing the dishes. Grow your own garden. Simple things like these can add up to make a huge difference. So be the one to start. And remember: That plastic bag you throw in the trash might be the one that kills the last sea turtle."



Ramloti presents for the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram. photo by Lori Nagel



Anrahyah Arstadt introduces a performance of the Crestone Goddess Song-birds. photo by Lori Nagel

Ayla Tieder, Grade 7:

"Did you know that the amount of plastic dumped in our oceans right now is equivalent to five shopping bags full of plastic for every foot of coastline around the world? Each year there are over 100 million marine animals killed by plastic bags. That means that in a hundred years all our marine animals will be gone.

But not if we can help it. I have a dream that one day we can live in a world with no endangered species. If you want to make a difference right now, choose reusable grocery bags and reuse the plastic bags you already have."

Orion Propst, Grade 6

"I have a dream that one day people will fully accept each other for who they are. People will realize that the color of your skin does not matter. People will stop looking down on each other and treat each other the way they want to be treated. Let's stop wars, let's stop fighting. Let's stop polluting, and make this world a better place. We can do this if we work together, so let's make this dream come true."

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Lyndsay Duebber and Vesper Gers performing with the children at "A Gathering for World Peace" which was presented by Crestone Charter School (CCS) and Crestone Spiritual Alliance April 8 at CCS. photo by Lori Nagel

Mardi Gras Prom 2017

Mardi Gras prom was held at Mountain Valley School for Mountain Valley, Moffat and Crestone Charter High School students. There was a great turnout from all three schools that participated in the festivities. Mardi Gras masks and beads were handed out to all students attending the dance, the entry way was decorated with a New Orleans theme, and music was provided by Mountain Valley senior Jacob Chavez. Christina Chavez & Taleb Nelson were selected as Moffat's Prom Queen and King. Danny Rodriguez and Stephanie Gollihugh were selected as Mountain Valley's Prom King and Queen.

After Prom was sponsored by Mountain Valley's Booster club. Students had games to play, movies to watch, snacks, and a raffle for various prizes including mini fridges, microwaves, camping chairs, tents, snack foods and other various goodies.

Disc flying at Moffat & Charter Schools

by Andy McKim

The disc golf course at Moffat is moving forward since receiving a GOCO (Great Outdoors Colorado) grant last year. We purchased 18 disc golf baskets, 9 for the Moffat campus and 9 for Crestone Charter campus. The 9 baskets at Moffat have been in the ground since last summer. Moffat Senior Matt Potter is making huge improvements to the course.

The improvements include concrete T-pads for each hole. This is a chance for Moffat's disc golf course and Matt Potter to help each other out. Matt is making these improvements for his senior project. The T-pads will be Matt's product. He will also write a research paper, speech and presentation that will be presented to a panel of judges. Matt has put a lot of work into this project so far. On Monday, April 24, he will be pouring the concrete and setting signs that mark each hole and tell the distance. The course has been open to the public since the middle of July last summer, but by this May the course will be user-friendly.

The course starts behind the electronic school sign as you are driving to the school. You will see a concrete T-pad and a sign saying Hole 1. From there the rest of the course is easy to follow because it is a very open course. There are some holes that will challenge you to get par because they are over 300 feet. This is a very fun course for people to learn to play because it is so open and easy to follow/find your disc. The rules of disc golf are the same as ball golf: the lower score wins.

Moffat chose to install this course for people to enjoy, and with the improvements Matt is making, this course is something special. So if you are looking for something fun to do in the sun, Moffat's disc golf course is open for business. It is free to play and discs can be purchased almost anywhere. Hope to see our community at the course.

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The Washington Beat

Trump's Wars: Boom, boom!

by David Nicholas

He needed a victory or his first 100 days would be defined as a bust. So like all petty despots, Mr. Trump needed a dramatic event to change the narrative, and he found one. America's sexual-predator-in-chief was to go a-warring during a banquet dinner at Mar-a-Lago, dining on aged steaks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Nothing quite like going to war in style with all the comforts. The President is on record as eating the "most beautiful piece of chocolate cake that you've ever seen" as he ordered the attack on Syria.

Unfortunately, multi-tasking is not an attribute that Mr. Trump does with any sort of acumen, so President Xi's summit meeting, where very little was to be accomplished, ran a happy second to the Trump Administration's preference for blowing things up.

At 8:40pm, April 6, Mr. Trump officially went to war in Syria on the flimsiest of pretexts. But make no mistake: as horrific as the images were, this current incident was used as a pretext. Mr. Trump diverted the public narrative about his connection to Russia with emotional cries of "innocent babies" and away from US forces gearing up for a formal intervention into a foreign civil war in which we really have no national interest.

As Donald Trump has no idea what the national interest means, I can say it is not waging war on a state that is a ruin. Syria is laid to waste after six years of western bombing aiding the various incompetent factions and killing 400,000 Syrians who got in the way. Basically, Mr. Trump's bombing is an act of sheer opportunistic cowardice, an easy target that gets good headlines, and hopefully a boost in the sagging poll numbers (pretty much in vain, as it happens). This event will be forgotten a week after the attack and lost under the weight of other narratives 30 days from now, unless we go to war with Russia or North Korea.

Under the radar, US troops have been moving into Syria, as I reported last month. When you show the flag you become a committed player. This is Trump's first war, one of many, I suspect, if he lasts the distance.

When I noted reports last month about an armored vehicle build-up and movement into the Syrian interior, I knew that to justify US intervention in a civil war there needed to be an excuse, an excuse similar to Hitler's burning of the German Reichstag in 1939 in order to invade Poland. Unfortunately, this video showing women and children writhing in pain and dead bodies—cited as the result of a Sarin gas attack—was the incident. The incident was able to get those poll numbers (the worst poll numbers for any president since Nixon) up, by giving Mr. Trump a convenient "come to Jesus" moment.

US hegemony is always the last refuge of scoundrels, so Mr. Trump's "come to Jesus" moment signaled the media to begin building up the narrative to get us, the good

folks, to fall into line and obey. The cable news channels quickly fell into lockstep.

Note: On April 15, a bus convoy moving Syrian pro-government supporters, Shia families, out of the war zone was car-bombed, and 126 were killed, 80 of them children and "beautiful babies." Many more than the gassing the week before, but the photos were pixelated because the human mounds of limbs and torsos piled outside the buses would upset people. True to form, there was not a peep or a tweet from the Commander-in-Chief in Easter holiday mode at Mar-a-Lago as he golfed eighteen holes. This one was nothing to get upset about. Apparently.

Did Assad order the gas attack?

I don't think so. I've watched Syrian President Bashar al-Assad at war for about ten years—he doesn't lie well. He gave a television interview to a crew from Agence France Presse on April 13. His body language and facial expressions told me that he believes that Syria does not have chemical weapons to use, that Syria gave them all up in 2013 under international agreement. He wasn't lying.

Mr. Assad is an MD by training in Damascus, later specializing in ophthalmology from the University of London. He learned politics from his father, Hafiz, so he also knows how to rule ruthlessly. He came to power in 2000 on the death of his father.

Three things that make me doubt the allegations: 1) Given that his forces (with Russian military assistance) were getting the upper hand against the opposition in Syria, the timing just doesn't make sense. 2) The only reliable witnesses that say this was an attack by Syrian warplanes were members of the Syrian opposition, a dubious and desperate group who would do anything to get the US engaged in the civil war they are losing. 3) ISIL in the battle for Mosul in Iraq has used gas on Iraqi soldiers on April 17 and 18. Where did they get the gas? My hunch is the gas is from captured government stockpiles pre-2013. Look to be wrong on that but I don't think so.

No doubt it was gas and it was probably Sarin, but not from government stores, in my opinion. The Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which oversaw the removal of chemical weapons from Syria in 2013, said as late as April 18 the jury was still out on whether the gas came from Syrian warplanes or from a source on the ground.

However, Mr. Assad is the designated villain to be vilified by the western media. He has no chance of being held innocent in this instance. Denigrating the designated villain is the easiest path for US media, but we always underestimate the foe. In Mr. Assad's case he's outlasted two US presidents and he is still there in Damascus, running his government.



I have no sympathy for Mr. Assad, but Bashar al-Assad isn't going anywhere. Mr. Assad would live and will die in Syria. He's pretty smart and his Alawite tribe, who number in Syria between 1.5-3 million (another 1.2 million outside) and are Shias by faith, will die at his side if need be. This is a fight to the death for this people. I believe you should know who you are going against and go with eyes open. You now see how this is going to roll. God have mercy.

Sean Spicer embraces his inner-SS-warrior

Does White House spokesman Sean Spicer wish Hitler had stooped low enough to use chemical weapons on the battlefield instead of using Zyklon B gas pellets to exterminate over six million hapless souls? Spicer made six attempts, both verbal and written, to walk back the comment "Someone as despicable as Hitler didn't even sink to using chemical weapons." He failed badly at each one.

Mr. Spicer's "Holocaust centers" and all the rest of his historical ignorance is capped by the fact that he cannot speak English or actually tie two sentences together that make sense. This latest gaffe has pundits betting how long he will last doing one of the world's most complicated jobs where words really matter.

I never really understood why he got the gig originally and why he hasn't been fired yet. Oh, I forgot, it's the Trump White House.

Support for intervention

The happy warmongers comprised of Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Lindsay Graham (R-NC) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) to name but a few, the military, and the right-wing pundits saw all their dreams come true at once. All those years waiting and living in suffering under Mr. Obama's wise decisions to stay out of crises not of our making finally paid off on April 6.

Senator McCain occupied the chair in CNN Wolf Blitzer's Situation Room on April 7 for fifteen minutes sounding his usual rational, smug self as to why it wasn't required to get Congressional approval for going to war in a foreign civil war, and he lied. However, Mr. Blitzer, a very big supporter of US imperial aggression and interference anywhere, didn't bother to question Mr. McCain's veracity, which (given Mr. Blitzer's history) shouldn't be surprising.

Thus, the warmongers, sorry, I really mean war hawks (it sounds better, not as sleazy), in the Congress advocating the US will to war on any pretext, no matter how spurious the circumstances, are absolved from their jingoism because they are part of a collective will. Really happy warriors without being held responsible, who know that war criminals these days are only in the eye of the beholder.

The problem with applying hegemony is that you see it as a right for the powerful nation to attack any state it doesn't approve of. No matter that the state has its own government and laws which govern, for better or worse, its people. Hegemony has been ingrained as a US right in our foreign policy since World War II, but since the 1980s intervention in the affairs of other states by using armed forces, in preference to covert CIA operations to undermine and destabilize an elected government, has been the

preferred method. This is because the CIA death squad operations under the energetic administration of Ambassador John Negroponte in Central America—particularly El Salvador and Nicaragua—met with only limited success.

But I digress. Senator McCain, whom I respect a great deal on many issues, alas never sees a war he doesn't like. He is always wrong.

Senator McCain voted to give Bush43 the Congressional authorization to go to war and attack Iraq in 2003. Significantly the Senator has no conscience for the destruction we rained down upon Iraq. The Senator is one who should have been held accountable for that atrocity but he shirks that. Reminded of it, Mr. McCain ducks, saying "that's history" or it's "old history." He figures we won't remember, but we do.

So in early April we are at the "come to Jesus" moment. Worse, we have a weak, ignorant President, who has willingly handed his foreign policy over to a military junta, a competent un-elected American military junta, but a military junta nonetheless. Yes, everybody likes the generals. They are nice people, provided you don't ask them for donations for Greenpeace's Nuclear Free Seas Campaign, as they tend to yell and scream at you a lot. I did this back in the 1980s so I know this to be true. Mr. Trump has delivered us into the hands of these expert puppet masters. Pity we didn't elect them.

Is the president a gutless weasel when it comes to waging war? Well, you have to think so, when you look at the recorded message Mr. Trump made at his luxury resort Mar-a-Lago. He never looks directly into the camera as he's reading his words badly. His speech utterly lacked conviction, and he feared looking the American people in the eye.

Fear not so much that he is now a mythic manly warmonger, but that what Russian President Vladimir Putin has on him need no longer be kept under wraps. Frankly, anything Mr. Putin has on Mr. Trump (and I believe he has it all), will start drip dripping over the course of the next few months.

The other problem for America is that once weak presidents get a taste for war, it is like serial killing—they get a taste for it. Once Mr. Trump sees his poll numbers rising on this, he will actually want to do it again, and you can bet with much more gusto. See Korea note below.

US Representative Tulsi Gabbard: Voice of reason

On the same CNN Situation program referred to above, US Representative Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), an anti-war/anti-hegemony activist, was interrogated by Wolf Blitzer for a full 30 minutes. He failed to get her to bend to his war narrative. His attempt to demonize her failed. Congresswoman Gabbard sits on both the House Armed Services and Foreign Affairs committees, served in Iraq and recently went to Damascus and met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Mr. Blitzer's interrogation demonstrated the oppressive pro-war narrative put in place immediately after the bombing, and how ugly this war of words could get.

The US-Russia summit, followed by The Slap

A Russian slap in the face is never to be ignored and the Trump Administration didn't get what it

meant. While it wasn't subtle, Mr. Trump, wallowing in the limelight and the fawning press coverage, didn't quite get it. He thought Rex Tillerson would take care of ordering Mr. Putin to forsake his Syrian ally for the righteous glory of American power. However . . .

The Russians were hostile. They denounced the attack and removed the deconfliction agreement Russia had with western nations involved in Syria. Deconfliction is a military and engineering term that refers to avoiding mutual interference, or outright hazards, among systems under the control of other parties on the same side militarily.

When Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, in typical Trump Administration arrogance, came to Moscow on April 12 to meet with Mr. Putin and lay down the US dictates on Syria, Mr. Tillerson came up short. He had a 1 1/4 hour unscheduled meeting with Mr. Putin and got little for his trouble. Although Mr. Tillerson was considered a good friend of Mr. Putin because of his ExxonMobil connection, he only succeeded in getting the deconfliction agreement reinstated, a small bone for his trouble. All in all, the meeting was in the main a bust. At this time, relations between US and Russia remain hostile and cold.

For his part Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told Mr. Tillerson that there would be trouble if the US bombed Syria that way again. Not an auspicious beginning, to say the least.

The Slap came a day or so later, after Mr. Tillerson blew in and out of Moscow, when another group of US-designated ne'er-do-wells, Iran and Syria, fronted the Russian Foreign Minister in Moscow, putting on a united front.

After talks, Iran's Foreign Minister Javid Zarif, along with the Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Malleem, staged a photo session of solidarity. Syrian Foreign Minister Walid said the meeting sent a "strong message" to Washington. Iran's Mohammad Javad Zarif emphasized that the participants agreed that unilateral actions by the U.S. were unacceptable. We shall see how this plays out.

The US-China summit at Mar-a-Lago

Days and weeks before the scheduled meeting, the summit between President Xi Jinping and President Trump was billed as the time when Mr. Trump would show President Xi who was boss. Beijing's currency manipulation against the dollar had to cease; China was to be told that the People's Republic of China (PRC) had to allow more beneficial terms for US corporations to trade in the Chinese market; and that the balance of trade between the US and China, which in the main overwhelmingly favors the PRC, needed to be corrected; and forcing China to pressure the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea to cease its nuclear missile program.

So how did it go? As remarked above, multi-tasking isn't President Trump's long suit and despite the fanfare about how Mr. Trump was going to take command of the relationship, nothing happened.

Mr. Trump started out to show himself in command but it fizzled. President Xi arrived and was met at the airport by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson with a small honor

guard (that was pretty insulting). Mr. Trump arrived at Palm Beach International Airport an hour or so later. Correct protocol for someone of President Xi's status would have been President Trump to meet and greet the Chinese President at the airport. It was an insult that won't be forgotten. The Chinese tend to be sticklers for protocols.

The meeting was a bust. Mr. Trump was preoccupied with bombing Syria and the heady rush that comes with attacking weaker countries; that it wasn't going to be messed up; and what the "fake press"—whose opinion he cravenly courts—would make of it. It was distracting, and it took the pressure off Xi's visit.

The visit by the Chinese President was only going to be for 24 hours—in by 1:30pm Thursday, April 6 or thereabouts, out by 1pm Friday. By the range of topics publicly scheduled for discussion it was going to be full-on for the time Mr. Xi was in town. However, amid a lot of pomp and circumstance, the most the leaders had in formal meetings was 4-5 hours, tops. The rest was wining and dining, sleeping at the Mar-a-Lago pleasure palace, and remote leisurely photo ops.

The aim for President Xi was simple—to get in and out of Mar-a-Lago, avoiding abusive Trumpisms while being sure to be photographed as the man with the upper hand appearing as the adult in the room, while not giving Mr. Trump anything but general assurances to address issues in the future.

What emerged was the announcement of a 100-day plan to improve strained trade ties and boost cooperation between the rival nations. This bit of uselessness was described, per the *Washington Post*, "... as a productive first meeting between the leaders, attendees saying the two sides exhibited 'positive' chemistry. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the two sides agreed to speed up trade talks to help close a lopsided imbalance in China's favor, a common campaign-trail complaint of Mr. Trump's."

It was a rare opportunity for Mr. Trump to make good on his campaign braggadocio about making strong in-roads into the US-China relationship. The President lives in awe of men he sees as more powerful than himself. As a result, now China has a free hand to pursue its leadership trading in the Asia-Pacific region. Heretofore this was a major pivot of US policy under President Obama. As WC Fields used to say about people like Donald Trump, "There is one born every minute."

Assoc. Justice Neil Gorsuch

The Senate confirmed Judge Neil Gorsuch as an Associate Justice to the Supreme Court (SCOTUS). The vote to confirm was 54 ayes to 45 nays. The 54 votes to consent included three Democratic Senators from red states. Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), and Joe Donnelly (D-IN) were the three Democrats.

The reason I am not yet raising a hue and cry about Justice Gorsuch is that I want to see how he decides the cases before the court. Over the years many Justices typecast as conservative have tended to be all over the place when it comes to major decisions. Only Justices Thomas and Scalia were zealous in

maintaining their narrow view of what the founding fathers thought when they created the Constitution, where many paragraphs were written to be deliberately ambiguous and open to interpretation.

While I oppose the GOP action exercising the "nuclear option," changing Senate rules to only require a simple majority to confirm a Justice to the court, it was going to happen at some point, either now, or if Trump gets to nominate another Supreme Court Justice, in two years.

Democrats need to regain control of the Senate in 2018 and make sure they don't lose it for the next six years. They can then prevent Mr. Trump, should he get a second term, from nominating a conservative Justice.

The other point is that Chief Judge Merrick Garland of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit—President Obama's nominee for Supreme Court—will still have a voice on many Supreme Court decisions. The DC Court of Appeals is considered the adjunct to SCOTUS, which usually gets and deals with most cases that are headed to the Supreme Court.

So life with a 5-4 bench may not be as catastrophic as many have argued. We shall see.

Gunboat diplomacy off North Korea—another Trump fiasco

Only a fool stirs up a hornet's nest. Yet here we are. Declaring three decades of "strategic patience" to be a failure and with the usual great deal of fanfare, Mr. Trump announced that he had ordered the battle carrier group Carl Vinson to change course, indicating that boats of this "armada" had turned around, as he spoke, to face down the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Misspoke yet again

The Carl Vinson was ordered to a position off the Korean Peninsula in an attempt to intimidate the DPRK, but unconfirmed reports via Fox News had the carrier group maintaining course going south for the better part of week after Mr. Trump had spoken. It took the better part of a week to find out where the carrier group actually was, with many pundits wondering "does this administration have any idea of what was happening?"

It was another week of media distraction because without fanfare CNN reported both battle carrier groups Ronald Reagan and Admiral Nimitz are also in the region and are to be stationed just east of the Korean peninsula. The Ronald Reagan was in Japan as the Vice-President spoke on the flight deck on April 18, but the Administration never said word one about this carrier group being within one day's sail of the Korean Peninsula.

Rattling sabers at North Korea's military to see who blinks first is not really a good idea when President Kim Jung Un is itching to have a go at our American might. The reckless notion of pre-emptive first strike sanctioned by Bush43 in 2002 as an excuse to invade Iraq just spells trouble and usually doesn't end well for the initiator.

Attacking North Korea's nuclear facilities with conventional weapons would amount to declaring all-out war, and DPRK retaliation

would mean that life ends for 27,000 US troops strung out along the 38th parallel, the border between North and South Korea. Not to mention the 20 million souls living in the capital of Seoul, South Korea.

All-out war on the Korean peninsula needs to be avoided at all costs, but the boy trying to wear man's pants in the White House thinks it's worth the gamble. What he doesn't get is that President Kim is willing to send his 700,000 frontline personnel and 4.5 million reservists to fight on whatever pretext. The DPRK is ready.

Just for those clowns in the White House who don't know why the Korean War ended in stalemate in 1952 and essentially a defeat for US forces was that no amount of ordnance matters if the people have the spirit to defy and fight the foreigners to the death. In this case the foreigners are us. All in all let us hope that there is a June in our future.

RussiaGate

The Trump Campaign investigations by both the FBI and Senate Intelligence Committee continue.

Remember the Trump Russian dossier I have been reporting on since January? Apparently, the FBI took it as seriously as I have and used its contents to get a FISA court warrant on Trump Campaign advisor Carter Page, reported CNN on Tuesday, April 18. I consider the assertions made in the dossier authentic, and the FBI seems to think it has substance in the (as yet unproven) allegations.

I note that Carter Page is accused of spying for the Russians. Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee Congressman Devin Nunes (R-CA), who successfully sabotaged the investigation as it was gaining momentum, has recused himself from the investigation.

The evidence is still mounting, despite Mr. Trump's efforts to distract the daily narrative.

There is also a rumor, a rumor only, that Mr. Trump will be forced to resign by senior Republicans in lieu of possible impeachment sometime in mid-year or early fall. No proof mind you, but it has been put out there just the same. If Bill O'Reilly, Fox News' number one commentator and Mr. Trump's close buddy, can be fired over sexual harassment allegations, anything is possible. We will see.

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Colorado's 2017 legislature: Both time & money tight

by Lisa Cyriacks

With less than a month left in the legislative session, State agencies are concerned.

The State budget has not been finalized and lawmakers have yet to come to some conclusion on how to fund the government and meet a list of high-priority needs by then.

A balanced budget is the only legislation constitutionally required each session. The State's legislative session ends May 10.

Pressure is mounting to address:

- \$9 billion backlog of high-priority State road projects;
- a budget crisis fueled by the controversial hospital provider fee;
- the threat of Taxpayer's Bill of Rights budget caps;
- shortfalls in mandated K-12 student funding; and
- a grab bag of other problems and needs.

The Republican-controlled Senate and the Democrat-controlled House face not only their own ideological differences, but also disagreements within the parties themselves. Most legislative committees are controlled by the party in power. The Joint Budget Committee features three House members and three Senators. The divided General Assembly makes the Joint Budget Committee split, with three Republican and three Democratic members.

It takes four votes, or bipartisan agreement, to get an item in the budget. And more importantly, a 3-3 partisan vote rejects a spending item, giving GOP lawmakers the ability to cut off money even for existing programs put in place by Democrats.

"This is just another case in point to that maxim that it's easier to obstruct and it's harder to lead,"

said Pat Steadman, a former Democratic Senator.

According to Senate President Kevin Grantham (R) the sticking point is asking the voters for an increase in the State sales tax to fund roads.

Then there's the hospital provider fee. One reason the State exceeded the revenue limit is a fee paid by Colorado hospitals. So budget writers lowered the fees, which brought the State under the TABOR cap and eliminated the need for refunds. But the reduction would hurt hospitals. Fees would have been matched with federal dollars and returned to cover the cost of uninsured patients who cannot pay for care.

For progressives, the proposed budget falls short of school funding targets, and cuts money from transportation and hospitals in order to make ends meet.

Republican lawmakers are perturbed by spending increases and even more frustrated about the ballooning cost of Medicaid, a state-federal program to provide health insurance to lower-income residents that would increase \$634 million.

Here's what the State's \$26.8 billion budget proposal means for Coloradans:

State Senator Matt Jones, the top Senate Democrat on environmental issues, complained that the budget doesn't do enough to keep tabs on polluters, such as the oil and gas industry. He states that the State has too few inspectors to monitor an industry that's seen a recent resurgence fueled by rising gas prices.

Most State employees would receive a 1.75% pay hike plus potential 0.75% merit raises. Colorado State Patrol troopers would see a

potential 7% hike. And the State's judges would get a 5.7% increase. The increase in judicial pay also would boost pay for future state lawmakers and statewide elected officials, beginning in 2019.

Lawmakers are working to craft a ballot question for voters about a statewide sales tax hike for transportation.

College students will experience tuition hikes ranging from 5% to 7.7% for Colorado residents and unlimited increases for nonresidents and graduate students.

The budget calls for additional investments into K-12 education, increasing per student funding by about \$185. But the money the State plans to send to school districts across the state will still fall short of the State's obligations.

The sales taxes you pay on recreational pot wouldn't go up, as Hickenlooper proposed this year. But taxes will not go down, either.

The senior homestead exemption for homeowners over age 65 will remain for the first \$200,000 in value.

Nat'l Monuments to be reviewed

continued from page 1

guard and preserve federal lands and cultural and historical sites for all Americans to enjoy. President Trump's action has the potential to undermine one of the nation's most important conservation tools.

National parks, public lands and waters are a critical part of the nation's economy – especially for rural and Western communities that benefit from the tourism, outdoor recreation and quality of life associated with healthy public lands.

"The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, congressionally designated in 2000, is a stunning example of how a national park becomes a sustainable anchor and has enhanced the local community," says Christine Canaly, Director of San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council. "According to a national park report that has just been released, tourism to Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve creates \$28 million in economic benefits. The report also shows visitor spending supports 348 jobs in the local economy. Why is the President attacking a substantial economic driver in our local rural communities?"

According to the 2016 report, locally, most park visitor spending was for lodging (31.2%), followed

by food and beverages (27.2%), gas and oil (11.7%), admissions and fees (10.2%), souvenirs and other expenses (9.7%), local transportation (7.4%) and camping fees (2.5%).

Nationally, the report shows \$18.4 billion of direct spending by 331 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 318,000 jobs nationally; 271,544 of those jobs are found in these gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$34.9 billion.

"Americans care deeply for their national parks, public lands and waters" says Anna Vargas, Project Coordinator for Conejos Clean Water. "Any review of national monuments must incorporate the American public. National monument designations are community-driven initiatives, informed by public meetings and robust stakeholder outreach."

"President Trump and Secretary of the Interior Zinke are obviously not thinking about protecting public lands for future generations. This looks like a giveaway to the oil and gas industry," says Justin Garoutte, Director of Conejos Clean Water.

In a recent 2017 Conservation in the West poll conducted by Colorado College, 80% of western voters supported keeping protections for existing monuments in place while only 13% of western voters supported removing protections for existing monuments.

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- 5:30 p.m. Registration Opens
- 6:45 p.m. Presenting of Colors
- 6:50 p.m. Invocation
- 6:55 p.m. Determination of Quorum
- 7:00 p.m. Business Meeting Called to Order

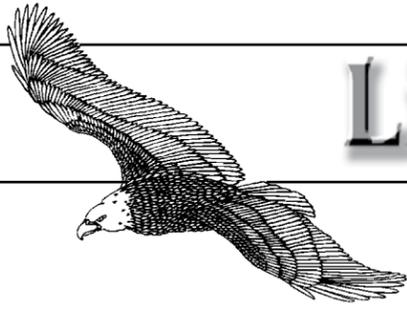


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Living on the Earth

Speaking of Trails: Collaboration to expand Crestone trail systems

by Jason Anderson,
Saguache Cty. Commiss'r

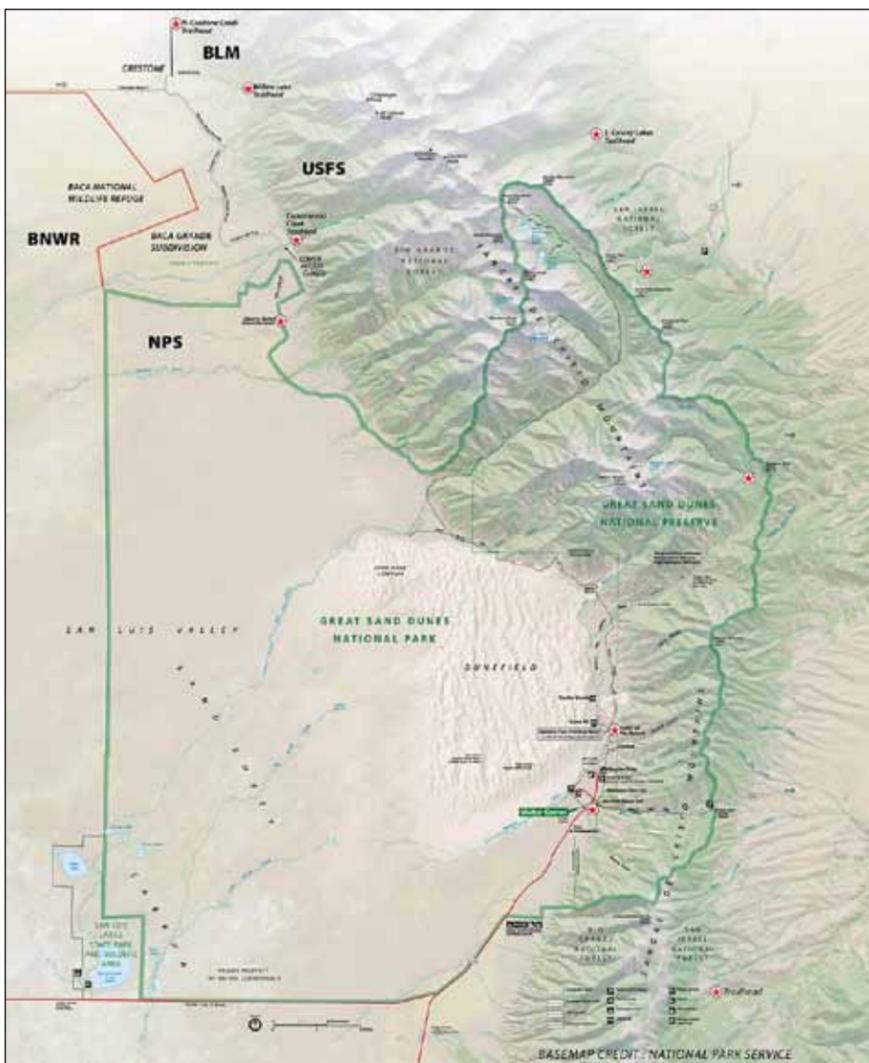
Note: All accounts below should be considered commentary: political leanings and personal bias may be present. Accompanying trails map is purely speculative and subject to revision.

Looking back on the last 22 years as a dedicated mountain biker riding in Crestone/Baca I have to say that 1996-2008 was really the golden era. The paths were mostly unused, and the area served as my personal riding adventure. On occasion a kindred biking soul would



Hikers out enjoying trails.

photo courtesy of Statepoint Media



Regional partners' existing trailheads.



Existing bridge along a trail through town.

Coalition is a group of officials and residents representing the different land agencies. These include the Town of Crestone, Saguache County, the Baca Wildlife Refuge, the Great Sand Dunes, BLM, Forest Service, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and the San Luis Valley Great Outdoors Organization. We have all come together to plan a way to bring connectivity to our lands without automobiles.

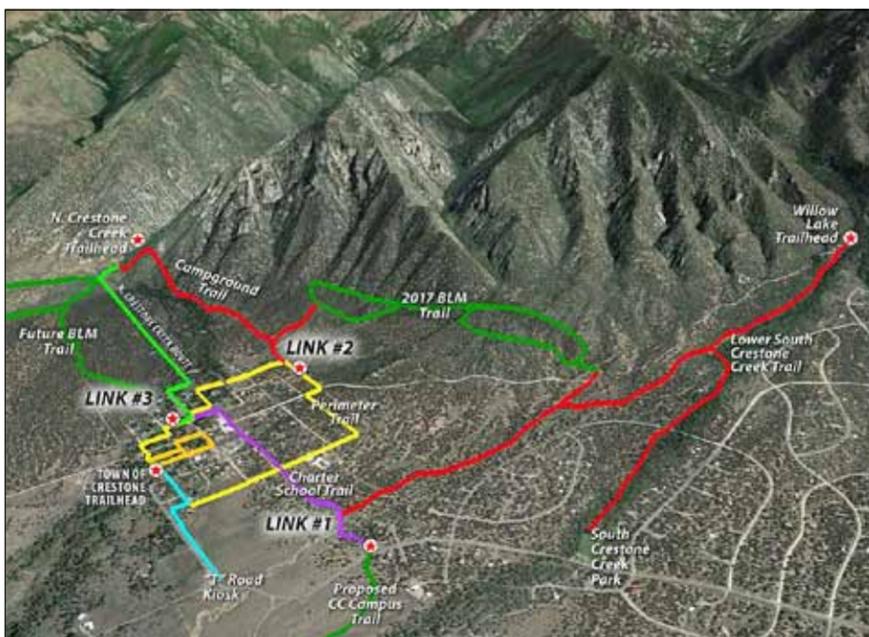
Some of the trail challenges we see are merely the result of planning oversight; we have a population (Baca) that is separate from its amenities (Crestone) and only connected by a single narrow and fairly dangerous road for non-motorists. As a result we struggle to address the one-person/one-car nature of our transportation. And if you don't drive your options are limited. We also look to addressing how to create more nature-travel experiences that are accessible as well as accommodating to a variety of uses and fitness levels. Still another issue is how do we maintain and manage the trails we have that are mostly the result of random use, with the understanding that a well-planned, durable trail is recognized as being environmentally a better option than a series of social trails permeating an area such as a greenbelt.

I am not so much speaking of those paths that take us into the Sangres and the wilderness area. They are well established with their rugged climbs, out-and-back nature, and commitment. More I look to the trails behind our houses, which connect one place to the next, which may run north-south, and which are frequented by a variety of users.

I have been fortunate to be involved with a working group that has been focused on this very issue. The Eastern San Luis Valley Trails

drift through for a year or two, but the trails were pretty much mine to explore. And there were so many! Between the old ranch and mining roads long abandoned, the game trails, all the trails created by houses on the greenbelts having their individual paths to the creek, and the maze of social trails from folks exploring and walking their dogs, it made for interesting riding. But change comes, as it always does. Now the larger trails in the area see more of everything: hikers, runners, dogs (lots of dogs), horses, families, and mountain bikes. And though I reminisce for that golden era, I also enjoying the company of others and believe it is time to consider a more planned approach to our trails as both users and uses expand.

At this time there are a series of options being explored that range from a group looking at how to extend the bike lane shoulder on Camino Baca Grande out to Two Trees, to a phased plan that links the town with yet-to-be-created trail systems in the Wildlife Refuge, on to the Baca Grande, and perhaps the Great Sand Dunes National Park in the future.



Trails overview map from the Trails & Open Space Master Plan.

continued on page B-9



by Kim Malville

This is the month of Jupiter, the king of the planets. Next to the sun and moon, Jupiter is the brightest object in the skies of May. Soon after sunset, Jupiter will be shining in the southeast and visible throughout most of the night. It will be highest in the sky and due south on May 1 at 11pm. Jupiter is moving retrograde this month, travelling westward away from Spica, the brightest star of Virgo. In that area of the sky, above Jupiter and Spica you will find Arcturus. Perhaps you remember the guide: follow the curving arc of the Big Dipper, arcing to Arcturus and continuing downward, spiking to Spica.

In these warm May evenings, bring your binoculars and look for the four moons of Jupiter. It's a great sight to see them changing their position each night. On May 1, to the west of Jupiter will be its most distant moon, Callisto and Ganymede. To the east and closer to the planet, you might be able to see its innermost moons, volcanic Io and watery Europa. For other nights of the moon, you can find a chart of the positions of the moons at <https://in-the-sky.org/jupiter.php>

Saturn rises around midnight at the first of the month and as early as 9:30pm at the end of the month. It is also in retrograde. Mars, red and dim, is in the western sky, visible for only 2 hours after sunset at the start of the month.

May 3: The moon will be close to Regulus, the brightest star in Leo, the Lion.

May 7: The nearly full moon will be within 3° of Jupiter and three times further away from Spica. Compare the steady light of Jupiter to the twinkling Spica.

May 10: Full moon

May 26: Thirty minutes after sunset look for a beautiful very slender crescent moon low in the west and below it will be ruddy Mars; binoculars will help.

May 30-31: The moon passes Regulus in Leo.

Plumes of water vapor on Europa

It was just announced the Hubble Space Telescope photographed what appears to have been a large plume of water vapor on Europa in February 2016, appearing at approximately the same place as one spotted in May 2014. The plume or geyser reached an extraordinary height of 60 miles, dwarfing any geyser we have on Earth.

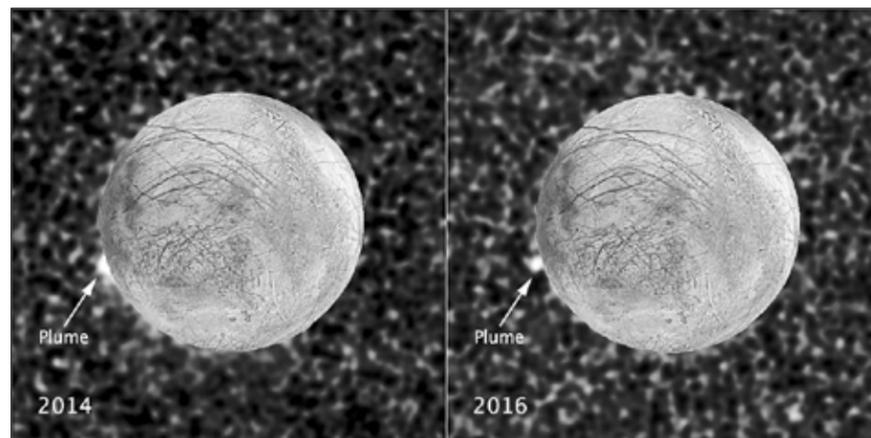
We are not absolutely these bright spots on the side of Europa are plumes of water, but we do know there is that an ocean of liquid water beneath Europa's icy shell, making this 1,900-mile-wide moon a great candidate in the solar system to contain alien life. In addition, thermal imaging performed by another spacecraft, Galileo, two decades ago, showed a "hotspot" at the location of the 2014 and 2016 plume candidates, where presumably warmer water from the inte-

rior may have erupted.

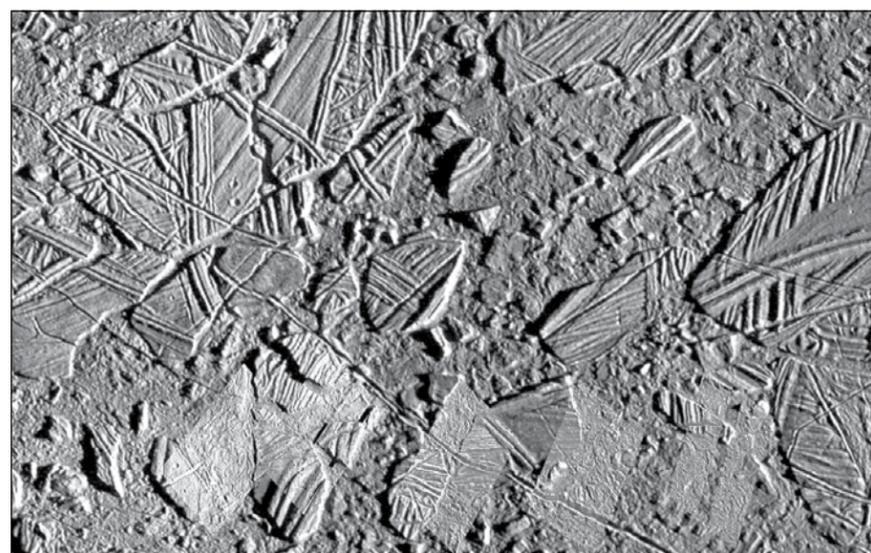
This detection of possible plumes could be a game changer and has already influenced the planning of NASA's \$2 billion Europa Clipper mission, which could be launched in the next five years. The plans are for the Clipper to go into orbit around Jupiter and perform 40 to 45 flybys of Europa over several years. Because of these recent discoveries, Clipper is now being designed to search for plumes and try to fly through them. Plume fly-throughs would allow Clipper to obtain samples of Europa's buried ocean without having to land on its surface. Before the discovery of these possible plumes, the plan was to land a spacecraft on its surface and drill through the icy crust to reach the ocean. That would have been a very complex mission, because Europa lies in the midst of Jupiter's radiation belt and is constantly struck by lethal doses of high energy particles.

Is there life in the water world of Enceladus?

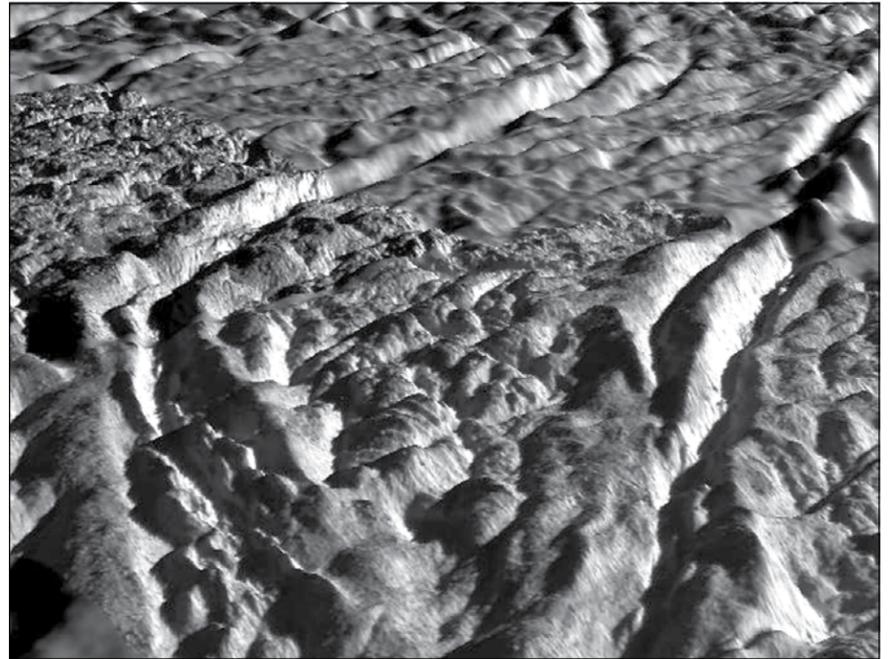
The space craft Cassini has been exploring Saturn's corner of the solar system for 13 years, zooming around its moons at a speed of 75,000 miles per hour, getting extraordinary pictures and data about its rings and moons. Cassini will forever get credit for discovering what may be the second (besides Europa) most likely place to find evidence of life beyond Earth, namely Enceladus. This strange little moon, a mere 300 miles in diameter, has some 100 geysers spewing forth plumes of salt water. Enceladus is mostly water — a water world. The plumes of liquid water erupt through cracks in its frozen surface. The plumes are like comets, containing a rich and fecund mixture of hydrogen, carbon dioxide, methane, ammonia, propane, acetylene, and formaldehyde- suggestive of some form of microbial activity in its deep, dark ocean. Microbes could obtain energy by the conversion of hydrogen, carbon dioxide, and water into methane, a process that is known as "the root of the tree of life on earth." With luck it will also be a root of the tree of life on Enceladus.



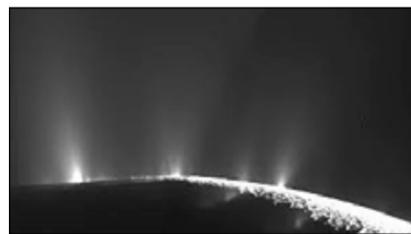
Europa plumes.



Europa surface.



Enceladus Fissures.



Enceladus plumes.

The death dives of Cassini

On September 15, Cassini will make a fiery and lethal plunge into the atmosphere of Saturn, vaporizing within 3 minutes after entering the cloud tops.

Before its death, Cassini will plunge 22 times into the previously forbidden space between the clouds and the innermost ring. This area may be filled with small particles with which the spacecraft could collide and at its great speed could result in its immobilization or premature death. On the first of these plunges, occurring on April 26, the antenna will be facing forward, acting as a shield. That will be a very worrisome plunge for the spacecraft handlers back on Earth, because it will be more than an hour before its health will be known. In these plunges close to the rings, Cassini will produce all sorts of good data about the nature of the rings and their origins. For instance, it is not known if these rings are as old as Saturn itself, or were the result of the recent breakup of a lost moon some 100 million years ago. Slight gravitational pull by the rings on Cassini will also measure the mass of the billions of small particles that make up the rings.

One reason for this death by fire of this good friend of ours is to ensure that any of its earthborn microbes do not contaminate the biotic or prebiotic worlds of Saturn.



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Owner/builder conversations in the Baca Grande

Good or bad thing?

by John Rowe

New and ever-tightening building restrictions introduced by the POA over the last year have caused real turmoil within the owner/builder community, culminating in the frightening spectacle of a large crane escorted by police vehicles moving into the Baca and removing a man's home. Be it ever so justified in the eyes of many, this ushers in a whole new level of Baca code enforcement and would seem to warrant community attention to the whole issue of people building their own homes here. I think this is a good time to bring these owner/builder folks front and center and find out just who these people are. We will try to feature two of them in every issue for the foreseeable future. -John Rowe



Bill Ellzey built his beautiful home in the Baca many years ago. His words of wisdom—"Don't make it too difficult."

"The three and a half years I spent building was a working meditation. My degree of perfection had its own pace and could not be hurried. I did not know when it would be finished. The process had an immediacy about it—what to get done today, and not when will I be finished was the question I always asked. Going all over the valley for donated and scrounged and recycled materials was gratifying but time-consuming. It would have been much easier to make a phone call and have what I needed delivered but I wanted this part of the experience too, and oft times did not have money enough for all new stuff anyway. Some of the work was almost overwhelming and took a very long time. It takes so much more time than constructing a pro-built house in the city. I spent so many hours on my hands and knees creating the adobe floor that to this day, my feet hurt because of it. When all was said and done. I had a home I wanted that I could mortgage and pay back my friends."

Bill spoke of a real camaraderie among owner/builders at the time and they often congregated for breakfast in town, sometimes as many as fifteen of them at a time. They traded wisdom, buoyed

each other up, and helped each other. Bill had 19 people at a stucco party he threw and the scratch coat was put on in one day, work that would have taken Bill weeks to do on his own.

When asked about the POA involvement in his building and if it was easier in the 1990s, Bill replied that it absolutely was and that he had no real difficulty with the powers that be in taking nearly four years to complete his home. There were no building permit extensions to get and he only paid minimal fines (he believes \$11/month) and only during the latter part of the final year. When asked what he thought has changed the rules and how they are applied, Bill answered simply, "gentrification." He said this matter-of-factly, not as a positive or negative thing. But he did say it as if he thought it was here to stay. There were many fewer people here then as well and not as many homes under construction, and not as much blight. When asked what words of wisdom he would convey to people considering building their own home here, Bill had this to say:

"Find out what the building requirements are before even buying land. Be aware of time constraints imposed on homeowners and monetary deposits required. Become familiar with the Environmental and Architectural (E&C) book. Budget as you can, know where the money will come from as well as what your house will cost, as best as you are able. Realistically evaluate your skills and ability. Can you hire help if deemed necessary? Can you borrow money, either from friends and family or from an institution?"

And how about any words of wisdom to the POA? Bill took his time thinking about this and chose his words carefully:

"Don't make it too difficult for well-meaning and capable young people without much money to realize their dream of building their own home. I was President of the POA Board once and, having had years to reflect upon this, I have come to the conclusion that my Board's only job, and I do mean only job, was to help people get along with each other."

Indeed. Thanks Bill.

My next conversation was with Debra and Charles Schultz, at their converted school bus home on their building site in the Grants. They are building a large earthship home, made mostly of old tires and recycled lumber. And Charles, how is the building going?

"More slowly than we would have hoped but basically OK. I was hurt for the first year and the gathering of materials and the construction of walls takes time. A four- or five-year build-out is very common for these types of homes and I think they are well worth it. Earthships are beautiful, as earth-friendly as you can get, and heated/cooled by the earth and sun."

And were you aware of the



Charles and Debra Schultz are building their own home in the Baca Grande.

18-month timeframe for your home to be substantially complete according to POA regulations?

"Yes, I had read the POA covenants but had talked to a lot of people, including a few in the POA office, who assured me that this was flexible and many people had taken longer. What I understood was that the POA looks for progress being made, and for your jobsite to be kept as neat as possible. And we are doing all that as best we can. We are building on a shoe-string and have to stockpile free/nearly free materials as we can get them, not as it is convenient to get them, so we do have a stack.

Debra added, "we purposefully chose a lot positioned between two other natural home builders, knowing that they would be supportive and understanding. No other neighbors are close by and we could not imagine anyone in a place like Crestone being upset at a home under construction for a few years. We thought people here were all about hand-made natural homes."

So do you think that folks here are generally supportive of owner/builders?

Charles replied, "I sure hope so, but it seems as if the POA is getting more inflexible and that expectations of owner/builders has been rapidly changing in the two years we have been here. We hosted several young volunteers from the World Wide Organization of Organic Farmers (WOOFFers) last year and were told by the POA to take down the tent we used to house these kids. We were baffled as this was a nice looking tent, the kind used for weddings. This was a good experience for these young folks and we thought the community would have supported that. And as for timeframes, many of us just can't shift gears to accommodate these new changes as we are already in the midst of building and that just takes time."

Debra says, "we will continue to reach out and let everyone know we plan on adding a beautiful home to the community and be good friends and neighbors."

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Saguache County Firewise program restarts in May

As the weather warms and becomes more stable, the Saguache County Firewise Program will once again offer free wildfire hazard assessments and hands-on mitigation for county residents. With funding carried over from 2016, a team of 6-8 firefighters will take to the field again in early May. Anyone who has already called for service will be first in line, but there should be enough funding to get to everyone concerned with the survivability

of their homes in the face of an advancing wildfire.

“We will conduct a training/refreshers day to make sure our workers are all up to date on safety issues in the tree-falling environment,” says Daniel S. Johnson. “After that, we’ll be getting to the folks who have already had assessments and need thinning and pruning to minimize exposure to embers landing on or near their houses or even direct contact with a flaming front.”

Firewise is a government program, overseen by the State and dispersed to qualified subcontractors by the counties. Each assessment offers homeowners options to do the work themselves, work with the team, or to get the mitigation done for them at no cost if they are unable to participate. No tree will be pruned or removed without the permission of the owner.

Workers must be local firefighters and get paid through the grant as a training operation. There will be opportunities for workers to get certifications in basic and mid-level firefighting including chainsaws and leadership positions, which also helps prepare the community for wildfire response. The work is arduous and can be dangerous, so there will be daily safety briefings and After Action Reviews.

To get on the waiting list for an assessment, call Daniel at 719-480-9764. To participate as a worker, contact Baca Fire Chief



Former Fire Chief Christopher Botz removes high branches on a fire mitigation project.

Tad Crawford at the Baca Grande Property Owners Association, 719 256-4171.

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<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>1659 Willow Creek \$189,000 3BD 1BA fire-resistant ICF home with gorgeous views, landscaping, high efficiency hot water heat, solar/thermal shades, great lighting. Close to Spiritual Centers.</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 area.</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 1 1/2BA. Backs to greenbelt & creek. Passive solar, year-round warm earth mass floor. Custom kitchen. Bathroom with garden tub, screened-in porch.</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>250 S 2nd St. \$159,900 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>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>

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

Atalanta Cooperative Garden has openings

by Joanna Dokson

The Atalanta Cooperative Garden has openings for both working and non-working members this year.

Located on the north bank of Willow Creek, the garden is in its 18th year on the Atalanta project land. The garden has been producing food for members as well as the Food Bank and La Puente each summer with the help of working members. No non-organic pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers are used in the garden. Our water is from our solar-powered well.

A wide variety of veggies are grown each year from aspara-

gus to potatoes, greens to tomatoes, peas and beans, peppers and radishes, carrots, garlic, onions, leeks, shallots, parsnips, broccoli, cabbage, winter and summer squash and herbs. The asparagus, rhubarb and herbs are already popping up.

An orchard is being established with apple, plum, and cherry trees and berry bushes. Members may also purchase eggs and goat milk from Atalanta.

Members can sign up for ½ or full shares. A full working share is \$50 and a non-working share is \$250. A full share is generally enough for a family of four. Share contents and amounts

change and increase throughout the growing season. Non-working members have their shares delivered while working members take their share home after harvest each week. Working members help with planting, harvesting and maintaining the garden which is watered by soaker and drip irrigation on timers.

We are looking forward to another productive and fun year. Call or email for information and to sign up: 719-256-6200, contact@atalanta.org.



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Pollination basics



by Matie Belle Lakish

It's spring! Everything is blooming and growing! The bees I got last spring are well established this year and have been bringing in pollen and nectar like only bees can work. "Busy as a bee" is an old saying that I can really appreciate, for the little winged creatures, whose lifespan is usually about 2 to 3 months, are out of the hive as soon as the sun is up, and I have to wait until nearly dark to close their door. The metal cage that their hive is in is an attempt to protect them from the local bear population, which loves honey at least as much as I do.

The pollination service these small creatures provide to the rest of the plant and animal kingdoms is phenomenal! You may have seen a picture of a grocery store produce department with all the fruits and vegetables removed that require pollination by bees. Only about 40% of produce remains on the shelves—mostly root vegetables and those where humans eat the leaves or stems, such as celery and lettuce. In reality, if all the pollinators died, by the next season even most of those veggies would be gone, as they require seeds from a previous season to create the roots and stems. Even perennials such as trees, grasses, shrubs and livestock feeds, such as alfalfa, would die out over time.

Fortunately, there are other pollinators that can help the bees. Wind is a suitable pollen carrier for

some plants. If you have ever suffered from allergies you know how pollen can be carried on the wind. Juniper trees come to mind, as do most of the grasses and some flowers like goldenrod and ragweed. Fortunately, the grasses we count on for our grain products—wheat, rice, corn, millet, sorghum—are all wind-pollinated.

Other insects can help bees pollinate flowering plants. As I write this, most of my fruit trees are in bloom, and I am seeing many, many butterflies flitting among the blossoms. Because their bodies have scales, pollen grains do not attach to moths and butterflies as easily as to the bodies of bees. However, some night-blooming plants depend on moths as pollinators. Cecropia moths, the beautiful large brown moths with colorful spots that can sometimes be seen around porch lights at night, can assist in pollinating apple blossoms as their feathery antennae collect pollen and move about the trees. Hummingbird moths visit many flowers in the evening just before dusk.

If you look closely at fruit trees in blossom, you will see many bees and flies flitting about other than honeybees. Most of them are small bees of assorted types, but they are often joined by flies that are attracted to the flowers. Whether it is the sight of the blossoms or the fragrance that attracts them, I don't know. Before I got my honeybees, these were the most abundant pollinators for some of my fruit trees. I am grateful to them, although I have not researched their names. And let's not forget the hummingbirds. Many tubular flowers, such as the beautiful Scarlet Gilia that grows in our greenbelts are assisted in their reproduction by the attention of these diligent little nectar-seekers.

Plant pollination basics

The other variable in pollination is the plant. If you are harvesting the leaves or roots and don't plan to save seeds for coming years, you won't need to know much about the pollination patterns of a plant. For many of our favorite fruits and vegetables, however, we eat the seed or the fruit that encases it. As I write this, my apricots are finishing up their bloom cycle, the peaches are in full bloom, and the apples are just beginning to flower. All of these rely on pollination by insects to produce fruit.



The tiny hairs on bees make them ideal pollen collectors.

other vegetables rely on the wind to carry their pollen. Spinach, for example, has wind-borne pollen. Tomatoes and peppers require insect pollination, but usually don't cross-pollinate easily. The entire Brassica family, which includes broccoli and cabbage and mustard greens and turnips, as well as over 300 other plants, can easily self-pollinate as well as cross-pollinate using insects to carry pollen. The Cucurbita family, which includes cucumber, squash, and melons, have female and male parts on different types of flowers. You can see the baby squashes at the bottom of the female flowers. The male flowers must have their pollen carried by insects to the female flowers. Bean and pea flowers have both male and female parts encased in the blossom, and generally rely on wind blowing the flowers to move the pollen from male to female parts.

Protecting pollinators

I find it fascinating that nature has found so many ways to guarantee the reproduction of the species, and humans have found so many ways to take advantage of nature's pollination strategies. Where we must be very careful is in our use of chemicals. Humans' use of chemicals to control diseases and insects is causing some unexpected impacts to pollinators. If my neighbor decides to use a chemical insecticide on his apple trees while they are in bloom, or a weed-killer on his dandelions, or an air-borne mosquito spray around her flowers, my bees may die. If my bees bring poisoned pollen home to their hive, many bees may die. We live in a very intertwined world.

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There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root, RH (AHG)

Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) Part 2



Although I wrote an article about Dandelion for the *Eagle* four years ago, there is always so much more to write about this amazing plant. Native to Europe, it was brought to the Americas specifically by early settlers to use for food and medicine. It's an incredible plant, overcoming most attempts to eradicate it and colonizing (in a good way!) most of the temperate areas of the world. Dandelion will grow up through cracks in concrete in cities, come back days after being sprayed with herbicides, lay down while a lawn is being mowed only to pop up afterwards. And people who value their green

lawns hate it!

And yet, Dandelions are a strong but gentle medicine healing the liver and kidneys, and helping in digestive and heart issues and so much more. All parts of the plants are edible. The roots are used as a vegetable in stews and soups, roasted and ground as a coffee substitute, and used to make beer. The leaf has more nutrition than any cultivated vegetable and can be used in salads (in the spring before blooming), soups, as a cooked vegetable, and any way that something like spinach or kale is used. The flower can be used to make wine and jellies,

used in desserts and fritters, and eaten in salads. Even the buds and crowns (the part between the root and stalk) can be eaten.

Here's a recipe for Dandelion Rhubarb Crisp:

- 1 cup Dandelion petals
- 4 cups fresh rhubarb (cut)
- ½ tsp. Salt
- 1 ½ cup sugar
- ¾ cups flour
- 1 tsp. Cinnamon
- 1/3 cup butter

Heat oven to 350°. Mix together rhubarb and dandelion petals. Place in untreated 10 x 6 baking dish. Sprinkle with salt. In separate bowl, mix together sugar, flour, and cinnamon. Add butter to mixture and work together with pastry knife until crumbly. Sprinkle evenly over rhubarb and dandelions. Bake for 45 minutes or until topping is golden brown. Serves 4-6. (From *The Great Dandelion Cookbook*). Enjoy!

If you are interested in reading and learning more about the many uses of Dandelion, here are a few recommended books: *Dandelion Medicine*, by Brigitte Mars;



Taraxacum officinale.

The Teeth of the Lion, by Anita Sanchez; *Dandelion Celebration*, by Peter Gail; and *The Great Dandelion Cookbook*, compiled by Judi Strauss and Dr. Peter Gail.

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.

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In Search of Economic Reality

Moral failure causes economic failure

by Ed Lyell, PhD

Most of America's economic negatives and income inequalities can be traced to one underlying cause—moral failure. In the US, CEOs are making over 330 times that made by their average worker, yet only 50 times in Europe and around 20 times in Japan. Workers are seldom paid a living wage, just a wage that leaves them eligible for some form of welfare. In 1980 the highest paid US corporate executive made 40 times his average worker and would feel shame at today's ratio. Decades of cultural changes, especially in schools, created generations of adults who were raised without a moral compass. The mantra for all too many is that money, income, wealth, is the God to which they bow, no matter how acquired.

I know that some will say that I am just parroting conservative Christian rants, but this loss is not directly connected to any one religion or belief system. It is the loss of religious-based values of all brands, and the filling of the void by the glamorization of money and the things that can be purchased. Generations have been raised to accept massive violence, even to seek it out, revere it, and flock to the most violent and outrageous movie depictions. My

generation, now old folk, grew up watching black and white movies, and TV shows that were moral plays. When the bad guy shot and killed someone, the violence was in the other room, off stage, hinted at, not glorified in gory color and body parts flying about. Moral lessons were clear.

It is also the change in wars. Wars have always been brutal, bloody, often unfair and inept. Yet for generations the returning veterans kept the details to themselves and there was no video evidence on the nightly news. A hundred years ago many children went to church-based schools, especially Catholic. Morals and values were part of the curriculum. Public schools may have been more subtle yet manners, respect, good versus evil were taught. In order to not offend any particular brand of religion or belief system we forced public schools to avoid issues of values and morals as if they do not matter—they do.

I sometimes used to lunch with a religion professor at Metro State in Denver. He taught me that the top 10 religions of the world had almost the same top moral lessons or rules. The Golden Rule, "Do unto others as unto thyself", was in all of the top religions even if spelled differently, stated differ-

ently, sung or chanted. There was a shared sense of what is important for moral truth and behavior. Lying was a sin in all the major religions, yet now America has a President who lies every day, and no one is punishing him or yelling out "The emperor has no clothes". Greed is revered in the White House and Congress, promoted in policy, and rewarded in practice.

Usury laws date back to the Old Testament Bible and also exist in every major religious doctrine. Yet over the decades our governments, federal and state, has bowed down to, or colluded with, the powerful who make money from excessive interest and banking charges. It is as if old-fashioned Mafia families had taken over all of our government. Loan sharking is now legal and no longer at the factory gates, but in every for-profit bank, retail and online.

My university students mostly know nothing of morals and values that focus on fairness and collective concern, but instead value individual gain and profit, no matter how gained. They do not even know what usury laws were, or that 40% interest is inherently wrong and a sign of exploitation by the powerful over the weak and illiterate.

Orwell's fictional society portrayed in 1984 is all too real now.

Many of our leaders have the moral system shown in the novels, *Lord of the Flies*, or *Atlas Shrugged*. Since our schools no longer use these books to teach values, my students and their parents are ignorant to the critical lessons to be learned from understanding moral positions, and developing a good one for oneself, whether from school or a religious gathering on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or silent meditation.

This slippery slope away from good, and shared, values starts with countries and cultures violating things like the 10 Commandments by modifying absolutes. Do Not Kill, becomes "Only kill the others", people who are different from you, by race, color, religion or geography. Then it is ok to kill. Once on that slippery slope you will slide down to the moral abyss that America and many other countries abide in today.

Ed Lyell is Professor of Business and Economics, Adams State University and can be reached at ehlyell@adams.edu, or on Facebook, [dredlyell](https://www.facebook.com/dredlyell).

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Technology Tipster

Four new technologies to help you protect and appreciate nature

StatePoint

The possibilities of new technology to improve the world are seemingly boundless. And these days, the state-of-the-art can help you protect and appreciate nature in your daily life.

Here are a few new eco-conscious technologies helping people go green and get outdoors.

Smart Home

From thermostats that can be controlled remotely to water heaters that alert your smartphone or tablet when a leak is detected, smart home technology can help you get a handle on your carbon footprint. Today, consumers are using this technology to program lights to dim, window treatments to open and close, and more—in an effort to save energy. For simplicity and ease, consider a system allowing you to control many appliances via one platform.

Smart outdoor watch

Get outside to hike, cycle, fish, walk and appreciate the earth's beauty. Whether you're on a nature walk with your family in a local park, or biking to work instead of driving, free up your hands with a smart outdoor watch designed to help guide

you on your path. One example, the new WSD-F20 from Casio, has a rugged build and is equipped with GPS and new color map functionality that can be used offline. With its Location Memory app, customize maps with markers and text, so you can revisit otherwise unmarked spots, such as a great viewpoint on a hike or the perfect fishing spot. Features like a compass, altimeter, barometer, weather radar and water-resistance, can give outdoor enthusiasts an extra edge on their next adventure.

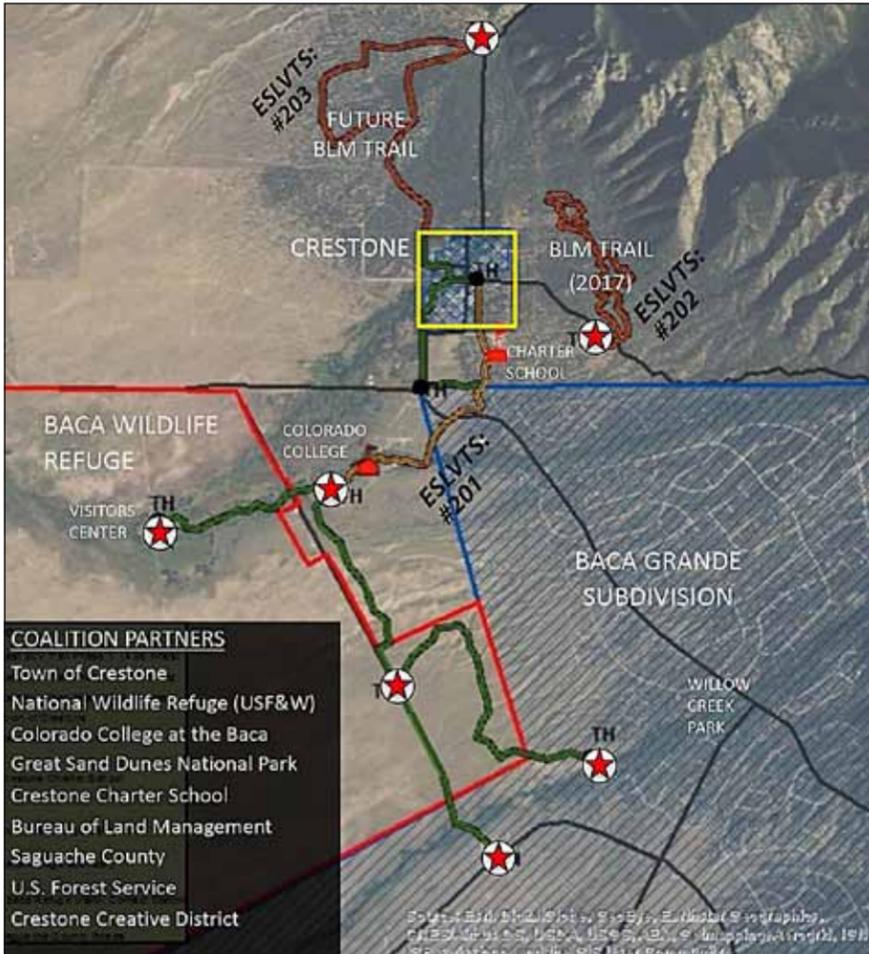
Nature at your fingertips

Leave the field guides and journals at home. New mobile apps, such as Birds Pro can help you identify species. Other apps, such as iNaturalist allow you to log your journey, uploading photos and information about flora and fauna sightings seen on the trail.

Green your data projection

Whether it's in the classroom, the boardroom or the living room, consider going green when shopping for a projector. For instance, the lineup of LampFree projectors from Casio lessens the hazardous waste from the hundreds of thousands of mercury lamps that get deposited into landfills annually. Plus, its hybrid light source uses both a laser and a LED, and has a lifespan of approximately 20,000 hours, using about half the electricity consumption of a mercury lamp projector.

From improving your energy efficiency at home to exploring the great outdoors, new technology can improve your relationship with the natural world around you.



Proposed Eastern San Luis Valley trail system trails.

Expanding Crestone trail systems

continued from page B-1

The most immediate project is being proposed by the BLM to create a north-south loop of about 3 miles located above the town of Crestone (accessed from E. Galeana). This project is in partnership with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and the Eastern San Luis Valley Trails Coalition with the goal of creating a multi-use trail that has easy access to town. This project is planned to begin with a work weekend through Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (Brink Messick—brink@voc.org 719-655-6133) on May 20-21.

A master plan for trails and recreation in the San Luis Valley has been created with the intention to provide more opportunities for outdoor recreation—benefiting resident health and local economies. With improved and marked trails, visitors and residents will

better be able to explore and enjoy the vast natural areas of the San Luis Valley and surrounding mountains. Visit www.slvgo.org for more information.

As part of this larger recreation and access plan, a trails and open space master plan has been prepared for the Town of Crestone and Baca region. See maps accompanying this article.

According to an article in the Denver Post, outdoor recreation in the United States brings in approximately \$887 billion dollars per year.

We are blessed with a variety of lands available for our enjoyment. How we access and travel through those lands is another of the questions we will need to ask ourselves as our communities grow and change.

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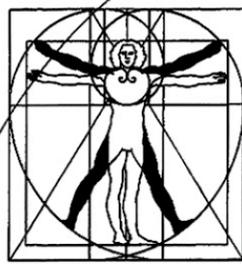
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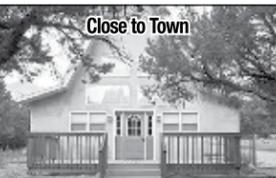
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MAY 2017 Listings

<p>SOLD!</p>  <p>Private/Views</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Reduced! Was \$155,000</p> <p>SOLD!</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>WAS 349,000</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>Was \$249,000</p> <p>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!</p>	<p>New Construction Paul Koppana</p> <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>Reduced! - Was \$229,000</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>3/1.75 on 1.3ac</p> <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>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.</p>
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<p>NEW LISTINGS</p>  <p>Garage & Studio/Apt</p> <p>983C Peaceful Way - \$224,500 3BR/2.5BA 1894sf main house w/studio apt, oversized 1-car garage & grow dome on 1.36 acres in Chalet 1. Passive solar design w/ two adobe brick walls & curved back wall, concrete kitchen counter tops, in-floor radiant heat & wood stove.</p>	 <p>Easy Access</p> <p>333 Palomino Way - \$189,000 Built in 2011, this 2-story 1685sf home offers 3BD/Study/2.5BA in a very functional floorplan. Passive solar, fire-resistant siding, carport, spacious kitchen with concrete countertops.</p>	<p>Remodeled Luxury</p>  <p>Townhouse #10 - \$189,000 Exquisite town house completely remodeled in 2008. 1480sf 2-story 2BD/2BA features redesigned kitchen & bathrooms, updated heat & lighting systems, beautiful patio. Must see!</p>	<p>Close to Town</p>  <p>34 Camino Baca Grande - \$153,000 1600sf 3BR 1.5 BA A-frame w/loft, remodeled in 2006 w/ETS heat, 5 window air conditioning units, appliances, laminate flooring, windows, roof & updated plumbing & wiring. T&G ceiling in great room. Upper & lower decks w/great views!</p>	 <p>Luxurious/Views</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>WAS \$449,000</p>  <p>Private Sanctuary</p> <p>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.</p>
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<p>Chalets</p>  <p>Castle in the Woods!</p> <p>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!</p>	 <p>Private on the Creek</p> <p>WAS \$429,000</p> <p>3959 Cheerful Court - \$424,000 Custom Cathedral Style Mt Home. Approx 2700 sq/ft, located on 2.16 acres by Cottonwood Creek. Many architectural features incls Brazilian cherry hrdwd flrs, diamond plaster walls. Features 30x16' Art Studio.</p>	<p>Was \$459,000</p>  <p>Exquisite Landscaping</p> <p>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!</p>	<p>Grants</p>  <p>Spacious & Lots of Light!</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Chalets</p>  <p>Magnificent Views</p> <p>New Construction!</p> <p>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!</p>	<p>Grants</p>  <p>Off-Grid Acreage</p> <p>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</p>
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<p>Chalets</p>  <p>Fantastic Views!</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Versatile Floor Plan</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>Modern Luxury</p>  <p>2145 Indian Well Way - \$266,500 This 1331sf modern 2BR/1BA bti 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.</p>	<p>Guest Cottage</p>  <p>Reduced from \$275,000</p> <p>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</p>	<p>WAS \$289,000</p>  <p>Gracious Living</p> <p>757 Rendezvous Way - \$239,000 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.</p>	<p>Private & High Up</p>  <p>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!</p>
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<p>Chalets</p>  <p>Creekside!</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>New Construction</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>Treed and Private</p>  <p>WAS \$169,000</p> <p>4275C Fallen Tree OL - \$164,000 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.</p>	<p>Close in on paved roads</p>  <p>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!</p>	<p>Small Home, Small Price!</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>Amazing Views!</p>  <p>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.</p>
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A wildlife reminder: Time to be bear aware

from CO Parks & Wildlife

Bears have emerged from hibernation and are on the prowl for food. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is sending its annual reminder, asking Colorado residents and visitors to be "Bear Aware."

In early spring, bears can usually find sources of natural food as wild plants begin to grow nutritious new sprouts. Bears also prefer natural sources of food. But if food becomes scarce some bears will go to residential areas looking for a meal.

Significant bear/human conflicts usually don't start until mid-summer. But now's the time to start thinking about how you can be bear aware. By taking some simple precautions, you can avoid conflicts with bears at your home and in your neighborhood.

Here is a list that will help us to keep bears wild:

Around the house

- Keep garbage in a well-secured location.
- Only put out garbage on the morning of pickup.



It's spring! There is a black bear ready to come visit you! Many black bears live in the Crestone Baca area. Be bear aware.

- Clean garbage cans regularly to keep them odor-free. The scent of ammonia can deter bears.
- Use a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster. These are available from your trash hauler or on internet sites.

• Bears have an excellent sense of smell, so try to prevent odors. If you don't have secure storage, put items that might become smelly into the freezer until trash day.

Keep garage doors closed

- Lock your doors when you're away from home and at night.
- Keep the bottom floor windows of your house closed when you're not at home.
- Clean up thoroughly after picnics in the yard or on the deck. Don't allow food odors to linger.
- Talk to your neighbors and kids about being bear aware.

Minimize items that attract bears or other wildlife

- Do not attract other wildlife by feeding them.
- Don't leave pet food or stock feed outside.
- Bird feeders are a major source of bear/human conflicts. Attract birds naturally with flowers and water baths. Do not hang bird feeders from April 15 to Nov. 15.

• If you must have bird feeders: clean up beneath them every day, bring them in at night, and hang them high so that they're completely inaccessible to bears.

• Bears have good memories and will return to places they've found food.

• Allow grills to burn for a couple of minutes after cooking to burn off grease and to eliminate odors. Clean the grill after each use.

• If you have fruit trees, pick fruit before it gets too ripe. Don't allow fruit to rot on the ground.

• Secure compost piles. Bears are attracted to the scent of rotting food—and they'll eat almost anything.

• If you keep small livestock, keep animals in a fully covered enclosure, don't store food outside, keep enclosures clean to minimize odors, hang rags soaked in ammonia around the enclosure.

• If you have bee hives, install electric fencing where allowed.

Be careful with vehicles and at campsites

• Do not keep food in your vehicle; roll up windows and lock the doors of your vehicles.

• When car-camping, secure all food and coolers in a locked vehicle after you've eaten.

• Keep a clean camp, whether you're in a campground or in the back country.

• When camping in the back country, hang food 100 feet or more from campsite.

• Don't bring any food or fragrant items into your tent

• Cook food well away from your tent; wash dishes thoroughly.

For more information go to the Living with Wildlife section on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife web site: cpw.state.co.us.

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Baca Grande Library News

by Suzanne McGregor

On behalf of our wonderful Friends of the Library, we would like to thank all community members who contributed delicious baked goods to the Spring Bake Sale last month. Coordinated by Thom Ontko with assistance from many dedicated community volunteers and library staff, the event was a success! Thank you for supporting our efforts by buying some of these goodies—the profits will go to enhancing our present library and to assisting in the planning of a new library in town. The library has grown enormously since its humble beginnings over thirty years ago, and its overall success over the years has been through the efforts of committed community members. Thank you!

April showers bring May flowers, but a little bit later in our area. A shorter growing season and high altitude gardening requires some basic knowledge to plant and care for your garden. The library can assist you by providing the information and guidelines that you might need for a successful (and fruit-

ful) season. Come take a look at our gardening section—we have books on low-maintenance and vertical gardening, high altitude western gardens and Colorado month-to-month guides, selecting perennials for our location, desert grasses, solar gardening and greenhouses, xeriscaping and permaculture. Many of these selections are in a special section in the front room so that you can easily find what you need, including books for those budding young gardeners in your family.

For year-round information, the *Zone 4* magazine is available at the library. We also receive the colorful *Colorado Gardener* newsletter that is full of plant information, gardening resources and supplies, and a schedule of gardening festivals, workshops, meetings and classes across the state. Come in and pick up a copy free of charge.

Remember, you are always warmly invited to the Northern Saguache County Library District board meetings each month, alternating between the Baca Grande Library and the Saguache Library. It is an excellent way to keep up on the happenings of both libraries in the district. We post the meeting schedule and agenda in the library each month, and there is always an opportunity for public input if you want to ask a question or share some information.

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

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Ute Mountain-Mesa Verde Birding Festival, May 10-14

Historic overnight birding & owling tour

The 13th Annual Ute Mountain-Mesa Verde Birding Festival (May 10-14) has developed a unique overnight tour that embraces daytime birding as well as owling at historic birding sites along the La Plata River before settling into quiet, comfortable lodging at Blue Lake Ranch. Between an afternoon of birding and the evening's owling adventure, tour participants have supper on their own at the popular Kennebec Café in Hesperus, CO. "Owling" begins as the tour proceeds southward along the La Plata River toward Blue Lake Ranch, secluded on a wooded hillside above the river's bottomland meadows.

Departing mid-afternoon Wednesday, May 10, from the Cortez Cultural Center, tour participants car pool to historic Old Fort Lewis, south of Hesperus. Blue Lake Ranch, the tour's Wednesday night destination, offers comfortable bedroom or casita accommodations within a thoughtfully landscaped environment. The ranch, renowned for blossom-filled gardens and fields of heirloom bearded irises, serves as a haven for migrating and resident bird species. Tour participants arrange for their lodging at Blue Lake Ranch by calling 888-258-3525 or 970-385-4537. The UMMV Birding Festival's two-day tour fee of \$75

does not include lodging, but mention the UMMV Birding Festival when making reservations.

After breakfast, tour members can wander among Blue Lake Ranch's flower and vegetable gardens or sit quietly by the trout pond to continue their birding experiences. Following Thursday's catered lunch at the ranch, the tour heads toward Cortez with birding stops along the way. Tour guide Ilyse Gold knows the birds of the La Plata River Valley well, both as an area resident and as a Wildlife Biologist with Four Corners Biological Consultants, LLC. The tour returns to the Cortez Cultural Center mid-afternoon on Thursday, May 11.

Full registration for the 2017 UMMV Birding Festival includes lectures and the Saturday evening banquet with keynote speaker Kevin Cook's presentation, 200 Miles of Birding in 200 Years. Single day registrations also are available. Tour fees vary according to tour destinations. For more information about the overnight tour and on-line registration or information about the annual UMMV Birding Festival, visit www.utemountainmesaverdebirdingfestival.com or call the Cortez Cultural Center, 970-565-1151 x 14.

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Houses & Property for Sale

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Live off grid on this beautiful 2.83 acre lot that is on the north border of the Sand Dunes National Park with greenbelt on one side. Perfect for a retreat with privacy and fantastic views! Lot #285 Grants. \$12,500. 970-884-7250

House for Sale

fixer upper house for sale on half acre in chalet 2, baca grande, crestone colorado electric and water and sanitation hookups, needs plumbing and electric work 1600 square feet enclosed with great views \$69,000 w/ Owner Finance 20% Down Payment call 719-480-4662

Stellar views!

4.34 acres on Cottonwood Creek Rd. in Grants. Lot 276. On small hill with awesome views. \$4000. 720-810-4346

Houses for Rent

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4BR/3BA, office, 2 living rooms, large kitchen, radiant electric heat, 3000 sf with lovely finishes throughout and spectacular views. Several fenced acres surrounding. Pets considered. No smoking. Well/septic (Grants area). Available June 1 for 1 year lease + deposit. \$1800 month + electric, trash (internet/phone if you choose). To view gallery of photos: <https://www.harrellqualityhomes.com/about>. See "gallery" then "Harrell Home." For info and application contact cindypearsongarcia@gmail.com.

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Short Term Rental

Odin's Lair BnB. 1 bedroom, \$75/night single, \$125 double. Full bath, laundry, hot tub. 719-580-4094.

3 BR / 2.5 BA High End Home

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Gorgeous Chalet Views. 3 BD / 2 BA / 2 Car Gar & Greenhouse. Immaculate 2000 sqft. W/D Unfurn. \$1450/mo + util. No growing, smoking, pets 312-715-7811 Avail 5/1

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Beautiful creek and tree property on 6 acres in the Baca on Cottonwood Creek. FURNISHED 2 Bds. 1 ba, house 2200 sq. ft. Solar, off the grid. Octagon great living room, skylight, beams, high ceilings. open floor plan to kitchen, granite island. radiant heat, wood stove, great retreat, peaceful house. small greenhouse, great well water. Seek responsible person, no smoking or growing, pet OK, References. lease Available Sept. 1-July 1, 2018. \$1050 plus utilities.

PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE NO. #2017-003

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF CRESTONE IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE INSTALLATION OF RESIDENCES IN THE TOWN WITH A LIVING SPACE OF LESS THAN 300 SQUARE FEET

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2003-009 established a minimal living are for single unit residences in the Town; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2006-1 repealed existing zoning ordinances of the Town (including 2003-009) and established a new Land Use and Zoning Code with specifications of lot size, lot acreage and setback, but did not specify minimum square foot living areas for residences; and

WHEREAS, the Town must consider the implications of water and legal sanitation for such units as well as lot size, accessory structures, effect upon neighboring properties and whether such units are properly classified as "mobile homes" or other single family constructed dwellings; and

WHEREAS, present zoning regulations are inadequate to address such issues.

NOW THEREFORE, be it Ordained by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Crestone that a six month moratorium is hereby imposed upon the building, installation and/ or placement of any residential dwelling units within the Town with a living area of less than three hundred (300) square feet from and after the date of this Ordinance in order to allow the Town Board of Trustees to study the implications and effects of the placement of tiny homes, container homes and similar units in the Town and to compose adequate regulations to address the same.

DUE TO THE NECESSITY OF UPDATE OF THE EXISTING ZONING CODE IN THE TOWN OF CRESTONE, COLORADO, AND PENDING INSTALLATION OF TINY HOMES, CONTAINER HOMES AND SIMILAR UNITS WITHIN THE TOWN, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED THAT THIS ORDINANCE IS NECESSARY TO THE IMMEDIATE PRESERVATION OF THE PUBLIC PEACE, HEALTH, AND SAFETY AND SHALL TAKE EFFECT AND BE ENFORCED FROM AND AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THIS ORDINANCE.

Introduced, read in full, adopted and approved and signed this 10th day of April, 2017.

—Kairina Danforth, Mayor, Town of Crestone

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...Classifieds
continued from
Page B-14

Gorgeous 3-BDR House for Rent
3 BDR – 2 Bath House for Rent Very clean, like new, 2 decks, W/D, great views, incl. 1-car, heated garage, 1-acre, Chalet I. \$1400/mo. + utilities. 6-month or 1-yr lease. \$1200 Deposit. Prefer no pets. Available June 13th (+/-). Willing to supply some furniture. 520-282-1294 or 719-588-3499.

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In Grants, ETS heating, VIEWS from every room, soaking tub, w/view! wifi, W/D. Pics & info: email madamebwolfe@gmail.com, 505-728-0244. Rent depends on Short/Long Term.

Apartments/Rooms/Misc. for Rent

Downtown private spaces for rent
Single Private separate spaces for rent with separate shared bath house. Down town Crestone. 350-400 utilities included. Yurts/Pyramid Room/Basement Room. No pets or Alcohol on property. Possible garden space. Electrum 719-588-2114 globalspirit13@gmail.com

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Room for Rent in Grants, 2nd floor, private entrance, great views and light, full bath, kitchenette, furnished with queen bed, all utilities incl. DISH, no smoking, no pets. \$35/night (2 night minimum), \$200/week, \$500/month. 720-775-8630

House Rental Wanted

Rental House Wanted in Crestone
I am about to retire from my long time job as an electrician at Colorado State University and am looking to rent a house in Crestone for under \$1000 a month. I was a long time home owner in Denver and Loveland and would make an excellent and reliable tenant and would treat a rental as if I owned it. I would be able to take possession of the house as early as May 1. Call Marty at 970-581-2767.

Retired teacher seeks rental in Crestone

Retired teacher, neat, single, no pets, no smoke, landscaper, gardener, good caretaker, seeks rental Crestone area, min. one year lease, June 1. dmahan1574@gmail.com

Services

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Chris Argenta Painting

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

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

Construction Assistant

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

SKYHAWK CONSTRUCTION

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Building or Designing a Home?

Building or Designing a Home (also Renovations)? www.SunPeakBuilders.com. Also, listen to my podcast on How2BuildGreen.com. Adam Fries 970-426-9446

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.

Stone Masonry

JOHN NELSON MASONRY – 50 years of experience. Foundations, stone walls, floors, patios, fountains, fireplaces, pizza ovens, wine cellars, etc. Professional service. Please call John for a free estimate: 719-480-5310

Help Wanted

Administrative Assistant– Baca Grande Property Owners Association

The POA is hiring an Administrative Assistant. This job is well rounded and involves many duties in addition to answering phones. You must be a team player, a quick learner, able to work well unsupervised, have excellent communication skills, a strong initiative, able to multitask and function in a high paced environment while providing excellent customer service on a consistent basis. Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook programs. Quick Books familiarity would be a plus. Excellent organizational and time

management skills are very important. Educational background and experience required: High School Diploma; accounting experience in A/R and A/P, clerical/administrative and customer service experience. Need to have reliable transportation and a valid Colorado driver's license. This job is full-time and provides benefits. Please visit www.bacapoa.org for an application and job description. Applications can be dropped off at the POA office or emailed to info@bacapoa.org.

GARDEN / LANDSCAPE HELPER

Weeding, tree hole digging, clean up, part time @ \$12 / hr. * flex. hrs. Must have own transportation to Chalet II. Contact: chcenter@fairpoint.net

Carpenter & Laborer

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

Social Services

Job Position Available

Saguache County Department of Social Services is now accepting applications for the position of Child and Adult Protection Caseworker. Bachelor's degree in one of the behavioral sciences is required. Previous experience in Colorado Child Protection system and Trails, and/or the Adult Protection system is desired, but we will provide training in these State programs. Saguache County is a generalist county, so the basic job description includes being part of a team to assess risk and safety of referrals, and working with families, youth and children, or senior population to provide services for stability and safety. Spanish-speaking advantageous but not required. Applications and complete job descriptions are available at 605 Christy Ave., Saguache, CO 81149, by visiting the Saguache County website @ SaguacheCounty.net or by calling 719-655-2537 and requesting one be mailed. This position announcement is open until May 12, 2017. Saguache County is an E.O.E.

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

JBL Speakers – Excellent Condition

JBL Speakers (pair). Model: Eon 15 G2. 400 watts per spkr. Excellent condition. Great for clubs, large rooms, or monitors. Can include 2 x ¼" cords. Asking \$425 OBO, far below ebay price. Will add 2 excellent stands as well (\$35 pr). 719-588-3499 or 520-282-1294.

Inversion Table Kettler-Apollo Like New

Inversion Table. High End, from Germany – Kettler-Apollo. Easy to balance, very sturdy. Like new. \$250 OBO. 719-588-3499 or 520-282-1294.

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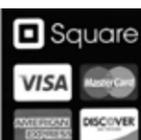
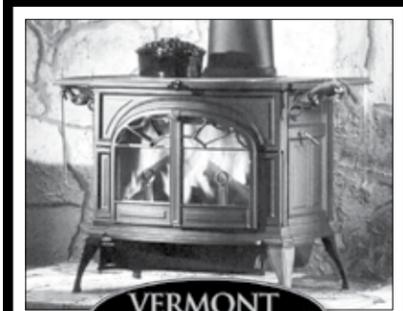
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EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk:
What is meant by “environmental justice” and how is it under assault in the new Trump administration?

—Mike Garner, New Orleans, LA

Environmental justice is defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.” In layperson’s terms, it means making sure specific groups of people don’t bear a disproportionate burden from potential and existing environmental threats.

Traditionally, we think of situations like the siting and construction of a pollution-spewing factory in or near a low-income minority community as an example of an environmental injustice. Some recent examples ripped from the headlines include the lead contamination of the water supply of predominantly African-American Flint, Michigan, and the siting of the potentially hazardous Dakota Access Pipeline adjacent to sacred and ecologically sensitive Standing Rock Sioux tribal land.

“The federal government has recognized for decades that air and water quality are especially poor in low-income areas and communities of color, and some of that imbalance stems directly from government permitting decisions, such as where to allow the dumping of toxic materials,” reports the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a leading environmental advocacy non-profit.

Environmental justice has



Spring has sprung and the honeybees are loving all these tree blossoms! At Earth Knack on Easter Sunday, 4/16. photo by Lori Nagel

been a hot topic lately as it relates to who bears the brunt of climate change impacts. According to EPA research, city dwellers and the poor are among the Americans most likely to suffer from climate change. NRDC points out that 24% to 27% of urban African-Americans, Latinos and indigenous people in the U.S. are now living below the poverty line, compared with only 13% of urban whites—meaning that minority groups are at the greatest risk from the heat waves, bad air, stronger storms and other negative consequences of a warming climate.

The federal government has been working on environmental justice issues since at least 1992 when then-President George H.W. Bush created a White House office dedicated to “environmental equity.” Bill Clinton took up the mantle when he assumed the presidency in 1994 and issued Executive Order #12898 calling for the federal government to identify and address “disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” Clinton’s order created the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice to coordinate and oversee implementation of the rule across different federal agencies, and spawned the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program, which has awarded upwards of \$24

million since then in funding to more than 1,400 community-based and tribal organizations working in communities facing environmental justice problems.

But that all is likely to change now that Donald Trump has proposed slashing the EPA’s overall budget by \$2 billion and cutting funding for environmental justice programs specifically by 78%, from \$6.7 million to just \$1.5 million. “These cuts are a direct attack on low-income communities and communities of color everywhere who are on the front lines of toxic pollution,” says NRDC’s environmental justice head Al Huang.

Contacts: EPA Environmental Justice, www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice; NRDC, www.nrdc.org.

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Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

March 21 to April 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip: 2.12”

Snow: 23.8 ”

Measurable precipitation fell on 10 days.

Measurable snow fell on 10 days.

Measurable rain fell on 2 days.

A trace of snow fell on 1 day

A trace of rain fell on 2 days

No thunderstorms or hail occurred.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1: 3.87”

Total snow to date:

Since Jan 1: 47.5”

Snow Season *: 66.3”

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 72.4°F on April 18

Low temp: 14.0°F on April 5

Avg. high: 59.5°F

Avg. low: 29.4°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 70°: 1

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 60°: 12

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: 22

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 4.0 mph

Highest gust: 42 mph on March 23

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

Weather summary:

Temperatures were above normal by several degrees, yet no record high temperatures were set. Precipitation, up until April 4, was very much above normal, but only a trace of rain was seen for the final 16 days of the period. The first measurable rain of 2017 occurred late Saturday night on March 25, with .01” recorded before it turned into heavy snow.

Outlook for May:

May is our 5th wettest month of the year, averaging 1.11” of precipitation, along with 2.6” of snow. The most precip ever in the month was 5.05”, set just 2 years ago. The most snow to occur also took place in 2005 when 18.4” accumulated on the ground.

Temperature-wise, as everybody knows, things warm up big time in this month. The first week sees temperatures average a high of 62° and a low of 32°, then by the end of May we average highs of 72° and 40°. Warmest temp ever seen in May was a toasty 96°, set on May 31, 2002. The coldest May day was 13°, on May 2, 2011.

The 30-day outlook for May is calling for slightly above normal temperatures along with near normal precipitation.

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

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