

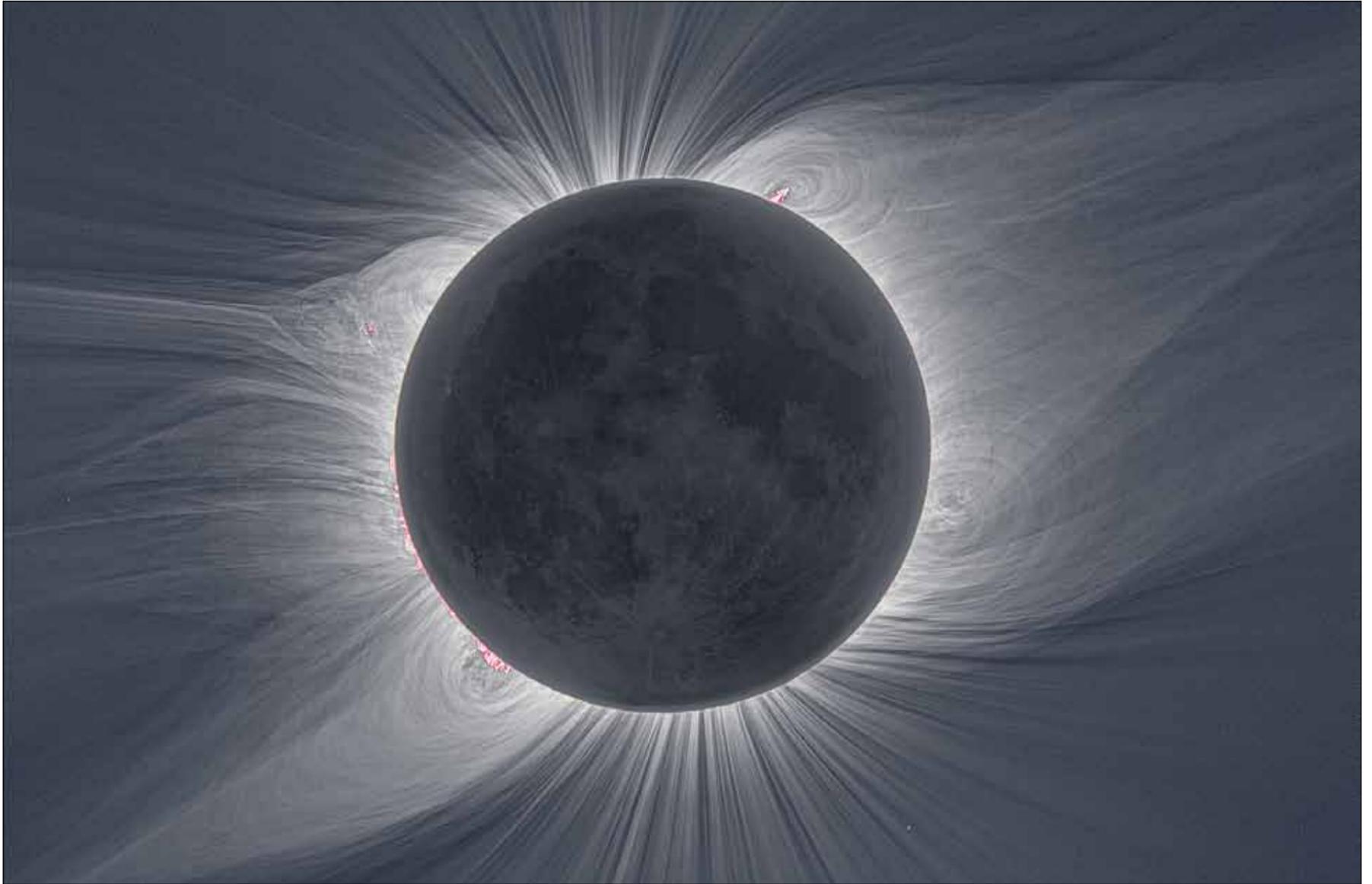
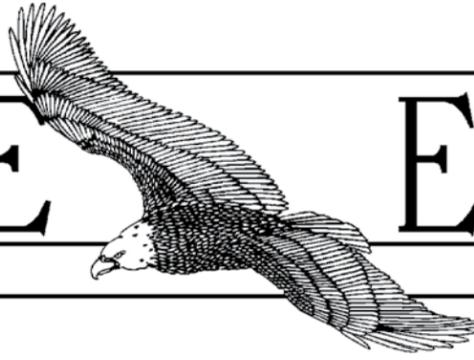
The CRESTONE EAGLE

Crestone, Colorado Volume 28, Number 8

August, 2017 \$1

28 years serving the Northern San Luis Valley

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The Great American Eclipse will be on August 21. Here is a superb picture of the solar corona taken during the total eclipse of 2008. See story in *Skies Over Crestone* page B-2. photo by @2008 Miloslav Druckmuller, Peter Aniol, Martin Dietzel, Vojtech Rusin

Secretary of Interior Zinke & Congressman Tipton aggressively pursuing privatization of public lands

by Christine Canaly, Director, SLV Ecosystem Council

It's called the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017 or HB (House Bill) 2936, co-sponsored by our very own Representative from Congressional District 3, Scott Tipton, and Rep. Bruce Westerman, from Arkansas. A toned-down version of this proposed bill passed the House of Representatives in 2015, but didn't get further. President Obama would have vetoed it.

The Rollback of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Background of NEPA

The San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council (SLVEC), is a public lands advocacy organization (www.slvec.org), and has participated in hundreds of NEPA processes since 1995. NEPA is the nexus for public involvement. NEPA structures how the public gets involved with responding to a proposed project by

soliciting public comment. NEPA uses formalized timelines, which in turn, obligates government agencies to respond with a range of alternatives (usually three or four) to provide options for various paths of decision making. Ultimately, by enjoining public scrutiny, a rational, coherent decision can be reached for a given project. This public inclusion is structured through formal analysis called Environmental

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Majestic peaks as seen from the trail above North Crestone Lake. See feature article 'A Memorial Hike to North Crestone Lake' on page B-3. photo by Emmy Savage

Saguache County Assessor Peterson corrects thousands of property valuations

by Lisa Cyriacks

Some property owners in Saguache County were dismayed when they received the re-evaluation notices for 2017. Some reported that property values declined significantly, others complained about receiving valuations that doubled. Most questioned what was going on.

Saguache County Assessor Peter Peterson advised the Board of County Commissioners shortly after notices were mailed May 1, that his staff had identified a "glitch" in

the system. When the conversion to a new system was performed in September 2016 to convert data to a new system, a data glitch added square footage to homes with higher values resulting in the large and inaccurate increases.

To further complicate things, it was discovered that not every property owner received a Notice of Valuation for 2017 in the mail.

The Assessor's Office has already reviewed the 249 protests filed before June 1. Notices of Deter-

mination were mailed to those protestors. Most accepted the revised valuations provided by the Assessor's Office, with only a handful expected to appear before the County Board of Equalization.

The Assessor's Office, under advisement by the State Property Tax Division, reviewed the 13,000+ property records one by one in order to determine the additional properties were affected.

Assessor Peter Peterson: "The error has been corrected and those accounts who protested their Notice

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



Enlightening trees & flowers

Dear Editor,

I want to give thanks from my heart to the Crestone community of people who have put their time and energy into planting trees and flowers in Crestone. Wow—it's awesome to feel so good to drive downtown and be filled with such renewing energy of beauty and love. We are reflecting one another here, bring more light to the trees and flowers and the trees and flowers bringing more light to us.

In gratitude—blessings for light, peace & love,
Julie Kove

A dancing heart

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for stepping forward and deciding to plant the trees and flowers in our community.

It was you, through your commitment, generosity and hard work that made that happen, and changed the look and feel of our village for the happiness of everyone here. It is wonderful to walk around in downtown Crestone and see the change that was created.

While the flowers and trees are very beautiful, your affirmation of your heartfelt commitment to your village, your community and to each other is even more beautiful and awesome!

It makes my heart dance to see and feel that here, as I hope it does yours. Truly, no shadow can touch that.

With sincerest gratitude,
Patrick Moore & Kizzen Laki

Come share your wisdom

Dear Friends of Living Wisdom Village,

It feels good to be writing to you. The Board of Living Wisdom Village would like to review its progress and the next steps we need to take, on Sunday, August 13 from 3-4:30 at the Cloud Station.

1st. We have been studying the Cohousing movement in both Denmark and the United States to see how it might apply to L.W., including a trip to Taos to actually view a cohousing community and talk to its residents.

2nd. In order to receive either government or foundation grants, we need to own land. Therefore, we are seriously looking at land in and around Crestone and the Baca. (There is a possibility of a 7-acre land donation in the Grants.)

3rd. We will review these possibilities with you and answer questions.

As you can see, this process has been and continues to be quite complex.

We need two additional Board members in order to continue this wonderful and beneficial project.

Findley West left the area because of her husband's health. Due to his recent heart attack, Ammi Kohn plans to relocate to another part of the country within the next year.

We are looking forward to meeting with you on Sunday, August 13 from 3-4:30 at the Cloud Station. Please invite friends and neighbors who might be interested in Living Wisdom Village, Elders Creating Community.

Sincerely,

Living Wisdom Village Board,
Ammi Kohn, Kirsten Schreiber, Barbara Hoepfner and Judy DeLuca

Crestone Energy Fair

Dear Editor,

The Crestone Energy Fair captures the essence of the way our community comes together in creative solutions to celebrate our diverse lifestyles and whole life systems. The alternative building, solar technology and hands-on workshops are the heart of the event but I am thrilled to be extending invitations to include other forms of energy exchange. What do you have to share with the world? Help us bring in bodywork, sound healing, culinary arts, light therapy, artwork and vendors to showcase the talents and passion of our valley.

Please consider becoming a sponsor for this year's event . . . submission deadline for workshops, artists and vendors is August 15. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact me at 719-480-5925 or bodeycrestone@gmail.com. I hope to see you learning, sharing, dancing and playing in Little Pearl Park September 8-10.

Lisa Bodey

Townhouse issues

To the community at large,

I'm writing this, as Manager of the Baca Townhouse Association (BTA), on behalf of the owners of the Baca Townhouses. Issues have been becoming a problem here at the BTA Complex that need to be addressed:

1.) The BTA & Desert Sage dumpsters are not a public dump site. These dumpsters are for the use of the Townhouse owners & renters renting these Townhouses as well as for the restaurant's trash. Please deal with your own trash. Both organizations pay to have trash hauled off. Maybe I should start going through the trash & send out bills to people who abuse this request.

2.) Loose dogs: Like the Baca POA & the Town of Crestone, there are restrictions about having dogs roaming freely. Even though the Desert Sage is opened to the public it still is part of the BTA Complex (all private property). So please when patronizing the Sage do not let your dog(s) roam freely in the BTA Complex. We would hate to see someone, especially a child, get bitten. And I'm the one who has to clean up the piles left behind.

3.) Events at Colorado College's Conference Center: Parking is a problem in the BTA Complex. All circle drives & parking spaces in front of Townhouses, are owned by the BTA for use by the owners & renters. Parking in the main parking lot, then walking over to the Conference Center, creates a

problem for the Sage. People who come to eat at the Sage see the lot is full & think the Sage is busy, then leave. Not good for the Sage's business. The best way to resolve this issue is to drive around to the main parking lot, over at CC, for these events. Please be respectful to the owners of the BTA Complex with this parking issue.

I hope I have gotten my points across & that you, the public, will be respectful of the owners of the Townhouses, Desert Sage & the Baca Townhouse Association. I thank you in the cooperation with these issues & request.

Respectfully,

Fred Lipscomb, BTA Manager

Root-beer float booth

Dear Editor,

The Friends of the (Baca Grande) Library wish to give many thanks to all who participated in helping make the the Crestone Fourth of July parade and celebration successful. Almost to many to mention, but here goes (forgive me if any one is left out). Much gratitude to Steve and Elaine of the Crestone Mercantile who are very community-minded for ordering the supplies and keeping the ice cream in their freezer until needed. Set-up and take-down helpers who we could not have done without. Thom Ontko, Barry Monroe, Paul Bobst, John Gallaher, David Lee.

Volunteers to scoop the double-dips of ice cream, keep records and maintain order: Grace Woods, Lorraine Cazier (who spent the better part of the morning helping), Suzanne McGregor (who spent the entire afternoon assisting), Barry Monroe, Sandia Belgrade, Noona O'Riley, Barbara Hoepfner, Ginny Ducale, Carol Lee, David Lee and yours truly, Thom Ontko (who hung out all day and went home exhausted and pleased.)

Special thanks to all community-minded folks who purchased the delicious "double-dips" topped w/root beer. Know that your contributions help support our library.

Thom Ontko, Chair,

Baca Grande Friends of the Library

Affordable housing

Dear Editor,

Most of you have probably read or heard about the emerging shortage of affordable housing in Colorado and many other states. It's here in Crestone, and having an impact on a number of us who are finding ourselves priced out of the current rental housing market in the Baca Grande area. The leaps in rents have been rapid and dramatic. While the causes are many, and there are those concerned who are looking at this issue, the need for solutions is immediate, lest we lose some of these many community members who have been long time residents, making their contributions in many good ways, among them young families as well as older individuals.

As solutions are being explored, one of the ways you can help if you are a property owner who rents, is to consider that a good renter will look after and help you protect your investment, and that a long term renter gives you stability

Editor's Notes

Glorious August

I love August. It is one of my favorite months. The mountains and valleys are at their full summer glory. The mosquitoes are gone. The temperatures are perfect and July's rains have brought the wildflowers into full bloom.

This morning as I gave the dogs a walk along lower South Crestone Creek I marveled at the array of wildflowers. Red fairy trumpet, white yarrow, yellow sunflower, purple aster, blue lupine, pink penstemon. A brilliant bouquet scented with creekside mint. The burbling creek and calling birds provided the sound track. Heavenly.

I love August. The garden is lush and abundant after surviving the droughts and frosty perils of June. Bowls of peas give way to summer squash, beets and carrots. Red and pink free range hollyhocks mingle with the apple trees. I can smell the honey in our bee hive as I walk by.

I love the mountains lit up with high summer light. Transformed from the winter's formidable starkness to a softer welcoming green. Fields spouting hay bales. Powerful thunderstorms marching across the valley. Afternoon showers sprouting rainbows—followed by brilliant vermilion sunsets.

The milky way night sky says "so you thought the daytime was beautiful—look at this!" and invites you to spread a blanket on the ground and just look up—and out. To wish on the Perseid shooting stars.

You can get drunk with the beauty and richness of August in the mountains, in the open valleys, in the hidden canyons, the gentle streams.

Breathe deep everyone. Take it in. Take a moment to be quiet with it all. And then, of course, get up and dance.

Happy Summer,

From the top of the Rockies,

—Kizzen

as well. Even though such a renter may not be able to afford the going rates, someone who cares about your home brings another kind of value to you in the transaction. Supporting the health and diversity of your community is another value added.

In these times of rapid change, it is more and more apparent that the choices we make have an immediate ripple effect, and therefore require more conscious attention to be brought to bear on our decisions. I hope that those of you who influence or make decisions about rental rates can give thoughtful consideration to those choices and the impact they have on people. The choices we make now are creating the type of community we will have in the future.

Linda Craig, Tamar Ellentuck, Marta Shoman

Thank you Crestone

Dear Crestone,

I want to take this moment to stop and reflect. You are an amazing community, Crestone. You are a village, elders to babies who haven't yet arrived. There are many reasons that I love you all. Smiles, hugs and some tears. But you are what makes Crestone a village of love. Yes, we do have some times when things get hard and we don't know what to do. I turned to my community when I needed help . . . and the most amazing thing happened, because of each and every one of you who came to my yard sale, who helped on Go Fund Me, and those who came up to me and handed me cash. Bless you all. Thank you, I have the cash to leave. But before I go I want to say I love you all and the memories that I will carry with me always.

Namaste; God Bless; Merry meet, Merry part and Merry meet again,

Usnea

Better health care

Dear Sen. Gardner,

Please use your power to craft a better health care bill. Any change to our health care should cover more people, in a simpler way, and cost less.

The House fiasco of a bill gives to the rich and kills the poor and middle class. This is the pattern of this Congress and administration.

Twenty thousand (20,000) Americans die each year from treatable illnesses due to an inability to afford care and the refusal of insurance companies to pay benefits. (This is despite people putting out hundreds of dollars per month in premiums.) The solution to health care is to get rid of the insurance companies and Big Pharma and provide universal coverage.

It was at your Colorado Coffee in January that I spoke with a Trump supporter, a man who used to write software for Blue Cross/Blue Shield—software intended to prevent paying out benefits. He, like the majority of Americans, supports single payer. If you want to really help your constituents, you will support Sen. Bernie Sanders's bill for improved Medicare for all. Don't kowtow to these corporate monsters. Show some spine and stand up for your constituents' health!

Madeleine Jacobs, MD

1 person killed, several injured in crash on Hwy. 17

by Mary Lowers

According to a Colorado State Patrol press release, a fatal crash occurred on Sunday, July 23 on Hwy. 17 five miles north of Moffat. A 2017 Nissan Armada traveling northbound on the highway drove into the southbound lane and collided "head on" with a 2005 Chevy Tahoe. The Nissan rolled on its right side, landing on the east side of Hwy. 17. The Chevy rolled once coming to rest on its wheels on the west side of the road.

The driver of the Chevy Tahoe, Casey Holloway, 43, of Melrose, NM was pronounced dead at the scene by Saguache County Corner Tom Perrin. His two passengers, Safrona Hollaway, 39, and Meisha Riley, 23, both from Melrose, NM were taken to the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center (SLVRMC) with serious injuries.

Seoungbean Cho, 31, of Albuquerque, NM, driver of the Nissan, was also transported to the SLVRMC with serious injuries. Passengers in the Nissan, Eve Jee Kim, 29, and two small children, ages one and two, were also taken to SLVRMC. Neither alcohol nor drugs are thought to be factors in the accident. Speed is not considered a factor. The crash is under investigation.

Deputy Wayne Clark on help given at fatal accident

via Mary Lowers

After working the fatal crash near Moffat on July 23, Saguache County Deputy Wayne Clark posted the following thoughts:

"I was dispatched today to a devastating accident involving numerous injured people and numerous vehicles. I watched as several agencies worked together seamlessly with no egos and no self importance . . . just a desire to help.

"I watched as two people crawled inside a car that was on its side to comfort the person inside until we got the equipment there to cut them out.

"I watched as a man came through the crowd handing water to everyone working apologizing that it was not cold. I watched as people stood in the sun holding blankets up as a sunscreen to keep the sun out of injured people's eyes.

"I watched a man as I was doing CPR saying I am ready when you need me . . . I watched the same

man in shorts and flip-flops kneeling on the hot black top performing CPR heedless of the heat and discomfort he must have been feeling.

"I watched as several people helped carry an injured person up a slope on a backboard making sure not to jostle the person.

"I watched a lady make the two extremely young children who had been in the accident laugh and relax when it was found they were not hurt. I watched as people offered their houses and their cars for responders to get out of the sun.

"I watched as people came up saying they were nurses or EMTs or first responders and asking what they could do.

"I watched as strangers held each other and cried.

"I watched as a community came together to help people they didn't even know and will never see again.

"Today I watched and was proud to be part of this."



Margot Williams

March 29, 1950-June 22, 2017

Margot was born in Berlin, Germany, the daughter of Werner and Ilse Kleine. She came to this country at age 3. She grew up in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, learning to love flowers and plants in her mother's gardens and the natural world as she hiked with her father and her sister Marianne. She attended Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, married Douglas Williams (who became ill and died very young), and earned a B.S. and a Masters in horticulture from the University of Maryland. She spent ten years as a researcher at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., specializing in camellias. Married for a time to Art Caplan, she also lived in Pittsburgh and later in Boston.

In the mid-1980s Margot moved to Crestone for the first time. She opened a flower shop and served the community as a 911 dispatcher, on the school board, by helping establish the Saguache County Credit Union, and in later years as an EMT. After her longtime partner Bobby Troutman moved to Peru, Margot left to be with her aging mother and then lived with Marianne in Michigan. She returned to Crestone in 2013 and spent the last three years of her life with her beloved, Tedd Brumm. Margot's surviving family consists of her sister Marianne Leddy, Marianne's husband Richard Leddy, and their children, Jennifer, Timothy and Alison.

Margot's creativity found expression early—as a teen she taught herself guitar and wrote songs, sewed her own clothes, and loved to paint and draw. She was a lifelong avid reader and enjoyed writing, publishing magazine articles on horticulture and writing the witty and anonymous Buck Winters column in the *Eagle*. Along with her passion for flowers, she felt at home in nature, hiking in the mountains, walking, and finding something beautiful in all kinds of weather. She was immensely giving and kind. She wanted to help whoever needed it. She is enormously loved and missed.

A new secure path for the Crestone Eagle

Non-profit being formed to purchase *Eagle*

Board members, funders and sustaining members sought

An exciting process is underway to have the *Crestone Eagle* become a community non-profit organization. Long-time Baca property owner and part-time resident Frank Judson is the project manager. He is leading the establishment of a Colorado non-profit in order to purchase the *Crestone Eagle*. Frank has been a fan of the *Eagle* for many years and wants to see it continue "as an excellent community newspaper". A local board of directors would be formed and a managing editor hired to run the paper. This would give local guidance and support to the *Eagle*, and allow it to continue to report on local news, events, environmental issues, our spiritual centers and would highlight the many great aspects of the greater Crestone community.

The *Crestone Eagle* Colorado Non-profit would provide long-term financial support and make sure that the *Eagle* continues to fly.

Judson is seeking other community members to donate to the non-profit to purchase *The Crestone Eagle*. He is also seeking sustaining members to provide financial support for the long term. Judson is asking for letters of interest from community members who would like to serve on the board.

Please email Frank Judson to join the list of your fellow community members who would like to contribute in any way to having *The Crestone Eagle* be reborn as a non-profit 501(c)3 independent media organization continuing to serve Crestone/Baca/Moffat/the Northern San Luis Valley (& beyond). Frank will promptly acknowledge your offers. Frank & Kizzen thank you.

Please contact him at frankjudson@comcast.net (please put "Saving the Eagle" in the subject line), or write to him at 662 Josephine, Denver, CO 80206.

He stresses that *The Crestone Eagle* in many ways belongs to us all and is a community resource we don't want to lose. As a non-profit, it will be able to continue to serve the community.

Kizzen will continue to work for the "new *Eagle*" for a period of time to make for a smooth and successful transition. Having an influx of financial support would allow the *Eagle* to expand its presence and reporting. Your support for the *Crestone Eagle* is greatly appreciated.

Correction

In the July *Eagle* we said that the property the Ziggurat is on was purchased from the Strongs. It was actually part of the Lindesfarne parcel and was purchased from them.

Bear encounters escalate in Crestone & the Baca

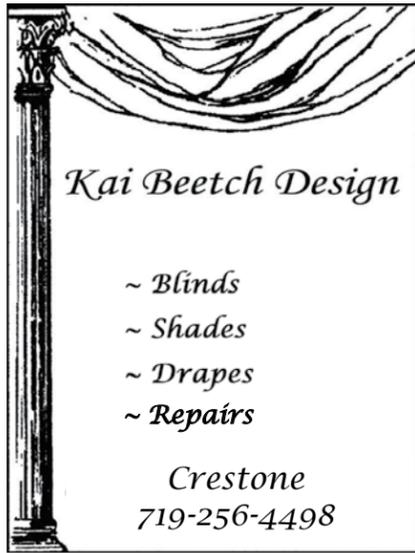
by Mary Lowers

The bears are the talk of the town. Reports of bear break-ins are all over Facebook. It's the hot topic at supper tables in Crestone and the Baca. The late freeze in June probably caused some of the food bears normally eat not to be available this season so the bears are hungry.

A friend in town awakened to her big dog barking and when she got to the top of the stairs and peered down into her kitchen there was a bear hopping in through the window. He went right to the refrigerator and opened the door and then deciding the barking dog was just rude it went back out the way it came in. A friend in the Baca was awakened to her dogs barking. Looking bleary eyed into her yard she discovers there's a bear eating her birdseed and chugging the fish emulsion she uses to feed her garden. After she and her dog harassed the bear for a bit it left destroying the fence in its hurried exit.

My friend went by the Crestone Mercantile the next day and bought one of the loud air horns they carry to discourage bears; by the way, they also carry pepper spray, an effective bear deterrent. The bears around here are Black Bears who may also appear cinnamon red or blond. Black Bears are generally harmless but, as with any large wild critter it is best to remain calm as if they see you get excited they will get excited too. According to the Great Sand Dunes National Park literature it is best to avoid direct eye contact with the bear and move away slowly. Speak softly so the bear knows you are there but don't yell.

Things that will get you in trouble with bears include bird feeders which are a huge attraction for bears. Hummingbird feeders are also a popular snack for bears. Bring all feeders in at night and store feed of all sorts including dog/cat food in a secure hard to get to place. The Outdoor News says, "Home owners and campers can be ticketed and taken to court for failing to remove items that attract bears. If bears do not find food they will move to where they can."



Kai Beetch Design

~ Blinds
~ Shades
~ Drapes
~ Repairs

Crestone
719-256-4498

Saguache County crime report

by Mary Lowers

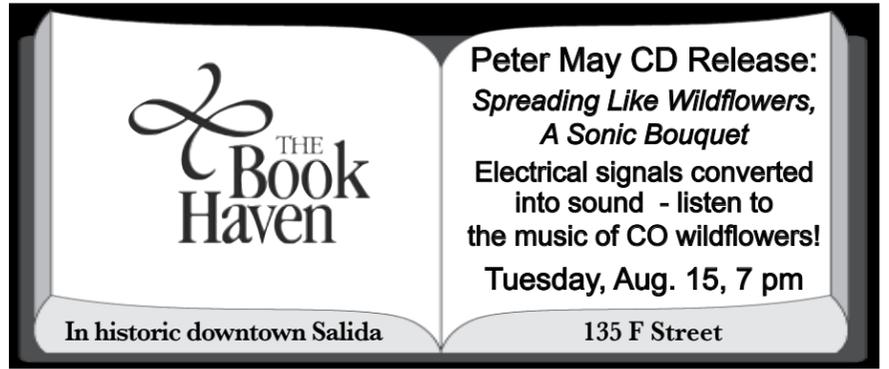
Summer is reaching its peak, the rain is back and folks are celebrating life in these long warm days. Unfortunately there are always those who go too far with partying and wind up in jail, in trouble and in the crime report.

A Del Norte man, 38, went to jail on Driving While under the Influence of drugs or alcohol (DUI) charges with no bail listed. A man from San Luis, AZ was jailed in Saguache on charges of DUI, felony menacing with a weapon, and harassment. His bail was set at \$5000. A Center man, 41, was jailed with \$3500 bail on charges including: DUI, violation of a restraining order, and possession of an illegal weapon. An Alamosa man, 25, was arrested in Villa Grove on DUI charges, no evidence of insurance, a passenger with an open container, and as a habitual DUI offender. He had no bail listed.

A Center man, 36, was jailed on failure to appear charges with bail set at \$1500. A Monte Vista man, 32, was also thrown in jail on failure to appear charges with no bail listed. A Center man, 32, is in jail with a bail amount of \$250 listed on failure to appear charges. This to me is like not wearing a seat belt, it is one of those crimes you can easily avoid . . . buckle that seat belt; appear for court avoids the cost time and hassle.

Lots of speeding tickets were written last month as people try to whizz through the county. I noticed in the past couple of months, citations for not wearing seatbelts and not stopping completely at stop signs have increased. So use cruise control and think to avoid the time and expense of a violation. It will make our increasingly busy roads safer.

Deputy Wayne Clarke told me that the Saguache County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) is investigating a home robbery in the Baca Grande. A resident who had been gone for nine months came home to find he'd been robbed! Clark informed that the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) continues to work with the SCSO to find out what happened to Khristal Resinger who has been missing from Crestone for over a year.



Peter May CD Release:
Spreading Like Wildflowers,
A Sonic Bouquet
Electrical signals converted
into sound - listen to
the music of CO wildflowers!
Tuesday, Aug. 15, 7 pm

In historic downtown Salida 135 F Street

Let's keep bears WILD!

Colorado Parks and Wildlife asks residents:
Take simple steps to avoid conflicts with bears



- 🐾 Keep garbage in a well-secured location. Only put out garbage on the morning of pickup. Clean garbage cans regularly to keep them odor free.
- 🐾 Use a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster. Make sure dumpsters are closed and the tops secured; don't allow trash to overflow.
- 🐾 If you don't have secure storage, put items that might become smelly into the freezer until trash day.
- 🐾 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.
- 🐾 Do not feed wildlife, such as deer, turkeys or small mammals.
- 🐾 Don't allow bears to become comfortable around your house. Yell at them, throw things at them, make noise to scare them off.
- 🐾 Secure compost piles. Bears are attracted to the scent of rotting food - and they'll eat anything.
- 🐾 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.
- 🐾 Do not keep food in your vehicle; roll up windows and lock the doors of your vehicles.
- 🐾 When camping, keep a clean camp; secure all food and coolers in a locked vehicle after you've eaten.
- 🐾 Talk to your neighbors and kids about being bear aware.
- 🐾 If you keep small livestock or pets, 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.

For more information please call the Monte Vista wildlife office at 1-719-587-6900



Saguache County News

by Sandia Belgrade

Is the County at a critical juncture?

The employee situation at the County is at a significant point and in danger of becoming seriously depleted. The Sheriff's Department is down two employees. Four people have left Road & Bridge, including one at the landfill. A public health nurse has quit as well as a social service case worker. The County is losing employees in key positions, and if the trend continues could result in a loss of critical services for residents.

Randal Arredondo, Road & Bridge Supervisor, said his department needs to hire, but it is hard to keep people because the County's pay scale is so low. At \$13/ hour it is hard to keep personnel motivated and positions attractive to those who have gained a commercial driver's license (CDL) which is required to be fully certified to handle heavy road equipment. (The Operator 1 positions are announced at www.saguachecounty.net).

The average salary for those with a CDL in other parts of the state is closer to \$17/hour. Commissioner Ken Anderson remarked that folks can go work at McDonalds. As background to the present situation, entry level salaries have been stagnant. Employees have received 3% cola increases, but there have been no merit increases which recognize job performance for several years. At last year's budget negotiations, the County did not make provisions for accommodating or benchmarking salaries to the reality of the market. The Commissioners have said that being a poor county requires this Spartan effort.

New budget, new possibilities

However, money has recently been added to the County coffers. Wendi Maez, Land Use Director, announced that so far this year the County has collected over \$125,387 in fees from growers which could amount to \$200,000 by the end of the year. The revenue has come from the State for marijuana applications and fees in the last 6 months, and notably from the imposition of an excise tax of 5%, which for some growers has been a hardship. The \$125,387 can be applied to administration costs and other general purposes of the County. In addition, approximately three

million dollars are in the County's fund balance. The annual budget review is coming up in August.

While Commissioner Jason Anderson noted that changes to the pay scale have a ripple effect, the domino effect of not acting on salaries is already having consequences in terms of services and morale. How will the Commissioners respond with this influx of revenue in the upcoming budget negotiations?

County to sell water at Leech Airport

Water, always a valuable and needed commodity, may soon be for sale at Leech Airport in Center. The County could supply businesses, including marijuana cultivators, with water. No one else is providing that service so the County is not competing with any company. The BOCC will decide what the water limit will be, and if it is better to accept credit cards, purchase a pre-paid card or have a variable speed pump with meter.

Use of grant funds clarified

Ammi Kohn came with Judith de Luca and Barbara Hoepner from Crestone representing Living Wisdom Senior Village. Kohn reported a significant change over the last few months. They are progressing more rapidly than they expected and moving from planning stage to serious intense negotiations for land purchase. He asked the BOCC if it was okay to use County Sales Tax Grant money if associated with land purchase. De Luca said they need to have a water expert to give information about the well. According to County Attorney Ben Gibbons, expenses associated with the land, such as wells, are still within the purview of planning if not used directly for purchase. With County Sales Tax Grants any change needs to be in a similar vein as what they requested. As a post script, a final report on the use of grant money is a prerequisite for future Sales Tax Grant awards.

New sales tax grants announced

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners will be taking grant applications for the next Sales Tax Grant cycle. In previous cycles county residents have received grants for much needed programs and projects in these eligible categories: Emergency Services/Public Health and Safety; Youth and Senior programs, projects, or organizations; or Renewable Energy projects/Business Opportunities and Job Creation. Applications are not difficult. Four copies of the grant application must be in by 3pm, Friday, August 11, 2017. Applications are available on the Saguache County website or you can contact the Saguache County

Administration office at 719-655-2231 to request a copy of the grant application.

Want to help the forest?

There is also money available to the counties through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Title II). The Saguache-Upper Rio Grande Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is seeking proposals for projects that enhance forest ecosystems or restore and improve land health and water quality on the Rio Grande, Gunnison, and nearby lands in Saguache, Rio Grande, Conejos, and Hinsdale Counties. Projects don't need to be on the national forest but could be cross country trails, those that benefit wildlife, or treating weeds along the roads leading to the national forest. They encourage nonprofits and youth groups. Project proposals must be submitted by August 11. The County will have about \$35,000. Contact Mike Blakeman, Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest, for more information regarding applications, at 719-852-6212.

Public housing smoking regulations

Evan Samora, Housing Director, says a definitive smoking policy will come into effect by January 2018. Presently tenants are not permitted to smoke inside, which affects approximately 20-49% of those who do smoke. Samora will address the effects of nicotine on units as it affects the County's investment as well health issues. He will use Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines which have been advocating for smoke free housing since 2009 because of the health benefits to residents. Their guidelines say public housing (PHA) must implement a "smoke-free" policy banning the use of prohibited tobacco products in all public housing living units, indoor common areas in public housing, and in PHA administrative office buildings. The smoke-free policy must extend to all outdoor areas up to 25 feet from the public housing and administrative office buildings. For Saguache public housing the cost and benefits of a smoking policy are compelling in terms of maintenance costs and a significant reduction in the risk of fires.

4-H member Kristine Hoffner takes first place

Valley 4-H member Kristine Hoffner of Saguache County, along with teammates from Gunnison County, won first place in the team Consumer Choices contest at the Colorado State 4-H Conference at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. "4-H has made me the leader and person I am today, and being able to compete on a team with three other talented

4-Hers and win was amazing," said Hoffner. "I am so excited to be going to nationals again." Hoffner was also inducted as the new district 4-H president at the event. In this role, she'll be representing the San Luis Valley on the State 4-H Officer Team, and helping plan youth leadership camps for Colorado 4-Hers. The County is a strong supporter of the 4-H youth development program, which includes life skills activities such as shooting sports, raising animals, and even robotics!

Quarterly access fees not being paid

Road & Bridge director Arredondo reported that access fees are not being paid. The County will be sending letters of notice, principally to marijuana growers, informing them that if the access fees are not paid by the time of their annual review, their conditional use permit (CUP) could be revoked. Businesses are charged access fees based upon acreage and traffic generation. The fees can be paid in installments.

Board of Equalization

County Assessor Peter Peterson's office received 249 protests from Saguache County property owners regarding their assessments. The Commissioners will meet as the County Board of Equalization July 1-Aug. 5 to hear the protests. Property owners can appeal to get their values corrected.

Social Services

Director Linda Warsh said Social Services will enter into a contract with Red Willow, a medical transport service company located in Alamosa. This will assure transportation services in cases of emergencies. Warsh also announced that Rian Johns of Crestone has been approved as an alternative counselor.

Colorado signs on to U.S. Climate Alliance

Gov. John Hickenlooper issued an executive order compelling a greenhouse gas emissions cut before 2025 by at least 26% below 2005 levels. Hickenlooper also declared Colorado will sign on to the U.S. Climate Alliance of states and companies shifting more quickly to wind and solar energy. This move added western heft to widening efforts to ease the impacts of rising temperatures by exceeding greenhouse gas reduction targets set in the international Paris climate treaty. Jason Anderson said, "Nice: makes me glad to work for this state."

The other commissioners seemed to concur.

Landfill

Bill Burch, who handles recycling in the County, announced that Waste Free SLV has incorporated as Waste Free SLV Recycling, a 501(c)3 non-profit. Randy Arredondo of Road and Bridge said they are still trying to have Burch abide by the boundaries of the landfill.



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Fifty attend POA town hall meeting on Emergency Services

by John Rowe

A town hall meeting on the state of Baca Grande Fire and Ambulance services was held on June 29 at the POA meeting hall. This was sponsored by the POA and had a large panel of area experts that fielded questions from the audience of fifty for the last half of the meeting. POA Board members Steve Dossenback, Matie Belle Lakish, Sugandha Brooks, and Joanna Theriault were present with Bill Strathearn still out because of illness. President Dossenback chaired the meeting that included POA General Manager Ayla Hoovers and Baca Emergency Services Chief Darrick Garcia.

The expert panel consisted of Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warwick, Saguache District Fire Chief Wes Moores, Saguache County Ambulance Board member Lisa Hammel, Saguache County EMS Administrator Julia Hammel, Saguache County Medical Director Dr. Pat Thompson, Fire Management Officer Chad Lewis of the US Forest Service, and Fire Management Officer Paul Duarte, Department of Fire Protection Control.

A current state of of the Baca Emergency Services report was given by Ms. Hoovers and Chief Garcia. The news was all good as the Fire Department has new recruits and while more volunteers are being welcomed, Chief Garcia considers the department well enough staffed to handle the normal range of calls. A new paramedic and two new EMT Basics have been added also and, although none live here locally, all will be taking regular shifts every week. A late-breaking piece of news is that a new Baca resident with 27 years of ambulance experience who and is a full paramedic will be joining the service and will be available for shifts as needed. As Chief Garcia has been on call for 45 straight days, this is welcome news indeed. This should ensure that the standard of near 100% full paramedic coverage (ability to administer drugs when necessary) on all calls with sufficient EMT support that the Baca has enjoyed for many years should continue unabated. Chief Garcia also clarified that while all personnel in the Ambulance Department will be encouraged to join the Fire Department as well, no one will be

required to do so.

The US Forest representative, Chad Lewis, assured everyone that all local fire departments and all resources that the federal government has in the area would always be available to the Baca in case of a large or even moderate forest fire. He stressed that all the powers that be are keenly aware of fire potential in the area and are very ready to move in any timed it is deemed necessary.

Most audience questions were directed at Dr. Thompson, whose job it is to set standards on local ambulance services throughout the valley. Many in the audience wanted to know why ambulance patients no longer had the choice to go to the hospital in Salida and now have to go to the hospital in Alamosa. He stressed that it is his job to decide what is medically better for the patient and the community and he has decided all Baca patients will go to Alamosa as long as he is the Medical Director for Saguache County because Alamosa is a much shorter turnaround and leaves the Baca without an ambulance for less time and therefore, less vulnerable to back-to-back emergencies with no one here to respond. He also notes that Alamosa is a Level 3 Trauma Center while Salida is only a Level 4 and Alamosa is able to handle a broader range of medical emergencies. The objections from some in the audience were enthusiastic but Dr. Thompson was firm; all Baca and Crestone ambulance patients will be transported to Alamosa and the local emergency services people will have no say in the matter.

The meeting adjourned promptly at 8pm and all were thanked for their attendance and concern.



The POA sponsored a town hall meeting on the state of Baca Grande Fire and Ambulance Services June 29. A large panel of area experts fielded questions from a full house in attendance. photo by Lori Nagel

POA News: Much-needed ambulance staff recruited

by John Rowe

July's regularly scheduled POA Board meeting was held on July 20 at 6pm at the POA Hall. Board President Steve Dossenback presided over the meeting that had four of five Board members present, with Bill Strathearn still absent due to illness. Around a dozen audience members were present as well. The Board was in executive session until 6:30 when the public portion of the meeting began.

The Member Forum included commentary on the need for affordable housing in the community. Three-bedroom two-bath homes in good repair routinely rent for \$1300-\$1600/month and even small one- to two-bedroom homes are \$800-\$1000. Local realtors have stated that the number of available homes for sale in the area has dropped from norms of 90-125 homes available to just over 20, with all this activity happening just this spring.

One member stressed the need for new homes incorporating food production as a necessary step for sustainability in the Crestone/Baca locale.

The big news in department reports was a statement made by Ayla Hoovers that two new experienced EMT Basics were hired and two more experienced full paramedics were also added, and all four will be taking regular shifts every week. This will ease the strain of staffing dramatically from severe personnel shortages that occurred earlier this year. Well staffed ambulances that have been the norm here for the last 25 years should now be able to continue unabated. Ayla stressed that Ambulance Chief Darrick Garcia

will continue to look for qualified people to beef up his staff even further.

Other news included a report by Maintenance Head Shawn Holmer that all roads in the Baca are passable, even after all the record-setting rain of late. Repairs from all the rain and unclogging drain pipes will be incorporated into the regular road maintenance schedule. Land Use reported slow but measurable progress in the ongoing attempt to have egregious community standards violators clean up their homesites. The number of properties turned over to POA lawyers has dropped from seventeen to fifteen, with more homeowner action expected. The fire department will structure greenbelt mitigation to allow residents to collect stacks of the resulting firewood, thus helping out citizens with free wood and saving the POA significant money, not having to remove all that deadfall.

Notable new business included a discussion on changing quorum requirements for any POA votes. Colorado state law stipulates that 50% plus one vote of all eligible voters vote for whatever measure is on the ballot. That means that more "yes" votes are needed than total voters ever vote in a POA election. The only exception to this would be to take an issue that does not ever meet quorum requirements to a judge and ask for relief from this law. This can only happen on a case-by-case basis and cannot be used for any overall strategy to get around this law. The upshot is that it remains virtually impossible to change POA governing documents and even to change one is a laborious and expensive proposition.

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Board of Trustees meeting
The July 10 meeting was called to order at 9:30am and adjourned at 5:04 pm.

The Board approved amending the agenda to include a one-hour break for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 and to move the Attorney's report to begin after the break.

The Board approved the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting on June 12.

The Board approved the Treasurer's financial report and to pay the bills, including an unanticipated bill from the Crestone Mercantile that was related to planting the flower beds.

The Town Clerk submitted her report but was not present as she was attending classes for clerk certification at Regis University.

The Board accepted the resignation of Cristina Cabeza-Kinney from the Planning Commission.

Burt Wadman, the project coordinator for the FEMA-funded drainage project, reported that there was \$13,000 left from the FEMA funds that needed to be used this summer, and the Trustees discussed areas that could be improved with culverts and the importance of working on the spillway in conjunction with the US Forestry Department and Corps of Engineers.

Attorney's report—discussions and motions

The Board formally adopted Resolution #008-2017, which was presented for amending the Rules and Procedures during meetings to change the order of agenda items for future regular Board meetings.

The public needs to be aware that all regular Board meetings will begin at 9:30am on the second Mon-

day of each month and that the staff reports, new items, old business items and Planning Commission updates will precede the Attorney's report.

The Code Enforcement Officer, Benjamin Byer, discussed enforcing the law in conjunction with assistance from the Saguache County Sheriff's office and paying for coverage as needed by the hour. The Trustees made a motion and unanimously voted to promote a 3-step process that involves sheriff personnel as backup for the Town Code Enforcer, writing traffic tickets for traffic court, and finally writing tickets for Town Court.

The Board approved a motion to pursue legal action regarding the unfinished and abandoned building on 253 W. Golden Ave., which was previously determined to be a nuisance and fire hazard.

The current applicants for a retail marijuana store license requested that the Board alter four items from the marijuana licensing regulations in Crestone's Resolution #013-2016 and make the Town's rules match the state minimums. These included deleting the following: the need for signage to state that selling marijuana is against federal law, old inventory requirements, and the requiring of personal information from purchasers. The Trustees approved a motion to draft amendments to the regulations.

Miscellaneous information

The Town would like to remind property owners to continue to weed-eat or mow tall weeds and grasses on their properties that harbor adult mosquitos and for fire prevention purposes. At this time



Raining again! Lori Nagel captured water running through her garden. A series of heavy rains have caused gullies to run, some flash flooding and road damage, especially in the Baca Grande. Town and POA road crews have been kept busy channeling water and repairing roads. Hwy. 285 at Saguache was even closed for a while on July 25 due to flash flooding. The upside is fire danger is low and the landscape green! photo by Lori Nagel

of the year, it is important to eliminate "cheat grass" (*Bromus tectorum*) as well, due to its extreme flammability.

The "Meet-the-Board Mondays" sessions are no longer scheduled, but the public may contact the Trustees via their emails as posted on the town's website at www.townofcrestone.org.

Town Hall office hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm, and we are closed on Fridays.

Regular Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, starting at 9:30am 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 are kept to a maximum of ten minutes.

The Planning Commission meetings are also held in the Town Hall Meeting Room the first Mon-

day of each month at 6pm.

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

You may request to have agendas and approved minutes sent to you directly via email each month; please join our listserv by contacting the Town Hall 719-256-4313 with your name and email address.

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

A Certified Notary Public is available during regular office hours, and the cost to notarize each signature is \$5 as per the Colorado Secretary of State guidelines. A current and valid photo ID with legible signature must be presented. Examples of IDs include a state-issued driver's license or passport.

Property assessments

continued from page 1

of Valuation have been notified of change of value. For those accounts that did not file a protest, they will receive a letter correcting the value of improvements on their property. "

Peterson estimates that as many as 500 additional properties could have been affected by the data glitch, but did not receive protests or complaints. Property owners who are affected by the glitch containing incorrect data and who did not protest their valuation will be sent letters with corrected valuations for improvements on residential properties. No appeal is necessary. If recipients wish to protest the changed valuation and file for an abatement, they can do so when Property Tax Notices are sent in January 2018.

Additionally, Peterson has identified another 2,038 properties with incorrect valuations due to land value data that was omitted when County records were converted from the old appraisal software system to the current Tyler Technologies system (aka EagleWeb).

The County Board of Equalization met in a public hearing late

July and approved the changes in valuation based the Assessor's addition of omitted values to affected properties. In accordance with statutory requirements, property owners so affected will receive a letter with the changes in property valuation due to adding the omitted values.

If property owners disagree with this action of the County Board, they may file an appeal with the State Board of Assessment Appeals or the District Court, or request a binding arbitration hearing. The appeal must be made within 30 days of the date of the County Board's mailed decision.

Cleanup of Saguache County property assessment rolls has been an ongoing process instigated by the State Property Tax Division issuing reappraisal orders in 2013.

Curt Settle, Deputy Property Tax Administrator, commends the current Assessor, Peter Peterson, for recognizing the source of the problem and taking steps to correct the problems in the data coding. The State Board of Equalization will receive the audit for Saguache County this fall and it will be reviewed to assure that these corrections were enough.

The Assessor's Office welcomes any questions and are available at the courthouse from 8am to 4pm or by telephone at 655-2521.

Crestone Saturday Market
10am to Mid-Afternoon

- > Local Gems & Rocks
- > Produce & Plants
- > Handmade Jewelry
- > Live Music
- > Cosmetics & Oils
- > Vintage & Antiques
- > Homemade Snacks & Drinks and MORE!

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FREE CONCERTS IN COLE PARK, ALAMOSA

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- JULY 9 - THE VOGTS SISTERS (BLUEGRASS/FOLK)
- JULY 16 - BIG SANDY & HIS FLY-RITE BOYS (ROCKABILLY)
- JULY 23 - CORDOVAS (AMERICANA)
- JULY 30 - THE GIVING TREE BAND (AMERICAN ROCK-N-ROLL)
- AUG 13 - SLV BIG BAND (JAZZ & BIG BAND)
- AUG 20 - THE GENETICS (PROGRESSIVE ROCK)
- AUG 27 - DON RICHMOND & THE RIFTERS (AMERICANA)

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CRESTFEST is now

With new & improved offerings

CRESTFEST will be held Friday and Saturday August 4 and 5 at the Challenger Golf Course. Advance ticket prices are \$12 for Adults and Seniors for Friday and \$27 for Adults and Seniors for Saturday. Teens will be \$5 for Friday and \$10 for Saturday. Under 12 are free. Camping is \$21 for the weekend. Tickets are available on line at crestfest.org or call us at 719-256-4533.

CRESTFEST will have great music, food, libations, arts & crafts, a raffle and an old fashioned mid-way carnival with games, rides, contests, and outdoor activities. 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. We will still have our traditional men's and women's wood chopping and limbo and pie-eating contests. CRESTFEST will also act as a showcase of presenters who participate, or plan to, in our Youth Enrichment Program school performances. Our Arts & Crafts vendors will have everything from clothes, hammocks, shoes and hats to massage, crystals and jewelry. We also have great food with a nice variety of choices like pizza, Greek, Mexican, organic and Thai. There will be coffee, lemonade, baked goods and ice cream. We have extremely likable libations with a mix of micro-brews and mojitos. New this year will be wine from Vino Salida. Our festival booth will be selling T-shirts, hats and mugs plus CDs from the performing artists.

We are very excited about our entertainment line-up this

year. Each day will start off with our very best locals. On Friday night The Alcapones take the stage bringing their high energy Ska/Reggae dance grooves. This six-piece group features drums, bass, guitar, and three talented horn players who switch around between trumpet, trombone, saxophone and clarinet. Come get your dance on. Saturday features comedy gypsy swing from Zoltan and the Fortune Tellers. Zoltan is an accomplished guitarist who plays in the style of Django Reinhardt. You'll need to be able to listen, laugh and dance all at the same time. Next we have 2MX2 who are a positive message, bilingual hip-hop group that we've produced six times so far in SLV schools. They are young, full of energy and even do some break dancing. They will be followed by one of the hottest Latin/salsa fusion bands in Denver, Onda. This is a 9-piece full blast band featuring three horns, all kinds of percussion, beautiful female vocals, bass, guitar and keyboards.

Our Saturday headliner will feature full-fledged funk by Groovement. From Arkansas, this 6-piece funk-rock band is well traveled and tight. Front man Alex Carr was a 2011 American Idol contestant. 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. Come check them out and get sweaty.

So, here we go, hang on tight and enjoy! For information and tickets go to crestfest.org or call 719-256-4533. See you there!

Student scholarships continue

Applications accepted all year

Crestone Performances Inc. has redesigned our scholarship program. We now will accept applications any time of year for San Luis Valley students who wish to further their education in the Performing Arts which include music, theater, voice, dance, etc.

The applications will be reviewed monthly and monies must be used for performing arts expense, such as instruments, lessons, camps, workshops, etc. The scholarship requests can range from \$25 to \$500 and students may apply multiple times during the year and be funded up to \$500 total per calendar year. Applicants must be in 8th through 12th grade with prodigy exceptions possible.

We are not limiting ourselves to the total we will grant in scholarships annually. We would rather see what the demand is and raise funds accordingly. This new approach will create flexibility and a larger pool of funds for a greater number of students.

The application is online at crestfest.org or call 719-256-4533 for an application and information. If you would like to contribute directly to the scholarship program, you can do so on our web site, crestfest.org, call the office at 719-256-4533, email us at crestfest@crestfest.org or mail a contribution to: CPI Scholarship, P.O. Box 6, Crestone CO 81131.

Crestone Performances Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit community service organization. Our mission is to create a positive cultural, educational, and economic impact in the San Luis Valley by providing affordable access to presentations representing diverse traditions and cultures.



Blue Rooster will be crowing Saturday at 11.

Local lineup for CRESTFEST

Local bands come out to entertain

Plan Be

"Plan Be" kicks off CRESTFEST Friday at 4pm. They play a form of Gypsy Mountain Rock with melodic ascensions and rhythmic thump alongside searing lyrics of the good life, the challenges of life and fellowship with the earth. The unique sounds of Plan Be come from the diverse backgrounds and instrumentation of this energetic trio. Nirvana-style acoustic guitar meld with Django Reinhardt-style banjo, all laid across dancehall bass and drums. Their songs range from Tom Petty-type sing-a-long singles, to gypsy opuses, to hip hop rock, to trance beat bluegrass. Plan Be have been jaw-dropping audiences from their hometown range of Crestone, Salida, and Buena Vista for 4 years. Come check out the buzz.

Stimulus

"Stimulus" is up next on Friday at 6:15. This high-energy dance band has a new CD and it rocks! A Stimulus show is a journey with the latitude to go anywhere like Rock, EDM, Reggae, Country, Hip-Hop, Blues or Metal, and to use whatever means necessary to get there like bass, drums, guitars, keyboards, synthesizers, computer samples and midi triggers. Stimulus weaves a seamless blending of original songwriting and covers into an exceptional musical experience. Don't miss the Friday!



The Sai Sisters sing on Saturday.

The Sai Sisters

Saturday morning at 10:30 will feature an opening song from The Sai Sisters, Meryl Ennis and Karen Chenoweth. They will perform the song "May the Love We're Sharing". This song is repeated daily around the world and spreads love, light, joy and world peace. It's nice to have Meryl back on stage as she was the very first Festival Director back in 1999. It's also good to have peace and prayers before the party.

Blue Rooster

Blue Rooster takes the stage at 11am Saturday to kick-start the party. They play a mix of blues, classic rock, R&B and originals. The musicians in Blue Rooster are well seasoned road warriors who have been playing throughout Colorado and beyond for decades. Originating from Denver, Detroit, Miami and Los Angeles, these talented musicians met up in Crestone and, lo and behold, they dig each other, found a groove and rejoice in playing great dance music. Get ready to celebrate!



Plan Be will be opening on Friday.

2017 CRESTFEST schedule

Friday, August 4

4:00-5:15 Plan Be
 6:15-7:30 Stimulus
 8:30-10:00 The Alcapones

Saturday, August 5

10:30-10:40 Sai Sisters
 11:00-12:15 Blue Rooster
 12:30-1:00 Pie eating
 1:15-2:30 Zoltan & The Fortune Tellers
 2:30-3:00 Women's woodchopping,
 2MX2
 3:00-4:00 Men's woodchopping, Limbo contest
 4:00-5:00 Onda
 5:00-6:30 Salida Circus, Scholarship, Raffle drawing
 8:00-9:30 Groovement



Zoltan, performing Saturday afternoon, is an accomplished guitarist who plays in the style of Django Reinhardt. You'll need to be able to listen, laugh and dance all at the same time.



Volunteer now for CRESTFEST

Volunteers needed

3 hour shift gets you in for the day

Volunteers can now sign-up to work CRESTFEST online at crestfest.org. Since we have added carnival games to our menu, we need more volunteers than ever. Shifts are 3 hours long, which gets you in for a day. Areas of need are: parking, trash, carney games, other contests, box office, merchandise tent, stage construction and stage decorating, setup and teardown. Please call our office for more information at 719-256-4533 or go on line at crestfest.org!



2MX2 has been performing in local schools this past year and will return to CRESTFEST Saturday afternoon.



The festival crowd is a happy crowd.

Get on board

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 the San Luis Valley by providing affordable access to presentations representing diverse traditions and cultures. CPI is a 501(c)3 community service organization now in its 16th year. For more information please peruse our web site and call us at 719-256-4533. Thank you!

Buy raffle tickets on-line now

CRESTFEST is having a cool raffle and for the first time, you can buy tickets on line at crestfest.org. There will be five prizes and if you win you pick what you want from what's left. The drawing will be held at CRESTFEST August 5 at 7:30pm. You need not be present to win, but why not boogie and be there!

First off is the famous perennial favorite, a brand new Martin acoustic electric guitar worth \$900! It comes with a hard shell case, Fishman active electronics and a full warranty. Next, we have our Hot Springs package worth over \$600. Hot Springs included are Orvis Hot Springs in Ridgeway, the Sand Dunes Swimming Pool in Hooper, Valley View at Orient Land Trust and Joyful Journey



Another fabulous Martin guitar for this year's raffle.

Hot Springs in Villa Grove. Next is our Destination package worth over \$600. You will receive one night for two in the deluxe suite at the historic Windsor Hotel in Del Norte plus concert tickets to Wildwood sound in Del Norte. Then there are overnights at both Valley View and Joyful Journey Hot Springs. There are also tickets for two for a performance at the Gunnison Arts Center. Next is a \$500 shopping spree at Kristi Mountain Sports in Alamosa. This can be used towards any product or products from their store including hiking gear, ski gear, climbing gear or a mountain bike. The last prize is new, worth over \$600 and is all about food. We have gift certificates for Restaurants & Groceries. Stores included are Valley Food Co-op in Alamosa, Simple Foods in Salida and Elephant Cloud in Crestone. Restaurants include the Crestone Brewery, Cloud Station and the Desert Sage in Crestone, Amicas in Salida, Milagros Coffee House in Alamosa and the Saguache Fourth Street Diner.

Ticket prices are \$7 for one, 3 for \$15 or 5 for \$20 and only 1,000 tickets will be printed. Tickets can be purchased on-line right now at crestfest.org. or during CRESTFEST August 4 and 5, at our raffle booth



Get a mountain bike from the CRESTFEST raffle.

or from any of our CPI board members. Board members are: Steve Westra, Aaron Conrad, Cheryl Rowe, Sarah Koehn Fry, Eli Dokson, Peter Taylor, Don Richmond, and Dennis Neuhaus. They're all carrying, so grab 'em and get 'em! You can also call the office at 719-256-4533.

Don't miss out—get your tickets now! Proceeds go towards Crestone Performances Inc. a 501(c)3 community service organization. CPI has produced and subsidized 199 school presentations and given out over \$5,000 in student performance scholarships, plus CPI annually produces a festival now 19 years groovin'. We also provide a variety of assistance to other community endeavors and organizations throughout the year. Thank you and good luck!



Save the date! The R. Carlos Nakai Quartet is coming to Shumei Sept. 8

The world-renowned R. Carlos Nakai Quartet is coming to Shumei International Institute Friday Sept. 8 at 7pm. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Kick off your Energy Fair weekend with beautiful music! Keep an eye out for more information from Shumei regarding the Nakai event. For more information on the Energy Fair visit their FB page at Crestone Energy Fair.

SLV hemp fabric woven for national project

As a collaboration between Fibershed, Rezolana Institute and Adams State University's Community Partnerships, hemp has been grown, decorticated, blended with wool, spun and woven into fabric that provides a San Luis Valley fabric sample in Fibershed's national research project. By blending hemp with wool, textiles are created that keep our bodies warm in the winter, cool in the summer, allow our skin to breath and create fabrics that last a long time. Hemp is biomass dense. Hemp fiber strains are able to produce upwards of 4,000 pounds per acre of useful textile and cordage fibers. Textile grade hemp fiber is 12-20% of the weight of the plant. The remainder of the plant can be used for hemp oil extraction from the flowering head, and the remaining woody core can be turned into building materials, bio-plastics and oil spill clean-up mulches.

Fibershed's mission is to "develop regional fiber systems that build soil and protect the health of our biosphere." The project began in 2010 with a commitment by its founder, Rebecca Burgess, to develop and wear a prototype wardrobe whose dyes, fibers and labor were sourced from a region no larger than 150 miles from the project's headquarters. Burgess founded Fibershed's 501(c)3 to address and educate the public on the environmental, economic and social benefits of de-centralizing the textile supply chain. Through Fibershed's funding source, local weaver Fawn Milton-Tatro earned income by weaving for this project. Milton-Tatro experimented with many different patterns and weaving techniques to produce high quality samples for Fibershed. For more information, contact ASU Community Partnerships at 719-587-7372.

Shumei International Institute

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



Art Symposia, Exhibitions, Concerts and Special Events

8:00AM and 6:00PM Sampai (prayer services) are always open to the public art gallery and site tours available every day from 9 -5

See the community calendar or visit www.shumeicrestone.org for an up to date schedule

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

Artists in Action event at the Crestone Artisans Gallery Aug. 19

Come join the Crestone Artisans Gallery for a new event that exhibits "Artists in Action." An intimate group of gallery members will demonstrate techniques of various mediums on August 19 from 4 to 6pm. They will be offering fruit and sangria along with live music. A special drawing will be offered for a piece of pottery by Lynn Drake.

Artist of the Month is jewelry designer Sasha Lovelace of Lovelace Designs. Sasha developed a passion for crystals and gemstones in her college days. Her jewelry creations are one-of-a-kind and they are influenced by her appreciation for the southwest, oriental, classic and romantic styles. Working with pearls, zircons, coral and precious stones along with silver or pewter for accentuation is preferred.

Sasha likes to create jewelry that emphasizes the beauty of the wearer. She offers a diverse line of necklaces with unique pendants along with earrings, bracelets and

more. Come see her necklace collection inspired by nature with elegance, and arranged in an array of colors. You will find displayed whimsical dragonflies, elephants, deer, flowers and more. Whether shopping for yourself or buying a gift for a special loved one, Lovelace Designs offers fine creations that complete an outfit while fitting most budgets.



Earrings designed by Sasha Lovelace.

CRESTONE ARTISANS GALLERY
FINE ART & GIFTS

Corner of Cottonwood & Galena
in Downtown Crestone
719-256-5280

Sunday-Thursday 10-5
Friday & Saturday 10-6

We represent 24 local artists
& craftspersons
Thank You for shopping locally!

f CRESTONEARTISANS GALLERY
CRESTONEARTISANS GALLERY.ORG

If you are a resident or summer traveler, be sure to swing by and browse the variety of works from over 20 local artists. The styles and mediums are as unique as Crestone. Whether you are looking to take home a special piece that represents the region, sneaking a glimpse of any debuted works or just visiting to chat with the artists in residence, our gallery is represented by a fine working co-op of artists. Collectively, they create for the love and dedicate through diligent volunteering to enhance the artistic vibe of this small and talented community.

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2017 Salida Studio Tour

The 2017 Salida Studio Tour is a biennial event showcasing 22 of some of the finest artists and craftspeople in Salida in 19 studios on August 12, 10am-6pm, and August 13, 10am-2pm. The artists welcome the public by opening their studios to share the hands-on techniques of their work, which will be available to purchase as well. Art in all forms: paintings, printmaking, wood turnings, sculptures, clocks, mixed media, glass blowing, fiber, tintype photography and more. Visit www.SalidaStudioTour.weebly.com to view artists and tour map.



Bruce Turnbull demos at his glass blowing studio.

Saguache Arts Festival to be held August 19—art, music, food

Join us in Saguache for our 8th annual Arts Festival on Saturday, August 19. This year's festival will feature more than 20 artists and crafters, with music and food throughout downtown Saguache.

The festivities will run from 10am to 5pm. Artwork will be on view in galleries, shops, studios, and outside, with various media demonstrations throughout the day and a photography competition held at the Methodist Hall.

New participants this year include Ramblin' Roy with his assemblage sculptures and Ruby Creek Press' photographic postcards of Saguache. Old favorites include Saguache's award-winning fiber artists and quilters.

Visit Hauck/Pedersen, in business in Saguache for over two decades, showcasing figurative expressionist art. Kelsey Hauck displays paintings, collage, sculpture, hundreds of works on paper, and antiques throughout her 1886 storefront building. Hauck has lived throughout the Southwest and has traveled widely in Europe. She came to Saguache in 1993 with her late husband, Doug Pedersen. Pedersen and Hauck met in 1966 in New York City when he hired her at the Whitney Museum of American Art's first Education Department. Both artists have a strong interest in philosophy, classical music, education, and organic food. Their artwork deals with the human condition.



Hauck/Pedersen Studio in Saguache.

Saguache Arts Festival maps will be available throughout downtown. The Saguache Hotel will display art and antiques, 4th Street Diner will feature local artists and always-amazing pie. Antiques Etc. will have eclectic antiques and local glass art. The Fentons will do a live pottery demonstration at their studio on San Juan around the corner from the Village Pub, serving up pizza, pasta and a full bar. The Magpie features Judith Page's mixed media artwork and artifacts from Africa and the Middle East. The Range will exhibit painting by Gaby Wolodarski, an artist from Montevallo, Alabama. Around the corner visit Smith Market Gallery to see the work of Byron Williams, maker of baskets and embellished gourds. Across the street from Smith Market is Teri Rill's studio, with a tree trunk carved into a bouquet. More artists and crafters will be set up at tables throughout the downtown area.

The 8th Annual Saguache Arts Festival is sponsored by the Saguache Chamber of Commerce.

SALIDA

2017

STUDIO TOUR

Aug 12 - 10am - 6pm
Aug 13 - 10am - 2pm

Watch the Artists at Work
Paintings: oils, acrylics, pastels, watercolors: encaustics, drawings, mixed media, fiber art, stained glass, wood, sculpture, glass blowing, tintype photography & more

22 Professional and Well-Known Artists in 19 Studios in and around Salida

Visit Website for Map & Info:
www.salidastudiotour.weebly.com

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Why not go out on a limb?
Schedule **your** Crestone Art Studio Visit today!

crestoneartists.com/on-call.html

Low Tech? Call 719 256-5442

Many Nations... Saguache Powwow

Pow Wow/Saturday, August 26
(sponsored by the Town of Saguache)
Contact-Ruth Horn (719) 580-5946

Fall Festival & Quilt Show Saturday, September 16
(presented by Saguache Chamber of Commerce)
Contact-Carita Ginn (719) 655-2824

at Otto Mears Park & Saguache Community Bldg.

Please consider donating a gift certificate or other item for the silent auction at the Fall Festival. This is the Chamber's only annual fundraiser.

Special thanks to Saguache County Commissioners for funding.
Vendor form available online at www.saguachechamber.org

An Annual Traditional Intertribal Event
One Community!

Saguache Art Festival

Saturday August 19 2017

10am - 5pm

Sponsored by the Saguache Chamber of Commerce
www.saguachechamber.org

The Garden as Art: An-art-in-the-garden tour August 13

by *Matie Belle Lakish*

August is a wonderful month for the garden! All the vegetables and fruits are coming to maturity and flowers are blooming. Mosquitoes have vacated the premises and walking in the garden with friends is a real treat. The Crestone-Baca Resiliency Food Group is collaborating with gardeners and artists within our community to bring you a visual and scensual treat: A garden and art tour, complete with locally grown food plants, aromatic and visually enticing flowers, as well as the creative endeavors of

many of our local artists. We hope you will join us.

The tour will take place on Sunday afternoon, August 13, from 1 to 5pm. Everyone is invited to participate, and the event is free. Participants are asked to go to the Crestone Artisans Gallery on the corner of Galena and Cottonwood to find a guide and map of the gardens, and to view the work of some of our local artists, as well as the gallery gardens and town park. Participants may then go to the gardens located on the map to see what our gardeners have been doing over the summer and visit with the artists that are displaying their work in the gardens.

The Crestone-Baca Resiliency Food Security Action Group's mission is to "Enable food security for the entire Crestone/Baca community by 2020, by producing one-third of food needs locally and securing two-thirds from throughout the SLV." Part of that mission is to encourage and support local food production by helping residents to grow at least some of their own food.

As a long-time gardener myself, I know it can be a daunting task to grow food at 8000 feet in a desert. Those of us who do it would like to share ideas and skills by encouraging visits to local gardens where you can view techniques and get ideas for working with our challenging soils and climate. Gardeners will be present to talk about their challenges and successes and share techniques.



Matie Belle Lakish in her beautiful garden. The Garden as Art Tour will combine works of art with the beauty and productivity of our gardens. photo by Ron Dessain



The Garden as Art: An Art in the Garden Tour

Sunday, August 13, 2017
1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Visit local gardens and view local artists work.

Learn techniques for gardening in a challenging climate.

Meet at Crestone Artisans Gallery, corner of Cottonwood and Galena St. in Crestone to receive a map for the self-guided tour.

On The Garden as Art tour you will find at least one artist exhibiting in each garden space. It may be that the gardener him/herself is an artist, in which case you will be blessed to see the talents of the artist in two or more mediums. Or, as in my garden, other artists will be collaborating with the gardeners to bring you beauty in another format along with the natural beauty of the plants.

Some of the artists will be ones that you have seen in the Crestone Artisan's Gallery, or at one of the local exhibit spaces. However, you will likely discover some talent that you have not encountered before. For certain, you will see works that are new and different, and visit with

the artists in a different setting. You may find the perfect piece to take home or give to a friend. Or perhaps you will hear that special song sung or played by a local musician in the ambiance of a garden. Tuck a folding chair in your car just in case. And don't forget your camera.

If you are a gardener or an artist and would like to participate in the tour, please call Matie Belle Lakish at 719-256-4252 or Ginny Ducale at 719-849-8081. We hope to have about ten gardens with artists on the tour. We, gardeners and artists alike, look forward to sharing with you what we have been working on over the summer. Come out and enjoy!

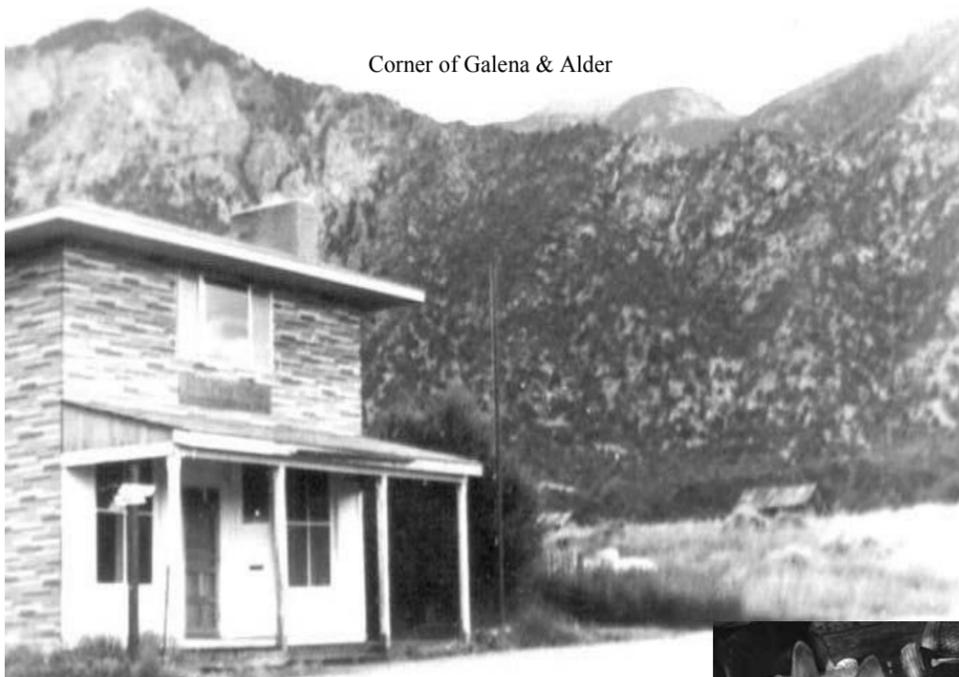
CRESTONE MERCANTILE

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

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

Bob's Place: 182 E Galena Ave
Opening One of These Days!

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



Corner of Galena & Alder



Elephant Cloud

Dog Days of Summer
Beat the heat with Cold Drinks and Ice Cream!!! Keep the oven off and get rotisserie chicken & baby back ribs!



*Some images may not be actual dogs

We would like to thank the community for its continued support of our businesses

The 27th Annual Crestone Energy Fair Sept. 8-10

Resilient regeneration

Crestone continues to celebrate with its 27th consecutive year of hosting a local sustainability fair. The weekend will include educational presentations, community symposiums, unifying and harmonizing ceremonies, film viewings, hands-on demonstrations, music and guided home tours.

Sponsorship and vendor opportunities are still available with basic 10'x10' vendor booth packages starting at \$25 and ranging through our Abundance Level sponsorship of \$350. Submissions need to be received by August 15 to ensure your business ad and logos are promoted in our printed materials.

Reception & film showing

Friday will begin with a welcome reception to help attendees plan their weekend experience. This will be followed by the film, *Within Reach*, sponsored by the Fellowship for Intentional Communities at the Cloud Station. *Within Reach* is a film about a couple's bicycle journey across the U.S. in search of sustainable communities. Visit our FB page at Crestone Energy Fair to view a trailer. Friday night at 7pm the Shumei International Institute will host the brilliant Native American flutist, Carlos Nakai. Contact Shumei directly for tickets at 719-256-5284. To close the evening, the Crestone Brewery will host a CD release party for our very own local gypsy mountain rock band, Plan BE. Come out and support these amazing artists on their first original release. Experience the melodic ascensions, rhythmic thump and searing lyrics

of the good life, the strife of life, and the fellowship with the earth that flows from this assemblage.

Music & demonstrations

Saturday will be a day of music, education, community symposiums and hands-on building demonstrations. Worldchangers.us will lead us in a Cacao Ceremony and Amazonian breathwork at 10:30am in Little Pearl Park. You'll find a variety of vendors and social activities back-dropped by an array of local music and healing practices throughout the park. The event will offer opportunities to interact with Resiliency HUB members and local leaders to share your opinions and insights towards our collective future. These interactions are the driving



Visit homes under construction and see the inner workings of what it takes.



Beautiful cordwood and reclaimed materials home from a previous Guided Home Tour. photo by Thomas Shultz

force that guide the Resiliency members towards community-supported directives. Your participation is critical.

C o u p l e these activities with the always-popular Building Demonstrations Area where you'll observe multiple building systems, including earth bag, rammed earth tires, straw bale and papercrete along with a few possible surprises. The day will close with a community

in the heart of it all. Walk through an earthship, touch a rammed earth wall, experience natural plasters and the abundance created by passive solar designs. This year we are excited to be partnering with the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) National Solar Tour. The National Solar Tour is the largest annual grassroots solar event in the nation. It allows visitors to learn, engage and be a part of the solution to current energy challenges.

The Crestone and Baca tours will showcase alternative materials, off-grid living, energy creation, unique architecture and repurposed materials. We are likely the most comprehensive collection of working examples available within a single community. See for yourself how it all works. We are asking the usual \$15pp donation for tours. Visit ScSEED.org to see photos and video from past home tours. To learn more about the ASES National Solar Tour locations, visit NationalSolarTour.org.

Crestone is proactively asking, answering and, most importantly, acting on the next series of big questions that stimulate our culture's evolution towards an abundant future. For more information visit our FB page at Crestone Energy Fair or email Donovan at Dspitzman@yahoo.com.

cookout and potluck, so get your grill ready and start picking through those recipes. The day's finale will be Chimney Choir, sponsored by the Cloud Station.

Guided Home Tours

Sunday, local homeowners and retreat facilities will open their doors for our renowned Guided Home Tours. The tours will meander through Crestone and the Baca Grande. This apex event puts you

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Casting call for the...

Crestone Energy Fair

Resilient Community Actions Wanted Now for Alternative Solutions Tomorrow

Please join us as a participant

Please call Donovan to join in!
303.868.6352

Share your solution, what do you have and like to offer up?

So far we have:

- Home/eco tours
- Presentations
- Hands-on workshops
- Restorative Circles

- Permaculture, Camping
- Food, music and dancing
- Saturday Market vending
- Community Pot-Luck
- And much, much more!

September 8, 9 and 10, 2017 in Little Pearl Park

CRESTONE BREWING CO.

Friday Night Music Series ~ 10PM

8/4 - Luna Verde (Crestone Jam Band), after CRESTFEST

8/11 - Handmade Moments (Multi-Instrumental Folk Duo)

8/18 - Random Shuffle (SKA and Reggae from Salida)

8/25 - Nikki Z (Rock & Soul with a Funky Groove)

9/8 - Plan Be (Mountain Gypsy Grass) CD Release and Crestone Energy Fair Party

Upcoming Events

Every Wednesday in August Steve Storm will be playing an ambient acoustic set, 8:30PM

Saturday, August 5th: Live Music from the CBC House Band, 10PM, after CRESTFEST

Saturday, August 12th: 1st Anniversary Celebration: OUTDOOR MUSIC ALL DAY IN LITTLE PEARL PARK (outdoor music starts at 12PM), special beer releases, general hop madness, DJ at 10PM

Saturday, August 26th: DJ Lostsole, 9:30PM

September 8th-10th: Crestone Energy Fair

September 15th-17th: Festival of the Muses, a Celebration of the Goddess, at Joyful Journey (limited tickets and workshop applications www.festivalofthemuses.com)

Saturday, September 30th: OKTOBERFEST - Outdoor Food and Beer Garden - Live Music - 10% of Proceeds to Benefit Pet Partners

October 5th-7th: Great American Beer Festival, Denver

October 14th-15th, 12-5pm: Crestone Artists Open Studio Tour

Saturday, October 28th: Halloween Party

HOURS Mon: 3PM-Close, Tues: Closed, Wed: 3PM-Close, Th-Sun: 12PM-Close

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



Friends of Living Wisdom Village gather

On Sunday, August 13 from 3-4:30 at the Cloud Station, all of those interested in the development of Living Wisdom Village, Elders Creating Community, will meet at the Cloud Station. This will be your opportunity to come and get an update on our progress, where we need to go and what's up next. Your thoughts and opinions are most important!

Fun day August 12 at The Enchanted Forest

On Saturday, August 12, noon till 3pm, come ome along & have fun in these powerful energies where the magic of Crestone meets the mysticism of Ireland. Enjoy activities including music, refreshments, a healing circle, 15-minute DNA activation, reflexology, an elemental gathering, yoga, chanting and fun! Located at the corner of Splendid Way & Enchanted Way (3459 Enchanted Way); park along Splendid Way.

Grand opening: Blue Earth Design's new gift shop

Join Team Blue for a summer sunset celebration with light refreshments, music and enjoyment of our expanding offerings.

We have remodeled our front office to include an oasis gift shop on the way in and out of Crestone on the northside of T Road. Follow the tree signs and come check us out on Saturday, August 12 from 6 'til 8pm. We are the blue door between the POA and the golf course.

We are Crestone-made and locally owned. We appreciate all your loving support! www.BlueEarth-Design.com



Traditional Style Henna

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ALL NATURAL
LASTS UP TO 2 WEEKS
✧
BY APPOINTMENT
✧
✧

SHOSHANNAH ASHA
719.937.3547

Belonging Bandwagon

A performance-art-driven dialogue for cultural change is looking for culture and sense of belonging in Crestone, Colorado. Sappho, Juana Azurduy and Harriet the Falconer (from "HerStories" Company of Players' June performance) will be collecting, coalescing and engaging in Story Circle on Saturday, September 30 at the Old School House from 2 'til 4pm. Until then, say hello when you see these spacetime traveling players in our little village!

Project sponsored by USDAC.us and AwakeningThePhoenix.com.

Sun Studio Art Retreat . . . Presentation on Odilon Redon (1867-1915)

On Monday, August 14 at 7pm at Crestone Charter School, there will be an artistic presentation on the life & art of Odilon Redon with Jennifer, Ammi, Noah and others. The evening will celebrate Redon's inner soul life, his struggle to find his artistic path, his love of light and dark, and his remarkable color sense. Ammi will share a tale, "The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe, which is a favorite of Redon.

Come join us in an amazing artist's life with slides of his work.

Crestone Arts Fest postponed till 2018

The Crestone Creative District has decided to postpone the Crestone Arts Fest until Memorial Day weekend 2018. We are still interested in hearing from anyone who would like to help and/or share their creative work at the event in 2018. If you are a performer, let us know what you want to do: Spoken word? Drama? Dance? Music? We will also be looking for painters, potters, sculptors, etc. who would be willing to set up a demonstration booth, showcasing the creative work they do. Food vendors are welcome to contact us.

There will also be opportunities for locals to sell their creative work—crafts, books, paintings, CDs, etc. We will also be needing volunteers to help with logistics and would love to hear from you. Interested? Email Peter Anderson at pilgrimage@fairpoint.net.



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- ♥ Community classes by donation
- ♥ Private instruction and consultation
- ♥ Yogic cooking
- ♥ Therapeutic and custom courses of study

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इशाकतिइशाारानाल.टोल



Belonging Bandwagon.

The Crestone Oasis offering rejuvenation therapies

"Beauty is an inside job" says Kairina Danforth, owner of The Crstone Oasis. Beginning in August, Kairina will offer, to a limited number of new clients, a unique rejuvenation experience.

- Each appointment includes:
- Rife frequency presets spanning hundreds of diseases
 - pulsed Photon LED Colour Therapy Mask (red, infrared, blue, green, yellow, orange light)
 - ancient Kansa Wand therapy
 - Ayurvedic skincare products
 - Microcurrent stimulation eye mask
 - Photo sound therapy
 - Lakhovsky Multi-wave Oscillator session

The Rife machine destroys microorganisms, and the multi-wave oscillator strengthens cells within the body to resist disease.

Kairina believes the essence of beauty is the constant renewal and rejuvenation of life.



Kairina Danforth

BACA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 2017 Summer Tour Series

Come join us on a tour & see what's new on your Baca National Wildlife Refuge

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED - LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE

Tours are approx. 3 hours long and leave promptly at *9:00am from the Refuge office at the former ranch headquarters on County Road T.

TOUR DATES AND TOPICS:

Thursday August 10th	Rio Grande Sucker/ Rio Grande Chub Management
Thursday August 24th	Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area-Trujillo Homestead
Thursday September 7th	Baca Ranch History
Thursday September 21st	*Elk Management/Viewing 7:00am

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 719-256-5527

*Elk Management/viewing tour will begin at 7:00am

The Crestone Eagle is a proud sponsor of CRESTFEST

Community Calendar—August 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monthly Events

Wednesday, August 2

- Guru Rinpoche Tsok (Feast Offering Potluck) – Choying Dzong 6:00 pm-8:00 pm 719-256-5224

Thursday, August 3

- Andrew Harvey SufiWay Class. All welcome! – 4-6pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602

Friday, August 4

- CRESTFEST – Challenger Golf Course All Day www.crestfest.org 719-256-4533

Saturday, August 5

- CRESTFEST – Challenger Golf Course All Day www.crestfest.org 719-256-4533

Sunday, August 6

- Finding Your Ground – Shakti Sharanam 4-6pm www.anniepace.com 719-256-5668

Monday, August 7

- Summer Children's Riding Program – Baca Grande Stables 8:30-11am \$150 719-256-6200
- Full Moon Riwo Sangcho (Outdoor Smoke Offering) Choying Dzong 10-11am yeshekhloro.org 256-5224
- Full-moon fire ceremony – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 am 719-256-4108
- Crestone Planning Commission meeting – Town Hall Meeting Room 6:00 pm 719-256-4313

Wednesday, August 9

- Crestone End of Life monthly open meeting – Fellowship Hall, Little Shepherd Church 7-9pm Informedfinalchoices.org 719-588-7415

Thursday, August 10

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

Friday, August 11

- Art Retreat – Sun Studio www.jenniferthomson.net 719-937-7694

Saturday, August 12

- Salida Studio Tour – Salida 10:00 am-6:00 pm www.SalidaStudioTour.weebly.com
- Fun Day at the Enchanted Forest – Enchanted Forest noon-3pm enchantedforestcrestone.net

Sunday, August 13

- Salida Studio Tour – Salida 10:00 am-2:00 pm www.SalidaStudioTour.weebly.com
- Living Wisdom meeting – Cloud Station 3-4:30pm

Monday, August 14

- Crestone Town Board meeting – Town Hall Meeting Room 9:30 am 719-256-4313
- Odilon Redon's life & art – CCS 7:00 pm www.jenniferthomson.net 719-937-7694

Tuesday, August 15

- Deadline for POA Board Candidates' applications BGPOA office bacapoa.org 719-256-4313

Wednesday, August 16

- BGPOA EAC meeting – BGPOA Meeting Room 10am bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Thursday, August 17

- Sufi Dhikr. All welcome! – 4:00 pm-6:00 pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602
- KRZA's monthly Board meeting – KRZA radio station 5:30 pm krza.org 719-589-8844
- BGPOA Board of Directors meeting BGPOA Meeting Room 6-8:45pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171
- Dakini Tsok (Feast Offering Potluck) – Choying Dzong 6-8pm www.yeshekhloro.org 719-256-5224

Saturday, August 19

- Saturday morning prayer breakfast – Crestone Baptist Church 8:00 am-10:00 am
- Yogic Cooking Workshop – 3:00 pm-8:00 pm www.anniepace.com 719-256-5668
- Artists in Action Crestone Artisans Gallery 4-6pm

Monday, August 21

- New Moon and Solar Eclipse
- New Moon Riwo Sangcho (Outdoor Smoke Offering) – Choying Dzong 10-11am www.yeshekhloro.org 719-256-5224
- New-moon fire ceremony – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 am 719-256-4108

Friday, August 25

- Landscape Painting Retreat – Sun Studio All Day www.jenniferthomson.net 719-937-7694

Saturday, August 26

- Crestone Arts-in-the-Park – Downtown Crestone
- Quilters' monthly meeting – Saguache County Rd. & Bridge Building 10:00 am 719-256-4845

Sunday, August 27

- Grange potluck followed by meeting – 12:30 pm-3:00 pm 719-256-4768
- Restorative Yoga and Self Care – Crestone 4:30 pm-6:30 pm

Thursday, August 31

- Guru Rinpoche Tsok (Feast Offering Potluck) Choying Dzong 6-8pm www.yeshekhloro.org 256-5224

Thursday, September 7

- Sufi Intro + Dhikr. All welcome! – 7:00 pm-9:00 pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602

Friday, September 8

- 27th Annual Crestone Energy Fair – Little Pearl Park 5:00 pm
- Carlos Nakai at Shumei

Saturday, September 9

- 27th Annual Crestone Energy Fair – Little Pearl Park All Day

Sunday, September 10

- 27th Annual Crestone Energy Fair – Little Pearl Park All Day

Monday, September 11

- Awareness Retreat – House of Joy All Day \$300 www.discoveringawareness.org 719-480-7475
- Crestone Town Board meeting – Town Hall Meeting Room 9:30 am 719-256-4313

Thursday, September 14

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

Tuesday, September 19

- Sufi intro + Dhikr. All welcome! – 7-9pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602

Wednesday, September 20

- Start of Fall Navratri, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram www.babajashram.org 719-256-4108

Daily/Weekly Events

The Crestone Eagle does not carry events over to the following month automatically.

Daily

- Morning Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 7-8am, 256-4108, www.babajashram.org
- Jyorei, Shumei Sanctuary, please be seated by 7:50am and 5:50pm, 256-5284
- Tours, gallery and Jyorei, Shumei, 9am-5pm, 256-5284.
- Open meditation & prayers in Vajra Vidya Retreat Center Shrine Room 9-10am daily; Traditional Buddhist Shrine Room available till dusk; All welcome to come and practice. 719-256-5539 vajraavidya.com
- Tours, Temple, & Gift Shop ~ Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.org
- Evening Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 6-7pm. Chanting in Sanskrit and Hindi. All are welcome. 256-4108, www.babajashram.org

Sunday

- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm www.slvaa.org
- YOGA~CHI @ the Ranch Historic Everson Ranch 9:00 am-10:15 am 719.298.0360
- Mass at Nada Hermitage Nada Hermitage 9:00 am-10:00 am 719-256-4778

- Drop-In Meditation (Sitting and Walking) Choying Dzong 10am-1pm www.yeshekhloro.org 719-256-5224
- Sunday Morning Service Crestone Baptist Church 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Tuesday

- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting marijuana users welcome Baca Grande Library back door 7:30 pm-8:30 pm 970-309-0710
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Yoga & iRest Yoga Nidra Crestone 9-10:30am www.igniteyourinnerflame.com 310-924-9223
- Youngsters' Summer Reading Program Baca Grande Library 10:30-11:30am Free 256-4100
- Bellydance Basics Flow class 758 Camino Baca Grande 5-6pm \$8-10 www.crestobetribal.com
- Bellydance Technique: Foundations 758 Camino Baca Grande 6:00 pm-7:00 pm \$8-10
- Tai Chi Little Shepherd in the Hills 10:00 am-12:00 pm Free 405-760-1892

Wednesday

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30 am-10:00 am By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668

- Gentle Movement and Yoga Crestone 10:00 am-11:00 am \$10 suggested donation 310-924-9223
- Wednesday night Bible Study Crestone Baptist Church 6:00 pm

Thursday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Baptist Church noon-1pm www.slvaa.org
- Bellydance Basics Flow class 758 Camino Baca Grande 5-6pm \$8-10 www.crestobetribal.com
- Tribal Bellydance: The Four Families 758 Camino Baca Grande 6-7pm \$8-10 crestonetribal.com
- Wise Old Women thru 8/10 Shakti Sharanam 9am, \$15 www.anniepace.com 719-256-5668
- Yoga and iRest Yoga Nidra Crestone 9:00 am www.igniteyourinnerflame.com 310-924-9223

Saturday

- Dorje Trola Practice White Jewel Mountain 10:00 am-12:00 pm no charge 719 480-5403
- Saturday Market Crestone Silver Ave. 10:00 am-4:00 pm 719-256-5912
- Narcotics Anonymous Open Step Study meeting Little Shepherd in the Hills 9-10am 719-256-4931



Lots of smiles and laughter again at this year's 4th of July celebration in Crestone. From the parade to live music, vendors, taiko drumming, carnival, dunk tank, bouncy house, dancing, socializing and much more, just about everyone could find something to do. photos and collage design by Lori Nagel

Out & About with Lori Sunflower

Fondest memories of the Crestone Music Festival?



Patte Smith

I've been doing backstage food the last few years, which has given me a unique access to headliners. One of my favorite years was 2014 when Charles Neville and Ruthie Foster were both headlining. Ruthie's got the most amazing voice. She brought her whole family, including children. They were incredible, like taking care of my own friends/family. And Charles Neville would seek me out to tell me stories. I'd lived in NYC for a while and knew a few places he'd performed and famous people he'd played with. He was warm, friendly, unique and eclectic, very different than I'd anticipated. He'd go, "Hey, kid!" when he came in, even though I'm not really a kid, but he is old enough to be my dad!

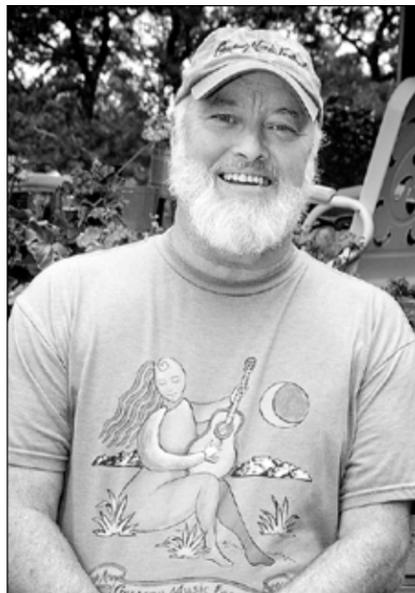
Eli, Dale and I have been involved since the very first year, 1999. Crestone is this unique place. It's a family, we're all connected, and CMF is a bonding event that brings this entire community together—a culmination of summer every year. I hope it continues and we can come back and do it as well as we have in the past. Dale and I support the festival through automatic withdrawal monthly contributions, and I encourage others to do this. Even \$5-\$10/month makes a huge difference!



Eli Dokson

I have many great memories of the Crestone Music Festival, and I've been lucky enough to play

at several of them. My fondest memory is from 2015 when Robben Ford, a personal musical hero of mine for many years, was the Saturday night headliner. He arrived early because he has close personal friends here, who I happen to also know, so I met him Friday night, which was a thrill. Saturday, I was doing a set of acoustic originals with 2 Weeks in Fiji. Robben showed up and graciously agreed to sit in on 5 songs with us, a total surprise. It was an incredible highlight having a musician of his caliber playing our originals. He made us sound really great, too! He's such a good player. As if that wasn't enough, during his set that night, again, totally by surprise, he called me up onstage to do a song with him and his band. Afterwards, I hung out with him backstage and he told me cool stories about my favorite songs he wrote. Besides being a great memory of the CMF, it's a musical memory in my life I will never forget.



Dale Smith

Well, I have a *lot* of memories and most come from letting the festival use my drums, which has always been a connection to other musicians. My favorite memory is 2001. Ritchie Havens did an incredible show Saturday night. I met him right after the show, and he remembered me Sunday and was so friendly. Being from New York, he asked me to take him on a tour. "C'mon! Show me all the people you know and all the vendors and their wares." He was friendly with everybody, so interested in Crestone and the people! Eli and I got a picture with him, which I still treasure. And meeting famous drummers over the years, I live for it actually! Being there every year and knowing it's gonna be awesome because music's what I live for and I love performances. John Lee Hooker, Jr. played on a Sunday when people are usually lower energy, but he did such a phenomenal job. I'll never forget how the crowd responded. Everybody was up front crushing each other. He was involving everybody! Grabbing hands, running all over the place—it was electric!



Robin Blankenship

I wasn't thrilled about the festival when Deb Morley said she wanted to start one in town. I thought, "Oh, man! Here we go exploding and becoming unlivable, unaffordable." That didn't happen, and over the years, I embraced it. My favorite performer was Johnnie Lee Hooker, Jr. They rocked the place to pieces! My favorite kid memory was Claire Dessain walking up to the box office with a fish in a glass bowl, "Can you babysit my fish while I'm in the festival?" My favorite song was Ritchie Havens singing about the 12 Signs of the Zodiac repeating only the lyrics "I Know" twenty times or so for each sign, in a way you felt he really GOT what each sign was about . . . until he got to people's personal signs! Then you could hear people, "Oh . . . Well, that's one person's interpretation!" It was so funny; so Crestone! My favorite memory managing the box office was early Saturday evening, we had this awesome crew, including Beth Quist and Vesper Gers' brother-in-law, Joel, both awesome performers. We had instruments, playing these crazy, silly songs, having a blast. People arrived to pay for the headliner, but started gathering, listening, singing along, and drumming on the counters. We had 15 minutes of "The Box Office Show"! My fondest visual recollection is a beautiful sunset and concurrent rainbow over the mountains. John and Laura Syperda were dancing in these elegant, old fashioned, stark white outfits, across the deep, green grass with a dark, north sky backdrop. Rainbow and sunset light were reflecting off their clothes. Just, fantastic.



Jonathan Neuhaus-Rose

I've been going to the music festival my whole life, since I first got here as a baby. My fondest memories are always when I first arrive there and I'm so excited to

get in, run around and meet up with friends. It's just really fun, and feels like a safe place. I've done the pie eating contest a couple times just to see if I could win anything. I loved the bungee jumping thing, but I never managed to do a back flip on it, sadly. Always tried though! The last couple years, I helped my dad set up all the technical equipment and wi-fi, which was hard, since we had to run it through trees and stuff. Sometimes the credit card machines wouldn't work, and I helped my dad fix it. It's a bummer it's only going to be 2 days this year. I always liked Sundays when everything's getting packed up and *all* the local kids were there and there were all these empty tents, leaving more space to run around and more of just community instead of all the visitors. If it's going to be just 2 days this year, we may not get that chance on Saturday.



Robin Rosenberg

I started volunteering with the music festival in its second year, and was volunteer coordinator from 2001 until 2013. I ran the box office for 10 years and was the Assistant Director for 3. The best part for me was organizing volunteers and vendors who came together to create community and put on a remarkable event. I loved most of the music. I didn't always get to hear it. Donnie Richmond and the Rifiers were my favorite. Seeing my son, Abe Rosenberg, play in Sweet Radish was a highlight for me. Also, our band, with Richard Reed, Ed Rosenberg, Jim Pratt, Abe and I playing Spirit Mountain String Band on a Sunday; that was really exciting. One of my favorite musical moments is when Michelle Shocked played and a computer glitch caused the fireworks to go off early and come in low. Being in the crowd was a spectacular experience. No one knew anything was wrong, but the fireworks were almost touching people. Michelle Shocked spontaneously started playing along with the fireworks! Every year my favorite moment was Sunday afternoon when many of the non-locals had departed. I would look around and see my community playing together. It didn't matter if the week before we had been arguing about the POA, the school or politics. In that moment, on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in August, everyone came together to celebrate.

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

Tenzin Wangyal Rinpoche shares teachings Sept. 15-17

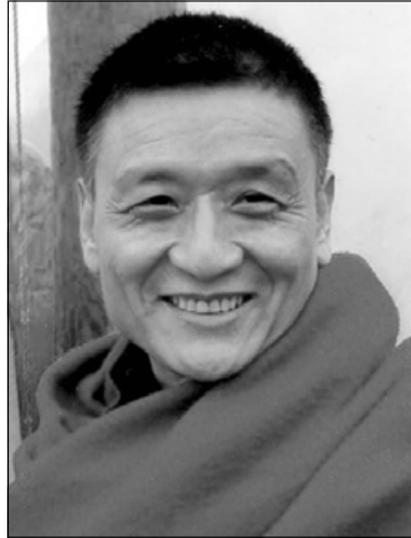
Chamma Ling welcomes all to join them and their teacher, Tenzin Wangyal Rinpoche, Sept. 15-17 as he shares the Dzogchen teaching of the Seven Mirrors. This powerful heart-essence teaching comes from the Tibetan Bön tradition and offers a direct introduction to the clear, open awareness of the Dzogchen view, as well as methods for maintaining this state.

Geshe Tenzin Wangyal Rinpoche is a renowned teacher and spiritual director of Chamma Ling and Ligmincha Institute. Additionally, he is an acclaimed author with a multitude of international centers where he frequently visits and teaches. He is well known for his depth of wisdom; clear, engaging teaching style; and ability to

make the ancient Tibetan teachings highly accessible and relevant to the lives of Westerners.

Dzogchen, also known as the "great perfection," is a path of self-liberation and the highest form of teaching in the Bön tradition. The seven mirrors represent the heart mirrors of the view, meditation, result, and conduct, along with the heart mirrors explaining the pure realms and lands of samsara, six-fold consummation, and benefits of meeting with this teaching. This is part 2 of a continuation of teachings Rinpoche shared here in 2016. If you did not attend the 2016 teachings, you can purchase the audio recordings from that retreat.

Rinpoche also has a dynamic offering through Facebook where



he regularly streams live teachings to bring together a worldwide "cyber-sangha". You can access all of his archived broadcasts through ligminchalearning.com.

Prior to the Seven Mirrors retreat, Peter May will lead a 7-day wilderness experience, "Nourishing Ourselves with the Essence of the Elements" which offers a unique opportunity to directly experience the Five Elements teachings among the high pristine alpine meadows, lakes, dunes, streams and peaks of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Wilderness.

For additional information about these 2 dynamic events, and to register: www.ligmincha.org.

Following these events, Geshe Denma Gyaltzen, resident lama of Ligmincha Texas, will begin a 3-retreat training program at Chamma Ling, sharing the ancient Tibetan Bön practice of Soul Retrieval. Geshe Denma was born in Nepal and was awarded the geshe degree

from Menri Monastery in 1996. He taught at Menri and served 2 terms as the abbot of Zhu Rishing Yungdrung Kundak-Ling Monastery, a Bön Monastery in Sikkim.

The soul is said to be composed of the five elements: earth, water, fire, air, and space. These elements pervade all of life and are the essential components of our entire worldly existence. The Shamanic rites of soul retrieval and life force retrieval are methods that call on the essence of these elements—elemental spirits—to balance and heal an individual. It is believed that a traumatic event or other shock can cause an individual to lose connection with the elements and become dispirited.

Life force is the presence of energetic forces within one's self. It is possible to retrieve the soul and life force through the use of mind and symbols in ritual. Through ritual and meditational practice, one can bring back the positive qualities that are missing or reinforce qualities that are weakened in oneself or others.

More information about the timing of this retreat will be available soon.





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Chamma Ling

The Essence of the Seven Mirrors of Dzogchen, Part 2
with Tenzin Wangyal Rinpoche, September 15-17

The Seven Mirrors of Dzogchen is a powerful heart-essence teaching from the Tibetan Bön tradition, offering a direct introduction to the clear, open awareness of the dzogchen view as well as methods for maintaining this state.

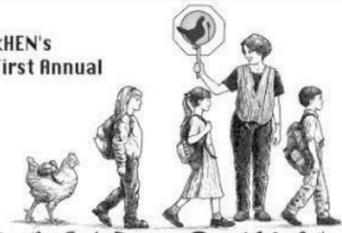
Nourishing Ourselves with the Essence of the Elements
With Peter May, September 8-14

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For more information and registration visit: <http://colorado.ligmincha.org>




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 Contact Ann with questions: 719-480-7475 or 303-907-6355

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Father Tony D'Souza, a Jesuit Priest living in Mumbai, India, integrates Western and Eastern mystical traditions to help people achieve emotional wellbeing and spiritual awakening. Building on his work with Father Tony D'Mello, who was his spiritual director, mentor and friend for over 20 years, Father D'Souza has developed Discovering Awareness, a program for building inner peace. He will be offering a five-day retreat in Crestone September 11-15. Contact Ann at 719-480-7475 or visit DiscoveringAwareness.org for more information.

Learning to operate from love

by **Father Tony D'Souza**

It is true that people are in a lot of pain and suffering in this world. First, we need to separate pain and suffering. Pain is physical—a toothache or stomach ache. Suffering is mental—I am lonely, depressed, anxious. I have discovered that all our suffering comes from fear, from believing our false self, our ego. You and I have been told that suffering is part of life. That's not true. We don't need to suffer at all. The approach that I have is essentially to live a stress-free, suffering-free life by operating from love.

The secret to operating from love is letting go of the fear. Fear is the absence of love, just like darkness is the absence of light. When you bring in light, the darkness disappears. When you bring in love, the fear disappears. And when we operate from love we begin to trust one another; we begin to care for one another. We see ourselves connected with one another; what I call heart-connection/love transfusion. When someone in Africa suffers and I say "Ouch!" in India, a love transfusion has taken place.

To operate from love, we must operate from our True Self, which is as God made us. If you define God as goodness, as love, as holiness, then we are good and loveable and holy just as we are. We don't have to do anything, we don't have to add anything, we don't have to delete anything. True Self makes us aware that we are worthwhile just the way we are. We don't need degrees, or money or possessions to be worthwhile. It is given.

Eastern spirituality tells us we need not become good, holy, loveable. We need to discover our goodness, discover our holiness, discover our loveability, because somewhere along the way we lost the awareness of who we really are. Spirituality is not about becoming, but discovering.

And when I discover my True Self I realize this Self is grounded in a larger Self. Call it God, Divine Power, Divine Consciousness, whatever terms we are familiar with. And we realize we are not limited, it takes us beyond ourselves. When we discover our True Selves we realize that we are connected with all beings. We develop a deep reverence and respect for all beings. We experience a communion with the whole universe.

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News from the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram

by Ramloti

We began July with Guru Purnima, the day you honor your teacher. It was well-attended and very moving. Our annual Kid's Camp and concurrent Real Love Workshop for the adults was also a wonderful time together.

We have begun fundraising to upgrade our solar system on the dormitory which is 17-years-old. We have set up a GoFundMe campaign at www.gofundme.com/BabajiAshramSolarFund. Please check it out and if you are able to donate even a little, it will be a big help. Thank you.

Our full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Monday, August 7 and the new-moon fire ceremony is on Monday, August 21 both begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati is at 7am and evening aarati is at 6pm. At 8am there is generally a small 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.

Fall Navratri is early this year, September 20 – 28, so mark your calendar. We will have honoring the children day on Sunday, September 24.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop has just restocked with singing bowls of all sizes, malas, soaps,



New solar array for the Ashram Earthship. Now we need to upgrade our dormitory Solar System. Please help by going to GoFundMe.com/BabajiAshramSolarFund. Every little bit helps. Thank you!

puja items, jewelry, and lots more gently used clothes which are 50% off this month. The Shop is open every day from 10am until 5pm. We invite you to come in and look around. We deeply appreciate your support. You may view some of what is in our Shop on our website at <http://mahalakshmiashram.wazala.com>.

For more information about the Ashram, please visit our website at www.babajiashram.org. All are invited to our monthly Ashram Board of Directors' meeting, please call the Ashram for the date and an agenda. We also invite you to visit the Ashram at any time. We love to share Shri Babaji's and Mother's home with others. Just drop by or give us a call at 719-256-4108.

Sri Aurobindo Learning Center Savitri & death

by Rod Hemsell

The theme of Sri Aurobindo's mantric poem *Savitri*, from beginning to end, is the conquest of death. In the very beginning, for example, we hear these lines:

A force in her that toiled since earth was made,
Accomplishing in life the great world-plan,
Pursuing after death immortal aims,
Repugned to admit frustration's barren role,
Forfeit the meaning of her birth in Time,
Obey the government of the casual fact
Or yield her high destiny up to passing Chance.
In her own self she found her high recourse;
She matched with the iron law her sovereign right:
Her single will opposed the cosmic rule.
To stay the wheels of Doom this greatness rose. (p.19)

And then, in the penultimate book, when *Savitri*, having accomplished the union of her soul with her high spiritual self through Yoga, faces death, we hear the powerful force of will that she has realized suddenly stream forth:

Her high nude soul,
Stripped of the girdle of mortality,
Against fixed destiny and the grooves of law
Stood up in its sheer will a primal force.
Still like a statue on its pedestal,
Lone in the silence and to vastness bared,
Against midnight's dumb abysses piled in front
A columned shaft of fire and light she rose. (p. 581)

The entire path of the yoga of transformation that is narrated throughout the five hundred intervening pages is revealed to have been for this sole purpose. In a way very similar to the teaching of the Phowa practice in Tibetan Buddhist yoga and dzogchen, the practice of liberation that is performed throughout one's life on the path, is precisely a preparation for this moment of death. In Sri Aurobindo's commentaries on the Isha Upanishad, too, this was the stated purpose of his yoga from the beginning:

"The Upanishad solemnly invokes the Will to remember the thing that has been done (through mantra, meditation, and surrender), so as to contain and be conscious of the becoming, so as to become a power of knowledge and self-possession and not only a power of impulsion and self-formulation. It will thus more and more approximate itself to the true Will and preside over the co-ordination of the successive lives with a conscious control. Instead of being carried from life to life in a crooked path, as by winds, it will be able to proceed more and more straight in an ordered series, linking life to life with an increasing force of knowledge and direction until it becomes the fully conscious Will moving with illumination on the straight path towards the immortal felicity. The mental will, kratu, becomes what it at present only represents, the divine Will, Agni."

This was the theme of a series of *Savitri* Immersion workshops earlier this year at various centers in Europe and it will be explored again here in August, 14-19, at our annual workshop in Crestone.

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



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Public lands in danger

continued from page 1

Assessments (EAs) or, to deal with complex project proposals, Environmental Impact Statements (EISs).

To give examples and bring this “use of NEPA” process very close to home, the Lexam oil and gas exploratory drilling proposal, the Village at Wolf Creek development and the San Francisco Creek exploratory drilling proposal, were able to be challenged and ultimately stopped because of this public participation. One of the reasons the NEPA process is in place is to redirect ill-conceived projects that impact public interest and the environment.

Of the hundreds of NEPA processes that SLVEC has been involved with, we have only had to litigate five, which shows that the current system is working well. Most public processes are resolved through this “range of alternatives” selection, when a Record of Decision (ROD) can be reached and implemented. Public agencies need public scrutiny, after all, these lands belong to us, the American public. “More eyes on the land” provide better insight and ultimately a better project is fomented, that encompasses the complexities of managing landscapes that include the protection of wildlife, biodiversity and ecosystem services—clean air, water, healthy soils and carbon sequestering—the unquantifiable values.

NEPA also provided us with the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Management Plan, the SLV Wildlife Refuge Management Plan and the current Rio Grande National Forest Management Plan revision. Why shouldn't the public be involved with how these public lands will be managed over the next twenty years? This is a proactive, healthy approach to protecting lands for future generations. So why is it now under ATTACK?

The Republican agenda is about the privatization of our collective public assets, which include: Education, Medicare, the Military, and of course, our beloved public lands. There is nothing creative being currently proposed, this is just a bully wholesale taking of our assets.

So how does self-interest go about structuring such an undertaking? By passing bills like HB 2936 and creating a Zinke “Made In America Recreation Advisory Committee.”

The 2936 bill is divided into ten different titles, including a range of forest management “streamlining” and funding provisions aimed at increasing timber production in the national forests and other federal lands. The Secretary of the Interior oversees National Parks, Wildlife

Refuges and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.

So, what will HB 2936 do?

- **Undermine NEPA alternative analysis** by requiring only (2) action/no-action alternatives, instead of providing a “range of alternatives.”

- **Drastically cramp NEPA review and the public input timeline** after broadly-defined “catastrophic” (weather events and storms) events.

- **Further shortens NEPA review to only 2 months**—requires the EA to be completed within 60 days after the conclusion of the catastrophic event. (Currently, most EA's take between 6 months to a year).

- **Creates NEPA “Categorical Exclusion” (CA)** for a broad range of forest management activities, which means it exempts (removes) **NEPA public process entirely by creating a “categorical exclusion”** for a broad range of “forest management activities,” specifically, forest management activities that produce timber, with no other benefits.

- In some cases, **this categorical exclusion could reach up to 30,000 acres**, allowing a categorical exclusion up to nearly 429 times larger than the current 70-acre limitation for timber harvesting.

Just to provide some perspective, **30,000 acres** is the same as **47 square miles**. As a local comparison, the Baca Mountain Tract (acquired by the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000) is **13,500 acres**. So, we are looking at a potential “categorical exclusion” that is **almost three times the size of the Baca mountain tract** which contains South Crestone, Willow, Spanish, Cottonwood and Deadman's Creek watersheds.

- **Prevents NEPA review on every stage of forest planning** by redefining it as not a major federal action.

Limitations on Judicial Review

- Removes citizen ability to challenge projects motivated by self-interest by replacing judicial review of many forest management activities on both national forest and BLM lands with a binding arbitration process.

- The bill would authorize the Forest Service to designate up to 90 projects per year (10 projects in each of the 9 Forest Service regions) for a “discretionary arbitration pilot program.”

- The chosen project would not be subject to judicial review, even if it clearly violated the law.

Eviscerating the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- Exempts the Forest Service or BLM from consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding a forest management activity if the Forest Service or BLM determines that its action is not likely

to adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat.

- For any forest management activity that is subject to consultation, the bill imposes a 90-day deadline to conclude the consultation, after which the activity is legislatively deemed to be in compliance with the ESA.

- Broadly exempts most forest management activities from compliance with the ESA by stipulating that any such activity “shall be considered a non-discretionary action.”

Undermines protection of Roadless Areas

- Includes convoluted language about roadless area management that could be interpreted to eliminate current regulatory protection of Inventoried Roadless Areas under the 2001 national Roadless Area Conservation Rule and the Idaho and Colorado roadless rules.

Simultaneously, Secretary of the Interior Zinke has just announced a Made In America Recreation Advisory Committee. This committee “will focus on expanding public-private partnerships on America's public lands with the goal of expanding access to and improving the infrastructure on public lands.”

Zinke's roundtable participants gave specific examples about how public-private partnerships can make the outdoor recreation experience even better, and how the economy can be impacted by the tens of thousands of American manufacturing jobs that these products support.

“Not everyone can get to the backcountry and sleep in a hammock tethered to a rock wall. We need to encourage families and folks of all interest levels to enjoy our parks and other outdoor areas, making our land accessible to them,” said Zinke. “We have wonderful partners who proudly make their outdoor products in America. We can leverage these partners to help address the maintenance backlog on things like boat ramps, RV hookups, campgrounds, and cafeterias as long as the government is a willing collaborator.”

Coming soon: Public lands open for business; visit your favorite theme park, driving your fossil fuel vehicle

Made in America Partners include: Kirk La - Chairman & CEO - BoatU.S.; Terry MacRae - CEO - Hornblower Cruises; Edward Klim - President - International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association; Tim Buche - President & CEO - Motorcycle Industry Council; Phil Ingrassia - President - Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association; Frank Hugelmeyer - President - Recreation Vehicle Industry Association; Tim Rout - CEO - AccessParks; Thomas Dammrich - President - National Marine Manufacturers Association; Duane Taylor - Exec

Director - National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council. **We get the picture.**

If you combine HB 2936 with whom Secretary Zinke is choosing to surround himself, our public lands are now being opened up for wholesale exploitation. Land grabs for oil and gas leasing, fossil fuel recreation access, coupled with restricting our public input to demand accountability. It's a recipe for disaster. The public, common sense balance that NEPA has provided since 1969 is now on the chopping block, driven by total ignorance regarding the fragmentation and evisceration of our beloved landscape that contain biodiversity and species that deserve our long-term stewardship and protection.

We need our forests, national parks, wildlife refuges and BLM lands to buffer climate change, not to be carried into a Las Vegas motor show. This creates distraction from the real solution of us as human beings understanding our limitations and developing healthy boundaries. Isn't practicing restraint supposed to be the backbone and philosophy of the conservative party?

Please contact Rep. Scott Tipton's offices and tell him this is a bad bill and his constituency deserves better representation that will not tolerate the undermining of future generations of human, wildlife and biodiverse species.

Send an e-mail: <https://tipton.house.gov/contact/email>.

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Messages from the heart of God

Free Spirit Christian Church



Spirit living vs. natural living

by Earl LeRoy

Living in the spirit requires a different direction than living in the natural realm. Living in the natural realm is being led by what you think and feel. Living in the spirit is being led by My Holy Spirit because of the intimate relationship we share. I am not only with you, but I am in you when you ask Me. You not just know about Me, but you know Me. Therefore, there is trust and faith in whatever My Spirit leads you to do. With joy you follow and do what I prompt you to do.

As I prayed to the Father, it was about communion with Him and joining Him in what I saw Him doing. The Father is always present, and when a believer lives in My Spirit, there is a flow of peace, power, and love that passes all understanding.

The Gifts of the Spirit are given so the believer can move instantaneously and be directed to go to the place where Our Glory will manifest. Philip was just told to go south on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza where he met the Eunuch, and there he felt led to minister to him. A multitude of people were saved for eter-

nity by his obedience. When I went to Nain, I saw a mother who had lost her son. My compassion, led by the Holy Spirit, compelled Me to raise her son so that Our Glory would be seen and experienced by those who were there.

Being available, knowing Me and My Word, and having faith in Me are the only things necessary to do exploits in the spirit realm and be elevated into My Glory. When you pray, seek Me and seek My face. I love to hear from you, to answer your questions and show you The Way. No one knows the thoughts of God but the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 2:11)

In the natural, there are limitations. In the Spirit, when you trust and obey My prompting, the supernatural happens because all things work together for good for them who love God and are called according to His purpose. (Rom. 8:28) Stepping out in faith to minister a word, a truth, a healing or a miracle will change lives for eternity. Trust in Me and lean not on your own understanding. (Pro. 3:5) This is how you live in the Spirit.

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Martin Macaulay and **Patrick Moore** are designing, compiling and editing the book at no cost, for the benefit of Pet Partners. The number of books printed will depend on the number pre-ordered. Please indicate with your submission whether you want to reserve a copy or copies. The book will be available at early holiday season, around early/mid November.



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The Jokerster

- Do fish go on vacation?**
No, because they're always in school!
- Why did the dolphin cross the beach?**
To get to the other tide!
- Why don't oysters share their pearls?**
Because they're shellfish!
- Why do fish like to eat worms?**
Because they get hooked on them!
- What's grey, has four legs and a trunk?**
A mouse on vacation!
- What do you call a snowman in July?**
A puddle!
- What's black and white and red all over?**
A zebra with a sunburn!
- What does the sun drink out of?**
Sunglasses

Why don't mummies go on vacation?



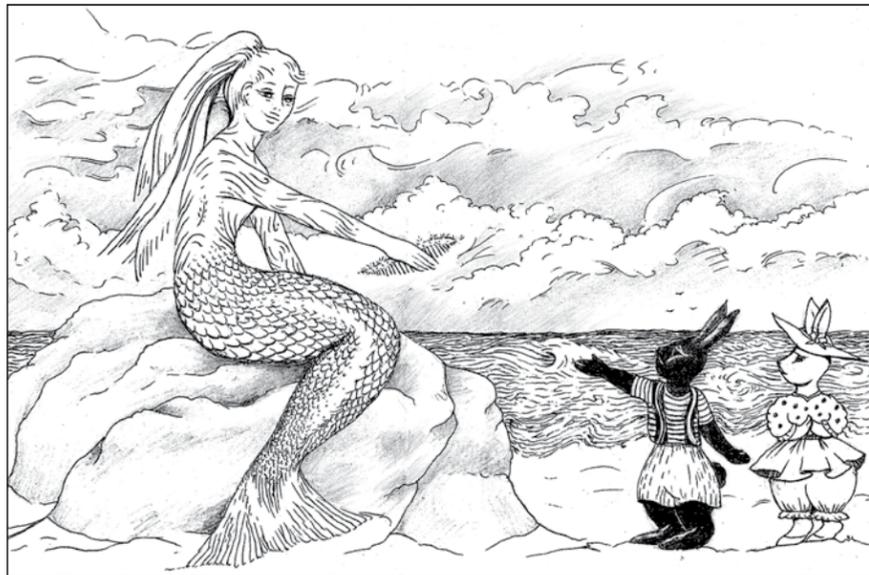
They're afraid to relax and unwind!

What did the pig say on a hot summer day?

- I'm bacon!*
- Why do bananas use sunscreen?**
Because they peel.
- Why can't basketball players go on summer vacation?**
They'd get called for traveling!
- What did the bread do on vacation?**
It loafed around.
- Where did Tarzan go on summer vacation?**
Hollywood and Vine.
- First dog: Where do fleas go for summer vacation?**
Second dog: Search me!
- What's brown, hairy and wears sunglasses?**
A coconut on vacation
- Why didn't the elephant buy a suitcase for his vacation?**
Because he already had a trunk!

The Mermaid's Comb

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



Poppy and Pierre bounced up and down, and their long bunny ears wiggled as Madam Colette and Mr. Jonathan, their human caretakers, set up a large umbrella and beach chairs. Then M. Colette took them to the water's edge. Poppy and Pierre squealed as the cold water tickled their paws, but soon both bunnies were riding the waves into shore. Afterwards, the bunnies walked along the beach collecting seashells.

Poppy found a sand dollar and Pierre found a sea star, and they both spied a conch shell at the same time. They took turns holding it to their ears listening to the sound of the ocean in it.

"Let's explore there." Pierre said, pointing to some large rocks jutting out into the ocean. There were tiny sea creatures swimming in the pools that formed between the rocks and Poppy and Pierre were stretched out on their bellies studying them when a huge wave splashed over them.

The heard a sound like the tinkling of bells and a beautiful woman appeared before them. She had a fish body from the waist down and long

golden hair, which she was combing. "It's a mermaid." Pierre exclaimed. "Poppy and Pierre?" The woman asked.

The bunnies nodded, speechless. "I a Julietta," the mermaid said, "Latiana* told me about you." "You know Latiana?" Poppy stutered, confused, "but she's a fairy." "Of course." The tinkling bells sounded again as Julietta laughed. "All magical beings know each other. Anyway, I saw you and wanted to say hello."

"Very pleased to meet you." Pierre said politely and extended his paw. "Poppy!" Pierre!" The worried voices of M. Colette and Mr. Jonathan called in the distance.

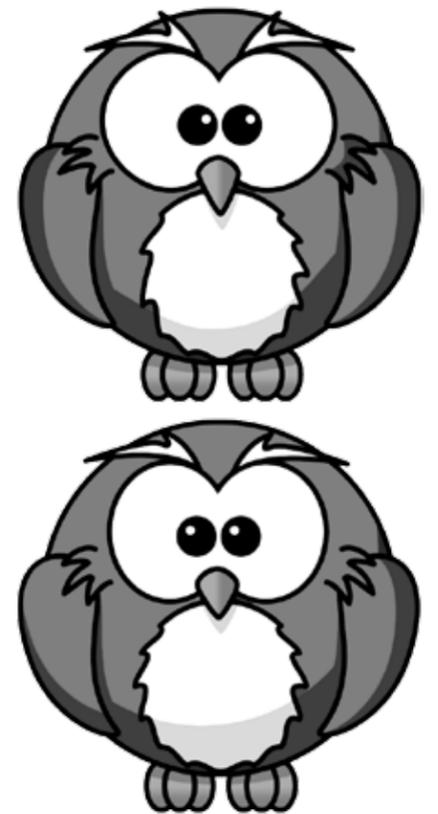
The bunnies looked around. "You must go." Julietta said, "But take this with you as a token of the friendship of the sea folk."

"Poppy! Pierre! Where are you? Poppy! Pierre!"

"Thank you!" The bunnies took the comb and bounded away.

"Look what the mermaid gave us." Pierre held out the beautiful

Find 8 Differences



comb with mother of pearl inlay. "The mermaid?" M. Colette asked. "She was part fish?" Both bunnies nodded their heads vigorously.

"You're certain it was a mermaid?" Mr. Jonathan added.

"We are." Poppy answered. "It was the mermaid. Her name is Julietta, and she knows Latiana."

"You're overly tired. Why don't you take a nap?" M. Colette said.

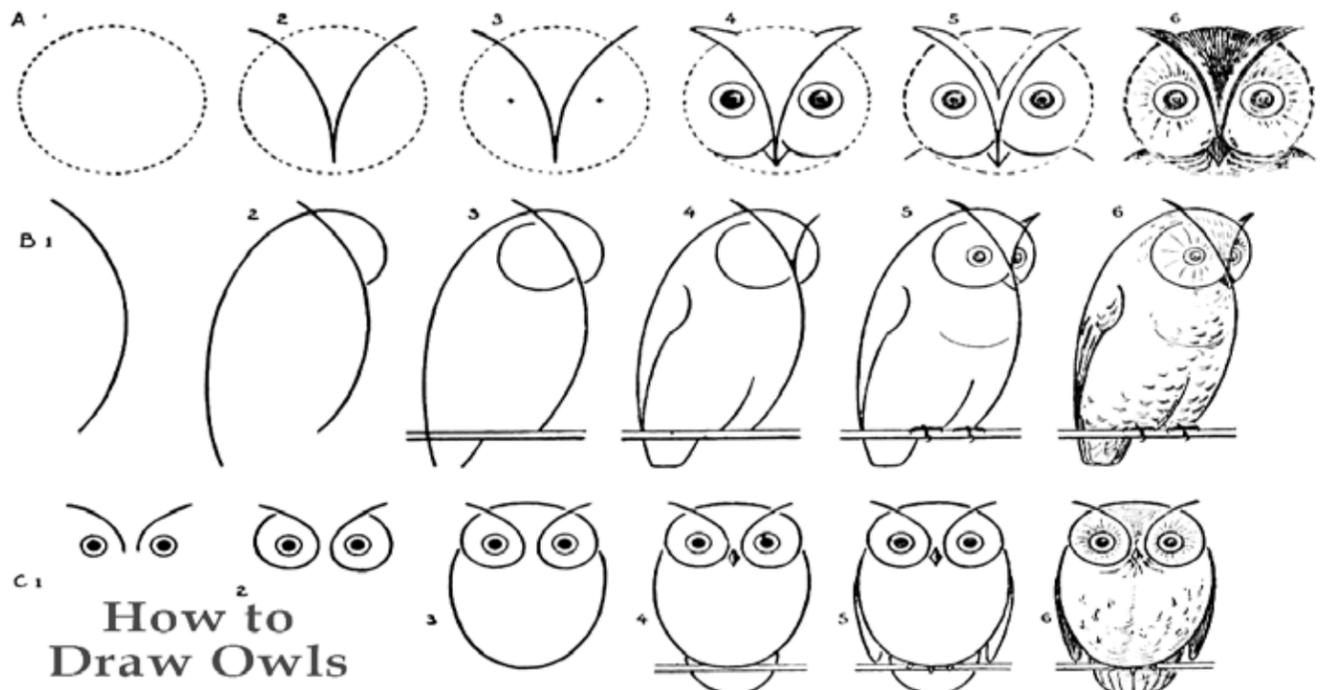
Once they bunnies were fast asleep, she whispered to her husband. "First it was fairies, now it's mermaids, what will these two imagine next?"

Mr. Jonathan patted his wife's hand. "I think they have a fine career ahead as writers of fiction."

Both humans laughed and smiled down at their beloved bunnies.

The End

*See Crestone Eagle Kidz Korner June 2017 issue: The Fairies' Garden



How to Draw Owls

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New staff at Moffat Consolidated School

New Principal, Jillian Sciacca

Jillian Sciacca is the new PK-12 Principal at Moffat Consolidated School. She is originally from Cañon City, but moved to the valley five years ago. She has a Master's degree in Education with an emphasis in reading and literacy. She has been a professional educator for the past 11 years, teaching kindergarten, first grade, fourth grade, college intro courses, and graduate level education courses. She brings a wealth of knowledge related to best educational practices and will be a valuable asset to the school. Additionally, Jillian is a regular contributor to the website The Children's Book Review, where she writes literacy-based articles with the goal to help families enhance their children's literacy development. Jillian ran track and cross country at the University of Colorado where she earned her undergraduate degree. She lives in Villa Grove with her husband Jack Sciacca and their daughter, Gianna.



Jillian Sciacca, Principal.

New Business Manager, Jodi Anderson

Jodi is originally from rural Minnesota, where she spent her entire childhood and also attended Crown College, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree. She brings with her to Moffat over twenty-two years of work experience in the areas of business and finance. Thirteen years were spent dedicated specifically to the arena of non-profit accounting. She comes most recently from the Deaf & Blind School in Colorado Springs, where she worked a little over four years in the Accounting Department. She is a homeowner in Manitou Springs, and has made housing arrangements with friends in the Moffat area. Jodi's husband, Miles, has family heritage in the San Luis Valley going back prior to Colorado statehood. Jodi and Miles have been visiting the Moffat and Crestone areas for the last ten years, and are excited about connecting with the community on a deeper level.



Jodi Anderson, Business Manager.



Christina Larson, Superintendent.

Moffat School District welcomes new Superintendent

Christina Larson is an enthusiastic leader in education, with 14 years of school-based teaching and leadership experience. After graduating from CU Boulder, Christina started her professional career in New Mexico as a teacher in downtown Albuquerque. After completing her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instructional Leadership, Christina continued to teach, becoming focused in Special Education inclusion and instructional coaching. She returned to Colorado in 2009, and has worked at the Colorado Department of Education and as a Senior Director at an educational nonprofit, where she has focused on improving education and community revitalization for rural areas. Christina lives in Crestone with her family and two dogs, and loves to do crafty things like make custom jewelry and gifts.

Please be sure to welcome her and her family to our wonderful community!

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CCS welcomes new teachers & staff

New School Counselor, Shauna Ianson

Shauna Ianson, CCS's new school counselor, has made Crestone her home for the past 15 years, and has an intimate understanding of the unique opportunities and challenges that face our students. She is trained and licensed as a professional school counselor and mental health counselor, and is tapped in to a wide range of services available in the San Luis Valley. Shauna has worked extensively with children of all ages, and is dedicated to helping students navigate life's challenges so they can learn and thrive. Her diverse skill set makes her a perfect fit: "In this position I can apply my professional background as a school counselor and my personal background as a Crestone community member, parent, and lifelong learner to help create a stable, safe, inspired and enriched learning environment for every student."



Shauna Ianson, School Counselor.

New high school math teacher, Mary Lyn Dominguez

CCS is also excited to welcome our new high school math teacher, Mary Lyn Dominguez. Mary Lyn has been teaching mathematics and science in the Philippines for the past 13 years, and is looking forward to bringing her skills and enthusiasm to Crestone. For her, teaching is about more than just numbers. "Education is a matter of the heart," she explains. "We can make a difference in the lives of our students when we teach from the heart and with love. This is my philosophy and the reason why I'm passionate about teaching." She is thrilled to become part of the CCS family, bringing a love of children and education that transcends the boundaries of distance and culture.



Mary Lyn Dominguez, High School Teacher for Math and Science.

New Early Elementary teacher, Jane Elliott

Our new Early Elementary teacher, Jane Elliott, has been passionate about learning and teaching her whole life, and has always been interested in alternative approaches to education that include travel, project-based learning, community service, and creativity. She has extensive experience teaching children in the elementary grades, with unique expertise in reading, writing, and math instruction. She's also trained and certified as a school counselor. This is how she sums up her teaching philosophy: "The most important gifts we can give a child are the abilities to explore, self-reflect, evaluate, and ask questions and seek answers. As educators it is our job to lead children toward this." We're so glad that Jane has decided to bring her love of teaching to the kids at the Crestone Charter School!



Jane Elliott, Early Elementary Teacher.

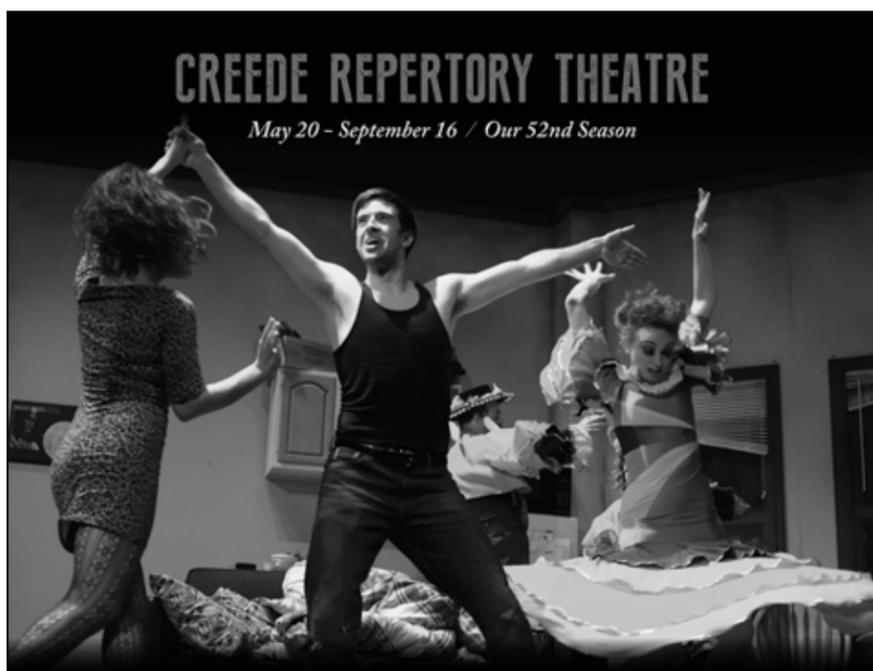
New high school language arts teacher, Rachel Wilson

And finally, we want to welcome our new high school language arts teacher, Rachel Wilson. Rachel comes to us all the way from Indianapolis, Indiana. She was called to the teaching profession and began her work in the Indianapolis public schools because she wanted to help disadvantaged students overcome whatever obstacles they faced to getting a meaningful education. There, she became a believer in creative project-based learning and found ways to challenge and inspire her students, rather than just "teach to the test." Rachel has a passion for hiking, exploring, and leading youth expeditions. While exploring Colorado a couple of years ago, she discovered Crestone and fell in love with our mountains and our unique community. Ever since then, she's been hoping for a chance to join the Crestone Charter School. We're so glad she found us!



Rachel Wilson, High School Teacher for English and Social Studies.

We hope that all of our CCS students and families are enjoying the summer. We look forward to seeing you soon!



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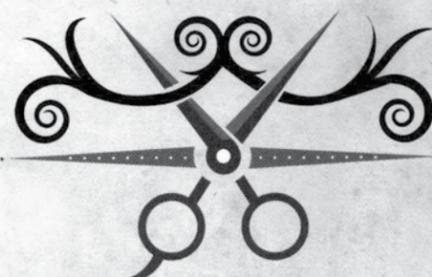
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The Washington Beat

Republican Health Care staggers toward annihilation

by David Nicholas

Such a pity that Mr. Trump hates President Barack Obama so much, because he would see the harm the GOP health bills would bring to millions if Obamacare gets repealed. At the count from the Congressional Budget Office released on July 19, 32 million would suffer and be excluded from affordable health care if the GOP's current version of the bill ever passed.

I have wondered what Mr. Trump would do once he has left the presidency. In my view he likely he would go live in Moscow. It appears his Russian connections are pretty good. It wouldn't be surprising, but he couldn't live here in America without a high degree of security.

Some would say that this would be justice because of Mr. Trump's temper at not getting his own way on American health care. You could see it during the third week of July where his hostile behavior was front and center. He was in crisis mode, petulant, angry and attacking.

This was because late July 17, the email flashes hit my inbox. *The New York Times* just beat out the *Washington Post*: the GOP's Better Care Reconciliation Act was dead on arrival.

Moderate Republican Senators Jerry Moran (KS) and Mike Lee (UT) said they would oppose the bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They joined GOP Senators Susan Collins (ME) and Rand Paul (KY) who announced earlier they would not support a cloture motion to bring the bill to the floor of the Senate for a straight up or down vote. Senators Moran and Lee brought the number to four who were publicly opposed. As well, the bill would need to be reconciled with a House version of the GOP bill, the American Health Care Act (AHCA). The reconciliation of the Senate version means only 51 votes were needed to pass, not the required 60 votes for legislation originating in regular sessions of the Senate.

Essentially the problem of numbers worsened as the week went on. Of the 52 Republican senators, only 51 votes were needed to pass the bill but the leeway the GOP thought it had was diminished by one. On June 15 Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced that he would hold off a vote for a week due to Arizona Senator John McCain having flown back to Phoenix for an operation to remove a blood clot behind the left eyebrow. This gave the GOP only 51 votes and, with four senators already opposed, this brought the number 47 who might vote for the bill.

Meanwhile, things got worse for Republicans when on July 18 the Senate Majority Leader was handed another loss. Mr. McConnell fronted the floor of the Senate mid-morning to say that while the Senate version of "repeal and replace" had gone the way of the dodo, a House bill passed in 2015, which would completely repeal Obamacare, would come to the floor for a vote the next week.

That idea lasted until lunch-time when the news broke that three senators would vote no to bring that bill to the floor for a vote. The Senators Lisa Murkowski (AK), Susan Collins (ME), and Shelley Moore Cap-

ito (WVA) all said they would oppose any vote to proceed with on the bill, which would immediately repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Trump, on learning the news when sitting down to lunch with service members, vented his spleen, seething with the usual rage. He vowed his plan was now "to let Obamacare fail," suggesting Democrats would then seek out Republicans to work together on a health measure.

"It will be a lot easier," Mr. Trump said, adding, "We're not going to own it. I'm not going to own it. I can tell you the Republicans are not going to own it. We'll let Obamacare fail and then the Democrats are going to come to us."

But Mr. Trump wasn't satisfied. Full of fight and male testosterone he ordered all GOP senators in DC to attend the White House for lunch on July 19, where he abused and verbally assailed his guests. In particular, he assailed Senator Dean Heller (R-NV), who was sitting on Mr. Trump's right at the lunch. "We were talking about you," he said. Then, touching Mr. Heller on the arm, "Look, he wants to remain a senator, doesn't he? OK, and I think the people of your state, which I know very well, I think they're going to appreciate what you hopefully will do."

It was quite the visual, and the threat was not lost on anybody.

Senator McConnell came out of the lunch to announce that there would be a vote to bring health care legislation to the floor for a vote on July 25. But he neglected to say which piece of legislation senators would vote on.

Mr. Trump's bullying, cajoling and threats to make GOP Senators bend the knee to his autocratic authority initially looked to have worked. July 25 saw the cloture vote—to allow a bill to be debated on the Senate floor—pass 51-50 with Vice-President Pence breaking a 50-50 tie.

This was seen as a "huge" victory by the Fox News Channel, which allowed for momentary crowing by GOP surrogates. However, the victory proved to be pyrrhic. Fleeting, when all was said and done, because late Tuesday evening 57 senators—including nine Republicans—opposed the updated version of the measure known as the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), while 43 supported it. Whack!

Worse, it foreshadows weeks of hell in August for Senate Republican leadership as it tries to come up with a bill that a 51-GOP Senate majority could agree upon. Tinker as they might, should a version pass in the Senate it would then need to be voted on in the House, and the saying goes, "that dog don't hunt." In short, annihilation is likely to be easier than passing a bill to overturn Obamacare.

Senator John McCain (R-AZ)

The one Senator not at the President's Washington lunch was John McCain. In the midst of all this, the Senator's family released



the news that he has brain cancer, a tumor that spread from elsewhere in his body and has no cure. The word was that he planned to keep going and was anxious to return to work.

Well, Senator McCain was true to form. He returned to Washington to cast the 50th vote on the cloture motion. His appearance brought applause from both sides of the Senate. But in an a poignant speech after the vote he said, "We're getting nothing done. All we've really done this year is confirm Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court. Our healthcare insurance system is a mess. We all know it, those who support Obamacare and those who oppose it. Something has to be done. We Republicans have looked for a way to end it and replace it with something else without paying a terrible political price. We haven't found it yet, and I'm not sure we will. All we've managed to do is make more popular a policy that wasn't very popular when we started trying to get rid of it."

"I voted for the motion to proceed to allow debate to continue and amendments to be offered. I will not vote for the bill as it is today. It's a shell of a bill right now. We all know that. I have changes urged by my state's governor that will have to be included to earn my support for final passage of any bill. I know many of you will have to see the bill changed substantially for you to support it."

Further on Senator McCain said, "What have we to lose by trying to work together to find those solutions? We're not getting much done apart. I don't think any of us feels very proud of our incapacity. Merely preventing your political opponents from doing what they want isn't the most inspiring work. There's greater satisfaction in respecting our differences, but not letting them prevent agreements that don't require abandonment of core principles, agreements made in good faith that help improve lives and protect the American people."

The Senator said a lot more, but it likely it's the last speech he will give in that place. After four days in DC, he returned to Arizona to continue his treatments.

Super critical as I have been of the Senator about his hawkish stand on foreign policy, on domestic policy he has always been a plain speaker. Quite refreshing, especially in this Trumpian age. I always appreciated his candor. His time is limited now; best estimates give him 15 months. I wish him the best.

Bombshell: Jeff Sessions cops a hit from Mr. Trump

On top of everything else happening the third week of July came this bombshell.

In a *New York Times* article, Mr. Trump said on July 19 that he never would have appointed Attorney General Jeff Sessions had he known Mr. Sessions would recuse himself from overseeing the Russia investigation that has dogged his presidency, calling the decision "very unfair to the president."

This a remarkable split with one of his earliest political supporters. Mr. Trump complained that Mr. Sessions' decision ultimately led to the appointment of a special counsel that should not have happened. "Sessions should have never recused himself, and if he was going to recuse himself, he should have told me before he took the job and I would have picked somebody else," Mr. Trump said.

In the same breath, the presi-

dent also accused James Comey, the former FBI director he fired in May, of trying to leverage a dossier of compromising memoranda to keep his job. Mr. Trump criticized both the acting FBI director who has been filling in since Mr. Comey's dismissal and the deputy attorney general who recommended it. And he took on Robert S. Mueller, the special counsel now leading the investigation into Russian meddling in last year's election.

By rights, Attorney-General Sessions should just get the hell out and turn state's evidence for Mueller. We shall see how this plays out. If he does, this next story just took a new turn.

In a postscript to this, I caught up with Maggie Haberman, one of three reporters who interviewed Mr. Trump on June 19. She appeared the following morning on CNN's *New Day* and she observed that while Mr. Trump was enraged, he was also calculating. He has a plan, a course of action, in dealing with the ongoing investigations. Ms. Haberman knows this president better than the rest of us. We shall see.

Jeff Sessions' response

In response to the *NYT* interview, Attorney General Sessions faced the cameras the morning of July 20. His appearance came after much speculation on whether such a sharp rebuke by Mr. Trump would lead to his resignation. Given that a president's cabinet member serves at his pleasure, even though the Department of Justice serves the people of the United States, Mr. Sessions appeared and said he and his Justice Department colleagues intended to continue to serve and he would do so "as long as that is appropriate."

"We are serving right now. The work we are doing today is the kind of work that we intend to continue," he said.

Further, Mr. Sessions added "I am totally confident that we can continue to run this office in an effective way."

So in a short and sharp response the Attorney General set Mr. Trump back on his heels. Meaning, Mr. Trump would have to fire him, which would be in full view of the public. Given the hellfire he received for firing former FBI Director James Comey, he would have to bide his time, in my view.

Looking at when that might happen, in all this chaos surrounding the White House with the Special Prosecutor and the Congressional Committee investigating Mr. Trump and his family's connections to Russian persons of interest, Sessions' firing would seem to be a year down the road at the very least.

Essentially, Mr. Sessions' move was a masterstroke as he out-maneuvred Mr. Trump. This is because for the moment it protects Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller from Mr. Trump's firing. Firing Sessions, and then Deputy Attorney-General Rob Rosenstein (who created Mueller's brief, therefore is the only one who could fire Mueller), then hiring Rosenstein's replacement to fire Mueller, would stir up huge outrage, even among Republicans.

RussiaGate: High crimes & misdemeanors?

Not yet, but that is the road we are heading down. Will wrongdoing and malfeasance be proven, reaching the highest office in the land? It's possible. The odds look better than 50-50 at this moment while Special Counsel Robert Mueller conducts

his criminal investigation. Not great odds one might think now, but last month those odds were 30-70 against. People in the White House are afraid and angry that this “administration” (using the term lightly) leaks like a sieve, which is unraveling faster by the day. It is quite stunning to see how quickly careless chaos can destroy a stable democracy as the Trump White House thrashes about wildly in this Russian swamp.

Mr. Trump is very angry, focusing his anger at the mainstream media—fake news in Trump parlance—which has become a major distraction from his “first 100 days” socially punitive agenda. After six months of constant revelations (of which more below) it still appears that he considers the Russian investigation a PR problem. A public relations problem which can be beaten back by trying to dominate the daily narrative with lawyers working overtime to make his point of view prevail.

In this regard he hoped and hopes still to beat the mainstream media into submission. So how’s that working for him?

On the Sunday talk shows, July 16, 2016, Jay Sekulow, part of the president’s legal team on the Russian investigation, tried to alter the narrative that White House staff wasn’t engaged in wrongdoing. Mr. Sekulow tried to argue that Mr. Trump’s son, Don Jr., along with his right-arm advisor Jared Kushner were innocent in attending a meeting with Russian persons. Persons who can be traced back to people who are close to Russia’s President, Vladimir Putin. Mr. Sekulow wasn’t very good at defending his client or his kin.

In a postscript on this story, now two months after I labeled Mr. Trump as Putin’s servant, I am adamant now more than ever. His behavior at the G20, the enormous effort he goes to to please Russian President Putin indicates that when Mr. Putin says “jump!” Mr. Trump says, “how high?”

The connection to the Trump Russian Dossier is looking more authentic as we proceed.

RussiaGate: Don Jr. & the 7/6/16 meeting

It was revealed on July 9, 2017 in an article in the *Washington Post* that Mr. Trump’s son Donald Trump Jr., according to emails in the possession of the *Post*, had a meeting in July 2016 with Russians whose connection to Vladimir Putin has been traced back through intermediaries.

At first, in response Mr. Trump Jr. said no meeting had taken place. But then on July 10, he reversed himself, saying only four people were at the meeting. A meeting, which lasted for only for about 15 minutes.

The Russian at the meeting was Natalia Veselnitskaya, a lawyer known for her lobbying against the Magnitsky Act. The Magnitsky Act is designed to seize the assets of and deny visas to suspected Russian human rights abusers.

Mr. Trump Jr. said in an interview on Fox News Channel on June 11 that the reason for the meeting was to discuss “adoptions,” which is now seen as a coded shorthand for “sanctions.” Sanctions placed against Russia under the Magnitsky Act, which was passed in 2010.

Alas for Mr. Trump Jr. who said in that interview that was all. This made him a liar because the *Post* had obtained copies of those emails between him and a rock promoter, Ron Goldstone, and they were going to publish them. Trying to take the

initiative, he released the emails before the *Post* published them, and it just raised suspicions that there was more here than met the eye.

Initially Mr. Trump said that former Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort and presidential advisor Jared Kushner decided to attend the meeting because Ms. Veselnitskaya was flying from Moscow with “dirt on Hillary.”

So if flying in from Moscow for that reason was the agenda, why would it merit both Mr. Manafort and Mr. Kushner to attend something that Mr. Trump Jr. could handle all by himself?

The answer of course, is that the meeting was way more high profile. There were more people in the meeting.

The drip, drip, drip of this story is that all through the week the number of people went from six to eight or more. They were Russians who had close relations—some of them financial—with President Trump and some of his family.

At the end of the week we had a whole lot of murk: people with extensive contacts with the Russian government and President Putin meeting with the Trump campaign. At time of writing it has not been established if these were all who were at the meeting. There may be more.

Under current election laws this meeting broke laws because of Mr. Kushner’s attendance, since he had a clear role in the Trump Campaign at the time.

In attendance were the following: Emin Agalarov, the Russian pop star that asked Goldstone to set up the meeting; Aras Agalarov, Emin’s father and billionaire real estate mogul in Moscow; Ike Kaveladz, representative of Aras and Emin Agalarov, who is an American/Russian citizen; Rinat Akhmetshin, who has dual Russian/US citizenship. Mr Akhmetshin has been accused of acting as an unregistered agent for Russian interests and apparently has ties to Russian intelligence. There is more to come on this.

The G20 in Hamburg: Opportunities lost

Yea, verily, did the servant meet his Master in Hamburg, not once but twice at different times during the conference, it has been revealed. Coming before the Master in a public show contrived to make Mr. Trump appear as the Master, shaking hands in full man spread, the Master looking meek and bored as the servant uttered leader niceties. This wasn’t good television. The Grand Master, Russian President Vladimir Putin, couldn’t wait to get behind closed doors and lay down the law. G20 photo ops are tedious chores for President Putin and are not the Master’s thing unless the optics are in the grand manner.

Behind closed doors, at the initial meeting that lasted two hours and sixteen minutes with only Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson present, it was ugly. So much so, that after the meeting wound up Mr. Tillerson refused to appear before TV cameras, giving only a rehearsed recorded verbal account to the world press. Clearly, Mr. Tillerson didn’t want anyone reading his body language because he doesn’t lie well.

However, Mr. Lavrov had no such qualms, having okayed his statement and released it through the Russian official news agency TASS. Just minutes after the meeting ended, Minister Lavrov appeared on camera. He said that not only had

there been no Russian interference in the 2016 election, that Mr. Putin had denied it twice and Mr. Trump had accepted the Master’s denial and that both had chosen to move on and “move forward.”

As optics are everything at these summits, this was a bust for Mr. Trump. In the official photo he was off at the end on the front row.

In summary, Mr. Trump ceded, nay, surrendered world leadership to a new triumvirate of super powers. This was because he didn’t attend the re-meetings, but other leaders did.

President Putin arrived two days early allowing him to schmooze with German Chancellor Merkel. Also Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived early, continuing a meeting with President Putin in Moscow from two days earlier and meetings with Ms. Merkel on issues of mutual interest such as climate change and trade.

These three decided that they would lead the world jointly on their mutual agenda with German Chancellor Angela Merkel coordinating. Mr. Trump wasn’t included.

The G20 didn’t have to be a disaster waiting to happen for Mr. Trump. He hesitated about German Chancellor Merkel hosting the G20 gathering in Hamburg, but Mr. Trump—multi-tasking isn’t his strong suit—was ambushed and he didn’t know it.

The G20 proved to be a backward step for Mr. Trump’s “America First,” um, campaign, I guess you might call it. If this is policy, we are in for a long period of grief and pain if the president turns up at another of these meetings unprepared. When you come unprepared to these meetings you lose advantage in the game. Undesirable with competitors this sharp.

The first Putin-Trump meeting at the G20

The White House had been pushing a narrative that the “great” meeting between Mr. Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin was going to be the main event leading up to the G20. But after the publicized photo shot with the Russian President, Mr. Trump pretty much blended into the scenery. He wasn’t needed and he wandered about.

The surprise second Trump-Putin meeting at the G20

Unbeknownst to folks in the State Department, there was a second meeting between Trump and the Putin. The meeting went for 55 minutes and it took place at the G20 dinner for heads of state. While the White House plays down this meeting, it has become a big deal. The news of this meeting came in late July, and Mr. Trump made yet more enemies in the State Department.

The source at the dinner saw them in “animated conversation” but there is no official record on the US side because the only person present at the conversation was Mr. Putin’s Russian interpreter. Speculation abounds as to the subjects discussed, but Mr. Trump has said that it was about “adoptions.” But adoptions—regarded as shorthand for Russian sanctions—was the subject of a July 6, 2016 meeting at Trump Tower. Another issue speculated about are the possible return of two “spy mansions” confiscated from the Russians under the Obama sanctions of December 2016. There is probably more to come out on this, as Mr. Trump cannot help but spill the secrets.

Manafort, Trump Jr. & Kushner give public testimony

It has been announced that the

June 9, 2016 meeting participants Paul Manafort, Donald Trump Jr. and Jared Kushner will testify before the Senate committee in the last week of July. On the subject of Mr. Manafort and his past financial dealings with Russian oligarchs, a news item that surfaced on July 19 was a story in the *New York Times* that former Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort owed several Russian billionaires \$17 million. This money was loaned out to him through various loan entities. These dealings go back to his activities in the Ukraine, when he received the favor of former Ukrainian pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich. The former Ukrainian president gave his blessing to Mr. Manafort to start up a number of businesses, almost all which failed badly.

The details will out when Mr. Manafort is questioned under oath before various Congressional committees in public. Should be interesting.

On July 21, it was announced that Mr. Manafort and Mr. Trump, Jr. will testify before the Senate Judicial Committee but it will be in private. It means they have cut a deal, and it also means they have things to say which would/could tarnish their reputations—such as they are—if they testified in public. What we all know is that there are no secrets in Washington, and what they say in private usually becomes public knowledge soon after.

Jeff Sessions appears to be in deep trouble

June 21 looked to be a black day for the Attorney-General and possibly sealed his fate. The *Washington Post* revealed that Mr. Sessions discussed Trump campaign-related matters with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. Ambassador Kislyak’s accounts of two conversations with Mr. Sessions—then a top foreign policy adviser to Republican candidate Donald Trump—were intercepted by US spy agencies.

At his confirmation hearing for Attorney-General, when asked by Senator Al Franken (D-MN) had he any contact with Russian nationals, he answered no. It was later revealed that he indeed had had contact with Russian nationals. He said he hadn’t remembered; as a result Mr. Sessions agreed to recuse himself from overseeing the FBI in the Congressional Russian investigations.

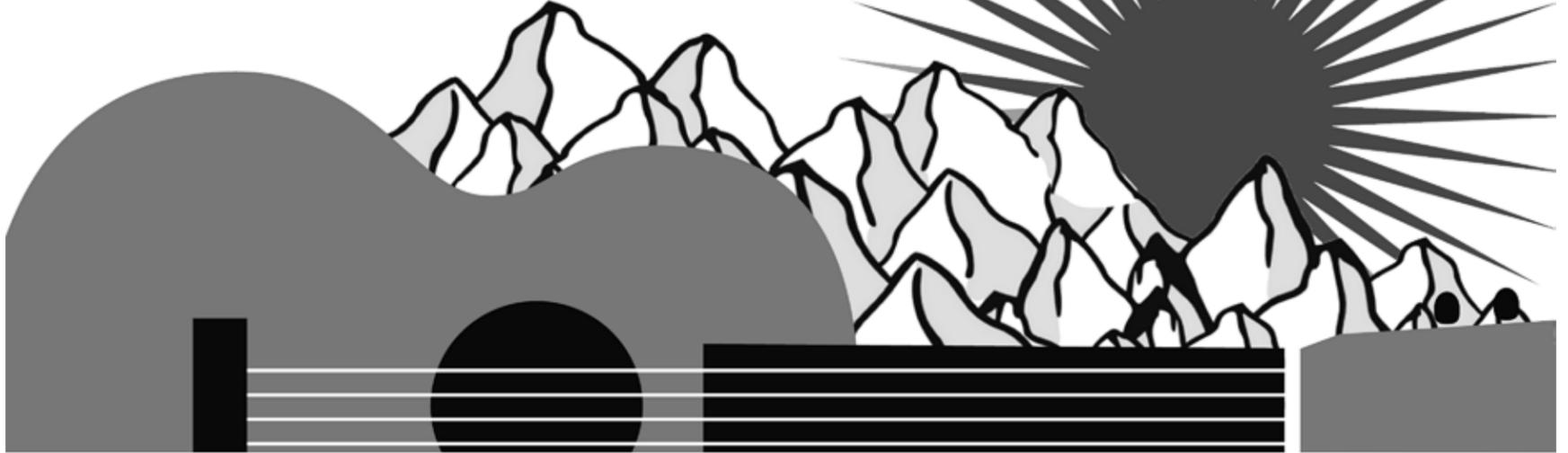
Now these conversations show that Mr. Sessions initially not only failed to disclose his contacts with Mr. Kislyak, he then said that the meetings were not about the Trump campaign, but these show evidence to the contrary. He has been caught in a bigger version of the original false denial, which in Washington usually spells the end of a career.

Under FISA court rules, when the NSA spies on foreign nationals’ intercepted conversations with American citizens, it is required that the citizen’s name is kept hidden on transcripts. As the transcripts come under National Security as highly classified, only someone with the appropriate Top Secret clearance can get that name revealed. Given Mr. Sessions’ fight with the President, it doesn’t appear to be rocket science as how these transcripts came to be made public. There’s more, of course, but the ball game will have seriously changed when September rolls around.

Happy Labor Day holiday to all. And the beat goes on.

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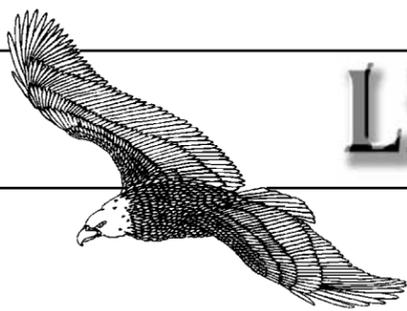


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Living on the Earth

Everson Ranch: A new take on SLV heritage ranching

by Mary Lowers

I am lucky. For example, on an overcast Tuesday in July I was cruisin' north, windows cracked and dog in the back seat, to tour the Orient Land Trust's Everson Ranch. This one-hundred-and-fifty-year-old heritage ranch has been modernized using historical facades for buildings to bring together an educational and working agricultural facility highlighting sustainable agriculture. In 2004 the Orient Land Trust (OLT), acquired 760 acres bordered on the north and south by public lands and valued at \$850,000. Years ago, according to their website, Valley View Hot Springs/OLT owners Terry and Neil Seitz "knew that the resources of the northern San Luis Valley (SLV) and specifically the environs surrounding Valley View were simply too valuable to be owned by any one person." OLT members all contributed to extend the area the Trust preserves in a wide band from Valley View Hot Springs uphill in the east and the Everson Ranch on County Rd. 61 in the west. What's happening there made me feel optimistic about the future!

Ranch Managers Mike and Cherrye O'Donal gave me an informative tour of the ranch, highlighting projects including holistic grazing, permaculture principles, riparian corridors and pasture res-



Baby Hercules and his mama are Boer Nubian goats.

toration. "We use simple methods bridging past to future." Cherrye said. The ranch homesteaded in 1872 was, Cherrye told me, "one of the largest in the SLV. When first founded it went all the way to the hot springs." Over the ensuing years the ranch fell on hard times, and then the OLT bought it. Mike said, "Four years ago the fields were dirt with tumbleweeds because the water was not going onto the fields." When the water source of the hot springs was unleashed on the land it began to bloom with life. The springs, Mike says, "Are the source of everything and power everything."

The ranch is home to domestic live-stock: Large Black Hogs, Boer Nubian Goats, and various sorts of chickens live in crossed-fenced areas close to the ranch house and gardens. Cross-fencing allows the animals to be rotated from one fenced field to another, which enriches the land, whereas overgrazing depletes the soil. Cherrye ex-



The pond that the ranch put in at the end of the conservation easement.

photo by Cynthia Nielsen



Rosalea Anderson, Ranch Manager Mike O'Donal, and Marlon Jacobi buck hay from the ranch's first cutting in July.

photo by Cherrye O'Donal

plained that ". . . the animals work together in a harmonious system." For example the Large Black Hogs are a heritage breed that nearly became extinct because they took two years to fatten up for meat. That is considerably longer than it takes other breeds of swine to reach slaughter size. They also have smaller litters than other hogs. But they do not sunburn and their ears protect their eyes and keep them focused on the field they are grazing and turning while revitalizing the earth under their hooves. Mike explained, "We plant a green cover crop in the spring and bring in the pigs in the fall to stir it up."

Then there's the poultry that, through the judicious use of a mobile chicken tractor, spread their poop as fertilizer on the fields. The Boer Nubian Goats are a cross between the Boer Goats from southern Africa that are raised for meat, and the Nubian Goats from southern Europe and northern Africa that produce more milk fat than other

breeds. They frolic in a field shaded by Cottonwoods, unaware that they are fertilizing. Cherrye said the three beehives near the ranch house will "produce enough honey in a year to sell some of it."

Next we went out see the fields and pond east of the ranch buildings. The pond was created to bring back a riparian or bird corridor utilizing ditches and other waterways. The water all comes from the Valley View springs to the east. As we approach the pond a Blue Heron who had been fishing there took off. Mike and Cherrye told me they see all sorts of raptors out by the pond, including Golden Eagles and Red Tail Hawks. They said the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) helped fund the wetlands at the ranch. A conservation easement through the ranch is part of the agreement with the NRCS and FWS. According



Guests enjoy a Farm-to-Table meal at Everson Ranch. Find out more about eating Farm-to-Table meals at the Everson Ranch on their Facebook page.

continued on page B-11



by Kim Malville

This is the month of the Great American Solar Eclipse on August 21. First, let's see what is in the sky before that event.

August 2: Saturn will be below and to the left of the moon.

August 7/8: Full moon. This is the eclipse season when often there are connected eclipses of both moon and sun, separated by two weeks. In anticipation of the approaching solar eclipse, there is a partial lunar eclipse in practically every part of the world but the Americas: eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia.

August 11-13: Perseid meteor shower. The moon rises before midnight which will cut into the visibility of fainter meteors.

August 21: New moon and total eclipse. I hope you get to view it!

August 25: Soon after sunset, the crescent moon forms a triangle with Jupiter and Spica.

The Great American Total Eclipse

The total solar eclipse begins August 21 near Lincoln City, Oregon, at 10:15am PDT and ends on the American continent at 2:48pm EDT near Charleston, South Carolina. The total eclipse itself will take about one hour and 40 minutes to cross the country, the first total solar eclipse in the continental U.S. in 38 years. This eclipse will be the most-viewed ever. If you plan on driving to the center line, try to arrange getting there at least a day ahead of time. Highways will be packed with cars on the morning of the eclipse.

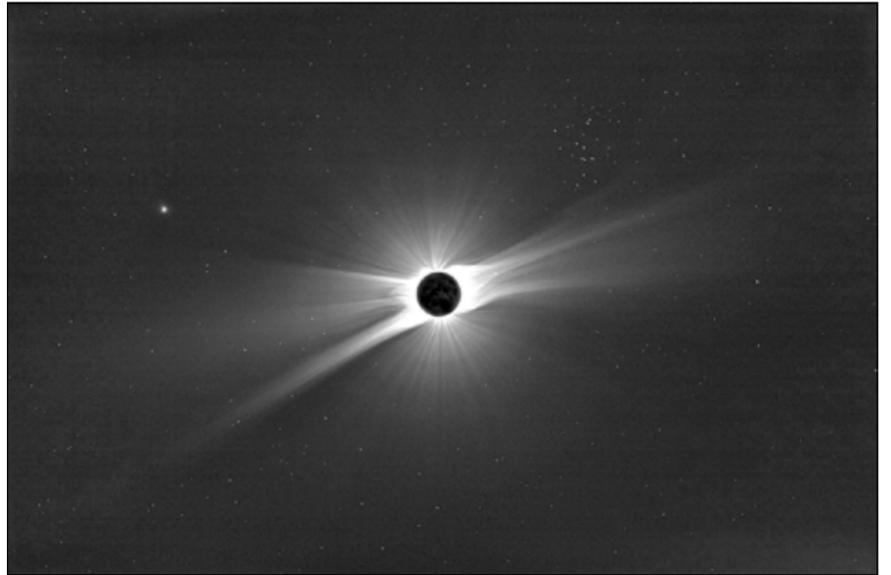
A solar eclipse occurs because

the moon casts a shadow on the earth, and can only occur at new moon. Total eclipses occur frequently on Mars when one of its moons casts its shadow. Eclipses are also common on the cloud tops of Jupiter due to its four large inner moons.

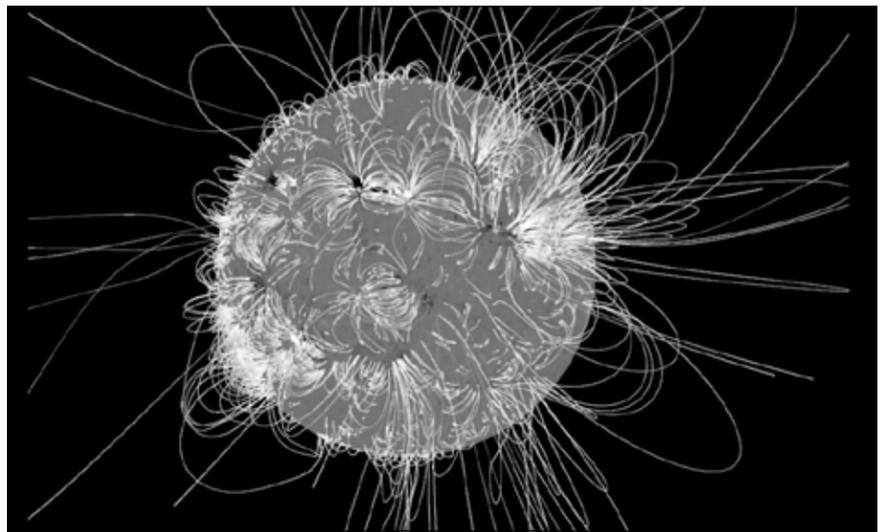
Everyone in the continental U.S. will see at least a partial eclipse. The least coverage will be 48% at the northern tip of Maine. In Crestone, the moon will cover 87.7% of the sun. Good, but no cigar. You should head north. In Breckenridge, it will be 91.1%; in Boulder, the moon will cover 93.4%. Moving further north, coverage will be 97.6% in Cheyenne. On the center line at Casper and Douglas it will reach 101%. Further to the east in Alliance Nebraska, coverage will also be 101%.

Don't be fooled by these high numbers in the 80 and 90 percentages. The difference between 100% and 99% is like standing outside an opera house while the performance is going on inside, or it is almost dying vs dying. Only the total eclipse is the ultimate experience. Only then can you observe the pearly white whips of the mysterious corona, still mysterious after millennia of humans watching eclipses, all the more mysterious because it appears as if in a dream, briefly seen, but not easily forgotten.

In the 19th century it was thought to be a cloud of dust surrounding the sun, perhaps due to falling meteors and asteroids. Then, in the early 1900s, because its appearance changed with the



Total solar eclipse 2008.



The sun's magnetic field.

cycle of sunspots, its connection with the sun seemed obvious. Some astronomers thought the loop-like structures of the corona was produced by volcanos on the sun. One great puzzle was why its structure looked so much like a magnetic field. (see the figure). A cloud of dust or neutral gas shouldn't be influenced by a magnetic field. Finally, around 1940, the emissions lines of the corona were found to be produced by highly ionized particles of iron, stripped of many electrons by a very high temperature, some two million degrees. One mystery was replaced by another. The surface of the sun is 6000°. How could its outer atmosphere be so much hotter? The answer lies in the magnetic field that surrounds the sun. The magnetic field flutters in the gas flowing outward, and it gets tangled. Electric currents flowing in the magnetic field get short circuited producing heat. Fires get started in houses with short circuited wires; the corona somehow gets heated in a similar manner. But exactly how is still a puzzle.

Try very hard to find eclipse glasses. In Boulder, you can find them in McGucken's Hardware for two dollars. Or get a welding glass filter. If all else fails, make a pin hole projection device with a cardboard box and a piece of aluminum foil. As you view the beginning through a safe solar filter, the first hint that an eclipse is coming will be when the moon takes a small bite out of the edge of the sun, known as "first contact". When more than three-quarters of the sun is covered, you'll notice that shadows are getting sharper. The reason is that the Sun's disk is shrinking and the smaller light

source produces better-defined shadows. At about 85% coverage, you might see Venus appearing 34° west-northwest of the Sun. (A clenched fist at arm's length is approximately 10°.) If trees are nearby, you should see their leaves act like pinhole cameras as hundreds of crescent Suns appear in their shadows. This is a truly magical time. Look on the ground for shadow bands, which are produced by waves in the earth's atmosphere. The experience will be like watching waves in the bottom of a swimming pool. The chance of seeing shadow bands will be increased if you lay out a large piece of white cardboard or sheet on the ground ahead of time.

During the time the moon's disk covers that of the Sun, totality, it's safe to look at the eclipse. It will be as bright as a full moon. In fact, to experience the glory of the event, you must look at the sun without a filter during totality. But be very careful, and put your eclipse glasses back on as soon as the edge of the sun appears (third contact). During totality see how far you can trace a streamer out from the sun. Look for the very fine streamers at the north and south poles of the sun. (see the photographs). Watch for the diamond ring, red prominences at the edge, and any possible disturbances in the corona.

The next total solar eclipse over the continental U.S. occurs April 8, 2024. It stretches from Texas to Maine, and the duration will be more than 4 minutes in southwestern Texas. After that eclipse, it's a 20-year wait until August 23, 2044, visible only in Montana and North Dakota. Don't miss this opportunity!

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Memorial hike to North Crestone Lake

by Emmy Savage

This hike is in memory of Margot Williams who hiked with me and Sarah for a year before she got sick. On one of our first hikes together, we had just finished doing volunteer trail maintenance for the Forest Service on the North Crestone Lake Trail and I asked Margot if she wanted to go on to the lake. We had about another mile and a half to go. All she said was, "Sure!"

The hike to North Crestone Lake is the one I consider the loveliest of the three lake hikes in Crestone. This is because I am partial to meadows and flowers and the North Crestone Lake hike has an abundance of both. The hike begins at a National Forest campground and follows a trail up a valley that draws one back five miles into the heart of the mountains before the last mile ascends steeply to the lake. The trail rises to an elevation of about 12,300 feet, about 500 feet above the lake which is tucked back in the center of a great circle of 13,000-foot peaks.

Of all our lakes, North Crestone Lake is the wildest and starkest, the most remote and possibly the largest. There are few trees and, for the most part, the mountainsides going down to the lake are dressed only in low willows that are green in spring and summer and turn to a russet and ochre in fall. In spring and early summer, the water is grey but as it warms, it turns many shades of blue and green. At the end of July, I once found a sumptuous spread of blue Columbine blooming at the western edge of the lake on either side of the creek just before it plunges 1000 feet down the headwall below the lake. It is the only

time I've seen them blooming there. Timing is everything. On June 14 the Columbine on the North Fork Trail were tightly furled while today, June 29, the meadows going up to North Crestone Lake are brimming with blooms. Like all the lake hikes, the North Crestone Lake has its moods and passages, its surprises and secrets. Perhaps what distinguishes it is the pace, which is slower, and the ascent, which is longer—six miles through forests and meadows, then up the steep face of the mountain.

The walk up the valley begins where the air is full of the sound of rushing water and Warblers and Tanagers glow in the tree tops. It begins where Narrow Leaf Cottonwoods and Piñon Pines give way to Engelmann Spruce and Aspen and the songs of Hermit Thrushes are embedded in the forest. Scents and birdsong change with the elevation and temperature, with the time of day and the time of year. I count six Hermit Thrushes singing at various locations between the trail head and the fork where the trail branches to the North Fork, to Comanche Peak and to the lake. Scouring Rush, an ancient evergreen from the time of the dinosaurs, lines the side of the trail near the creek and an amphitheater of sheer rock on the north side of the trail augments and echoes the sound of cascading water. Then the trail alternates between steep ascents and gentle passages, up the dry south facing slope, past Wood's Roses and Mountain Mahogany, Rocky Mountain Maple and Raspberry, Bear and Buffaloberry, Oregon Grape and Cliff Spirea until it breaks out of the forest to a view of the entire valley and the peaks that encircle the lake.



North Crestone Lake, late June, 2017.



"Basking before heading back home." Emmy Savage.



Blue and white Columbine, North Crestone Lake Trail.

There are only two creek-crossings on the way to North Crestone Lake. The first is coming up and crosses the North Fork Creek. Both have ample footing over bridges of Aspen saplings and even when snowmelt is raging, the crossings aren't difficult. We cross and then my dog, Sarah, and I take the right fork that plunges into a dense, old Aspen forest, full of moisture and mystery. I once imagined I saw a large animal walking through the forest: a bear, an elk, a cloud's shadow projected across the trees? Today, animals may move in tandem with us, but we do not see them. We cross Comanche Creek and move on to low points where seeps wet the black earth and deep purple flowers—Larkspur and Monkshood—brush against my shoulders. Then the trail climbs out of the valley, skirts along the side of a steep slope overlooking a waterfall and arrives at another seep and level area with its oh-so-joyful magenta "Little Pink Elephants" and "Shooting Stars," flowers that line our path. Not long after, the trail passes from Aspen to Spruce and then breaks out into open meadows that tilt at a gentle angle towards the sky and brim with

blue and white Columbine, first in demure clumps and then in an extravagant rush of shimmering petals. The breeze stiffens and as the last meadow widens into a long flat valley, we begin our final ascent. In the distance, we see North Crestone Creek plunging down the mountainside and hear its swells of sound, like a crashing surf, breaking against rock and wind.

As we ascend, the velocity of the wind increases, funneling up a narrow fault that we must climb as it leans upwards and finally crests at a rim overlooking the lake. Within a few feet of beginning our descent, we step out of the wind and the rush of sound. What a relief to be in still air and silence. About a hundred feet down, with a good view of the lake, we stop at a nice, flat, sunny rock, edged with dwarf evergreens that make enough shade for Sarah. Boiled eggs, oranges, dried figs, walnuts and dogfood are lunch. The sky is absolutely clear, no menacing clouds. A Marmot looks down at us from the rocks high above us and barks his shrill cries of peevish outrage. I watch him through my binoculars as he turns his blunt black snout and big yellow incisors up to the heavens. "Too bad for you," I say. "Right now, I have no worries and neither should you." I lean back using my pack for a pillow and close my eyes. Sarah digs a nest under the dwarf evergreens, circles and circles again until she is comfortable and offers up a sigh as she closes her eyes. We have six miles to hike back to the car but for now, it is enough to be still in the embrace of rocks and sunshine and Alpine Sunflowers.



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Technology Tipster

Back-to-school tips for upgrading students' devices

(StatePoint) Back-to-school season is a popular time to replace tablets, smartphones and other mobile devices. However, while you're busy paying for books, student fees and other education-related expenses, tech costs don't have to be a burden.

Today, refurbished devices and accessories can provide a quality, reliable alternative at often less than half of what it costs to buy a new device. Indeed, more consumers are coming to that conclusion. Demand for used smartphones is forecast to grow considerably, according to several industry analyst reports.

While there's a lingering belief among many consumers that refurbished devices are those that were broken or have had problems, the truth is that many refurbished devices come from trade-in and upgrade programs. Through these programs, owners trade in a perfectly

good device so that they can get a newer model.

Whether traded in or repaired, if you do consider purchasing a refurbished device, check out reliable sources such as MyWit.com, where all devices undergo an extensive 65-point inspection of cosmetics and performance to ensure full functionality. These tests verify that every possible function—camera, audio, SIM, WiFi, Bluetooth, etc.—is in excellent working order, and only devices that score 100% on these tests are made available to purchase.

What's more, purchasing refurbished devices is an eco-friendly alternative, keeping used devices from ending up in a landfill and reducing the demand for new devices.

Whether you are purchasing a device as a gift or for yourself, this back-to-school season, consider upgrading devices in a smart way that's affordable and sustainable.



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Source: safety.com

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Who We Are

Kelly Hosner Crowley:

Greeting the world with gratitude & joy

by Gussie Fauntleroy

The first poem Kelly Hosner Crowley ever wrote was for an assignment by a freshman high school English teacher, who challenged his students to produce their own version of Lawrence Ferlinghetti's 1958 poem, "I Am Waiting." (Google the original; it's worth it.) The students handed in their poems and the teacher read each one aloud, anonymously. When he finished reading Kelly's, the classroom was quiet for a long moment. Then a chorus of approval erupted: "That was really, really good!"

For a girl who had always been quiet and shy but filled with wonder at the world—wonder being a recurring theme in Ferlinghetti's poem—it was an amazing and affirming experience. "It felt really good," she says now, her smile wide and her eyes bright. Since then Kelly has written and performed her own poetry and stories many times, as well as adapting and acting others' words—as in the recent Company of Players' production, *Herstories*. Yet as vibrant and self-assured and engaging as she can be in front of an audience, inside, she says, it's always a stretch for an essentially still-shy girl.

Urban life

Growing up, Kelly also had some bigger speed bumps to cross. For one, her father died when she was four. Her mother, now-Crestone-resident Holly Hosner, raised her young daughter alone and worked non-stop at the management recruiting business she and her husband had begun. "She was an amazing mother, a businesswoman in the 1980s, and for a woman at the time, it was hard-won. She was strong," Kelly says.

In her hometown of Pittsburgh, Kelly's early memories involve friends and the YWCA and a children's museum, but also asphalt, sidewalks, and bus exhaust. The first time she remembers being surrounded by green was when she got lost among the towering tomato plants in a community garden near the railroad tracks. But like that garden, there were positive aspects of the place where she grew up. It was an extraordinarily diverse and integrated neighborhood, where both Kelly and her parents had friends of all races and Kelly attended predominantly African-American schools. When she was eight, she and her mother moved to the outskirts of Boulder, where Holly had a sister. For Kelly, Boulder's homogenous population felt like culture shock, softened somewhat by living in an apartment building with immigrants of different ethnicities.

Creativity & hard work

Following her English class experience as a young teen, Kelly began writing more poetry and occasionally reading it at Penny Lane, Boulder's legendary Pearl Street



Kelly Hosner Crowley.

coffeehouse where Allen Ginsberg had read and the beat mentality still lived. Her shyness remained a challenge, although life soon provided opportunities for putting on boldness and dealing with whatever arose. At 17 she began living on her own. After high school she came close to going to college on a gymnastics scholarship, having competed as a child and with a deep love of learning, but the scholarship didn't work out.

Instead she moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where some friends lived. She worked the graveyard shift as a waitress in a 24-hour diner, protested the American military activity that followed 9/11, and did "exactly what 19 and 20-somethings are supposed to do: We skateboarded and made our own movie. We were cultural creatives," she says. After three years in Kansas City, however, she was weary of the city stress. Late night waitressing was educational in its own way—"I saw all kinds of crazy stuff," she says—but she was ready for a change.

Many miracles

In one of her contributions to the 2016 book and related performance event, *Tell Stories That Heal*, Kelly writes that ". . . it takes many miracles to put us on our right good graceful way." One of those miracles began in the fall of 2003 when she first visited Crestone, where her mother had moved. Serendipitously, her now husband Matthew Crowley also made his first visit here that fall. The following year they both, independently, returned to stay. Later they met at what was the happening place in town at the time, the EarthStar Co-Evolutionary Café, where Kelly worked and was hosting open mic poetry events. A few years later they were both involved in a production with the Company of Players, which Kelly co-founded along with Richard Collier and Ammi Kohn. She and Matthew



Kelly as Queen Mab in the Company of Players' performance of *Herstories* at the Crestone Charter School.



Kelly (second from right in front), her mother Holly (holding banner) and YWCA friends prepare for a parade in their Pittsburgh neighborhood.



Matthew, Arthur and Kelly at a spring dance performance Arthur was part of in Salida.

became life partners, their son Arthur was born in 2011, and they were married in 2016.

Over the years Kelly has worked in various capacities with every age level at the Crestone Charter School, including as a teacher's aide and a Spanish teacher. Currently she teaches ukulele to 4th and 5th grades. She's working toward her teaching certificate, having studied for a time in Denver—where she also took part in poetry slams—and at Adams State College in Alamosa. "I really feel like teaching is my calling and my path," she says. "Kids can be loved in school, and knowledge is so empowering."

A "post-spiritual" life

Meanwhile, Kelly's writing these days tends to center around 5½-year-old Arthur—poetry and stories about him and for him. "Because I'm so immersed in him," she says. And when her brain gets tired, her hands continue to be creative, sewing clothes for Arthur and herself and making quilts. She is also involved in an upcoming interactive performance art project, "Bandwagon of Belonging," with Cristina Cabeza-Kinney and Allison Wonderland, as well as local poetry readings and Company of Players productions. (Watch for them.)

Showing up in the world—continuing to edge past shyness and to step into the clarity that comes with sobriety in all forms—is an underlying theme in Kelly's life these days. She likes a term she heard not long ago: post-spiritual. For her and for Matthew it means moving beyond elitism or any sense of preciousness in spirituality and bringing it back to the "everydayness" of life. "Of course we have our meditation practices and walking and ways of centering, but they've kind of grown more natural," she says. "The world can be a hard place sometimes, so greeting it with gratitude and joy works for me."

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

Action Groups report to the Crestone Baca Resiliency Council

by Mary Lowers

The Crestone Baca Resiliency (CBR) Council, formally known as the Liaison Council, met in July to field announcements and catch up on CBR Action Group progress. CBR was active in local 4th of July festivities participating in the parade and working an information booth in the park. CBR Stewardship Chair Kate Steichen told me, "We had great fun on the 4th with twenty inspired participants in the parade and lots of interest in the CBR booth."

CBR presented at the Convergence Conference July 25 at Colorado College Conference Center. The conference of interfaith networks focuses on creating a "spiritual and ecological roadmap to 2020."

According to CBR Food Group Representative, Ginny Ducale, the group's action list includes: canning,

drying and other methods of food preservation. This group is looking for a licensed commercial kitchen. As part of a small grant they were awarded, the group has provided soil for local food producers. Representative Adam Fries said the CBR Housing Group is working on a market study to help identify the need for affordable housing in the community. The CBR Paradigm Shift Group is discussing a welcoming ceremony for newcomers, an Elder Council, and working with local groups, Representative John Loll told the meeting.

Janie Thomas, Representative of the CBR Water Group, says upon further investigation of the Baca Water & Sanitation District's opportunity to purchase more water rights, the group feels this acquisition is not a priority. This is because the terms of the lease are



Janet Woodman and John Luke Wall lead the way for the Crestone Baca Resiliency contribution to this year's 4th of July parade. photo by Lori Nagel

favorable, it is renewed automatically, and these rights can only be sold to the District. The group reported that with 4000 acre feet of water allocated and only 600 acre feet in use, the spare water could help households in the Grants in an emergency situation. The CBR Energy Group, according to Representative Janet Woodman is preparing for the Energy Fair and looking at various energy options for the community. They are quantifying energy use per home and attempting to find out how many Crestone/Baca homes are grid-tied and how many are independent on photovoltaics.

Representative John Loll reported the CBR Community Development Group has established criteria for funding. They are planning to work with other action groups on large funding proposals.

Local community activist Cristina Cabeza-Kinney gave the liaisons a short presentation on restorative and unitive justice which may be of use to the CBR Action Groups, particularly the Governance Action Group highlighted in the adjoining article. The CBR webpage will be up and running sometime in August.

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CBR governance group studies forms of local government

by Mary Lowers

The CBR (Crestone-Baca Resiliency) Governance Group meets regularly on Thursday afternoon at the Little Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church in Crestone. In trying to devise governance for our community the group has divided itself into three committees: Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) Reform, Common Law, and Security. They are launching a draft outreach program focusing on various forms of self-governance.

The POA Reform Committee has, according to reporting member John Loll, been working for two months trying to establish whether Article 4, Section 4.2 of the POA Covenants is the way to determine how a quorum of property owners is reached. Loll told the meeting that POA Manager Ayla Hoevers is of the opinion that the Colorado Common International Owners Act (CCIOA) supersedes the articles of the POA covenants. Hoevers says according to Loll, a quorum of 50% of POA members is needed for an issue to go to the membership for a vote. According to knowledgeable sources the CCIOA only requires 10% to 20% of members to attain a quorum.

This confusion as to percent necessary for a quorum led the CBR Governance POA Committee to ask for a consultation with the POA's attorney. According to Loll the response when he asked Hoevers why the attorney had

not gotten back to them was that "he's too busy with other important items." Loll said after two months of trying to get "a simple legal opinion in writing" about the correct percent needed for a quorum, the committee is looking for a Homeowner's Association (HOA) or POA attorney for consultation. According to Loll this is a very specialized legal field. The CBR Governance Group has, according to Governance Action Group member Paki Wright, made it onto the POA agenda with the quorum issue.

The next committee to report to the Governance Group is looking into Common Law as the basis for governing. Common law is one of the oldest forms of law and is rooted in the Magna Carta, a document drawn up in England in 1215. Common law is based on precedent. In the case of the Magna Carta it used precedent to show that the "barons" had their own power and based on history/precedent the right to hold a parliament which allows their voice to be part of decision making. Common law today is based on legal decisions in courts. In cases of disagreement on what the law says, common law looks to past decisions/precedent to interpret the rule of law and make a decision in the conflict.

Statutes are laws created through legislation and come from the legislature or other representative body. Regulation or the making of rules is a function of the execu-

tive who can create agencies with their own ways of interpreting and carrying out these regulations. Statutes and regulations are interpreted by the courts to come as close as possible to reflecting the will of society/ the people by looking at legal precedent. Common Law is a product of judges making court decisions based on precedent. Common law, also called case law evolves through the court's interpretation of precedent to meet the changing needs of society or the community. CBR Governance group member Kathi McCallum said, "Common Law is one of the best governance models to present to the community."

Governance Group member Aha Arnie Alba said in the Common Law approach to governing, "everything must go back to the people and the land." The International Court in the Hague, Netherlands, which is rooted in Common Law, recently came out with a decision allowing citizens the right to get an Indemnity Bond through the court. This bond would pay off government/national debt and give the people their assets back. Governance Group member Erin McGrath said through this Indemnity Bond "we the people are offered a remedy if the Federal Government defaults." Governance Group member Kizzen Laki said of Common Law, the principles are true in fact and law, "but this will not stop entrenched power from taking everything" it wants. A ques-

tion the group is pondering about Common Law are: How can this be implemented and what will the structure be?

The Security Committee is looking at how to make our community safe and secure come what may. They are currently studying the formation of an Elders Council to help with problems and conflicts. They are considering further study of the Unitive Justice Model presented to the CBR Council at their July meeting by Cristina Cabeza-Kinney. What will security look like? Aha Arnie Alba put it this way, "If we are born here we are American" and through Common Law and new institution are "going back to the natural law of the land."

What will a change in governance look like? It is as Kathi McCallum pointed out, "our right and responsibility to work toward governance change" for the better of the community. Kirsten Schreiber, originally from Europe, commented, "Americans' need for independence and individual freedom" make decisions about the entire community difficult. She continued, "It is about the whole and how that will work. How willing are we to surrender to the greater good." As John Luke Wall put it, "this is a big paradigm shift and it is in conflict with our cultural expectations." Despite the stress of creating change, the CBR Governance Group carries on striving for a better community.

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Owner/builder conversations

by John Rowe

My interviews continue this month with two of Crestone's many owner/builders, folks who built their own homes with their own two hands here in the Baca, one twenty years ago and one in process right now. Owner/builders have been a large part of the fabric and identity of our community since its inception nearly fifty years ago and all have a story to tell.

My first talk was with long-time resident Nathan Good at his mini-farm in Chalet I. Nathan became a regular visitor to Crestone



Owner/builder Nathan Good.

in the 80s and bought land and moved here with his wife and two children in 1996. Nathan decided on Crestone because it "was pure, unadulterated from so-called civilization." He made a living touring with the Renaissance Festival and wanted home to be a place that was "safe and peaceful." Nathan and his family were welcomed with open arms and found many kindred souls, both in the POA and in the community at large. People were eager to have young families settle here and offered all kinds of support. Folks in the POA were very helpful and had all kinds of natural, earth-friendly information to share, a handbook to pass out that contained a list of local resources and pictures of cool houses. Nathan was heartened to find out that the local government was full of people just like himself who also were involved in building their own artistic and earth-friendly homes.

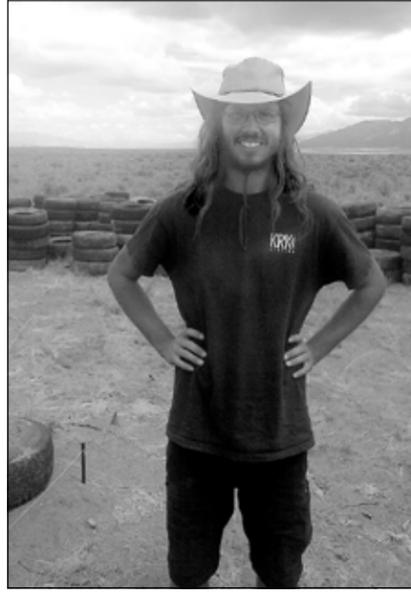
Nathan decided on a straw-bale house that took him and his

wife over six years just to get the exterior complete; they finished the inside as time, money, and energy allowed. When asked why it took so long, Nathan replied that he was on the road, working, most of the year and managed to put aside \$5-9,000 every year for building and that he decided on a labor-intensive artistic home with much involved wood and stonework. He was interested in a home that was livable but also beautiful, a vision that took extra time and effort to see to fruition. Pictures of his home can be viewed at Willow-CreekRetreatHouse.com. Nathan recalls that he was fined a total of about \$100 total for being over the time limit and no one ever went inside to inspect, as the POA was only interested in the exterior being complete. Nathan experimented with rubble trench foundations, scoria for floor insulation, and much natural plaster, among other things that were new at the time. He hopes the community remains supportive of experimental building, an aspect of natural home construction that Nathan still finds very exciting.

And what would you like the POA to be like in regard to new owner/builders? Nathan would like to see special consideration for low budget owner/built homes and those who would choose labor-intensive artful houses. Both take longer than a year-and-a-half to build and both are plenty worthwhile. Nathan remarks, "I think the Board should be reflective of community values and do things like offer credits for green-building, give incentives for appropriate cottage industry startups within the Baca, and be aware of cutting edge eco-village strategies, and begin community discussions about our future in that regard."

And what advice would you give the new owner/builder? "Live here at least a year before buying land here, just to find out how things are in the Baca. And once you do buy, meditate on your land, sitting in stillness with your ideas, and have clear intention, a definite vision before you start," Nathan says.

Nathan's life has completely changed since moving here; he has a new home, a new wife, a new son, a new livelihood, lots of gray hair, and his older kids are all grown up and on their own. What has not changed is his enthusiasm for making Crestone the kind of place he thinks it should be. Just ask him, he'll tell you all about it (smiling).



Owner/builder Pete Van Horn.

My next conversation was with Pete Van Horn, a fresh-faced 28-year-old refugee from the Midwest who has just begun an earthship home in the Grants. Pete teaches music at Moffat High School, also works with Adam Kinney part-time, and even has made money creating a YouTube video that caught over a million hits. So, Pete, why choose Crestone as the place to make your stand? "I was doing fine in my old life—I owned my own home, was on track to make \$60,000 in my went-to-college-for job and was pretty happy, all-in-all." Yeah, and still and all, here you are? Pete laughs and says something was calling him and he became interested in building and living in his very own green home out in the country. Things fell together to study with Mike Reynolds at his Earthship Academy in Taos, as Pete has family there and could attend free while being an intern. He found Crestone on Landwatch.com, a popular nationwide real estate website, came for a visit, and immediately became convinced this was the place for him—he loved the cheap land, the wildness, and possibilities for outdoor living. Pete also plans a music studio and small music publishing house in the future.

Pete chose an earthship because they use so much recycled

material, including lots of those unsightly junked tires. You can grow food in earthships, and they need very little in the way of heating and cooling systems. He also thinks they look cool and are not that tough to build, if you keep it small and simple—which he is. His home will be right at the 900SF minimum. He plans on making the 18-month deadline for exterior completion and he will work around his two jobs to do so. He has done the math and is convinced he can be in for under \$40,000, keeping it simple and using discarded or recycled materials when possible.

And how would he like the POA to be in regard to the owner/builder? He would like to see them be more helpful, be a better resource. Pete would like the POA to realize that people can indeed build homes for \$30-40,000, and that upfront fees of \$6500 and late fees can really hurt progress. He would like the POA and the entire community to realize that lots of young folks all across the nation look at Landwatch.com and see that Crestone has by far the cheapest land available in the United States, not too many building restrictions, and is a haven for natural owner/built homes. And so they will come. Lots of them. Pete hopes that the friction that exists, the us vs. themness in our community, gets some sort of resolution because the influx of young people looking to build their futures here is not going away, it is going to intensify.

He urges new builders to know what they are getting into here, to keep it small and simple, and to take responsibility and know what all is entailed in building here—well, septic, electrical, building time-frames, and the like.

And finally, Pete hopes he and others like him are accepted here because, he says emphatically while giving me a level look, "You are looking at the American Dream right here. My parents never went to college, I came from an inner city school that graduated 48% of students, I put myself through college, and I am building my dream life. What is wrong with that?" What indeed, folks, what indeed.

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There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root, RH (AHG)

Making Medicinal Herbal Oil



Making herbal oils is another way to process herbs for healing. Herbal oils can be used as a base for salves, ear oil, and other external uses. Some common herbs used in oils are St John's Wort, Mullein flower, Garlic, Calendula flower, Yarrow, and other herbs used for skin issues. Use a fixed oil (not essential oil) such as olive, sesame, safflower, or almond oil.

There are two ways to make herbal oil – using fresh herbs and using dried herbs. Let's start with making oils from fresh plants first.

Begin by letting the plants wilt for 24 hours. This decreases the amount of water in the plant and will help prevent mold. Chop

or grind the fresh plant, put in a jar, and cover with oil. Check every now and then to make sure the oil covers the plant. Cover the jar and set it in a warm place (around 100 degrees). You can use the very lowest setting on a crock pot, and a yogurt maker will do. I used to set my jars on top of our hot water heater. Let it sit for 10 days, stirring several times a day. After 10 days strain the oil out, press (using an herb press or squeeze through muslin). Allow to sit for a day and decant the oil, leaving any water or plant bits behind. Another way is to cover the jar with cheesecloth to allow the water to evaporate, and finish by straining, pressing, and decanting.



Arnica cordifolia.

For dry plants, grind the herb into a powder, mix with the oil until the whole mixture is wet, put into a jar and add enough additional oil to cover by ¼ to ½ inch. Heat herbs to 100 degrees in a crock pot, yogurt maker, or other warm place, and allow it to "digest" for 10 days. Stir several times a day, and add more oil if needed. Strain and press. Al-

ternately, cover the jar well, place in a paper bag, and let it sit in the sun for 3 to 10 days. Shake herbs daily. Strain and press.

When the oils are done, pour into a brown bottle and keep in a cool, dark place, like the fridge or freezer. Vitamin E oil can be added as a preservative. Experiment with making small amounts of different types of

herbal oils and using them in different recipes. Enjoy!

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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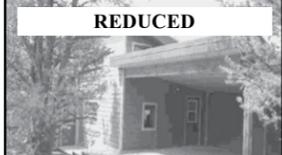
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<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>187 W. Silver. \$475,000 Prime location in the center of Little Pearl Park. Currently Restaurant, Brewery and Hotel rooms – Long term lease in place.</p>	 <p>3458C Enchanted Way. \$475,000 Owner financing available on this income-producing property. Includes main home, cottage apartment, Geometric Sacred Space, and garden space.</p>	 <p>1474 Badger Rd. \$360,000 3BD 2BA premier custom built Lee Mitchell home. Exterior Cempo walls, indoor stucco, R32 insulation, very energy efficient, open floor plan.</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>253 Golden Ave. \$325,000 Partially finished construction, this property is part of an estate. Taking offers-price reduced \$100,000 for quick sale! call Crestone Realty for details.</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>302 Hemlock, \$319,000. 3BD 2 BA Rare opportunity for an income producing home in the Town of Crestone. No covenants, plenty of privacy, and space.</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>757 Rendezvous \$299,000 4BD 2 BA beautiful tri-level serene home is in immaculate condition and located in a quiet, private location but with easy access to town.</p>
<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>1564 Wagon Wheel \$239,000 4BD 2BA If you love SW style, this one will catch your eye. very family oriented or great home for entertaining.</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>983 Peaceful, \$224,500 Large home, guest house, grow dome. On consolidated lots</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>1618 Willow Creek Way, \$215,000 2BD home, large garage with poss. apt. upstairs. 2 levels, living room, den, sep kitchen. Oversized garage for RV or boat. New screened porch, views, fenced yard, grow dome.</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>1541 Camino Real, \$205,000 Spacious 1799 sf. 3BD 1.75BA, 2 car garage on 3.25 AC</p>	<p>SOLD</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>SOLD</p>  <p>3949 Cheerful Way \$187,500 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 \$187,000 3BD 1BA fire-resistant ICF home with gorgeous views, landscaping, high efficiency hot water heat, solar/thermal shades, great lighting.</p>	 <p>776 Table Rock Tr, \$179,000. Pristine 23 acres bordering 1/4 mile of Spanish Creek. 2300 sf. 2BD 1 BA. Expansive 360 views. Finish remodel and save. Great investment property.</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>1327 Badger Rd, \$169,900 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>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>300 Hemlock. \$165,000. Colorado log cabin located in the town limits of Crestone. Easy walking distance to all amenities. 2 Bedroom home with additional sleeping loft.</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>3901 Rarity Way \$163,000 2BD 1 1/2 BA. Backs to greenbelt & creek. Passive solar, year-round warm earth mass floor. Custom kitchen, screened-in porch.</p>	 <p>2024 Lost Cave Way \$159,900 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>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>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>980 Peaceful Way. \$158,000. Sweet and cozy home, nestled on half an acre backing to greenbelt. Large windows with panoramic views 1BD 1BA Large loft and separate utility shed.</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>250 S 2nd St. \$149,500 2BD 1BA Last century feel! Private, mountain views. Home sits on 1 acre, has a deep well, landscaped, with new roof, new paint. Wood shed, partial fencing, woodstove.</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>56450 CR AA \$133,000. Lots of potential with 40 acres and domestic well.</p>	 <p>400 Paseo Court. \$91,000 Gorgeous views! This would make a great retirement or vacation home. 3BD 2BA, completely remodeled, can sell partially furnished. Lots of space.</p>	 <p>279 Del Rio Court. \$69,500 This manufactured home purged with the land, on 4 lots in a private cul-de-sac. 2011 model, has a garage for the work at home mechanic, or self employed.</p>

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

Living here with lions

by Larry Joseph Calloway

Mountain lions live here. So you'd think Ron Garcia would not be surprised to see one. He's the longtime manager of the Baca National Wildlife Refuge, and lions are, of course, wildlife. They are unmistakable, with adult males about eight feet long from nose to tail tip and females a foot shorter.

Yet, one evening a few years ago as he left work at the old Baca ranch headquarters Garcia was very surprised. First he noticed



Manager Ron Garcia of the Baca National Wildlife Refuge was surprised when he went to close a barn door.

photo by Larry Calloway

a barn door was open. He got out of his truck to close it. The winter shadows were long. Suddenly he saw something move in the dark at the base of a barn wall. It was a full grown lion lying in wait.

Not waiting for Garcia, who instinctively reached for a pistol he wasn't carrying. He knew mountain lions eat deer almost exclusively, and this one likely was waiting for the deer that wander into the cottonwoods at the headquarters—and nowhere else on the flat, watery refuge. It has an over-population of about 3,000 elk, but they are not the natural prey of lions, whose normal habitat is higher ground—beginning with the pinyon-juniper belt where most us live.

There is no record of fatal attacks on people here. And though occasionally a lion will kill a small mammal, in Garcia's view pets are safe. "Taking a small dog is rare. If they attack one it's more from fear or hunger." With all the deer wan-

dering in the Baca subdivision and in town, there shouldn't be starving lions around.

Anyway, the shadowy lion by the barn that evening padded softly away. (Like this: Garcia showed with his hands like paws.) It was not seen again, and lions are seldom seen on the refuge generally. "Typically when you see one in the flats there's an issue with the animal—usually a health issue—because the animal is out of its element. It's the same thing with bears," he said.

James Romero, who grew up in the San Luis Valley and has been the Colorado Parks and Wildlife district officer for a year now, has yet to receive a call about a mountain lion. "They're secluded and want to be left alone as much as possible," he said. "Their mode is not to attack people."

Still, he recommended the brochure "Living with Lions," which can be downloaded from the Parks and Wildlife web site. The main advice is don't be out alone in lion country, especially at dawn or dusk, and when out with children keep them within arm's reach. There are 4,500 to 5,500 wild lions in Colorado.

My own research showed that of the rare 14 fatal lion attacks in North America since 1970, six victims were children and most of the adults were jogging, skiing, biking or hiking alone. Speeding through lion country without paying attention to your surroundings can trigger the chasing instinct. Lions usually attack by leaping from behind and severing the thoracic spine with teeth that have evolved in the balance of nature especially for deer.

Matthew Crowley of Shumei International Center says new visitors there, particularly young people from Japan, are informed they are in mountain lion country and that they should walk in pairs and "never run" if they happen to see a big cat. "It's not fear," he said. "It's respect. Living where we do it's awesome that we have mountain lions around."

Last winter Bill Aldinger, who cooks at the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram just down the road from Shumei, saw a lion. He walks to work up Spanish Creek Road,



Of the 14 fatal lion attacks in North America since 1970, six victims were children and most of the adults were jogging, skiing, biking or hiking alone. Speeding through lion country without paying attention to your surroundings can trigger the chasing instinct.



Bill Aldinger, who cooks at the ashram, and a lion stared at each other last winter near Spanish Creek Road.

and one morning he noticed a pair of deer antlers sticking out of the snow near the intersection with Camino Baca Grande. Based on his five seasons on fire crews in Idaho he said to himself, "Cat," and did not investigate.

Next morning as he trudged to work with his head down he looked up and saw a lion feeding on the buck deer in the snow. "I made myself tall, and he looked up at me and I looked at him. I thought, 'Just stand here and don't be afraid.' I thought, 'Am I really seeing this?'"

The eye-to-eye contact lasted only a few seconds, but it was memorable. Aldinger had seen lions in Idaho but, he said, "never this close." He added, "I honor them and respect them, but I was not going to say, 'Here, kitty, kitty.'" Suddenly the lion leapt away and disappeared.

The remains of the deer were reduced to scraps of fur as the chain of predators did their work by spring. And somebody took the six-point rack as a trophy.

Licensed hunters "harvested" 36 lions in the mountains around the San Luis Valley in 2014, the last year for which statistics are available, according to a spokesman for Parks and Wildlife.

The foremost scientific study of mountain lions (technically

called cougars or the species *puma concolor*) was concluded 21 years ago in the San Andreas Mountains of New Mexico by the Hornacker Wildlife Institute, now located in Bozeman, Mont. Researchers tagged 241 cougars and monitored 126 by radio collars.

Without expressing any opinion about hunting, the 200-plus-page report nonetheless provided evidence to refute arguments that open cougar hunting seasons (Nov. 20 to March 31 this year in Colorado) serve any purpose apart from recreation and its contribution to the economy.

First, lion populations are self-managing. Dominant males, which can range 75 miles, are so aggressively territorial that they kill off any excess population—males, females and even cubs. Second, lions do not, according to this \$1 million study for the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, prey upon cattle. The lion diet was calculated as 84% deer. The remainder was antelope, rabbits, coyotes, skunks, small rodents, birds and reptiles but . . . no beef.

The scientific researchers added a poetic note in the "acknowledgements" section:

"For 10 years we delved into the lives of cougars, sometimes getting close enough to hear them purr. Besides the observations we made to address our objectives, time and again we also observed cougars do things that we could attribute only to cognition and conscious thinking, characteristics that many of us humans normally reserve only for ourselves.

"To consider that we have some basic mental processes in common with cougars actually helped us be as objective in our observations and understanding of their life as was humanly possible. For those important lessons and for some of the most marvelous experiences of our lives, we are grateful to the cougars."

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a reporter's blog...

Everson Ranch

continued from page B-1

to OLT Executive Manager, Doug Bishop, “Conservation easements offer tax credits to landowners which don’t help us because we are a non-profit.”

Mike told me, “Meanders in ditches and creeks make excellent bird and fish habitats.” Two endangered fish, the endemic Rio Grande Chub and Rio Grande Sucker, were brought in and are coming back in the wetlands. Cherrye said the beautiful pond will be the site of a wedding later in the summer.

The hay produced on the ranch Mike said is “mostly alfalfa and grass to feed the livestock through the winter.” Arrow Point Cattle Company leases a portion of the ranch to graze their Scottish Highland Cattle. “The lease” Mike said, “is paid in beef.” Everson Ranch has a permit from the BLM for pasture grazing. Including all property owned and leased by the Everson Ranch, the ranch is a steward for two thousand two hundred acres. Mike pointed out that, “Ranching is not understood in today’s urban world, but laws are easing up to enable small farmers and ranchers to make a living.” According to Doug Bishop, “More landowners are looking at leasing their land for cattle grazing.”

The ranch, Cherrye said, “has a half-acre garden that gets bigger year by year.” The garden has efficient underground irrigation and two hoop green houses which long-time local Slim Wolf helped construct to hold up to SLV winds and weather. As we near the garden I can see local young people Marlon Jacobi and Rosalea Anderson bent over weeding, laughing and talking as they work. They are able to leave the weeding and visit for a few minutes before taking off in the truck to buck the neat small hay bales waiting in the fields to be picked up from the first cutting of the season.

Education is a big part of the OLT mission, Manager Mark Jacobi told me as we sat on stump stools around an amazing table Mike has made out of a giant old cottonwood. Another SLV heritage rancher near Major Creek, Ben Eiseman, a “big supporter of OLT and ranch heritage,” funded a program for high school kids to learn rural job skills. Addressing what Mark calls “the disconnection from how our food is sourced” and what it takes to produce it, this internship program pays kids to work four days a week for eight hours a day. Tasks are normal ranch/farm work including watering, weeding, fencing, and digging post holes for fences and a pole barn.

Both Marlon and Rosalea, who wanted to work outside for the summer, were chosen for the intern jobs based on essays they wrote on their future plans and how they would use the money they were paid. Rosalea said, “I wanted to learn more about animals, gardening and the value of manual labor in order to respect other people’s jobs.” Marlon, who has a “passion to perform,” is “trying to get a wide spectrum experience on how people work.” He finds there “are barriers you are forced to break to get through



Scottish Highland cattle graze at Everson Ranch from Arrowpoint Cattle Company, which trades beef for grazing rights.
photo by Daniel Flemming

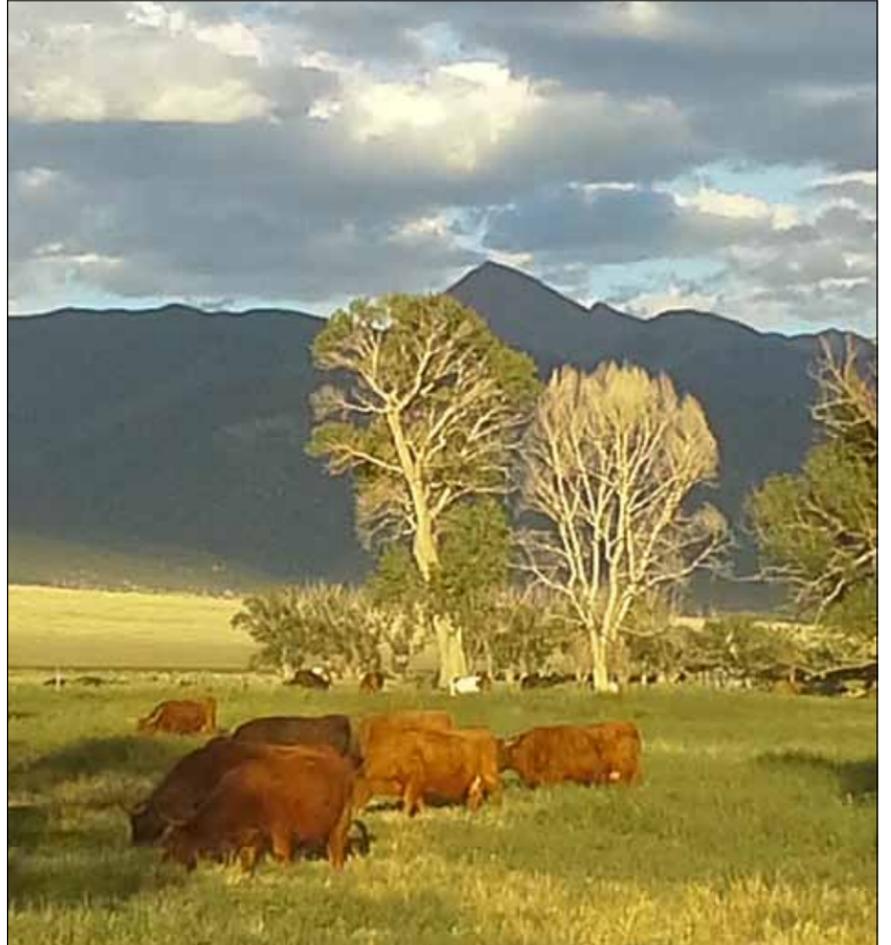


Ranch dog watches the flooding of the fields at Everson Ranch.

the day, psychological and physical barriers.” Roselea pointed out, “you can feel isolated in Crestone. I want to see how this valley works.” Mark said “this internship shows kids what work is like and to make sure you have done an honest day’s work. This sort of work includes the use of hands and brain.” For example, if you are walking out to weed the garden and see the goat water is empty you stop and fill it, being aware of the bigger picture while being task-oriented.

The Eiseman Grant also funds an internship at the hot springs. The OLT, with the help of a Saguache County Sales Tax Grant, holds a summer science camp for kids. This year it was July 7-13. A music camp will be held August 7-23. Giving back to the community is a big part of the mission the OLT takes on; as Cherrye said, “OLT has a mindset to make a difference in the Valley.”

The OLT is working, Mark told me, for the ranch to have “more interchange with the hot springs, with a focus on education and recreation. In addition to the fireflies living and glowing near the warm water and the ever-popular bat cave near the hot springs, the dark skies in the SLV make it ideal for astronomy enthusiasts. Valley View has equipment and a special round pad for celestial viewing. The ranch hosts interested Valley View visitors, tourists and SLV locals, and itinerant “woofers” who trade room and board for work. The beautiful adobe and stucco ranch headquarters lined with blue-streaked beetle-kill pine, built by Mike, is one of the only new buildings on the ranch. It reminds me of a Dine Hogan. It holds a shower/



Scottish Highland cattle munch wild pasture at the Everson Ranch. Acreage is also planted with an alfalfa, grass, hay mix which is harvested to feed livestock through the winter.
photo by Cherrye O'Donal



Ranch manager Mike O'Donal shows young visitor, Reiko, the Everson Ranch bees. Honey will be produced next year.

bathroom and a shared kitchen. One of the greatest parts of this is that its fuel needs are met using a methane generator!

Mark showed me around the methane generator located across a driveway from the headquarters building. The system the ranch is using was brought to the SLV from China by alternative energy expert Nick Chambers. Mark explained that the two round insulated concrete vaults next to each other in a trench are where the waste be-

comes methane gas. He explained how the tanks work: “It’s like an underground bottle . . . an inverted funnel” in which methane replaces water. The gas is distributed to heat water and provide for the cooking needs of twenty people. Next to the trench and the hot water panels is what looks like a gas grill but, when you flip back the lid you will find a Chinese methane range cook top.

With all the good food, a large cottonwood picnic table next to a lush lawn, farm-to-table meals at the ranch are a regular event. The farm-to-table movement is about, Cherrye explained, “connecting

folks with where their food comes from and to join the food revolution.” Meals are crafted from ranch-raised beef, pork, or goat, vegetables from the garden, and other handcrafted foods. After a meal, Mike told me, “We go on a tour of the place and tell people: that’s what you just ate.”

If you are interested in a meal or ranch tour you can check it out on the Everson Ranch Facebook page. A second annual Harvest Dinner is scheduled for September 13.

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AUGUST 2017 Listings

SOLD!

1038 Beaver Trail - \$337,000
This 2292sf 3BR/2BA home on 3.57 acres in park-like setting backs to greenbelt. Post & beam construction & strawbale in-fill, this 2-story sustainable home is passive solar, solar domestic HW & in-floor heat, woodstove. Separate 300sf studio.

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.

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 I. Passive solar design w/ two adobe brick walls & curved back wall, concrete kitchen counter tops, in-floor radiant heat & wood stove.

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.

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!

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/woodstove, fridge & combo w/d. Shower bath.

UNDER CONTRACT

786C Panorama Way - \$399,000
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!

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.

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.

1541C Camino Real - \$205,000
Spacious, open, 1799sf, 3BR/1.75BA/Office home w/2-car garage on 3.25 acres in Grants. Built 1974, but w/recent updates incl. int & ext painting, appliances, fencing, 188-ft well, septic, elec. baseboard heat, wood-burning stove, & roof.

1212 Chaparral Way - \$175,000
New construction by Richard Laurie, Terrapin and Company. One story 3/1.75 on beautiful treed lot close to paved road. Lots of windows for great light and amazing views.

200 Moonlight Way - \$169,000
Conveniently located, this 1-1/2 story 2 bd/2ba/study/2 car garage is located on paved road close to town. Open floor plan, fenced yard, decks make for a comfortable home.

UNDER CONTRACT

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.

New Listings

120 W. Silver, Town of Crestone - \$499,000
This large 4320sf commercial building is currently in residential use as 7 units. Can convert to full commercial use as professional offices, retail and much more. Includes Lots 1 & 2, Block 43. Call for details.

Grants - Secluded

499C Willow Trail - \$350,000
A unique & rare find! ~3900sf with 4bd/3ba/office/sunroom + attached greenhouse. 20+ acres. Tall trees. Private, long cul de sac & backs to Conservation Easement, offering extreme privacy. Well water.

Southwest Sanctuary

999C Badger Road - \$259,000
Charming 2BR/1.75 BA 1412sf home up high in CH 1 on 2.48ac, private, treed. Built in 2002, recently updated in 2017 w/garden soak tub, stainless appliances & more! Amazing views.. Frame construction w/ strawbale in-fill. A special property.

Baca Meadows

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!

Grants

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

Chalets

780 Palomino OL - \$585,000
Built by Lee Mitchell to capture mtn & valley views, elegant 3 BR/2.5BA home w/2-car garage on 2.787 acres. Fantastic landscaping & flowing water. In-floor radiant heat & Hearthstone woodstove w/ stone surround. Expansive Master balcony.

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

3959 Cheerful Court - \$424,000
Custom Cathedral Style Mt Home. Approx 2700 sq/ft, located on 2.16 acres by Cottonwood Creek. Many architectural features incl Brazilian cherry hrdwd flrs, diamond plaster walls. Features 30x16' Art Studio.

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!

2145 Indian Well Way - \$266,500
This 1331sf modern 2BR/1BA bit 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.

3760 Jubilant Way - \$249,000
Beautiful 2,033sf 2 bd/1.5bath/loft/2 car attached garage octagonal log home with bamboo floors, in-floor radiant heat, wood vaulted ceilings. Bonus unfinished 1,565sf walkout basement.

Chalets

3481C E Graceful Ct - \$239,000
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

Tract 2 Lindisfarne - \$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.

34 Camino Baca Grande - \$149,000
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!

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In Search of Economic Reality

Tough questions for America

by Ed Lyell

The US health care system is focused on profit for investors, not providing cost-effect health care similar to every other developed nation, and it needs reformation. Yet we also need to look at big decisions and their long term costs. For many decades the US has been avoiding the financial reality of expanding its federal spending without raising taxes to pay the costs. This includes military spending, prison costs, homeland security, and healthcare. Even self-funding programs like highways have been destroyed since Congress will not even raise the gasoline tax to match 25 years of inflation.

The richest 1% own and control the media to convince everyone that we should not raise taxes on anyone, especially the rich. Thus we continue to put the costs on our grandchildren's charge card. America needs to pose and answer some tough questions, including, how much is a life worth? To whom? Paid for how? Are some lives worth more than others? What about the value of forests, bridges, educated citizens, opportunities for children to reach their potential?

The US Congress is supposed to be asking and answering these questions in how it sets laws, taxes corporations and people, and

creates budgets for government spending. Yet for decades we have had a dysfunctional Congress in which there is no logic and hypocrisy rules. The same folks that ensure no embryo is destroyed, and that every birth must occur, do not want to pay the cost of these decisions. Why do we pay millions to keep a brain-damaged pre-natal baby alive—but do not want to provide basic health care to millions of fellow Americans? It is somehow ok to save every embryo, but to let the chronically ill, or old or damaged from accidents die. Even worse, the system first bankrupts the family, takes away their homes, cars, and wealth, and then lets them die on the streets. The rapid rise of opioids is one part of this tragedy. Soldiers come back from wars damaged and in pain. The military and VA take away their pain medications and leave them on the streets. The damaged veteran turns to illegal pain killers and oftentimes dies from the lack of access to healthy pain care options.

There are many, many other similar scenarios in America. We need to have a discussion about what a life is worth. If a premature baby is diagnosed with incurable diseases, or being drug dependent, how much money is to be spent

keeping them alive? Prisoners today get better health care than veterans living homeless in the streets, Why? Some homeless commit small crimes in order to be arrested and put in prison because it is better than living on the streets, and they get health care in prisons.

We sentence thousands to decades in prison without the possibility of parole, and pay for their health care as well. Since they contribute little or nothing to society, why should we spend so much on them, and ignore their children and younger siblings' needs for preschool, health care, education, safe streets, giving those children an opportunity not to follow the parent into crime?

How much is ok to be spent on healthcare—for whom? One California child's medical expenses in 2014 totaled \$21 million—a bill covered entirely by Medi-Cal, the state's version of Medicaid. How many children could have preschool to improve their lives if that medically expensive child were to die? Medi-Cal provides health coverage to 13.5 million Californians, or a third of state residents. State data show that the most expensive 1% of patients in Medi-Cal account for 23% of the program's spending. Ten percent of patients create 63% of total costs.

In the 1970s I worked with then Governor Lamm when he tried to warn Americans about the long-term cost of bad decisions. In one speech Dick asked the question, "Do the old and sick have a duty to die in order to use those last weeks of hospital care costs to help the young? Lamm never recovered from the political death of even *asking* a tough question. When I was on the State Board of Education I questioned the policy of putting severe and profoundly damaged children in regular classes. Many of those children never learn anything and disrupt other students. Where do you draw the line on things like mainstreaming? I had my life threatened, a bullet came through a window of my home, and I had to have state patrol protection for two weeks. Our next State Board meeting was shut down by the protesters. I just wanted data, debate, and logic about the cost and benefit of such policies. America must create an atmosphere for having quality analysis and discussions of these tough questions. How much should we spend on defense, versus medical research, or university access, or early education?

Yet it looks like America is going to continue on multiple paths of economic decline and bad decisions, and not even ask tough questions to create a better society.

Ed Lyell PhD, Emeritus Professor of Business and Economics retired, Adams State University, Facebook-dredlyell



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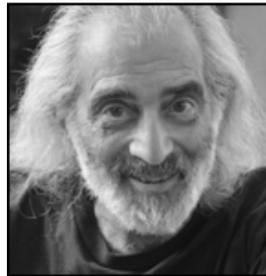


DISPATCH

from the edge 

by Peter Anderson

Summerland siesta time. Afternoon clouds are rolling in and the skeeters are whining on the other side of the window screen. Now a light rain is falling and even the jays have gone quiet. The mountain says yes to the moisture and I say yes to some dreamy shuteye, and soon I see something swimming underwater. My god, it's a moose. I didn't know they could do that. A big cow surfaces a few feet away and now she is standing very tall between me and a calf—a gangly albino—who wades in the water not far from her side. This may not end well. I back away slowly, hoping to fade away into a stand of leafy trees. Now the thunder rolls over and I'm leaving the lake. Soon I'm leaving that down-under world altogether. Goodbye cool mossy forest. Hello gray desert sky, hello rain on the roof, and hello to the queries that have come home in my rucksack: Can moose swim like that? Are there really albinos? I consult the nearest oracle. The Great Google says yes they do and yes there are. Some people say they'll nap when they're dead. I say I'm alive when I nap. Long distance nappers like summerland siestas. They like dreamtime adventures. They like to be reminded, from time to time, that they don't always know what they know.



Aging as an adventure

by Ammi Kohn

My heart attacked me—Reset

My heart attacked me seven weeks ago!

I thought of writing a column about how writers will do anything for material to meet a deadline, even have a heart attack if they are really desperate for content. Then I decided that writing about the attack, fortunately “mild”, was too personal, that I would have trouble writing from the heart in clear and simple language about complex and very important feelings so close to the heart.

I always have two or three people a month stop and talk with me about the month's subject—the last time they saw their parent, being a fool, thinking they were sick when the pain and anxiety was only caused by tight clothing or not drinking enough (water). People stop to share their feelings with me if the column found a particularly heartfelt sensitive memory or emotion. For me, the heart, the organ that beats so many millions of times before it wears out, that unconscious and conscious symbol of our emotional life, where we touch our body to show deep feeling, where pain both emotional and physical manifests itself, that overflows when we are overwhelmed with circumstanc-

es both horrifying and transcendent . . . when that heart attacks, we can feel betrayed, bereft and forsaken. Or, more exactly, I felt betrayed.

This is my third “event”, the word that cardiologists use and which the Atomic Energy commission broadcast to alert the public when another atomic test explosion was to be set off. “There will be an event at 11am on November 25. Don't worry if the earth shakes”. Well, there was an “event” on June 14, a minor explosion in Ammi's heart and it did shake him. Now he is recovering. The pattern of recovery is constant; gradual return of strength, panic and anxiety wondering if the weird healing pains are the precursor of another attack.

But the most important “event” in this person's heart saga, and central to each failure, is the overwhelming compulsion to examine and reset my life, which includes this column.

Until the attack I did not really understand how I felt about my readers. I was writing for myself, sharing my thoughts with others, trying to amuse, provoke, arouse universal basic feelings we share, to create a momentary collegiate body of fellow readers. But this column is different, very personal, wanting to reach out with heart to each one of you, not as part of a readership but as a fellow being on this spectacular planet, in this beautiful setting where we see the world's miracles every day. Look about you in wonder at our infinite and intricate web of life, both the universe within our soul and body, and the world about us.

Be awed! Be grateful!

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Garden Guru

Thinning, weeding & mulching



by Matie Belle Lakish

August is our harvest month. In the days before global warming, it was usually our last month before a killing frost. For the last couple of years, we have seen warm days well into September, but we can't count on them. In early August there are still garden tasks to do that can improve our harvest, and thinning and weeding are two that top the list.

I remember when I was a novice gardener, how hard it was to thin. It is counter-intuitive to pull and destroy plants when you have tried so hard to germinate and keep them alive. There they are, looking beautiful in the row: the fern-like tops of carrots, the beautiful red and green hues of beet tops, the kale plants all healthy looking in their bed. And yet, as early August rolls around, they start to look a little sad. They may start to bolt (send up flower stalks) earlier than expected. The roots you were hoping to harvest are skinny and the tops straggly as well. Chances are that they are too close together and they need some "elbow room".

It is really hard to plant root crops and not have to thin them. Carrot seeds are so tiny that it is difficult to place them right (about 1" to 1½" apart). Beet seeds actually are a cluster of seeds in a single casing, so it is virtually impossible to space beets in a way that they don't need to be thinned. Even plants that are not root crops, like lettuce and spinach and kale, are usually planted too close together and need to be thinned. But how to get the most benefit from those thinnings?

The trick is timing. The best time to start thinning root crops in the San Luis Valley is in mid-June for carrots and beets planted in May. This earliest thinning is usually done when the plants are about 3" to 4" high. At that time a

gardener can still see the roots of the plants and see which ones are really, really close together. Pull the ones that are tightly squeezed together in the row or bed, leaving about ½" between carrot plants and ¾" between beets. If you are a person who juices, these tiny plants can be added to a veggie juice for added nutrition and flavor.

By mid-July you can thin again, this time thinning to about an inch apart for carrots and an inch and a half for beets. The nice thing about this thinning is that you will have a harvest of small veggies to take to the table, as the carrots will now be about half an inch across and you will have some one-inch beets, or baby beets, to eat or make into pickled beets.

By early August you can thin plants to their final spacing. To get the best sized carrots, they should be about 1½" apart, while beets should be 3"-4" apart. When you thin now, you should have plenty of tasty one-to two-inch beets for meals. You can keep harvesting carrots and beets until the ground freezes, usually sometime in late October.

Some types of garden plants will not usually need thinning. Peas and beans can be planted close together and can actually benefit from close planting. That is because these legumes can manufacture their own nitrogen using bacteria found in the soil. It helps to inoculate your pea and bean seeds with the bacteria, a black powder that you coat the seed with in the spring, at least once. After that, the bacteria will be in the soil. If you plant in a new location you will need to inoculate the seed again.

While you are thinning is a perfect time to pull any weeds that are drawing water from your plants and providing shade and competition for nutrients. Hopefully, you will have begun doing this early in the summer and there will be only



Purslane, a very useful "weed".

a few weeds to pull by August, but if you have tenacious grasses, they can be a challenge right up to harvest.

There are some weeds I like better than others. Some of our weeds are really quite tasty and nutritious, and we only see them as weeds when there are too many of them. Lamb's Quarters, Wild Amaranth, and Purslane are three that I will tolerate. I leave a few of these plants in locations where they are not competing because I value their contribution to my diet.

Purslane is particularly nutritious, with lots of vitamins and minerals as well as Omega 3 fatty acids. It is a low-growing fleshy plant that seems to co-exist well with garden plants. It makes a nice ground-cover. By August it may be flowering and getting a bit tough, but you may find some young ones that are still tender. Add the leaves and young stems to salads or saute the small branches with eggs and onions and top with a little hot sauce for a tasty and nutritious breakfast.

Mulching is your friend when it come to weed control. Once the weeds are out from around your plants, usually early in the summer, a mulch applied around the plants will keep the larger weeds down, and keep your precious water from evaporating too quickly. By August, your mulch should have already been in place, but if not, do it now. This will allow your plants to attain their optimum size for your soil and cut down on the water you need to use. Straw is an ideal mulch that is usually easy to

acquire in the valley.

Please join us for a garden and art tour, The Garden as Art, on August 13, from 1-5pm. Go to the Crestone Artisans Gallery at the corner of Cottonwood and Galena in Crestone, where you will find a map to visit local gardens as both artists and gardeners celebrate the work we have done over the summer. This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about producing some of your own food by talking with local gardeners while you also meet with some of our local artists and enjoy their work. For more information, or to add your garden to the tour, call me at 256-4252.

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Baca Grande Library News



by **Suzanne McGregor**

On behalf of the Baca Grande Friends of the Library (FOL), we would like to extend many thanks to all the folks who volunteered their services at our Root Beer Float booth in the park on the Fourth of July. Thom Ontko, president of the FOL, spent many hours organizing this successful event for

our library. Also, gratitude to the library staff and all the folks who supported us by buying these tasty treats, right down to the last scoop! The FOL is always seeking new community members for input and direct involvement in developing fundraising projects and planning activities for our current library and for the new library project. Please ask at the library for information on this valuable community service and how you can help in our future endeavors.

And speaking of Thom Ontko—the FOL's fearless leader will be stepping down from this group after more than seven years of dedicated community service. As president of the FOL Board, he was instrumental in getting the group's

non-profit 501(c)3 status. He was a driving force in planning the new library project, organizing fundraisers, and keeping the books, legal documents and minutes in order. He led efforts to make our library more comfortable and “user-friendly” with improvements like air conditioning, lighting, a new deck, computer chairs, the children's book display (“Twirly”) and many other additions. We know we will still see Thom, but his enthusiasm and vision will be greatly missed. Please think of participating in Friends of the Library when you ask yourself, “How can I be of service to my community?” Thank you, Thom, for doing just that on a grand scale!

The start of school is right

around the corner, and a number of youngsters feel a bit anxious about this new experience. Maybe the library can help with some exciting books about this adventure-to-be! We have *Kindergarten Rocks!* (Katie Davis), *The Kissing Hand* (Audrey Penn), *The Night before Kindergarten* (Nataasha Wing), *First Day Jitters* (Julie Danneberg), *Chrysanthemum* (Kevin Henkes), *This School Year Will Be the BEST!* (Kay Winters), *David Goes to School* (David Shannon), and *Llama Llama Misses Mama* (Anna Dewdney). They are sure to get a giggle—and maybe give a bit of courage as well.

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

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THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1 / A Thousand Words: ★★★★★

Fast talking agent Jack makes a deal with a guru and because he tends to bend the truth, a “Bodhi” tree grows in his backyard. And whenever he speaks, leaves fall off with the idea that he will die once all the leaves have fallen off. This has some elements of the comedian

Eddie Murphy but it has a more important and deeper message. Stars Eddie Murphy, Kerry Washington.

2 / Bobby Z: ★★★★★

When jailed ex-marine Tim Kearney is offered a way out of prison, he jumps at the opportunity. However he has to pose as legendary drug dealer Bobby Z. They are in a hostage exchange situation when the plan goes amok. Kearney soon finds himself on the run with Bobby’s young son. Stars Paul Walker, Laurence Fishburne, Olivia Wilde, Keith Carradine.

3 / Love and Debate: ★★★★★

Jordan Landa: attractive, smart as can be, able to outsmart any guy on the high school debate team. Miami native and of Jewish Latina genes, she attains a scholarship to Harvard and has the world in the palm of her hand, or so it seems. But she begins to flounder, being confused by bad relationships and the usual Jewish/Latina stigmas put forth by the male-dominated world. Stars: Gina Philips, Adam Rodriguez, Sean Astin, Joaquim de Almeida.

4 / Straight A's: ★★★

Scott left Katherine at the altar years ago and became a hedonistic junkie. She wound up marrying his brother who is a successful businessman with two children. He is adulterous on his many business trips. Scott returns on horseback (having lost his driver’s permit) uninvited and becomes a popular but unreliable uncle while his secrets come out. Ryan Phillippe, Anna Paquin, Luke Wilson.

5 / Love Surreal: ★★★

Artist Abby Morrison has what appears to be a perfect life along with a perfect boyfriend she’s invented. When she agrees to tutor a cute but artistically challenged classmate, she finds herself falling for his flaws. Stars: Shiri Appleby, Nick Zano.

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6. J. Edgar Hoover's org.
9. Decked out
13. *Mickey Mouse's pet in books and cartoons
14. Young newt
15. Certain rib quality
16. Asian goat antelope
17. American Gas Association
18. Metrical units in poetry
19. *Story of Auggie Pullman, boy with a rare disease
21. Captain's record
23. Thanksgiving serving
24. Actor MacLachlan
25. Aardvark's morsel
28. Shape with an ax
30. Battlefield ID
35. Displeasure on one's face
37. High part of day
39. Nigerian money
40. ____ of Man
41. Wooden pin
43. Swarm like bees
44. Paparazzi's target
46. *Children's author ____ Penny-packer
47. Dial in on a radio
48. Attractive to look at
50. High in decibels
52. "Swan Lake" step
53. Virginia folk dance
55. Future fish
57. **The ____ Tollbooth
61. *Mary Lennox's secret spot
64. *Young Montague
65. O in IOU
67. Writers' inspirations
69. Gibson garnish
70. ____ Aviv
71. PayPal money
72. **Where the Red ____ Grows"
73. *Final word of a children's story?
74. Buy second-hand

DOWN

1. Goddess Rhea, to Romans
2. **he ____ the house down."
3. Never replaced the UK's pound sterling
4. Lack of muscle tension
5. Carriage on top of elephant
6. Robert De Niro's "Cape ____"
7. *Roald Dahl's acronym
8. Europe's "boot"
9. Dungeness, e.g.
10. Car with a bar
11. Pulpit
12. Writing spot?
15. *Don't let it drive the bus!
20. Correct
22. Antiquated
24. ____-it- ____
25. *Rabbit hole traveler
26. Offensively curious
27. Ballerina's skirt fabric
29. Courts
31. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
32. Secure with ropes
33. Rome's Colosseum
34. *Quarter Quell
36. Snorkeling site
38. Infamous Roman Emperor
42. **"Little House on the Prairie" protagonist
45. "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" (2005) movie director
49. "War and Peace" author
51. Type of roof window
54. Portray emotion
56. Draw out a conclusion
57. Faculty member, for short
58. Sharpen
59. Arabian chieftain
60. Ne
61. Fix a horse
62. Biblical twin
63. Monster's loch
66. Skin cyst
68. Anything female

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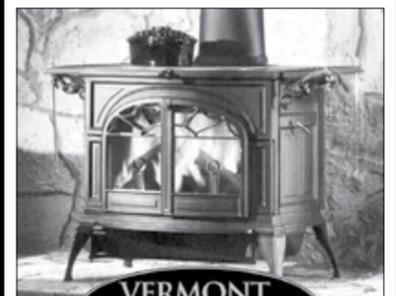
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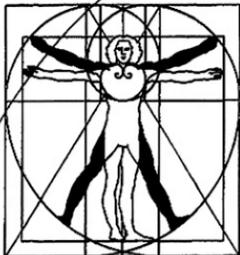


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continued from
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Experienced laborer available to assist on construction jobs. Call James Henwood @ 719-937-3547. \$15/hr. min.

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County Veteran Service Officer does outreach in Crestone on the 3rd Friday at the Town Hall from 1pm to 3pm. Learn about your benefits.

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PERSON WITH CHAINSAW NEEDED
CHAINSAW? I need fire mitigation. Looking for person with chainsaw to take down dead pinon trees & cut into firewood lengths. Hourly rate or trade work for firewood. Near Valley View. (919)548-6824.

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Garage Sale
Construction equipment and tools, misc building materials, heavy duty truck rack, camping stuff, camping trailer, tools by contractor, 1489 badger road Saturday august 5 call 937-7784 for details

Moving Sale Sat. 8/5/17
9am to 3pm. Tools, furniture, Marshall Amp/guitars, Ambient weather system, Telescope, Home Decor, Chest freezer, snowboard, wakeboard, and much more. Free items: king size bed, leather recliner, etc. 2716 Happy Hollow Way (Chalet 2 Near Dharma Ocean) Please no early birds.

Free

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

Computer Desk

Free to a good home: Computer desk w/ slide-out keyboard shelf, roller wheels. Pick up from the front porch of the Crestone Artisan's Gallery.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON SUBDISTRICT #4 BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Rio Grande Water Conservation District's request for formation of Special Improvement District No. 4 (Subdistrict #4-San Luis Creek Response Area) was approved by Judge Patti Swift and the order creating the Subdistrict was signed on July 21, 2017. The District is now requesting letters of interest from Subdistrict #4 landowners who are interested in serving on the initial Board of Managers. Letters are being mailed to all Subdistrict #4 landowners to further define the qualifications to serve on the Board of Managers. Qualifications to serve may also be viewed on the District's website at RGWCD.org.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on the Board of Managers for Subdistrict #4, please submit a letter of interest which clearly describes your qualifications to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board of Directors c/o Cleave Simpson, 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101. You may also e-mail your letter to cleave@rgwcd.org or fax it to (719) 992-2026. **Letters of interest must be submitted to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District by August 31, 2017.**

Published August 1, 2017 The Crestone Eagle

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EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: How are borderlands causing widespread environmental damage while splintering families and communities across the U.S. Southwest?
-Peter Jackson, Baltimore, MD

Today, over 650 miles of border walls and barriers have been constructed in all four southern border states: California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The Sierra Club Borderlands campaign has spoken up against the substantial border wall construction, arguing that it has had dire consequences for vast expanses of pristine wild lands, including wildlife refuges, wilderness areas and national forest lands, among other areas. Additionally, several species of wildlife have been observed and photographed stranded by the border wall, the group states, suggesting that many threatened and endangered species are suffering from border wall development as well.

In their short films, *Wild Versus Wall* and *Too Many Tracks*, the Sierra Club describes how the significance of the borderlands—a vast and ecologically distinct region with a multitude of mountain ranges, two of North America’s four deserts and major river ecosystems—has been ignored by current U.S. border policy. The borderlands provide important habitat for rare and threatened wildlife species, including many federally-listed threatened and endangered species. But in 2005, Congress passed the REAL ID Act, which included a provision that allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive all local, state and federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act, deemed an impediment to building walls and roads along U.S. borders. Border patrol has now built stadium-like lights, roads and towers in sensitive, remote areas, the Sierra Club says, and the roads fragment and destroy habitat while high



Our summer monsoon is bringing dramatic views as rain pours from clouds to earth.
photo by Kate Steichen

voltage lighting affects nocturnal animals’ ability to feed and migrate.

“Border Patrol’s off-road driving, tire dragging and ATV use in designated roadless wilderness has left an immense scar on the landscape,” said Dan Millis, borderlands program coordinator for the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club continues to raise awareness on borderland habitat degradation with the hope that they can combat further border wall development that may pose harm to the environment and wildlife. In a November 2015 trip to a U.S.-Mexico border wall in Bisbee, Arizona, Millis told Borderlands campaigners how the jaguar is an “emblematic species for why this wall is problematic . . . It’s important for wildlife, like the jaguar, to be able to have access to a range. The jaguar used to live in the United States, all the way up to the Grand Canyon . . . the jaguar’s critical habitat has been established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and it includes areas that are bisected by these walls. And that’s really problematic if we want to see a very majestic species like the jaguar . . . we’re going to have to these problems like this border wall seriously.”

Millis also informed the campaigners of several other ecological issues associated with border development, including increased erosion, flooding and soil degradation. “We’re encouraging Border Patrol

and Homeland Security to keep this stuff in mind as they move forward on projects,” Millis said. “They need to do things in a way that is more sustainable.”

Contact: Sierra Club Borderlands Campaign, www.sierraclub.org/borderlands.

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Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno
June 21 to July 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip: 2.01 “
Snow: 0.0

Measurable precipitation fell on 9 days.

Measurable rain fell on 9 days.

A trace of rain fell on 3 days

8 Thunderstorms occurred

Hail fell on one day.

No snow was recorded

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1: 7.87”

Total snow to date:

Since Jan 1: 52.1”

Snow Season (old) *: 70.9” (this is the final total for the 2016-17 season)

Snow Season (new) *: 0.0”

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 89.2°F on June 21

Low temp: 42.3°F on July 1

Avg. high: 83.7°F

Avg. low: 49.7°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 80°: 27

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 50°: 17

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 3.0 mph

Highest gust: 48 mph on June 22

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

Weather summary:

The first half of the period saw drought conditions in our area, with 30 days of no precipitation at all falling from June 5 to July 5. Then the skies opened up and the monsoons came to town with 2.01 inches falling in just a 2 week period. Other than that, there was nothing else to note, and for the second month in a row, not a single new weather record to report for the greater Crestone area.

Outlook for August:

Things do start to cool off in this month as we enter the second half of summer. Average highs and low temperatures in the first week of August average 80° and 49°, and cool off by the last week of the month to highs averaging 76°, and with lows around 45° being the norm. The warmest August day on record was 92°, reached on August 17, 2002, and the coolest reading ever was 34°, set on August 28, 2006.

Rain wise, this is our second wettest month of the year, with an average of around 2.11 inches expected. The wettest August on record was in 1987, when 4.64 inches fell.

The 30 day outlook for August from the NWS, is calling for above average temperatures along with slightly above average rainfall.

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

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