

The CRESTONE EAGLE

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On a cold and moonless night the Milky Way rises over the San Luis Valley. Taken from Crestone, CO by Peter Ismert
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Sheriff facility crisis in Saguache County; Not enough room, deputies, or money

by Mary Lowers

Last year the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) took away one position in the Saguache County Sheriff's Office (SCSO). This means many times the County has fewer deputies on the road which may lead to longer response times. In addition to a Marijuana Code Enforcement Officer coming from the depleted ranks of deputies, the SCSO is responsible for Court House Security Officers. This year,

according to a story in the *Center Post Dispatch*, if Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warrick does not get financial support from the BOCC he will not run for Sheriff in 2018 and several deputies may leave the SCSO.

An important concern Sheriff Warrick has is the current old and undersize Sheriff's office/jail complex in Saguache. The facility currently in use was built sixty years ago in 1957. An addition was put on

the structure in the late 1990s. The Sheriff told me, "We had outgrown the current building in 2003 and never actually had the proper space for the job we were tasked with."

Population increases, the legalization of marijuana, and a general rise in crime in the past few years have led to the County jail becoming too crowded. According to the Sheriff, "There are not enough isolation cells or even bed

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Onions picked fresh from a local garden.
photo SLV Foods Coalition

**Please see our feature story:
Relocalization & Transition Towns
on page B-1**

Taxes, fees & licenses fuel discussion of marijuana moratorium

by Lisa Cyriacks

Colorado voters enshrined recreational cannabis in the state constitution in 2012, with the first stores opening in 2014. Together with legal medicinal marijuana, legal pot sales have already hit \$4.2 billion in 2017.

Saguache County, in pursuit of a share of the cannabis market, has approved 26 licenses for legal grow operations with four more "in the works". Last month citi-

zens approached the County with concerns about this rapid escalation in marijuana operations in the county, asking the Commissioners to consider a moratorium on marijuana grow operations.

Those advocating for a moratorium are insisting that the County address the following issues:

- Well advertised public hearings on all grows and expansion of existing grows

- Timely notification to adjacent property owners

• A complete review of the application process to correct current omissions and oversights—primarily creating a process that prevents potential growers from misrepresenting who is actually purchasing and developing the property

- Development of a mechanism to address those who are

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Sen. Gardner votes for the rich

Dear Editor,

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

Sincerely,
 Jan Foster Miiller

Political action

To the Editor:

In January it will have been one full year since we formed the local Indivisible Crestone/Baca group for the vital purpose of keeping our community aware, informed and engaged in the face of extreme challenges posed by executive and legislative action and inaction under the Trump administration. Our first major valley-wide action was a demonstration at Adams State in March calling attention to the fact that District 3 Congressman Scott Tipton and Colorado Senator Cory Gardner were supporting arguably terrible legislation without holding any physical town halls. Subsequently many Indivisible members have joined SLV Women ACT, Monte Vista's OMEGA group and other concerned citizens in lobbying Scott Tipton's office weekly or occasionally on Tuesdays in Alamosa.

In all this time, and in the absence of identifying any obvious local demand calling for group meetings and action, a core group of local Indivisible members and drop-ins have vigilantly held weekly lunchtime postcard writing meetings on Thursdays at the Desert Sage and have otherwise been joining fellow citizens across the district, state and country in pounding legislators with letters, emails, faxes and above all constant phone calls. Please know that just because Mr. Tipton and Sen. Gardner have shown they are beholden to their Republican donors rather than to their own constitu-

ents doesn't mean our efforts have lacked meaning or been entirely futile. In ways overt and covert we have been gaining momentum all over the country. And since we have outstanding candidates who are vying to represent us in local, district and Colorado state races leading up to the 2018, we urge you to embrace your inner citizen and get on a bandwagon.

For the moment please accept this invitation to join the Indivisible Crestone/Baca Grande group at the home of Sarah Hoenninger, 3687 Enchanted Way, on Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 5-7:30pm for the twofold purpose of 1) learning about and helping generate interest in "meet the candidate" events coming up in February and leading up to the 2018 elections and 2) discussing issues and actions we want to take in upcoming months over a potluck meal celebrating our first anniversary. Call Sarah at 256-4031 for directions.

If you can't attend but want to stay informed about our plans and activities please email susannahortego@gmail.com.

Sarah Hoenninger,
 Susannah Ortego

Good intention is not a license to intrude

Dear Editor,

People see my white cane and assume a lot of wrong ideas about me. I am one hundred percent capable of conducting my life without your interference. People touch me without my consent and I tell them to keep their hands off me, and don't hold the door for me

I have learned from experience that a polite soft & gentle word will deliver *no* impact on your consciousness much less a change in your behavior. I must rather yell at you and react physically with enough vibrato to scare the Bejesus out of you, so that you will: 1) change your mind-set; and 2) let go, back off, and keep your proper distance. (A proper distance is that I cannot reach you, and you cannot reach me.)

This problem is true of you because you live in a mind bubble of illusion. In that bubble you have a mental construct which goes something like: "Oh that poor helpless person; I'll go meddle with his process". Then he'll like me, and everyone watching will think I am nice."

One thing you see with your eyes is that I move in a different style than a sighted person. When your perception of the surrounding is based on touch and hearing, of course I move differently; but that does not mean I am the least bit inadequate.

I do not read your intentions; I read your behavior. Touching me without my explicit permission is a violation of my right to live free of you.

If you wish to enter into my life for a moment, you may say,

"Hello, Dr. William, this is Pat." and use "William" after that. There are conversations going on around me all the time in a public place. I am not going to track every non-relevant conversation. Therefore, to initiate a conversation with me, do so directly.

And then there is the case of one person in a bunch who is an active criminal, seeking to steal something. A blind person seems to them like a likely target. Do you imagine that I am going to let you feel my body, my stuff, my pockets, claiming you are helping me? Bug off, I am not a victim waiting to be had.

About lastly, I "see" by touching. Now that puts me in a kind of conundrum. I must touch you, and everything else around me to "see", so please don't give me some crap about if you can't touch me, then I should stop "hitting" you with my cane. I don't hit; I touch. I don't have a cane, I have a "wand". The wand is a two-way communications device. It tells you I do not see well; it tells me a ton of information about my surrounding by touching the surroundings. So the next time we pass, and I happen to "see" you with my wand just say, "Hello Dr. William, this is Pat" and I'll say "Hi Pat."

So in summary: People are sovereign beings of God, whether they live up to it or not. You keep your dignity by respecting each person you meet as that. Violating boundaries is a Sin against divine right. Crossing any boundary must be with a clear mutual consent. And when the other says "thank you, that's enuf of you", back off immediately.

I love you and I enjoy an intelligent conversation from your heart, backed by good science.

—Dr. William

Ontko family thanks

Dear Friends of Tom Ontko,

We, the adult children of Tom Ontko, wish to express our gratitude for the outpouring of love, friendship, sympathy, and support for our father and family at the time of his death and cremation. Especially meaningful to him and us were the last rites and blessings administered at his home by Fr. Eric Haarer with many friends in attendance, the amazing and beautiful cremation ceremony (Crestone End of Life Project), and the reception (Nada Retreat Center). We are grateful that so many of his hopes for end-of-life were realized, indeed exceeded. There are too many people to name individually, but we wish to thank hospice, Friends of the Baca Grande Library, the Crestone End of Life Project, the Nada Hermitage, and many other dear friends who helped celebrate our father's life and helped us negotiate this time of grief. Thank you for being such a loving and supportive community.

—Ray, Robin, Thom, & Bryan

Editor's Notes

Calling for snow

I look up at the mountains and am alarmed at how little snow is there. The valley floor is bare. Snow storms pass to the north of us, but even then the central mountains are lacking in deep snow.

This is a La Niña year, which often makes southern Colorado dryer and warmer. But we are at record breaking warm and way too dry. Oh it feels great to go out in the morning and not have sub-zero temperatures. Not many are missing driving on icy snow-packed roads. But it ain't right.

And I'm worried.

January and February are our two driest months, so not much snow will be expected then. The forest needs a snowpack on the ground, to make it through the winter, to cool the roots and to conserve moisture. It's not happening at the moment. The sun is shining on the bare ground. The trees will dry out; some won't make it.

What really concerns me is fire. I don't even like to say that word. But recently we've seen the valley filled with smoke from the California fires. If you look up the mountain above the piñon and juniper forest you'll see dead pines and spruce from the beetle infestation, worsened by drought.

I encourage people to continue to fire-mitigate their property. Take advantage of the mild weather to do so. Help your neighbors as well. Join the Crestone and Baca fire departments. They need help, they are still understaffed. Get trained. Know how to evacuate in a hurry. The Eagle will be printing more emergency preparedness articles in the future. Read them. Pay attention.

And pray, wish, sing for snow. A surprise snowstorm in January, more in February, deep snow in the spring. Make it so.

Wishing you all a happy new year. May it bring unexpected blessings (and snow).

—Kizzen



Commentary

How the GOP tax plan could hurt the clean energy industry:

“Cut cut cut” could devastate renewables

by *Kate Harveston*

“Cut, cut, cut.” That’s basically the name President Donald Trump gave to the GOP tax plan. Unfortunately, many of these cuts are to clean energy initiatives instituted by prior administrations. The effects of these cuts will heavily impact the clean energy industry, leaving us, at best, with energy shortages and rolling blackouts, and at worst, lagging woefully behind the rest of the world in terms of energy production.

Repeal of the inflationary increase for renewable energy tax credits

One of the direst aspects of the GOP bill in terms of clean energy is the repeal of an increase, adjusted per inflation, for companies involved in the production of renewable energy. To make an analogy, this is akin to not receiving a raise for the next five years while the costs of your rent, food and other staples of daily living keep going up. You’d bring in as much money, but have far less buying power.

The effects of this could potentially stall advances in innovation made by renewable energy companies. Worse, it may dissuade other clean energy startups from even getting past the drawing board.

The impact of this goes far beyond the continued and irreversible damage to our environment by our continued reliance on fossil fuels. Advancements in solar power, wind energy and hydroelectric energy will slow or stop altogether. In years to come, this will also put the United States lagging far behind other nations who have invested in renewable energy sources.

As a result, the already-indebted US may find itself needing to borrow power from its neighbors to keep the lights on. The price of electricity will rise exponentially, and American citizens, many of whom are already living paycheck-to-paycheck due to wage stagnation, will literally find themselves in the dark. It’s not hard to imagine scenarios similar to a horror movie breaking out in huge areas of cities gone entirely dark.

Green energy tax credits targeted even further

In addition to not adjusting green energy tax credits for inflation, the GOP’s plan seeks to eliminate green energy subsidies overall. One such credit on the chopping block is the repeal of the 30% tax credit for buying solar energy equipment. Homeowners who invested in solar energy for their homes in hopes of receiving a nice payment in terms of a tax credit will be in for an unwelcome surprise should the GOP plan pass.

Overall, under the Republican plan, all green energy credits are set to phase out completely by the year 2020.

The wind industry is especially hard hit

The GOP tax plan maintains subsidies for the non-renewable resources of gas and oil. However, it slashes the subsidy for wind power production from \$.23 per kilowatt hour down to \$.15 per kilowatt hour. The wind industry has opposed the measure on the grounds that it disrupts investment planning. Worse, the measure effectively lays off over 100,000 workers in the wind industry, and threatens to close down at least 500 American factories.

Eliminating the \$7,500 tax credit for electric vehicles

Another clean energy initiative instituted by previous administrations is also on the chopping block under the GOP plan. In order to move away from traditional gasoline-driven vehicles to cleaner electric vehicles, those who invested in alternative vehicles were due a \$7,500 tax credit simply for making the choice to do the right thing. While its impact on the individual buyer’s decision-making is unclear, the fact remains that the \$4 billion taxpayers now save annually by going green will disappear.

Environmental impact of the GOP plan

The original goal of the Clean Power Plan was to reduce the 2005 level of carbon dioxide emissions by 32% by the year 2030. Improvements have already been seen: in 2012, the levels of carbon dioxide emissions had already been reduced by 12%.

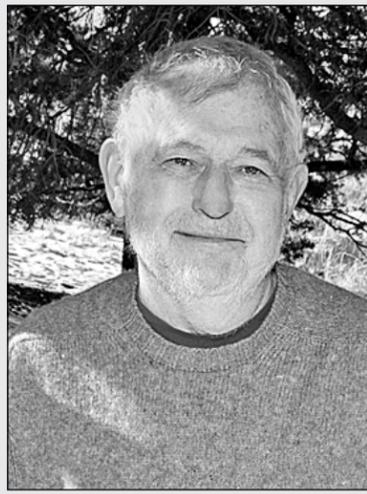
But with this tax plan, as in his withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, President Trump effectively ignores the preponderance of scientific evidence proving climate change.

While the consequences of climate change will be seen worldwide, the United States will be particularly hit in its coastal cities. Should the earth’s temperature rise by as little as 2% over the next decade, vast swaths of cities such as New York, Miami, San Francisco and San Diego could find themselves under water.

In addition, other disturbances in weather patterns will cause longer, more intense heat waves, causing crops to dry up, leading to higher food prices. Greater and more destructive wildfires will break out, and rising ocean temperatures will lead to stronger, more devastating hurricanes. The US has already witnessed this with the recent devastation of hurricanes Harvey and Irma and the wildfires destroying much of northern California.

A nation’s fiscal policy is a direct reflection of the character of the nation as a whole. Sadly, the GOP’s budget shows a careless disregard for the citizens of tomorrow. With the GOP plan the US is effectively saying that putting a few more dollars in the pockets of the wealthy today is more important than preserving the planet for all the children of tomorrow. And that is the kind of message no modern day nation should send.

—*E The Environmental Magazine*



Thomas John Onko

Thomas John Ontko, Crestone, CO, passed away December 4, 2017, at the age of 80. He died at home of complications related to cancer, surrounded by the love of friends and family. From humble beginnings in Newark, NJ, he led an adventurous life: he enlisted in the Air Force, serving in Newfoundland and Italy; he lived and worked for significant periods in Alaska, California, Kentucky, Virginia, and Colorado; his occupations included police officer, radar station chief, laundromat owner, water quality technician, salvage forman, and nurse, among others; in his retirement he was a hospice volunteer and passionate advocate for the Baca Grande Library.

He felt an abiding spiritual kinship with the religious community at the Nada Hermitage. The family requests that memorial donations be made to the Friends of the Baca Grande Library or to the Spiritual Life Institute (Nada Hermitage).



Marvin Mattis

1930-2017

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, rascal and rebel rouser, Marv passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on the night of December 13. He was 87 years young. Marv became an integral part of the community since he moved to Crestone in the late 1990s. He loved it here.

He was born in Brooklyn but moved to Los Angeles with his parents and sister when he was 3 months old. They came by boat through the Panama Canal. He spent his youth in and around Los Angeles.

After graduating from U.C.L.A. in literature, he worked in the Hollywood music industry for over 30 years before relocating to New Mexico and finally southern Colorado. He seemed more than happy to trade the wheeling and dealing, suits and ties for the big sky, jeans, a T-shirt, cowboy hat and boots. Though he loved the music biz, it recently came to light that he may have seen himself as a carpenter all along. Given his *joie de vivre* and adaptability, he probably would have been just as happy working at City Market.

Marv loved the world and everyone in it. And the world loved him back. Throughout his life he rallied for peace and human rights and the haggard man on the street corner holding out an empty tin cup. He rallied against greed, oppression and injustice. He loved to make others happy.

He had a deep passion and sensitivity for art, creativity and the word. In his later years he published two books of his own original works.

Right up until the end, until his eyes closed for good, all who were in his presence received and were touched by his contagious smile and the sparkle in his eyes.

In loving memory of a Marv-elous life that left a trail of joy in its wake.

May your journey be clear and lead to all you held dear.



*Dear J, Be
My Valentine!
Love K*

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Gonzales guilty of Rust murder

by Mary Lowers

Charles Moises Gonzales, 47, of Saguache was sentenced to life in prison on Thursday, December, 7 having been found guilty of all six charges against him in the murder and concealment of the corpse of mountain bike pioneer Mike Rust in 2009. The defense rested its case on Wednesday, December 6 and the closing arguments from the defense and prosecution were heard. The judge gave the jury instructions and jury deliberation began at 5pm.

District Attorney Newmyer-Olsen told jurors before they went into deliberation, "It is your job to use common sense and decide." Eight scenarios from Gonzales of the crime had been presented over the course of the investigation and trial. These included the story Gonzales originally told police while incarcerated on the eastern slope on other charges. He said Rust was shot in self defense "turning the story around" according to fellow jail inmate Philip Romero who said Gonzales told him about the murder. Romero told the court that Gonzales said, "He broke into his (Rust's) house, stole a gun, shot him with his own gun. Said he had a hard time putting his body into the back of the truck and he dug a hole and buried him."

In exchange for his testimony sealing Gonzales' fate, Romero had his 16-year sentence for felony menacing and criminal trespass reduced to 14 years. When asked by Prosecution if the deal was his motivation for testifying, Romero told the court that the deal was a good one and he was not lying. Evidence appeared to back up the account Romero gave. Testimony from Stephanie Trahey, Colorado Bureau of Investigation's DNA specialist, proved blood found on a sheepskin vest found outside Rust's

home was his. Tests on teeth and bones found at the site as well as DNA matches with Rust's mother and brother confirmed the remains found in a pit on property owned by the Gonzales family were indeed those of Mike Rust. On Wednesday, December 6 Gonzales admitted to the murder in open court and changed his plea to guilty.

The work of the Saguache County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) was the generator that brought Gonzales to justice and aided the Rust family and friends with closure. Sheriff Dan Warrick told me, "Solving cases, not just cold cases, has always been a priority. Solving cases can give closure to a victim's family and will help the community feel confident in their law enforcement."

SCSO worked with county citizens to close the Rust case. "Citizen support is needed in all cases. The knowledge citizens have allows us at times to look in the right direction. Citizens many times know more about the incident from talking amongst themselves then the information we get. Citizens are also the ones who are closer to the incident and many times have seen something that is out of the ordinary or have heard about who did it." It was careful investigation and use of citizen information from members of the Gonzales family that brought an end to the Rust murder mystery. Citizen information in order for it to be useful to law enforcement must be fact-based "not hearsay. This needed," according to the Sheriff, "because an entire case could be predicated on information that is received and we need to be able to disclose where that info came from." If you have information you feel may be important in solving a crime call the SCSO 719-256-2525.

Saguache County Crime Report

by Mary Lowers

A Crestone man, 32, was jailed this past month on charges that include second degree criminal trespass, abuse of telephone service, criminal mischief and menacing. His bail was set at \$5000. A Baca man, 41, evidently felt he could flee when his vehicle left the road, hitting a fence. He left the scene without providing insurance and other necessary information. Deputies caught up with him and issued him a summons to appear in court on the matter.

A Monte Vista man, 38, was jailed in Saguache, with no bail listed, on charges including aggravated motor vehicle theft, forgery, and criminal impersonation. An Alamosa man, 21, and a New York woman, 26, were summoned to appear in Saguache County Court on careless driving charges and for driving without a license. There was only one failure to appear arrest in December when a La Jara man, 35, was incarcerated with no bail listed for not showing up. A Denver man, 31, who failed to stop at a stop sign and did not yield to traffic when required to do so, was summoned for a court date.

Quite a few speeding tickets were given out in December. It is easy in the busy holiday season to not pay attention. We should try to be prepared for winter driving conditions and pay attention to the rules of the road. Stay safe in the New Year.

Truck goes up in flames

by Mary Lowers

According to a Colorado State Patrol press release, a two-vehicle accident at around 6:30am on CO Hwy. 160 east of Alamosa caused a 2015 Kenworth semi truck with a gas trailer hitched to it to go up in flames. The semi was west bound on the highway when a Ford F150 heading east drove into the other lane, colliding with the Kenworth. The driver of the semi, Scott Felmlee, 49, of Alamosa escaped his truck before it burst into flames. Both Felmlee and the driver of the Ford, Brian Inglis, 32, of Monument, were transported to the SLV Regional Medical Center in Alamosa. Felmlee suffered minor injuries and was treated and released. Inglis, who was in critical condition, was air lifted to the eastern slope. Seatbelts were in use. Alcohol and speed are not thought to be factors in this crash which is under investigation.

Sheriff's Dept.

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space many times. The majority of this year we have had twenty-four plus inmates but only twenty-one beds available." When this situation occurs, inmates need to be housed in other jails. "The lowest costs to house in another jail is \$45 per day, and then add on the cost of transportation and man-hours to transport prisoners." The cost of wear and tear on vehicles taking inmates to and from court dates

when they are housed in other jails increases costs yet again. The Sheriff says, "If the jail continues to stay at the numbers next year, 2018, as it did in 2017 I will continue to house inmates in other jails."

Sheriff Warrick thinks the Sheriff's office/ jail complex is the second oldest in Colorado. He points out, "With the growth in population there is a need for expansion of public services" to keep in step with the expanding law enforcement needs in Saguache County.

GAS STATION ALERT!

AT LONG LAST, ELEPHANT CLOUD IN SUPPORT OF THE TOWN OF CRESTONE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT ARE REPLACING OUR TOWN'S OUTDATED PUMPS WITH NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART SYSTEMS!

HAVE BACK-UP GAS BY JANUARY 10TH.

This project will take approximately six weeks, breaking ground January 15th, 2018. No gas will be available at this pump location until project completion.

SAFE GAS STORAGE GUIDELINES:

- Only store gas in approved gas containers.
- Do not store in containers larger than 5 gallons or in quantities larger than 25 gallons per household.
- Keep gasoline containers tightly closed and handle them gently to avoid spills. Do not fill over 95% full and do not store containers of fuel filled less than 50%.
- Gasoline should be stored at room temperature, away from potential heat sources and a least 50 feet away from ignition sources, preferable in a garage or shed.
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Discussion of marijuana moratorium in Saguache County

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living in unsanitary conditions while living on or working for marijuana operations

- A verifiable paper trail for cash received by the County for fees and taxes from growers

Muddying the waters are the concerns about the inability of the sheriff's office to address illegal marijuana operations due to underfunding and the increase in crime overall that has occurred in the same time frame as the legalization of marijuana.

At the heart of the debate is the question of how the County is spending revenue from excise taxes and licensure fees. Not on law enforcement – not on the sheriff's office, not on the jail, not for the district attorney's office.

Problems

In the eyes of law enforcement, Colorado's headlong pursuit of legal recreational and medical marijuana has created a colossal problem. Saguache County residents at the recent Commissioners' meeting would agree—and add that Saguache County, by overreaching state regulations in their writing of regulations for Saguache County, has created more problems than it has solved.

The reality is: while some in the industry cash in by playing by the rules, others are bending the rules to serve customers outside the regulated market. But it

is not the people playing by the rules that are making the news today.

Colorado's Amendment 20 (approved in 2000) allowed for extended plant counts for medical patients, and Amendment 64 (approved in 2014) gave residents the right to grow up to six plants per adult at home.

Changes

Starting January 1, 2018 Colorado law enforcement and marijuana growers will have to make some adjustments regarding marijuana growing in the state, as two new laws aimed at reducing illegal marijuana cultivation and closing "gray market" loopholes will take effect.

House Bill 17-1220 caps the number of plants allowed for recreational users to only 12 per house or "residential property," and will cap the number of plants for medical marijuana growers and caregivers at 24. Saguache County's current marijuana regulations cap the number of plants per property at 12. The County has also created a variance process and a fee structure for marijuana patients to apply for extended plant counts.

The same bill allows district attorneys to charge people who break the new plant limit law.

- A first offense involving more than 12 plants will be considered a level 1 drug petty offense punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000.

- A second or subsequent offense involving between 12 and 24 plants will carry a level 1 drug misdemeanor charge, and a second or subsequent offense

involving more than 24 plants will be considered a level 3 drug felony.

House Bill 17-1221 created a grant program that allows local jurisdictions to apply for funds for fighting illegal grows and distribution networks. Priority will be given to rural municipalities and counties with small budgets to do such work.

Marijuana busts

The fact is that people are moving to Colorado to take advantage of legalization and to make vast sums of money selling pot on the black market. This narrative is repeated in police reports, federal raids and prosecutions around the state.

Statewide there are Laotians, Vietnamese, Chinese, Russians, Cubans and even "white people from Minnesota" contributing to drug trafficking of up to 300 pounds of marijuana a month. Saguache County had their own raid this year in Bonanza of an illegal grow operated by Chinese.

Mark Bolton, a spokesman with Governor John Hickenlooper's office, said Drug Enforcement Agency data show that 4,406 plants and 2,545 pounds of processed marijuana were seized in Colorado in 2015, compared with 20,031 plants and 7,260 pounds of processed marijuana in 2016. Final totals from last year have not yet been compiled.

State legislators hope that if they can reduce the volume of illegal grows and make it riskier to operate illegally in Colorado, the State will diminish the opening for federal authorities to conduct raids and begin interfering with the billion-dollar marijuana industry.

More problems

Anti-pot advocates have used controversial statistics from federally funded agencies like the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug

Trafficking Area to charge that crime is up in the state and more Colorado kids are getting high.

The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey queried nearly 17,000 teens and reports that teen marijuana use has not increased in Colorado since legalization and has actually decreased.

House Bill 17-1220 includes the following language as justification for limiting plant numbers: "Large-scale, multi-national crime organizations have exploited Colorado laws, rented multiple residential properties for large-scale cultivation sites, and caused an influx of human trafficking and large amounts of weapons as well as the potential for violent crimes in residential neighborhoods."

There is no real estimate on how many Colorado houses have been converted into illegal grow spaces, their rooms gutted and electric service maxed out. The US Border Patrol reports that less marijuana is crossing the US border. At the same time, some border patrol officers say they have seen an increase in cartel activity on the US side of the border.

According to projections from Green Wave Advisors, a cannabis-focused consulting firm, only by 2020 are legal sales expected to surpass black-market sales in Colorado.

Regulations continue to evolve to deter unintended consequences.

Meanwhile, statewide officials will be tracking crime, keep busting illegal marijuana grows and continuing to regulate marijuana use and waiting to see what really happens.

The Commissioners will be discussing this topic at a regularly scheduled business meeting on January 9, 2017.



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Saguache County News

by Sandia Belgrade

People make the difference

The turn of the year finds our county mirroring the nation. That while some of what's happening in the world is not always pleasant there are standout individuals in our county who make a positive contribution to our lives. To start the new year we want to highlight some residents who are making a difference. Some as individuals; some en masse in a group. For the protection of our people. For protection of our earth.

Trish Gilbert

Carla Gomez and the American Legion celebrated the County's 150th anniversary and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and flag dedication. Carla, who has served as County Clerk and Recorder is retiring after six years of service. She will be replaced by Trish Gilbert who is not new to government work. For 18 years she served in various positions in Elbert County, which included being an administrative aid to their county commissioners (BOCC). Thus, she is familiar with different departments and budgets. She helped run the election last fall and our county was one of the first to report its election results, which earned praise from the State. Gilbert announced that next year the County will have a new online system for motor vehicle license plate renewals.

New Prevention Coordinator commends Center

Public Health Director David Daboll introduced Ani Rinchung, a resident of Crestone, as the new Communities that Care (CTC) Prevention Coordinator. She brings a wealth of life experience in her travels from Chicago to England where she spent 12 years. Ani came here from the Tara Mandela Buddhist community in Pagosa Springs and is affiliated with Pema Choling in Crestone, a background that will help her serve with compassion. Her training gave her a perspective to understand why CTC here is different than in other parts of the country and can be modified to fit our county. She noted, for example, that Center has a fabulous prevention science program already in place in the schools.

CTC doesn't provide brick and mortar funding, but works in developing skills and initiative. Daboll added that key leaders in the county, not just Public Health, need to own this program.

Residents speak up on issues

During the Public Comment period in December a large contingent filled the room at the BOCC regularly scheduled meeting to address the Sheriff's Department and related issues of safety and salaries. It was heartening to see people being active and coming to ask questions and get assurance that the

BOCC truly represented their interests. Most who came supported a pay raise for the Sheriff's Department and more deputies. Many felt the need for more protection and wanted illegal marijuana grows to be curtailed. Safety was a high priority. They cited the rise in the criminal element in the valley with attendant problems such as the breakin at the Saguache Post Office and homes being vandalized. The Mayor pro tem of the town of Saguache, Luana Lovato, said the town crime rate has gone up and Saguache needs a full-time deputy who is paid a living wage. Several people cited Conejos County as paying 30% more to deputies. A call to both counties revealed that beginning in January, Conejos will pay \$33,000/year or \$15.87 per hour. Saguache pays \$30,000 per year or \$14.86, going up to a high of \$22.70 per hour. In Crestone residents felt a substitution would keep them safer. They cited not only marijuana but the opioid problem that is out of control. Robert Tafoya said Moffat also has a big problem in drug use. There is no police presence there, but they are part of this county and want to be part of the solution. A resident on Road T said the cannabis issue on Road T is not acceptable. There are 7 legal or illegal growers and no code enforcement.

What is the state of enforcement?

However, there is a code enforcer, and many cited Deputy Wayne Clark's good work in the large illegal marijuana bust and in solving a murder cold case. How does the County support him? The excise tax from marijuana pays for Deputy Clark's wages as Code Enforcer; the rest comes out of the Sheriff's budget. Commissioner Jason Anderson noted that each department head asks them for what they want. The Sheriff requested \$640,000 and Anderson said he was given every penny. County Administrator Lyn Zimmer said the County also helps the Sheriff by having Road and Bridge purchase the Sheriff's new vehicle. Don Tullos said more equipment, vests, and weapons are needed. The law needs more support so we aren't the Wild West again. Nick Huffman, a dispatcher/jailer at the facility, stated the jail is not safe for inmates, staff or residents. He said the marijuana regulation is good but needs more oversight so it can be positive and safe. County residents rejected the ballot issue which would have generated a 1% sales tax increase to support the Sheriff Department. Nikki Boysel-Parker said there are more grants than just the sales tax. If those who showed up are concerned about the budget they could volunteer to write grants and the County would have more money. Several also felt the Assessor could be bringing in more revenue.

A perception problem

The back-and-forth exchange was pretty balanced but revealed vastly different perceptions. Some said the County is overrun with illegal grows, but that, according to others, is exaggerated. According to Wendi Maez, Land Use Coordinator, there are 23 approved grows,



Trish Gilbert is the new Saguache County Clerk.

1 approved store (not constructed yet) and 1 approved manufacturing processing area. Fifty-three variance permits were given for medical marijuana cultivation. Many people come in each month to register. Several, such as Mike Wheeler, applauded the legal grows and process, saying there's not been enough time to see the full benefits. Everyone is looking through a prism and seeing something different. Many supported Deputy Clark while others said there is no enforcement. Some who were present did not perceive the Commissioners as being proactive or supportive enough of the Sheriff. Even with their good intentions and actions the BOCC might need to overcome a lack of credibility.

County adopts 2018 budget

For those wanting to know where County money goes, County Co-Administrator Lyn Lambert announced the budget for fiscal year 2018. The amount of \$13,200,605 has been adopted. It is posted on the County website with a breakdown for all departments, funds, and expenditures. The mil levy was also approved.

The Rio Grande National Forest Plan

Many people also showed up to give input on the Forest Plan. Public land comprises a large percentage of our county. They discussed the watershed, protection of wilderness, research areas, the trend toward an aging population, grazing, and how best to protect wilderness while serving people. Mark Jacobi said it was an opportunity to protect the ecosystem and other species for future generations. Dave Miller, President of the SLV Ecosystem Council, said they had devoted hours to looking at the plan and supported D, the most conservative-minded option. In the end, the BOCC moved to support option B + localism.

County housing

The Saguache County Housing Authority has kept to its mission to provide decent and affordable housing to low- and moderate-income residents. While the *Denver Post* says Denver ranks 18th in

North America for unaffordability and faces a huge shortage of affordable units, Director of Saguache Housing Evan Samora has successfully maintained two units. He proposed a modest rent increase of only \$13.00 in rent. It is needed because of increases in water and sewerage rates and to maintain the property. For example, there are 20-year-old water heaters in some units. The proposed increase, which was approved for the two county units, are several hundred below most state rates. The Commissioners cited him for outstanding management, noting that previously management had difficulty paying the mortgage. As for homeowners in the Baca who want to have rental units, they need to come in and apply for a conditional use permit for the property according to Land Use Director Wendi Maez.

Hooper pool still growing

Fresh Options, LLC, known locally as Hooper pool and the Sand Dunes Recreation, requested a Conditional Use Permit Modification. They have already added the greenhouse addition and new dining facilities. Now they want to expand bathrooms and dressing rooms. Their employees number 40 and their goal is to have a total of 48 on staff.

Department personnel

Bobby Woelz is the new County Emergency Manager. Employee Service Pins were awarded to Steven Hanson, 5 yrs; Veteran Service Officer James Sheeran, 5 years; Evan Samora, 10 years; Janet Garcia, 15 years.

Our libraries are alive and well

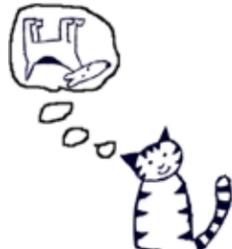
Sarah Koehn Frey, Director of the Northern Saguache County Library District, announced that 33,000 patrons visited the Saguache and Baca Grande libraries in 2017. In the Baca library there is new flooring, a new customer service desk, and upgrades to the ramp and bathroom for lower mobility patrons. They have a gezer-to-geeks computer program. Saguache library has a free legal service program. They are changing from the Dewey Decimal System to a bookstore model which is more user-friendly.

Saguache County Landfill

There are concerns that recycling is not going as it should. Bill Burch reported on how much he has moved out of the landfill, but there is an accumulation and buildup of materials going beyond the landfill confines. Jason said "You're running a second landfill." Ken Anderson said he has to show progress in cleaning up. The Board has requested they cease bringing materials into the landfill but will postpone any final decision about recycling until February.

Happy New Year to everyone in the county!

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The December 11 Board of Trustees meeting began at 9:30am and adjourned at 5:06pm. The Trustees approved the following motions by unanimous vote:

- To approve the renewal application for an art gallery events liquor license for the Crestone Artisan's Gallery at 120 S. Cottonwood St.

- To approve the application for a special events liquor license permit for the non-profit group, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, for December 16, 2017 from 7pm-10pm and to be held at the Cloud Station, 222 S. Cottonwood St.

- To approve the Tract 1 Master Plan submitted by Burt Wadman as amended with the condition that the road shown on the map going through part of the Crestone Charter School's property must be moved onto the Town property

- To adopt Resolution #013-2017 that approves a 2018 Town of Crestone Budget for appropriations of money from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

- To adopt Resolution #014-2017 that sets and approves the 2018 mill levy for 5.683 mills on all taxable property within the Town of Crestone, which is the same percentage as the previous year

- To adopt Resolution #015-2017 that appoints the Town Clerk as the election official and allows the Clerk to appoint election judges and that the rate of pay for judges is \$150.00 each

- To adopt Resolution #016-2017 to place a measure on the ballot for the April 3, 2018 election that asks the Crestone Town Electorate for a 1.2% municipal sales tax increase

- To approve paying the bills and the financial report as presented by the Treasurer

- To approve a raise in 2018 for one employee (office aide) at the rate of one dollar more per hour

- To approve spending \$240.00 for the Board's annual one-day retreat

- To approve Christmas bonuses for the Town employees for the same amount as the previous year

- To approve a lease addendum for fifty years for 200 Cottonwood LLC and Golden Grove LLC on the public land at the SE corner of the intersection of S. Cottonwood St. and E. Silver Ave. The vote of the Trustees present was unanimously in favor with the exception of Trustee Benjamin Byer who recused himself from the vote due to conflicts of interest.

Reports & discussions

Treasurer Gwynn Busby reported that the invoice for the required audit totaled \$15,000, the Public Works Department requested a backpack blower and confirmation that the Board was giving a raise to only one employee in 2018.

The Treasurer also discussed the 2018 final budget with the Trustees that would be adopted by

resolution during the Attorney's report. The pledged matching donations for the CDBG Phase II project were also explained, and the mayor guaranteed that all donated funds to help meet the \$90,000 match as required by DOLA (Department of Local Affairs) would be in the bank by January 31, 2018.

Clerk Allyson Ransom reported the following:

- An upcoming Board retreat date and possible locations

- All business license fees collected for 2017

- The quote for Phase II CDBG grant administration by Ken Charles

- Kizzen Laki's request to follow the "dark skies" policy as noted in the nuisance code and make sure that all businesses and property owners were aware of it

- Complaints from a few residents about the chalk on new pavements in the commercial areas and on the plaza; the Trustees advised cleaning the chalk off of the plaza.

The Trustees discussed the Tract 1 Master Plan during the Clerk's report, and Board members noted that the Crestone Charter School Governing Council sent emails to Trustees about the school not being asked permission for a Town road to cross school property as was shown on the Plan. The Trustees agreed to have the map corrected.

The Board reviewed the draft ordinance for allowing ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) and then held a lengthy discussion on definitions in the zoning code, short term vacation rentals with possible lodging or registration fees and long term housing. The consensus was that the principal purpose of allowing ADUs was to help ease the housing crisis. Amendments were noted and zoning definitions updated for Attorney Farish to prepare a new ordinance to present to the Board at their January meeting.

Regarding the ballot measure for increasing sales tax, Attorney Farish explained the TABOR (Tax Payer Bill of Rights Law) language in the resolution and Trustees verified what percentage increase they were requesting from the voters for infrastructure needs and running the town. Attorney Farish stated that Board members could promote the measure while talking to people on their own time, but that it was not permissible to spend or use Town resources to promote the measure.

The Town of Crestone's Regular Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018.

The election will be conducted via mail-out ballot. There will be four (4) Trustee position openings on the ballot. Nomination petitions will be available for circulation beginning on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 9am. To be a candidate, you must meet the following qualifications:

- Be at least eighteen (18) years of age on Election Day



Fire dancing the evening of Saturday, December 2 was just one of the many events that made up the 2017 WinterFest weekend. photo by Lori Nagel

- Be a registered elector
- Have legally resided within the incorporated limits of the Town of Crestone for twelve (12) consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election (since April 3, 2017).

Incorporated Town boundary maps are available to view in Town Hall for verifying prospective candidate addresses if needed.

Public hearing

Attorney Gene Farish opened a public hearing on the 2018 Budget at 1:40pm, and all of the Trustees were present with the exception of Trustee Grotenhuis. Attorney Farish reviewed and read the requirements and legal publications for the budget hearing aloud and asked for public comments. There were no public comments, and Attorney Farish remanded the matter to the Town of Crestone Board of Trustees, closing the hearing at 1:48pm.

Other news

Ani Rinchung reported on a new prevention program in the San Luis Valley to help young people in the area, and it was being funded by marijuana taxation funds from the state level.

Brandon Bussard presented the Trustees with a large amount of documentation and reported on the Critical Thinkers Community Template and 16-step program available through the University of Kansas, including the "community toolbox" used for uploading municipal or community data for "incorporating efficiencies and new management skills." He was requesting that the board sign the Town up for the program. Due to the vast amount of documentation, Trustee Kinney volunteered to work with Mr. Bussard in the next month to create a more specific summary of details regarding the process and time expectations for Town Trustees or staff should they choose to sign up. Trustee Kinney plans to report back at the January meeting.

Correspondence

Barbara Glanznig and Annie Pace, co-owners of lots 7-9 in Block 46 (301 E. Golden Ave.), spoke about their correspondence to the Board, stressing that Resolution 002-2011 adopted a Comprehensive Road Plan in the town of Crestone. They explained that S. Spruce St. was supposed to stay closed off to any through traffic from its E. Golden Ave. intersec-

tion. Annie Pace also spoke on the importance of having procedures to follow when referring to the Comprehensive Road Plan. Board members verified that they would have that end of the road blocked off but reminded Glanznig and Pace that in the future, if the Town was growing and roads needed to be opened, then a new road plan could be approved.

Other information

- Free brush pick-up for town residents takes place only once monthly, on the first Monday. Please call Town Hall to schedule a pickup and leave your weeds and brush piles next to the road.

For disposal of trash, old appliances, batteries, lumber scraps or recyclables, contact the Saguache County landfill and recycling center at 719-221-1956.

- Town Hall office hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm; the office will be closed on January 1 for the holiday.

- Regular Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 9:30am in the Town Hall Meeting Room at 108 W. Galena Ave. Contact the Town Clerk at least a week in advance to be placed on the agenda. Presentations must be kept to ten minutes due to the lengthy Board meetings.

- The Planning Commission meetings are held in the Town Hall Meeting Room the first Monday of each month at 6pm; however, due to the New Year's holiday, the January Planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

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

- If you would like to receive agendas and approved minutes, please join our listserv by contacting Melinda at Town Hall with your name and email address, by phone at 719-256-4313 or by email at crestonetownoffice@gmail.com.

- A Certified Notary Public is available during regular office hours at a cost of \$5 for each notarization as per Colorado Secretary of State guidelines. A current and valid photo ID with a legible signature must be presented. Please have all documents organized ahead of time and ready for signing as there is limited space at the counter.



POA NEWS
Board to ask County
to regulate Baca
marijuana growers more

by John Rowe

The regularly scheduled POA Board meeting for December took place at the POA Hall on Thursday, December 21, and lasted from 6:30pm until 8:15pm. All five Board members, Steve Dossenbach, Bill Straithern, Matie Belle Lakish, Sugandha Brooks, and Joanna Theriault were present, as were about fifteen audience members. The possibility of sending more out-of-compliance properties to the attorneys dominated the private executive session which lasted until 7:15pm.

No questions or comments were offered in Member Forum and previous meeting minutes and financials were approved without dissent.

The meeting moved quickly to new business where two community members expressed concern over the number of illegal pot grows potentially occurring in the Baca and reported that these concerns exist all over Saguache County, as they found out at the last County Commissioners meeting. They requested that the Board contact the County Commissioners and request better enforcement in the Baca of existing state law, and to request that the County not issue any extensions beyond the twelve-plant recreational statutes already in effect. Drug manufacturing,

growing, and distribution is getting to be a larger and larger concern for citizens all over the valley. As many *Eagle* readers know, the local community is becoming so drug-undated that Sixty Minutes recently mentioned the huge amount of opioids being sold in the San Luis Valley. The Board was supportive of this action and promised to contact the County very soon.

An investigation on the costs of upgrading the water/sewer and electrical capacity of Camper Village in order to expand the number of sites is underway and will be done within the next month or two.

More building regulations have been passed and are as follows: Storage containers will be allowed to be used for house building, under some conditions, these to be conveyed to builders by the EAC as plans are presented to the POA. But storage containers can only be used as temporary storage during the first eighteen months of building and only with POA permission and then must be removed—no shipping containers can be used as permanent storage. The final \$1500 building deposit will not be returned to a builder until this has happened. Any camper or RV must be licensed and cannot be lived in for more than a weekend or so at a time, and not in any extended stays by friends or relatives. As is the case with all other new building



This coyote was traveling near Happy Hollow Way December 14, and even stuck around a few moments for a photo op!
photo by Lori Nagel

restrictions, these are not retroactive and will apply only to builds going forth from December 21.

A property consolidation revision was approved unanimously

to allow consolidation paperwork to be completed and all consolidation fees paid by March 1 to allow a homeowner not to have to pay association fees for that calendar year.

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Thank you for your continuing support!



Brian Esau, Adam Kraus and Heath Ellis are Les Amis. Join us Sunday January 28 at 2pm at Shumei in Crestone.

Spiritual Journeys, Perspectives from Crestone comes to Shumei January & February

Art symposium January 21

Spiritual Journeys, Perspectives from Crestone is a project CrestoneArtists group has organized as a way to express and share the unique relationship between art and spirituality in our community. This show will enter you upon the individual artists' path while manifesting within the vortex of Crestone. This traveling show makes its way home and comes to Shumei International Institute for the months of January and February. A symposium with the artists will be held on Sunday January 21, 3pm to 5pm. A reception will follow the presentation.

As you well know our small town has become internationally known for different religious and spiritual traditions. With over 30 spiritual centers, Crestone today boasts a denser concentration of high Tibetan Lamas, Christian Carmelites, Islamic Sufis, Jews, Hindus, Zen Buddhists, Taoists, Shintoists and American Indians than almost anywhere else on earth. The result has been remarkable, with diverse spiritual groups living in close proximity, intermingling and providing inspiration to a talented community of artists.



"Paradigm Shift" Meredith Rose, oil on hemp linen.

Les Amis travels to Shumei; A unique world music experience January 28

Join us at 2pm on Sunday January 28 at Shumei International Institute for an afternoon of amazing music. Drawing from a genuine appreciation of diverse musical traditions, Les Amis offers creative interpretations of music from around the world. The listener will hear everything from Bach to klezmer, and from tangos to Gypsy waltzes. There is also an honest love for the rich history of Brazilian choro with its unique use of the mandolin and guitar. Les Amis is an acoustic experience unlike any other. Former Crestone resident Heath Ellis travels back home with his band to share an experience like no other. There is a suggested \$10 donation at the door; all proceeds benefit the artists.

Guitarist Brian Esau studied classical guitar with Alex Komodore at Metro State University while simultaneously studying Hindustani Classical music of North India with guru Roshan Jamal Bhartiya. After graduation Brian decided to move to Spain with his now wife to study Spanish and Flamenco music. He ended up playing guitar in a Spanish folk ensemble and performed in the fabled carnival celebrations in Cadiz, Spain. His collaborators said that if he was not the first foreigner to perform in Carnaval de Cadiz, he was surely the second. In more recent years Brian was a founding member of the art rock band Radical Knitting Circle. While he's not playing music, Brian is a social worker in Denver supporting some of Denver's most vulnerable populations.

Bass player Adam Kraus is an extremely talented, self-taught bassist. His journey in music started back in Illinois where as a young lad he took musical lessons on the piano, trumpet and bass. He eventually focused exclusively on the bass and has been performing with various groups ever since. His solid ear facilitates his ability to drive the tune while remaining true to the cultural spirit of the music. Adam enjoys all types of music and is inspired by the beautiful wonders of Colorado.

Mandolin player and former Crestone resident Heath Ellis's extensive travels abroad have given him an honest appreciation for music's place in culture. He comes at this project with an honest love for world folk traditions and street music yet is bolstered by a university music degree and a love of classical music. His creative efforts seek to apply the sounds of the mandolin to the interpretation of world traditions; from Eastern European Gypsy music to the choros of Brazil and from the famous 20th century mandolin composers to as far back as J.S. Bach, all music has a unique cultural significance. When not playing music Heath works for El Sistema, an organization dedicated to creating social change through music education for under-resourced youth.

We look forward to seeing you at 2pm on Sunday January 28 for this exciting offering of amazing music.



"Vipasyana" Beatris Burgoin, oil on Canvas.

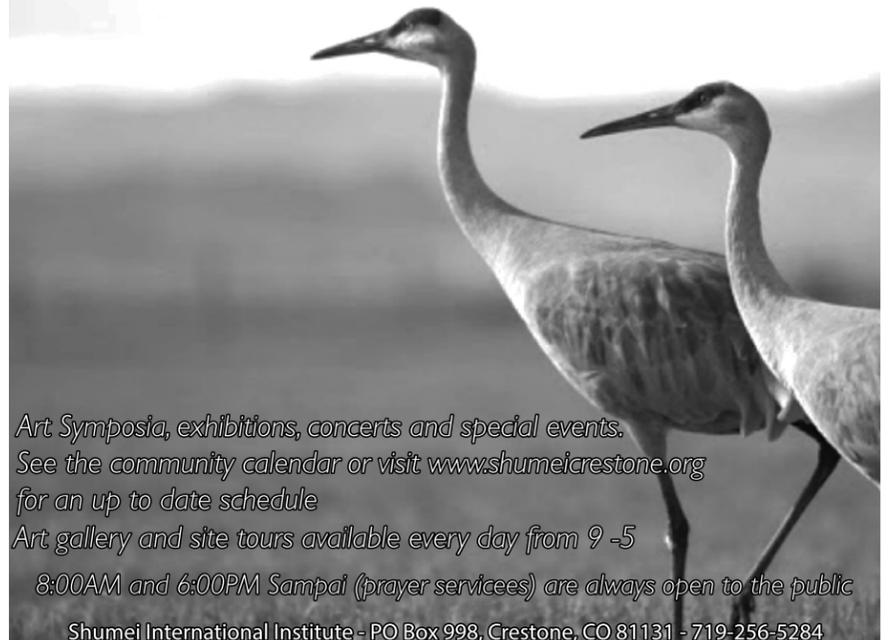
CrestoneArtists group, which came together in 2011 has organized studio tours, workshops and exhibitions in Crestone and surrounding region. Spiritual Journeys, Perspectives from Crestone is a juried exhibition including 15 works, each 30" high, by 10 of our two-dimensional artists.

This exhibition will engage viewers on a deep, basic, and non-denominational level. Spirituality, a sense of connection to something bigger than ourselves, involves a search for

meaning in life. As such, it is a universal human experience—something that touches us all.

Meet with the artists and learn more about their work. This event is free to the public. Please visit www.shumeicrestone.org or call 256-5284 for more information. The Shumei gallery is open every day 9am to 5pm.

Wishing our global family a safe and happy
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Crestone Artisan's Gallery

Artist of Month: Dancing Elk Designs

by Desi Faraci

It's that time again to usher in the New Year and thank the gallery members and patrons who have supported us in the past. We will be offering a free calendar with illustrations by a gallery artist available to visitors while supplies last. We look forward to seeing new and old faces in the upcoming year. Be sure to visit our Facebook page and local announcements to discover our upcoming events in 2018.

Dancing Elk Designs is a husband and wife team, Jeff and Myan Sorensen, who have been creating works of wearable art from naturally shed antler since 1989. Earthy designs with shades of browns and whites, often inlaid with precious stones and fine metals, are found in their exquisitely crafted jewelry. Designs that reflect nature with turtles, dragonflies, Southwestern-inspired themes, fun geometric shapes and more are included in their collection of works.

Hiking and searching the hills and backcountry of Colorado

and the west provides them with shed deer and elk antler. The designs evolve by means of a creative relationship first with the antler itself, observing what each piece's best qualities are to be revealed. Shape? Color? Texture? Jeff not only finds the antler, but also takes the first step of cutting and shaping each piece. Myan's relationship is then with the refined antler piece. The polishing and wire and stone embellishments bridge the piece to make it ready for display.

Jeff and Myan see the result of their work as a transformation of an organic gift of Nature to a useful adornment reflecting their values of honoring wildlife and Mother Earth. You will find a unique selection of their works from necklaces, earrings, broaches and more displayed at the gallery.



Kids of ALL ages enjoyed the chocolate theme at the Crestone Artisans Gallery annual WinterFest Kick-off party held the afternoon of December 1. photo by Lori Nagel



"Asian Inspired Necklace", elk antler, fresh water pearl, sterling silver accents.



"Pendulum Earrings", burned deer antler, goldfill accents and earwires.

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Studio of THE MONTH

Sunday January 14, 2018 2-4pm
STEPHEN FUTRAL
Watercolor, Acrylic, Encaustic & Calligraphy
117 Skyview Way 720.366.4488
Food, drinks & demo.

Every 2nd Sunday of the month an artist from CrestoneArtists group will open their studio to the public. Artists, collectors and art-lovers welcome.

More information @ www.crestoneartists.com

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& Calligraphic Brushstroke

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2 hrs / \$50 includes materials

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Ish Futral 256.4848 for appointment
or further questions

Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve increases entrance fees beginning January 1

After completing a thorough public involvement process, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve has increased its entrance fees on January 1, 2018 in order to align with the National Park Service fee rate schedule and help fund important maintenance and improvement projects within the park. The park's entrance fees were last increased in 2015. This increase is consistent with the tiered fee system in use by National Park Service sites throughout the country, including many in Colorado.

Previous price	New price
Private Vehicle \$15	\$20
Individual (on foot, bicycle or in non-commercial vehicle) \$7	\$10
Motorcycle \$10/motorcycle	\$15/motorcycle
Annual Great Sand Dunes Pass \$30	\$40

This increase in fees will allow us to make direct improvements to visitor facilities and continue to protect, preserve, and share the special places here at Great Sand Dunes with current visitors and future generations. After soliciting input from the public and carefully considering the impact of a fee increase on visitors and community members, park management came to the conclusion that this is the right course of action to improve facilities and services that are important to visitors. We want to encourage those who visit the park and preserve frequently to purchase an annual pass. For \$40 you will be able to enjoy the park and preserve all year long. It is the best option for returning visitors. If you travel frequently to other national parks, the Interagency Annual Pass is a great bargain for \$80. The National Park Service will also continue to host fee free days throughout the year when entrance fees are waived.

Entrance fees paid at the park are retained to enhance and improve the visitor experience. Fees collected at Great Sand Dunes have supported a wide range of projects including; funding the replacement of ADA-compliant matting for beach access, rehabilitating trails and trailhead signs, improving park water systems, replacing failed benches in the amphitheater, providing ranger-led programs, and improving accessibility. Additional revenue from this fee increase will enable the park to continue to improve and maintain deteriorating restroom facilities and the aging Piñon Flats Campground, develop and install new exhibits in the visitor center and improve road and trail signs.

In August 2017, to align with the new National Park Service rate schedule, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve launched a civic engagement campaign to solicit public input on the proposed fee change. During the public comment period, the park received no formal comments.

For more information, visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/grsa, follow [greatsanddunesnps](#) on social media or call Public Information Officer Katherine Faz at 719-378-6341.



Chi-Chi Stevens and Ginny Ducale share a laugh at last year's SLV Seed Exchange, held at Joyful Journey. photo by Lori Nagel

SLV Seed Exchange coming in February

Join us for the 8th Annual SLV Seed Exchange on Sunday, February 11, 10am-3pm, in the at Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa Conference Center.

There will be seeds to exchange, information tables, vendors, gardening books, tours of our greenhouse and food. Event programs will include a coupon for a discounted soak.

Admission and exchange-only tables are free, but a \$5 suggested donation would be greatly appreciated. Proceeds will be given as "Seeds of Gratitude" to Mountain Valley School Community Garden in Saguache.

If you're interested in being a part of the Seed Exchange or have heirloom seeds to add to our collection please contact Valerie at Joyful Journey, 719-256-4329.

Studio 828

Tues * Thurs * Friday 10-3

Salon located on East side of Sangre De Cristo Inn

call for appointment 682-553-5797



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HAPS



This sweet baby was wide eyed and content on Santa's lap for many minutes at Winterfest Dec. 3 at the Crestone Charter School. photo by Lori Nagel

Women's voices, women's allies

January 20, 2018, 10am-noon is the 2nd SLV Women's March. Join us in celebration, with music, presenters and information tables. The morning will start at the corner of Hwy. 160 and Richardson Avenue (ASU Art Building) with a walk, culminating at Richardson Hall on the ASU campus, with the celebration starting at 11. Join us—bring your voice, and an ally. For more information call Charlotte Ledonne at 589-4087.

Studio of the Month

CrestoneArtists.com presents a new venture for our wonderful community . . . a local artist of our group will open their studio each month to everyone who can make it and in this case there will be demonstrations of both Calligraphic Brushstroke Painting and Encaustics Painting by Stephen Futral/Ish at Firstthought Studios, 117 Skyview Way on January 14 from 2-4pm.

There will be food, drinks, demos & good cheer.

Free computer clinic for seniors!

January 8, 10, 15, and 17, from 9:30-11:30am there is a free computer class for seniors at the Baca Library. This is a rare opportunity made possible by the Friends of the Library and a Tax-sales Grant, to teach and clarify basic computer skills for seniors. Participants are encouraged to bring a list of what they'd like to learn. Lori Nagel is the class instructor with a BS in Computer Science, 25 years computer experience, and a lot of patience! Please call or text 719-937-1202 or email peacelori@peacelori.com to register, as space is limited.

Bee dialogue

Are you a local beekeeper? Come to the Crestone Baca Beekeeper Dialogue on January 13 at the Cloud Station at 3pm. Beekeepers are encouraged to tell the rest of those present about their experiences and what they have learned (like how they keep bears away or winter over their bees). Even a small group has enough collective experience and observations that we can make things interesting and informative for all. Any beekeepers who produced some honey can bring some to taste and compare. For more info, call Jose at 256-4010.

Crestone Charter School theater performance Jan. 20 & 21

Dear Chuck, Scenes from Teen Life will be performed by Charter School middle and high school students under the direction of Bill Roberts.

Opening night is Saturday, January 20 at 6:30pm. The second performance is Sunday, January 21, at 6:30pm.

Democratic Party caucuses Tuesday, March 6

Monday, January 8 is the last day to affiliate as a Democrat to participate in caucuses to elect delegates to the County Assembly.

Monday, February 5 is the last day to update your voter registration address to participate in the March 6 party precinct caucuses.

Democratic Party precinct caucus locations

1. Saguache/Villa Grove: Saguache Rd. & Bridge meeting room
2. Sargents: Saguache Rd. & Bridge meeting room
3. Crestone: Little Shepherd in the Hills Church auxiliary bldg.
4. Moffat: Moffat School Common Area
5. Baca: Baca Grande POA Hall
- 6 & 7. Center: Kiwanis Building

For questions or more information contact Kevin Noland, Chair, Saguache County Dems, landkk@gmail.com 970-351-6747.

Women of Crestone!

We are a work in progress! You are invited to a gathering to support one another in the unfolding of our inner selves on Sunday, January 14 at 2pm. 4216 Al Fresco Way; call 256-4320 after 10am.

Baca Amerigas customers due rebate

Beginning in December 2016, residential customers of Amerigas in the Baca have been charged a "city sales tax" by Amerigas—and that is an error. Amerigas will refund the charges for your account if you call the local office in Alamosa (719-589-2545). Ask for Melissa Wright.

Individually, it's a small thing. Collectively, people have been charged quite a bit of money.

Some people are donating their refund to a local nonprofit organization. Maybe some other folks will be inspired to do the same.



The annual tree lighting ceremony was one of the many events of WinterFest weekend. Ziggy Eilets and Naiya Cabeza-Kinney help adults Elaine Johnson and William Martino push Frosty into his upright position December 1 at the Crestone Mercantile.

photo by Lori Nagel



Matie Belle Lakish happily sells her natural, handmade soaps and salves at this year's WinterFest, held at the Crestone Charter School December 2-3.

photo by Lori Nagel



Many came together to volunteer their time & more at the dinner to benefit Crestone Pet Partners December 1 during WinterFest weekend. The benefit dinner was packed and a huge success!

photo by Lori Nagel



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Community Calendar—January 2018

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

Thursday, December 28

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

Sunday, December 31

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

Monday, January 1

- Monthly Brush Pickup, Town of Crestone 9:30-2 719-256-4313
- Full Moon Fire Ceremony, 2018 Calendar Blessing & meal – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 11am-noon www.babjiashram.org 719-256-4108

Tuesday, January 2

- Monthly Brush Pickup – Town of Crestone All Day 719-256-4313
- Full Moon Riwo Sangchö (Outdoor Smoke Offering) – Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 10:00 am-11:00 am
- Crestone Planning Commission Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 6-8:00pm 719-256-4313

Wednesday, January 3

- Monthly Brush Pickup – Town of Crestone All Day 719-256-4313
- EAC Covenant Violation Hearings – BGPOA Meeting Room 10am bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Thursday, January 4

- Monthly Brush Pickup – Town of Crestone 9:30 am-2:00 pm 719-256-4313

Saturday, January 6

- Close conjunction of Jupiter & Mars – 6-7am

Sunday, January 7

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

Monday, January 8

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

Tuesday, January 9

- Saguache County Commissioners meeting – Saguache County Building 9am 719-655-2231

Wednesday, January 10

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

Thursday, January 11

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

Saturday, January 13

- Crestone/Baca Beekeeper Dialogue – Cloud Station 3:00 pm-4:30 pm 256-4010

Sunday, January 14

- Monthly Sampai at Shumei – Shumei Sanctuary 10:30 am-12:00 pm free www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Monday, January 15

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

Tuesday, January 16

- Saguache County Commissioners meeting – Saguache County Building 9am 719-655-2231
- New Moon fire ceremony followed by a meal – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 am-12:00 pm www.babjiashram.org 719-256-4108

Wednesday, January 17

- FREE Computer Clinic for Seniors, Baca Grande Library 9:30-11:30am Free 719-937-1202
- BGPOA E&AC Meeting – BGPOA Meeting Room 10:00 am bacapoa.org 719-256-4171
- New Moon Riwo Sangchö (Outdoor Smoke Offering) – Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 10:00 am-11:00 am

Thursday, January 18

- Rumi Study Circle. All welcome! – 3:00 pm-5:00 pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602
- BGPOA Board Meeting – BGPOA Meeting Room 6:00 pm-8:00 pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Friday, January 19

- Friends of the Library Meeting – Crestone Town Hall Conference Room 3-4:30 pm 719 256-4045

Saturday, January 20

- SLV Women's March – ASU Arts Bldg. 10:00 am-12:00 pm 719-589-4087
- "Dear Chuck" CCS theatrical performance – Crestone Charter School 6:30 pm

Sunday, January 21

- Art Symposium "Spiritual Journeys" at Shumei – Shumei Gallery 3:00 pm-5:00 pm free www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284
- "Dear Chuck" CCS theatrical performance – Crestone Charter School 6:30 pm

Tuesday, January 23

- Family-Community Literacy Night – Moffat School 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Wednesday, January 24

- Indivisible general meeting & anniversary potluck – Sarah Hoenninger's home 5:00 pm-7:30 pm 719-256-4031

Thursday, January 25

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

Saturday, January 27

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

Sunday, January 28

- Grange potluck followed by meeting – 12:30 pm-3:00 pm 719-256-4768
- World Music Concert with Les Amis at Shumei – 2:00 pm-4:00 pm \$10 Suggested Donation www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Wednesday, January 31

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

Tuesday, February 6

- Saguache County Commissioners meeting – Saguache County Building 9am 719-655-2231

Thursday, February 15

- BGPOA Board Meeting – BGPOA Meeting Room 6:00 pm-8:00 pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Tuesday, February 20

- Saguache County Commissioners meeting – Saguache County Building 12:00 am saguache-county.net 719-655-2231

Friday, February 23

- Crestone Poetry Festival – 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 24

- Crestone Poetry Festival – 9:00 am-9:00 pm

Sunday, February 25

- Crestone Poetry Festival – 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Tuesday, March 6

- Saguache County Commissioners meeting – Saguache County Building 9:00 am saguache-county.net 719-655-2231

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. -Dwight D. Eisenhower

Daily/Weekly Events

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

Daily

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

Sunday

- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm www.slvaa.org
- Mass at Nada Hermitage Nada Hermitage 9:00 am-10:00 am 719-256-4778

Monday

- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Little Shepherd in the Hills 1:00 pm

Tuesday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Community Yoga at Joyful Journey w Cynthia Joyful Journey Hot Springs 5:00 pm-6:15 pm \$15 www.joyfuljourneyhotsprings.com 719.298.0360
- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting marijuana users welcome Baca Grande Library back door 7:30 pm-8:30 pm 970-309-0710

Wednesday

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30 am-10:00 am By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Wednesday Night AA Meeting in Moffat Free Spirit Christian Church 7:00 pm-8:00 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-1:00 pm www.slvaa.org

Every saint has a past and every sinner a future. -Oscar Wilde

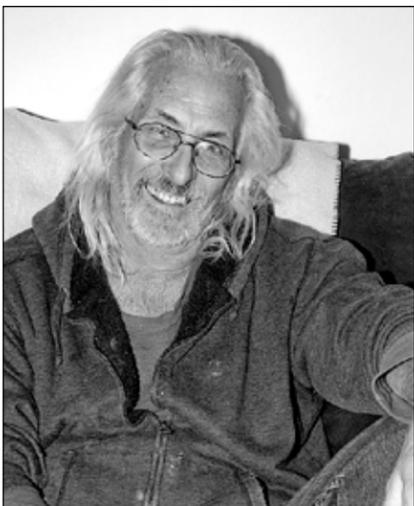
Out & About with Lori Sunflower

Plans to contribute to our community in 2018?



Erin McGrath

Right now we're working on meeting people's needs in the moment and there's a lot of people here who are hungry or in transition, trying to build their homes, undergoing hardship or sickness. We're devoting right now Saturdays to create a space for people to come and feel the comfort of family and community and have warm, nourishing food and a lot of beautiful music. We're just having people come and contribute music if they want to, and their time, and it's been really uplifting. I think throughout the year, we're going to continue to do that on Saturdays and we're excited to be offering a choir. We're actually going to be starting a church choir for the Feel Free Ministry, and this is an opportunity for all musicians and people who love to sing to come and be a part of something really beautiful. So, we're just going to continue to create unity and show ourselves how we can give and receive love and care for one another. So that's how we'll be contributing in 2018!



Rodney Volkmer

This year, the big push for me, and I've already started it, is the Neighbors Helping Neighbors phone book. I've rebuilt it from scratch and put that back together, but working for NHN is my primary contribution to the community and that'll be all year, every year, until I get off the Board! NHN is a non-profit organization that is designed to help people in crisis. It's not meant to pay your rent all the time and to baby you the rest of your life, but if you need a little bit, we can give a little bit and get you out of that pressure so you can get on with your life and figure it out

so that you can help yourself. I think that's probably the main thing, is to enable people to help themselves and not become dependent on us. My personal contribution to NHN, other than a little bit of money and stuff like that, is most of their print and web and media stuff. Plus I'm the President of NHN, so, the Board meetings and figuring things out and working with people and their crises. I'm always available to help anybody with anything, given the time. I help people individually more than as a large group. And I'm working with the Crestone End of Life Project and the Town of Crestone and different things, too, so always doing something!



John Milton

One of the things that draws people to Crestone is the sacredness of this land. I'm lucky enough to have come here over 40 years ago, and early-on, one of the things I discovered were a number of the rather remarkable sacred sites in the form of seats or meditation chairs, built of stone and up to 20,000 years old, according to the Smithsonian. Not too many people know about these, but they're spread throughout Crestone. I've taken much of my retirement savings and used that to preserve the 300-400 acres at Sacred Land Sanctuary, dedicated to the preservation of the sacred sites. One of the things I've been offering to the community is to take people onto the land. We walk through the sacred sites and I introduce them to how they work, what they look like, and try to give them a sense of how they function so when they build a road or a parking lot or are putting up a building, they can have some idea of where these sacred sites might be located, or they can call on us. I've worked with Bonpo community here. They asked me to come in and do a survey, so I did, and then when they built their community, we worked together to help develop the location where the retreat cabins and their main retreat center would go in a way that would not disturb the sacredness of the land and the sacred sites. Archaeologists don't know about this. I've introduced it to the Smithsonian and they're working with us now to authenticate and certify all this stuff. I'd like to introduce new people coming to our community to how these things function, and

why they contribute to producing a field that almost everybody feels when they come here. Part of that is this amazing array of thousands of meditation seats that are throughout the community and the energy meridians, like the meridians in your body, that link them all together. And that provides a lot of the foundation of that feeling of sacredness that we have here. And it goes back 20,000 years, at least.



Stephen Futral (aka Ish)

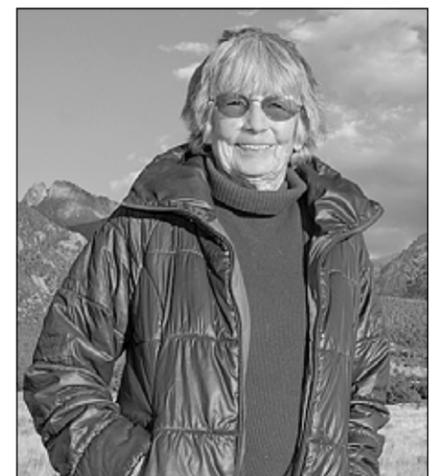
I would imagine I'd be very involved with the artistic community here. I also mentor kids at the Charter School; this is the first semester I've done calligraphy for the last 4 years, plus I've been doing encaustic painting, painting with beeswax and pigment. I offer workshops to the community, in both encaustics and calligraphy, Japanese brush stroke style. I'm an admin on 7 different Facebook pages, and I started Crestone Poets and Writers group, so I keep rather busy. CrestoneArtists.com has started open live model drawing a couple times a month. We've sponsored the Open Studio Tour every year and now they're going to have a featured studio-of-the-month. I'm the first guinea pig, so I'm welcoming the community to 117 Skyview Way; it's set up for January 14, 2-4pm. I probably will demonstrate the calligraphic brush stroke and also maybe the encaustic monotype print. We'll have wine and such, of course. I paint and I write, so I'm working on my memoir; I continually write poetry and when I can, I cook. I've actually thought of giving cooking lessons on Indian food. Other than that, I do "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" in the newspaper and that keeps me up til 3, 4 in the morning watching movies, and I totally enjoy that.



Patti Jackson

Thankfully, Crestone has quite a number of non-profits and grassroots organizations here, so finding somewhere to plug into to contribute to the community is very easy. In 2018, I am thrilled to continue serving as Co-Manager of the Crestone Food Bank, along with Wendy Chanden and our wonderful group

of volunteers: Stuart, Alex, Marge, Nan, Claudia, Cherie, Nick, Marie, Isaline, Carmin, and Joan. Working in the Food Bank comes so natural for me. You see, my grandparents—with whom I lived a number of years during my late childhood and early teen years—lost their 265-acre farm in rural Mississippi in the Depression. After WWII, their little house that sat along the railroad tracks was "marked" as a stop for soldiers returning home who needed a warm meal. Preserving and sharing food was always a central theme in my grandparents' home, so I understood early-on the importance of food supplementation, especially in rural communities where jobs are scarce and incomes are limited. As a nutritional health coach, the Food Bank is a perfect match for me and I am working to do what I can to improve the quality of food available. Also, when people come into the Food Bank, it is important to me that they feel loved and supported. Food is so much more than nourishment for our physical bodies, because, as Paul Wellstone so simply stated, "We all do better when we all do better." Yes?



Stephanie Gaines

There's a poem by Rumi that exemplifies the way in which I aspire to be available to this life, this community, and this world. It goes: "Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I'll meet you there. When the soul lies down in that grass, the world's too full to talk about ideas, language—even the phrase 'each other' doesn't make any sense." Some of the ways I hope to contribute to our collective well-being in 2018 is by cultivating gratitude for everything, learning from what's difficult, and supporting the wonderful service provided to this community thru the selfless commitment of the CEOLP volunteers. I began establishment of the Crestone End of Life Project (CEOLP) in 2006, it was legally approved in 2007, and the first cremation was in 2008. Over the years, so many have stepped up to really get involved and help the services run as seamlessly as possible while making both local & visiting families feel comfortable during the transition process of their loved ones. I have really treasured doing this work, although lately, I've really been redirecting people's focus from me as founder/director towards the incredible service provided by our volunteers, because without them, we wouldn't exist.

If you have feedback or suggestions for future topics, please email peacelove@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

USFS Rocky Mtn. Region begins hiring for 2018 field season. Over 900 jobs available in CO, KS, NE, SD & WY

The Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service announced today the availability of over 900 temporary jobs for the 2018 field season throughout national forests and grasslands in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Temporary jobs are available in a variety of exciting and rewarding occupations such as fire, trails, forestry, engineering, wildlife, recreation, fisheries, archaeology and administrative support.

Job seekers can apply for temporary jobs through USAJOBS during these time frames:

January 26-February 1, 2018: Recreation, fisheries, forestry, engineering, and other jobs

Temporary job opportunities are searchable online at www.fs.usda.gov/main/r2/jobs. Job seekers can apply through USAJOBS during the applicable time frames at www.usajobs.gov. Temporary and permanent job opportunities can also be found online at: <https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com/Outreach>.

Below are resume tips and application resources to support job seekers in applying for jobs with the Rocky Mountain Region.

Resume tips

- Include all required information (e.g., name, address, previous work history with dates and hours worked per week, etc.)
- Tailor your resume to each job announcement
- Spell out acronyms
- Be honest
- Write clear and concise statements
- Use active verbs
- Proofread your resume

Application resources

- Tips for Applicants
- USAJOBS Resource Center
- How to Apply video

The Forest Service is a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture that manages 193 million acres of land, roughly the size of Texas. The Rocky Mountain Region includes 17 national forests and seven national grasslands located in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



Moffat Garden Supply will open January 2 in the space previously occupied by the Sangre de Cristo Trading Post in Moffat.

Moffat Garden Supply now open

A fully stocked gardening store opens its door on January 2 in the valley. Moffat Garden Supply took over the space previously occupied by the Sangre de Cristo Trading Post and will sell soil, nutrients, amendments, pots, lights, fans, non-gmo seeds and other items for your indoor and outdoor gardening needs.

The owners of Salida Hydroponic Supply opened the store to help fulfill a need with the increase in organic and commercial gardeners in the area. Our staff is knowledgeable about the needs of plants and creating a feed schedule that works for your growing method and environment. We are a Hydrofarm,

Sunlight Supply, and BWGS retailer, as well as Down to Earth, Cana, House and Garden, Paonia Soil, Elevation Organics, Heavy 16 and many others. We also offer competitive pricing with the internet and the city. We have a forklift and trailer and can provide delivery if needed. Come check us out and we are sure you will be impressed by our excellent selection and friendly staff.

- Located at 909 Lincoln Ave in Moffat; 719-937-7687, moffatgardensupply@gmail.com.

- Hours for Jan & Feb (will extend in March): Mon-Fri: 10am-4pm, closed Sat and Sun.

Two Locations!



LARGEST HYDRO STORES IN THE REGION!



Sri Aurobindo Learning Center

The human cycle in evolution

by Dr. Eric Weiss

In last month's column, we discussed Sri Aurobindo's understanding of the cosmic evolution as an evolution of consciousness. For him, the human stage of evolution (a stage which may include species other than homo sapiens), is the stage at which the evolutionary process enters into conscious self-awareness. Human beings are those beings who have the potential to engage spiritual practice as a way of evolving on purpose.

But the evolution is not a steady ascent. It is also cyclical. We know that a system is more evolved when it exhibits more richness and complexity of form, and a correspondingly deeper consciousness. By these criteria, we can see that individuals, civilizations, species and even geological eras rise and fall in their evolutionary cycles.

In this column, I want to bring attention to a very long cycle which Sri Aurobindo names "The Human Cycle." Sri Aurobindo, and the Vedic tradition in general, understand this as only one iteration of a cycle that has been ongoing on Earth for millions of years. This cycle begins with a long Golden Age, the time of the hunter-gatherers. Then there is a descent, a fall, into a Silver Age, the time of agriculture when humans retreat from intimacy with Nature and the Divine into the

artificial ecosystem of the farm. A further descent takes us to the Bronze Era, the retreat from Nature into urban existence. Finally, there is the Iron Age, the "Kali Yuga." The Kali Yuga is sometimes thought to derive its name from Kali, the goddess of destruction. But another tradition sees the name as coming from the root "kul," which is also the root of our word "calculation." In this way we can see the Kali Yuga as the "Age of Calculation," or the Industrial Age.

This understanding of evolutionary cycles turns on its head the popular interpretation of evolution which assumes that whatever is newer is better. I call that interpretation the "chamber of commerce version of evolutionary theory." It is easier to understand the current status of our civilization as the culmination of long, long process of descent.

The good news is what emerges out of the vast destruction of the Iron Age is a new Golden Age, what Sri Aurobindo calls a "Subjective Age," A time when humanity can renew our vital intimacy with Nature and the Divine. May that day come soon.

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



About 15 children joined in at the Ashram Bal Gokulam program and decorated the temple so beautifully for the holidays.

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

In December, the Ashram was aglow with festive decorations and loving spirits particularly after the children came for the Bal Gokulam and decorated the temple so lovingly. It is always a wonderful time for all of our families to come and pray, celebrate, and sing together. We are so grateful to all who help make this possible.

The full-moon fire ceremony this month falls on New Year's Day, Monday, January 1. We will bless our 2018 calendars that day at the fire ceremony, so bring yours or get one at the Maha Lakshmi Shop. The new-moon fire ceremony is on Tuesday, January 16. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati is at 7am and evening aarati is at 6pm. At 8am there is generally a small indoor fire ceremony when we do not have a large one. Call us at 719-256-4108 for proper protocol for attending fire ceremonies and any other questions.

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

For more information about the Ashram, please visit our website at www.babajiashram.org. All are invited to our Ashram Board of Directors' meeting. The next one is on Sunday, January 7 at 10am. Please call the Ashram for an agenda. We also invite you to visit the Ashram at any time. We love to share Shri Babaji's and Mother's home with others. Just drop by or give us a call at 719-256-4108.



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A New Year, New Beginnings, Blessings to All
Next meeting date is **Wednesday January 10th**

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The HUB update: Monthly potlucks & meetings for unity in a diverse community

by Nathan Good & Heather D'Alessio

Happy New Year everyone. Wishing this finds you and your family well and loved. Yes, our name changed from "The Crestone Mountain Grange" to "The HUB" (Human Unity Building) last year, and last Sept. a proposal merging us with the "Skillshare"/"Sunday Community Meeting" was ratified, but most folks still call us The Grange. We've been meeting the last Sunday of every month since formation in May 2015 to share food and to build relationships. Relationships are the building blocks for all community organizing activities, and give meaning to our work and lives.

We've seen larger towns, such as Portland, OR and Detroit, MI, not to mention many small-towns like us across the globe, that have great success with improving their quality of life with grassroots community-building through re-greening their urban landscapes, and reinvigorating neighborhood economies of all types. At village intersections we can pause and greet one another or wave as we drive by. However, some are consumed with isolating behaviors and do neither. Perhaps the New Year's resolution for our group can be to create a new eco-economy exchange co-op. Sometimes the economy of a place

has nothing to do with money, per se. The current environmental movements are discovering that a culture's wealth may not be based on monetary abundance, but upon cultural and skill-set diversity working in concert. Our wealth could be in that we make plans to meet one another after the days' work is done, to encourage and be encouraged, to keep inspiration for our human connection alive.

We are nearing those goals here, in our own small village of highly skilled and motivated free-thinking individuals. We are learning how to identify and harvest the needs and priorities of a community with consensus-based findings. What food crop to grow . . . if you had to choose only one, for example? Learning to reach far and wide to get all the voices and views . . . we are really working in that direction. The open-source HUB communication system is continuing this with new help soon. Check out this site for inspiration: www.reinhabitingthevillage.com. We have a few copies of the book available thanks to Lisa Bodey.

One of our original talks was about removing things from our community that were causing harm to health and limiting freedom. We are encouraged by others' more recent successes as well, such as the



River crossing game at Harvest Fest 2016.

photo by Lori Nagel

folks in Mendocino County, CA becoming the first jurisdiction in the country to fully ban farming genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The movement is alive and well! Inspired, near 30 grangers attended the CBR search conference in March, and have been working hard since then to expand sustainability education in our community.

At our potlucks and meetings, among other things we learn what resources and skills families have in abundance, and are ready to share, as well as any needs or scarcities that may arise. This process of taking a bimonthly inventory, and of continually improving our support system, builds resiliency and trust in our community during these tumultuous times. Facilitation of meetings is run with fair-share and equal-voice for all attendees, with a basic understanding that agendas tend to be spontaneous, and are based on the needs of the current group. Food, family and safety

subjects that are pertinent to our whole community's health and happiness are central. The four agreements are our guidelines. Remember—everyone is invited to the potluck even if you don't wish to remain for the meeting. Some ideas have been kicking around to hold more celebratory and dance events after the meetings, and on Fridays at a community center location, in 2018. We hope many of the new residents moving into our community will hear this invitation as well, and make time to participate, for it's all about sharing culture, skills, and building unity in a diverse community.

To find more information about our work (see the prospectus, the HUB and our shared vision) go to www.crestonehub.com. To get on the mailing list send an email to: crestonehub@gmail.com or call Nathan or Heather at 719 256-4768. See you around the village!

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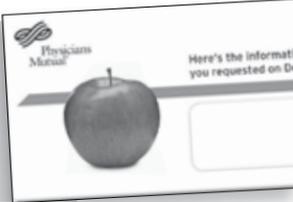
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Messages from the heart of God

Free Spirit Christian Church



New year—New life

by **Angie LeRoy**

Is your life full of peace and joy, wholeness and love? If it's not, maybe you need a new birth. In John 3:5 Jesus talking to a Rabbi said, "Truly, truly, I say unto thee, except a man be born again of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." So how can we be born again of the Spirit? Jesus again says in Rev 3:20, "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and will dine with him and he with Me."

I will never forget the day I asked Jesus into my heart. I knew about Jesus and loved Him for dying on the cross for my sins, but He was on the side of my life and not the center of it. I did my own thing and what I thought was right. This led me to the point of despair and wanting to kill myself. Lately, I have heard of too many suicides, and that is why I am writing this message. At 2am back in 1979, I called Crisis Hotline for help, but the line was busy. I had heard on the radio about an organization that would help people in crisis. So I looked in the phone book under "K" looking for the number of this radio station. I called it but

there was no answer. So I called the next radio station listed. I knew that if I killed myself, my mother would be crushed! A female diskjockey answered the phone. I said I wanted to kill myself and asked for an organization that could help me. She said she had the answer to my problem. I told her, "You don't even know my problem!" She said, "His Name is Jesus," and she gave me the above scriptures. I asked Jesus in my heart. As Jesus came into my heart, He filled me with peace. I asked forgiveness for all my sins, and felt His precious blood wash me white as snow. Jesus guided me through my problems by His Holy Spirit that now lives in my heart.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, it says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new." I became a totally new person as I surrendered my life to Jesus and His Word. No more doing things my way which failed miserably, but reading and following the Word of God. Wow, now it is the most exciting wonderful ride of life, as I live by faith and see God's miracles everyday, and I believe I am fulfilling the purpose for which I was created.

Jesus is waiting for you. Will you ask Him in your heart?



These young deer may not cross the road as wisely as mama doe. Watch out for wildlife!

Driving tips to lower your risk of hitting an animal

by **Judy Molland, Care2.com**

During the long winter nights your chances of hitting wildlife while you drive get greater. When that happens, it can be devastating. Driving at night on a two-lane road in Colorado several years ago, with my eight-year-old son in the back seat, I slowed for a female deer crossing in front of me, then watched in horror as her baby started following her, only to be crushed by a large truck that was passing me in the opposite direction.

Sadly this isn't an isolated incident. DMV.org gives us some sobering statistics:

A collision with some form of wildlife occurs, on average, every 39 minutes.

1 out of every 17 car collisions involves wandering wildlife.

89% of all wildlife collisions occur on roads with 2 lanes.

84% of all wildlife collisions occur in good weather on dry roads.

The average repair cost of a car-deer collision is \$2,800.

Approximately 200 motorists die in the United States each year from car-wildlife collisions.

The first and most important piece of advice is of course to slow down. Animals have to cross the roads and highways that we humans have created in order to find food, water, shelter, and mates. By driving at a reasonable speed you'll have a better chance of stopping in time if an animal runs into the road. Not to mention, keeping your speed down makes the roads safer for everyone, pedestrians and drivers alike.

Ten tips to lower your risk of hitting wildlife

1. Be especially careful when driving at dawn, dusk, and at night, when wildlife is most active.

During dawn and dusk, deer are hit most frequently; at night it's bears and moose.

2. Look for reflecting eyes.

Also, by lowering your dashboard lights slightly, you'll have a better chance of seeing your headlights reflected in the eyes of animals, giving you time to brake.

3. Keep in mind that when one animal crosses the road, there may be others following behind.

Often times wildlife travel in pairs or groups. If you see an animal on the road, slow to a crawl.

4. Pay attention to shoulders.

Wildlife are unpredictable, so even if a deer is off to the side as you approach, it might suddenly decide to flee by leaping into the middle of the road. Slow down when you see an animal close to the road, and don't hesitate to use your horn.

5. Slow down when you see those yellow animal-crossing signs.

These warnings are posted precisely at spots where there is known to be heavy animal traffic.

6. Drive with extra caution on two-lane roads bordered by trees or fields.

As noted above, 89 percent of all vehicle/wildlife accidents happen on two-lane roads.

7. Use your high beams when you can.

Use your high beams whenever possible, but remember that they illuminate only between 200 and 250 feet in front of you. Reduce your speed to 45 mph at night, or even 30 mph if the road is icy.

8. If there is ice, there may also be salt and wildlife.

If you are driving in a state that uses road salt, you are more likely to encounter wildlife, who are attracted to the salt.

9. Keep all of your food trash (and all your other trash) inside your car.

Throwing food out your car window pollutes the environment and attracts wildlife to the roads.

10. Be especially vigilant if you are driving in moose country.

These animals may be amazingly photogenic, but they also behave weirdly on roads: instead of leaping away to seek cover, moose may gallop down the road ahead of you for several miles before deciding to disappear into the woods.



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

Salida hospital hires two general surgeons

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center announced today it has hired two board-certified general surgeons, Karen Johnson, M.D., FACS, and Charles Bellows III, M.D., FACS. Both physicians will offer general and trauma surgery services at the hospital in Salida.

Dr. Johnson has provided surgical services at HRRMC since January 2012 through Surgical Specialists of Colorado (SSOC). She will continue to see patients as an HRRMC-employed physician rather than through the SSOC practice. Her office remains in the same location in the hospital.

Prior to joining SSOC, Dr. Johnson worked for 17 years in private practice as a general surgeon. She was affiliated with Yale-New Haven Hospital, the Hospital of Saint Raphael and Temple Surgical Center.

Board certified in general surgery, Dr. Johnson has a special interest in diseases of the breast. She earned her medical degree from Texas A&M University and completed her residency in general surgery at the Hospital of Saint Raphael. She also holds a master's degree in nutrition.

Dr. Bellows recently relocated to our area from Cortez, CO where he practiced at Southwest Memorial Hospital. Prior to his time in Cortez, Dr. Bellows served as Chief of Surgery and professor of surgery at the University of New Mexico Sandoval Regional Medical Center in Rio Rancho for two and a half years. From 2007-2013, he held a number of positions at Tulane University in New Orleans, including Chief of General Surgery and Director of Surgical Research.

Dr. Bellows earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, now part of Drexel University, in Philadelphia. He completed a surgical residency and research fellowship through the Department of Surgery at Tulane University. Dr. Bellows is board certified in general surgery and will see patients in the former SSOC office location in the hospital.

To learn more about Drs. Johnson or Bellows, visit hrrmc.com. To make an appointment with either provider at HRRMC General and Trauma Surgery, call 719-530-2000.



Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center has hired two board-certified general surgeons and has expanded gastroenterology services. photo courtesy of hrrmc.com

HRRMC expands gastroenterology services in Salida

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center has expanded gastroenterology services at the Specialty Clinic in the hospital in order to accommodate an increasing number of patients. Gastroenterologists diagnose and treat digestive disorders, such as acid reflux, heartburn, irritable bowel syndrome and Crohn's disease.

HRRMC contracted with Peak Gastroenterology Associates of Col-

orado Springs in July 2016. In addition to the eight board-certified, fellowship-trained gastroenterologists who see patients in the clinic twice per month, the practice has added a locally based certified family nurse practitioner, who sees patients three days each week.

Leslie Monagle, FNP-BC, has 14 years of experience working as a family nurse practitioner in gastroenterology. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from New Mexico State University and her Master of Science in Nursing with a family nurse practitioner (FNP) concentration from the University of New Mexico.

Prior to joining HRRMC, she spent almost five years working in the gastroenterology practice at Lovelace Medical Group, and nine years with Southwest Gastroenterology Associates, both in Albuquerque. Before focusing on gastroenterology, Monagle worked in primary care. She also has experience as a registered nurse in intensive care, education, post-anesthesia care and cardiac care.

"There is high demand for gastroenterology services in our area," said HRRMC CEO Bob Morskasko. "Leslie Monagle's training and experience will be a great addition to our medical staff."

To make an appointment with a gastroenterology provider at HRRMC, call 719-530-2477.



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The Joker

Did you hear about my brother who slept with his head under the pillow? *When he woke up, he discovered the fairies had taken all his teeth!*

Doctor, doctor, I wake up feeling terrible! My head spins and the room goes round and round!
You must be sleeping like a top!

Doctor, doctor, I walk in my sleep! *Remember to take money for the bus, then!*

How can you tell if there's an elephant under your bed?
When the bed touches the ceiling.

What should you do if you find an elephant asleep in your bed?
Sleep somewhere else!

How do you know if there's an elephant in your bed?
By the big E on his pyjamas.

How else?
There are peanut shells all over the bed.

January 3rd is THE FESTIVAL OF SLEEP DAY

No one knows its origin. It is believed that the founders were too groggy to record it!

How do you get a baby astronaut to sleep?
Rock-et.

How do you know when someone is sleeping like a log?
When you hear them sawing.

Did you hear about the man who heard a mouse squeaking one night?
He got up to oil it!

Did you hear about the man who plugged his electric blanket into the toaster?
He kept popping out of bed all night!

Did you hear about the man who slept under an old tractor?
He wanted to wake up oily in the morning.

Did you hear about the parents who called their baby Caffeine?
It kept them awake all night!

Tell me the joke about the bed.
I can't: it hasn't been made up yet!

What did Sir Lancelot wear to bed?
A knight-gown.

What did the cannibal say when he saw a sleeping missionary?
Oh, yummy! Breakfast in bed!

What does a cat rest its head on when it goes to sleep?
A caterpillar.

What does one good turn do for you?
Give you all the blankets.

What has four legs, but only one foot?
A bed.

What horse sleeps only at night?
A nightmare.

What overpowers you without hurting you?
Sleep.

What question can never be answered with yes?
Are you asleep?

What side of the bed do you sleep on?
The top side!

Whats the best advice to give a worm?
Sleep late!

Whats the difference between a feather bed and a poor man?
One is soft down, the other is hard up.

Away with the Fairies

A Poppy & Pierre Adventure
Story by M. Diane Bairstow - Drawing by Ginny Ducale



Tap, tap, tap. Poppy was just falling asleep and she barely noticed the sound.

"Do you hear that?" Pierre whispered.

"Sort of." Poppy sat up, and the sound came again, louder and more insistent. "I think it's coming from the window."

The bunnies got up and opened the window, and there, silhouetted by the full moon was a fairy tapping on the windowpane. The window was heavy, but together they managed to push it up.

The fairy flew inside and perched on the bedpost. It was Latanita! They had met her last summer in the magic fairy garden, and Poppy and Pierre hopped up and down with delight.

But Latanita was serious, and soon the bunnies settled down and

listened to her. "The fairy council sent me to ask you for your help. An evil magician discovered a magic spell to open the borders of fairyland, and now our peaceful realm is invaded by wicked and cruel beings."

"But what can we do?" Poppy exclaimed, "we're just young bunnies."

"You are brave and you have pure hearts, that is what is needed to fight this evil, and the magician won't realize, at least at first, that you are helping us because as you say, 'you are just young bunnies.'"

"I don't think Madam Colette will let us go," Pierre said somberly, "and we have to have her permission to leave the house."

"If you come with me now, she need not know," Latanita replied. "Fairy time," is different from your time. We can fight battles and win



wars and when you return, it won't even be morning yet."

"Fight battles?" Poppy frowned, "That's scary."

"I'm not afraid," Pierre said, sounding braver than he felt.

"Good, then Pierre, you'll come with me," Latanita said and flew to the windowsill, "Come give me your paw."

Pierre was reaching up when he heard Poppy call, "Wait for me!"

As soon as they touched her hands they were lifted into the air. Off they flew and as they did, the window silently closed behind them ... *to be continued.*



Sea Otters sleep holding paws so the don't drift away from each other.

Can you tell what this is? CONNECT THE DOTS and find out

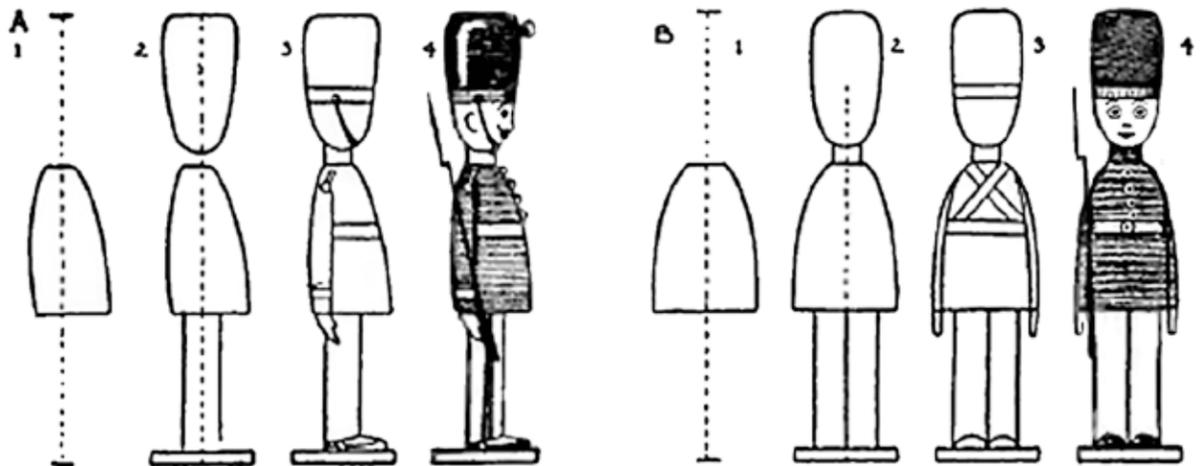
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3. Icelandic: Gleðilegt nýtt ár!
4. Dutch: Gelukkig Nieuwjaar!
5. Tagalog: Manigong Bagong Taon!
6. Swahili: Heri ya mwaka mpya!
7. Italian: Buon anno!

I PUT MY GRANDMA ON SPEED DIAL I CALL THAT INSTAGRAM

THE OTHER DAY I HELD THE DOOR OPEN FOR A CLOWN. IT WAS A NICE JESTER

Draw a Palace Guard



Communities that Care moving forward for the youth of Saguache County

by Ani Rinchung

Communities that Care (CTC) in Saguache, Moffat and Crestone has a lot of hard work behind them to celebrate. The CTC coalition has completed hours of training, developed at the University of Washington, to solidly implement the CTC process in the San Luis Valley. This same process has been successfully implemented all over Colorado, the United States, the Americas and indeed the world.

The Saguache, Moffat, Crestone Coalition (SMCC) has gone on to organize themselves in a way that ensures a long lasting and vibrant coalition, comprehensive and intelligent decision making and effective implementation of programming.

The CTC process is based on local information directly from our kids, collected every two years. The SMCC did a fantastic job of interpretation and analysis of the data and are now preparing to present recommendations to the group. Kudos to the Data Analysis Workgroup which included: Yvonne Morfitt, Brandon Hawkins, Elise Lovato and Crowfox Fleming, Kathy Hill, Alisha Moore, Susanne Rouge, Eddie Garcia, Isaiah Archuleta and Stacie Martinez

Once the Coalition determines priorities a Resource Assessment Workgroup will thoroughly evaluate how well the community is currently meeting these needs. This SMCC does not duplicate efforts but instead finds ways to enhance and encourage existing programming by bringing together everyone working to support San Luis Valley youth.

When gaps in need or ways to enhance existing programming



Ani Rinchung is the Communities that Care (CTC) Coordinator. CTC and the Saguache, Moffat, Crestone Coalition (SMCC) collects information from kids in Saguache, Moffat and Crestone and then prepares recommendations to meet the needs indicated.

are identified, a Workgroup finds appropriate programming and funding to put into place that which is needed. CTC comes with a host of tested, tried and proven programs. Through the CTC process we bring to the valley programs that actually help our young people, not ineffective programs that just sound good.

Our youth coalition currently consists of: Erica Ortega, Oliver Benavidez, Summer Quintana, Laura Morfitt, Nicole Berry and Isaiah Archuleta. They have worked at healthy behavior events at their schools and will share their unique perspectives of our communities with the coalition to help guide the entire process.

Not only is the SMCC working hard but we are always seeking new members. This is a chance to make a difference in the lives of Saguache county youth. Make a commitment that counts. We need your expertise in data analysis, grant writing and development, community involvement, or simply an interest in our youth or a pet project. If you are interested in being a part of the CTC process please contact our program coordinator, Ani Rinchung at 719-655-2533 or email her at arinchung@saguachecounty-co.gov

Federal survey finds rate of teen marijuana use has dropped significantly in Colorado

Now lower than it was prior to legalization

The rate of current marijuana use among Colorado 12-17-year-olds dropped nearly 20% from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Statement below from Brian Vicente, a lead drafter of the initiative to regulate marijuana like alcohol in Colorado

DENVER — The federal government published survey data Monday that shows the rate of current marijuana use among Colorado teens decreased significantly last year and is now lower than it was prior to the state's legalization of marijuana for adult use.

The rate of past-month marijuana use by individuals ages 12-17 dropped nearly 20% from 11.13% in 2014-2015 to 9.08% in 2015-2016, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) performed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). It is now lower than it was in 2011-2012 (10.47%) and 2012-2013 (11.16%). Marijuana became legal for adults 21 and older in December 2012, and legal adult marijuana sales began in January 2014.

The rate of past-month marijuana use among 12-17-year-olds also dropped in [the state of] Washington (from 9.17% in 2014-2015 to 7.93% in 2015-2016), and it is now lower than it was prior to legalization in 2012 (9.45% in 2011-2012 and 9.81% in 2012-2013).

Statement from Brian Vicente, partner at Vicente Sederberg LLC, who was one of the lead drafters of Amendment 64 and co-director of the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana like Alcohol:

"Colorado is effectively regulating marijuana for adult use. Teen use appears to be dropping now that state and local authorities are overseeing the production and sale of marijuana. There are serious penalties for selling to minors, and regulated cannabis businesses are being vigilant in checking IDs. The days of arresting thousands of adults in order to prevent teens from using marijuana are over.

"These survey results should come as welcome news to anyone who worried teen marijuana use would increase following legalization. As a proponent of Amendment 64 and a parent of two young children, they certainly came as welcome news to me."

Thank you for all of your business in 2017!
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Literacy development starts at home: Parents play a crucial role

by Jillian Sciacca, M. Ed

It has been an incredible first semester at the Moffat School. I am so thankful to have the opportunity to work with the youth of this great community. Ten years ago, I decided to follow my passion for ensuring that all children learn to not only read but enjoy reading and I began working on a master's degree in reading and literacy. My New Year's resolution for 2018 is to share my passion and knowledge in the area of literacy so I will start with this article. I hope you find it useful.

Most children learn to read when they go to kindergarten. While this is true, it is important to consider the significance of literacy development during the first five years of a child's life. As parents, we play a crucial role in preparing our children to become successful readers and writers. A study published in the *Journal of Early Childhood Literacy* revealed that "the best predictor for later reading development is the quality of the home environment," (Edwards, p.57, 2014). A second study published in the *Stanford News* concluded that "early exposure to and experiences with more books at home and literacy-related activities such as parental book reading, storytelling, and singing songs in toddlerhood is beneficial for preschools' development of vocabulary and decoding skills," (Carey, 2013). This is an important finding because a child's vocabulary development plays a significant part in their ability to comprehend what they are reading. There is substantial research on this topic, and numerous other studies have concluded that children who are raised in literacy-rich homes, do better in school. Parent involvement plays a huge role in early literacy success. As a mother of a three-year-old, an advocate for early literacy development, a former elementary school teacher, a former college instructor, and now a Pk-12 Principal, this information is far too important not to share.

As a former kindergarten and first-grade teacher, I quickly became aware of how children who entered my classroom in August with basic literacy skills excelled, while students who lacked basic literacy skills struggled. The good news is that helping your child develop the basic literacy skills they need to be successful when they enter kindergarten can be both uncomplicated and enjoyable. I have created a list of my top five strategies that will help you ensure that your child shows up to kindergarten with the basic literacy skills they need to excel and enjoy reading.

Top five home-based literacy activities

1) Pretend play: Engaging your child in pretend play goes beyond fun for them. As children participate in language-rich play at home, they are developing their vocabulary. Vocabulary happens to play a huge part in a child's literacy successes when they enter kindergarten. "Children who acquire a substantial vocabulary are often able to think more deeply, express themselves better, and actually learn new things more quickly. Generally speaking, the larger a child's vocabulary, the better a reader he will be," (Neuman, n.d.). So the next time you find yourself baking pretend cookies, in your pretend pan, with your little pretend spatula, pat yourself on the back for a job well done!

2) Create your own books: Use your personal photos to create a book for your child. You can cut and paste or use an online book creation tool. After my last family vacation, I created a book for my daughter that included pictures with short descriptions from our adventure. Several months later, this is still one of her favorite books. I can guarantee that your child will love to be the star of their very own book.

3) Provide opportunities for writing: I know it seems logical to hide the markers from your toddler, but don't do it! I realize this may go against your best judgment. I have a three-year-old, so trust me, I understand the damage that can be done with a marker in a matter of seconds. Think about it this way: half of literacy is reading, but the other half is writing. Providing your child an opportunity to experiment with writing is crucial. Give them a designated area and supplies to practice their drawing and writing. Children learn to read by learning to write. Have them tell you about their pictures and writing. Praise them for everything they do. If they write a scribble and inform you that it says their name, say "good job!" You can and should model good writing for them, but just be sure to keep this activity positive and encouraging. The more they draw and write, the more their skills will improve, so encourage them every step of the way.

4) Explore letters: The more you can expose children to the letters before they head off to kindergarten, the better. Magnetic letters that you can put on the refrigerator are a great way to introduce the letters to your child. While you are cooking dinner, your child can be exploring the alphabet. Have your child go on a letter hunt and look for the letter M. Initially it will be helpful to introduce a few letters at a time. Once they have mastered those letters, you can add a few



Moffat's preschool students performed the Reindeer Hokie Pokie at the Winter Showcase on December 14.



Seniors in Mr. Glenn's life skills class honed their culinary skills.

more. After your child has learned the letter names, you can start working on letter sounds. Have your child find the letter that makes the /m/ sound. Then have them find an object in the house that starts with the /m/ sound. This will take a little practice up front, but soon you will find that cooking your chicken pot pie has become a lot easier with your child engaged in a meaningful activity!

5) Explore books: Take story time at your house to a new level. As you read a story with your child, ask them questions. "What do you think is going to happen next?" "Why did the dog do that?" "Where are they going?" "Do you think that would be fun?" With younger children, it is not always necessary to even read the book. Their attention spans are quite short, so if they are not interested in listening to the story, just take their lead and talk about the pictures. Children also enjoy acting out books. My daughter's favorite is *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* (luckily her bed is very close to the ground).

As you embark upon 2018, I hope you are feeling motivated to create a home environment that provides literacy-rich activities for your little one. Providing your child with opportunities to develop their literacy skills will ensure their literacy success not only in kindergarten but beyond! "The best predictor of reading comprehension, and reading fluency at the end of Grade

4 was letter knowledge at the beginning of the kindergarten," (Leppanen, Aunola, Niemi, & Nurmi, 2007, p. 559). So while early childhood teachers play a huge part in helping our children to read, we as parents can also play a huge role. Happy reading, writing, exploring, and playing!

On January 23, the Moffat Pk-12 School will be hosting a Family-Community Literacy Night from 6pm-8pm. This event will be sponsored in part by the Three Rivers Education Foundation. Please mark your calendars and join us for food, fun, and literacy.

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Crestone Charter School's Winter Show & Tell

by Kelly Hosner Crowley

Warmth and brightness filled the Rainbow Hall December 14 during the annual Charter School Show and Tell gathering. Children and families enjoyed performances on the main stage as well as refreshments and project tables assembled by the many mentorship participants. The diversity and talent of students and teachers shone through, creating a great community atmosphere.

As MC, high school teacher Rachele Wilson, a first time participant in winter show and tell, added her comedic touch to the evening's happenings. The kindergarten/first grade performed a eurythmy dance and song reenacting the movement of heavenly bodies through the night sky. Ashlee Jernigan's second and third graders got mathematical and musical collaborating on the School House Rock classic, Three is the Magic Number. Fourth and fifth grade donned their customary ukuleles and serenaded the audience with Ring of Fire and Deck the Halls. Middle school threw open the big garage doors to cool off the packed auditorium and took folks on a simulated journey across our solar system. They demonstrated their scale model and gave everyone an opportunity to see what the Sun might look like from Neptune.

Then it was time to Rock and Roll, in Latin . . . and Italian. High school mentors and mentees gave light to what they have been studying and preparing during the first semester. A crowd favorite was senior Oliver Benavidez and longtime mentor Kirsten Gushurst, on bass guitar and piano performing Davis Bowie's Space Oddity in a special version sung in Italian and entitled Regazzo Solo, Regazza sola (Lonely Boy and Lonely Girl). Concluding the evening were pieces by the high school and middle school bands. One more thing to note was that

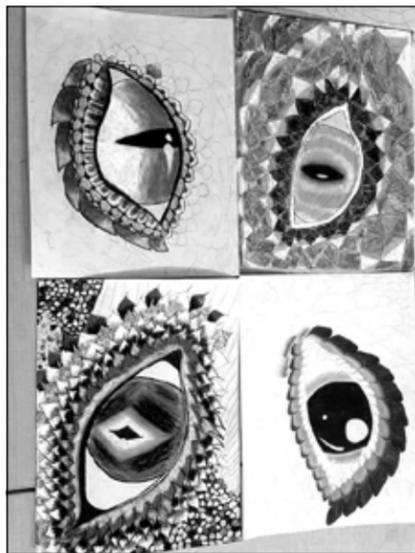


Sequoia Sirois, Oceana Vanderpool.
photo by John Conrad



Jaiden Johnson. photo by John Conrad

sound, lights and soundboard at the Thursday night event were operated by students Maori Baca and Noah Belijaars who are learning this skill from their ever-present and generous mentor Tom Dessain.



Middle School student's dragon eyes.

Homelake Veteran's Retirement Home

On the same snowy morning in December, Robin Blankenship's Ukulele Orchestra dressed up and loaded up the school vans and made a slow pilgrimage across valley to the veterans' retirement home in Monte Vista. The orchestra performed ten songs they had prepared especially for the elders there, including two Johnny Cash tunes requested by residents. Over



Max Carpenter, Serena Wickett, Kamala Cornell. photo by John Conrad



Noah Belijaars, Uma Long. photo by John Conrad

the eight years the Charter School has been going to visit Homelake, a great bond has been forged between the residents and kids. Begun in 2009, a whole generation of Crestone kids has had the rich opportunity to greet, serve and shake hands with the old folks. This visit was no different with residents rolling, scooting and smiling down the halls to stretch their wizened ears to the sounds of the ukulele serenade.

Fine art at CCS

Art has a vital role in education. The process of drawing, sculpting, painting, weaving and the myriad fine art forms have always educated people and culture. Students bring a vital part of themselves to us through their process of making of art. The art they create is unique because each student is unique. Charter School Art Teacher Kristy Knight-Pesquiera values art instruction as equally important as math and science. Kristy believes studying art prepares children and youth to be contributing members of society.

This year, Early Elementary class students will explore foundational elements of art like: line, shape, color, space, value, form and texture. Specifically, how to use art tools like pencils and paints. Even at this young age they are drawing in 3D and are hearing about careers in art. Primary class students are learning about intermediate colors and are mixing their own color wheels, tinting and shading creatures. They learn about more ad-

vanced art elements like: negative space, perspective, how to make cubes, cylinders, cones and are looking at architecture. In the spring they will work with clay and glaze.

Fourth and fifth grade students explore elements like movement, emphasis, unity and paying attention to color schemes. They have created amazing self-portraits and are learning how to work in proportion. They are also delving deeper into art history, styles and movements. Middleschoolers are practicing with prismacolor pencils and blending. They are currently penciling life like "Dragon Eyes." Multi-week projects are common with this age group as Kristy guides them to take time to complete fine work.

Visitors to the school often note the quality of student art mounted on the walls. Clearly this can be credited to the incredible creativity inherent in CCS students yet is also largely inspired by Kristy's skill and passion as an educator.

High School January theatrical production

Director Bill Roberts is back working with middle and high school students on a theatrical production that will be offered to the public this month.

Dear Chuck: Scenes from Teen Life opens Saturday, January 20 at 6:30 pm. The second performance is Sunday, January 21, also at 6:30 pm. For more information contact the school at 256-4907. Hope to see you all there.

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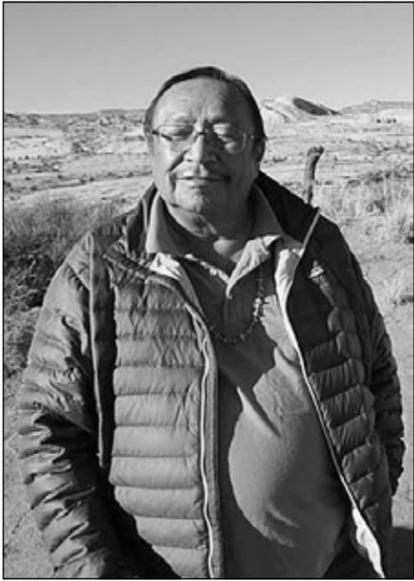
Spiritual & historic roots spur tribes to fight for Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante

Trump executive orders slashing protected acreage an affront to Native Americans

by **Ethan Goffman,**
E Magazine

Jonah Yellowman fondly remembers family excursions to Bears Ears, hiking, camping and “listening to nature.”

“We were living in that area quite a while,” says Yellowman, a spiritual advisor for the Diné nation—also known as the Navajo. He recalls visits “ever since I was small,” enjoying “that land for daily uses.” His family has long ties; even his “great great great grandmother was born up there.”



Jonah Yellowman works to protect ancestral lands. photo courtesy E-Magazine

So, beginning in 2011, Yellowman joined in tribal appeals to the Obama administration to make Bears Ears—named for a prominent pair of hills held sacred by the tribes—into a national monument. This was finally granted in 2016. But what Obama granteth, Trump taketh away. On December 4, the Interior Department announced revocation of protected status for these two sacred spots filled with natural wonders. Bears Ears National Monument is to be shrunk 85% and the nearby Grand Staircase Escalante—designated in 1996 by President Clinton—cut in half, lopping off a total of 2 million acres.

The decision has led to a flurry of lawsuits by environmental groups and supporters and by five Native American tribes: the Navajo, the Hopi, the Ute, the Ute Mountain Tribe, and the Zuni.

The Diné are among a number of tribes with deep historic and cultural roots in the two memorial areas. The tribe still remembers the Long Walk in the 1860s, when they were forced to march some 300 miles, suffering hundreds of deaths. A few years later, however, they returned to their traditional homeland, albeit confined to a reduced area, inside four sacred mountains that designate their world, a mythscape of powerful beings and wise animals.

This history of displacement and constraint lies behind the efforts of native peoples in the southwestern United States to preserve

these lands. They are sacred, tied together by thousands of years of history, by myths of coyotes and beavers, by the holiness of mountain and rock formations. The Trump administration, by contrast, is moving to open these monuments, and areas near them, to uranium and coal mining and drilling for gas and oil.

Yellowman points to the medicinal herbs, wood for ceremonies, sand paintings, petroglyphs, and ruins, including hogans lived in by the Diné ancestors, as reasons to maintain these monuments. He remembers growing up with “coyotes, deer, elk, bears, foxes, bunnies, lizards, spiders” as well as eagles and hawks. He remembers “stories pertaining to those animal people and coyote stories” and songs.

Tribal connections to the land are primeval, with knowledge predating European contact by millennia. A recent University of Utah discovery of a new breed of potato at Escalante, UT was known by native people for almost 11,000 years, explains Braidan Weeks, Communications Coordinator for Utah Diné Bikéyah. Indeed, natives were cultivating the potato to such an extent that the area was known as “potato valley.” Absent native techniques, however, the potato has grown scant, making the source of the name quite mysterious. The knowledge that native people have often “is ignored out of hand,” says Weeks.

Besides the Diné, Bears Ears and the Grand-Staircase Escalante have specific historical and religious significance for different tribes explains Weeks, a descendant of the Ute Tribes, White River community. The Utah Ute and other “bands of Ute have never stop using that area, have never stopped hunting, praying, and teaching kids and their families,” says Weeks.

The Ute are currently divided into three main tribes scattered throughout different states. “When Bears Ears was designated,” says Weeks, it provided “a kind of signal that we could go back there” and “meet with our sister tribes.”

To Jihan Gearon, Executive Director of the Black Mesa Water Coalition, the conflict amounts to a clash of world views, one of natural and human communities versus a patriarchal, colonial narrative of exploitation, of using the land and leaving it scarred. To Gearon, Trump exemplifies a worldview that is “intrinsically about putting ourselves in a hierarchy above everything else.”

The contrasting worldview recognizes that we need to tend nature and realize we are part of it. We need to “take care of things so they can take care of us,” says Gearon. “It’s the chain of the market versus the web of life.”

For Gearon what’s been denigrated as “women’s work” includes not just tending to the home, but “holding community together . . .

teaching people cultural norms and carrying these on through generations.”

Yellowman similarly upholds and links nature and community. He sees great danger in continuing to exploit the land, to desecrate the environment; “If you’re going to threaten something that protects this land, there must be some kind of a punishment.” He adds that, “this is nothing to play around with . . . the creator made it this way.”

Yellowman also connects the attempt to bring drilling and mineral exploitation to sacred land to earlier uranium mining on Diné territory. “My relatives got sick when they worked out there,” he remem-



Bears Ears National Monument preserved 1.3 million acres in Utah where natives have foraged for millennia. photo courtesy of npr.com

bers. “They’re not with us today because of that. We don’t want to go through that again.” He worries that the drilling will pollute the confluence of the San Juan, Colorado, and Green rivers. Indeed, uranium and coal mining have a long ravaged Diné land and people.

Protecting Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante is just one part of a larger struggle. “Even this battle that we’re fighting is only the first part of what we want to accomplish,” says Gearon. She recalls a time when native people lived in the Grand Canyon and blanches at the thought of paying ever-higher fees to enter national monuments, as proposed by the Trump administration. She worries that these grand landscapes will increasingly become a playground of the privileged. “Why do I have to pay to visit my own homeland?” she asks.

Gearon goes so far as to question the ultimate need for national monuments and parks, which can be seen as dividing the natural world. “Why do we have to put laws and regulations in order to protect”

nature, she asks. “If we can get people deeper into the worldview . . . of us native peoples . . . we wouldn’t feel much of a need to compartmentalize things like that, because we would all care for this place.” Of course, she recognizes the need for such protections under current circumstances, but she hopes for a radically different vision at some future point where everyone works as stewards for all of nature.

Yellowman also upholds native views of the environment as sacred; “if you have a belief like we do, we are very traditional, they should honor that belief. Our way of life has been harassed, the way we live, the way we worship.” The victory in the waning days of the Obama administration that preserved Bears Ears was bitterly short-lived and must now be re-fought and re-litigated.

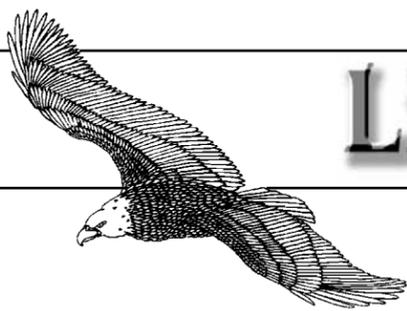
This dilemma is widespread, across a range of issues. Gearon describes the Trump administration as “an assertion of power for capitalists and men, and especially white capitalists, over everything else.” Yet it can also be seen as a moment of clarity. Gearon says of Trump, “I think that he’s waking all of us up, in a way, to choose what are our standards and what is our way of life and what we believe in.”

Weeks, for his part, is heartened by rallies in support of maintaining Bears Ears and Grand-Staircase Escalante, attended by thousands of people, including environmental groups, community organizations, and churches. He explains that “native or indigenous people were in the forefront, expressing” the need to maintain this heritage. In the past, various tribes had their differences, says Weeks. Yet now they are putting these aside to “find that commonality of unity to really protect those places that are special to us, and the things that we hold close to our hearts.”



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Living on the Earth

Relocalization & transition towns

by Lee Temple

Relocalization falls under the broader heading of localism, a body of political ideologies that values local production and consumption of goods and services, local governmental control, and local heritage, culture, and identity. The movement draws on the fact that, for most of recorded human history, our social and economic institutions have been primarily locally contrived, as opposed to the imperial and global developments made in recent centuries.

Relocalization is the conscious return to localized ways of living and working. It promotes gathering the fundamental aspects of sustenance and sustainability into the local context, to significantly enhance life quality while simultaneously reducing carbon emissions associated with human activity. The movement has drawn heavily on the writings of advocates such as Leopold Kohr,

E.F. Schumacher, Wendell Berry, and Kirkpatrick Sale.

The 1980s brought an increase in buying locally produced products. It originated with the advancement of organic farming models and farmers markets in small towns and cities as a green alternative to industrialized agriculture's increasing reliance on toxic chemicals and brutal treatment of animals. "Locavores" point to massive reduction in carbon footprints of relocalized production, and enhanced local resilience and emergency preparedness are important benefits of their philosophies. Their local governmental models also return decision-making to the local citizenry, "taking the power back" from distant corporate or governmental bodies that are often insensitive and indifferent to local concerns.

Relocalization advocates are thus usually at odds with the multi-national development of



The High Street in Totnes, Devon, England: a Transition Town.

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Community Supported Agriculture Multi-Farm fresh box from the Valley Roots Food Hub in Mosca.



Lucia Nicolas and Mayan friends with their harvest at the Rio Grande Farm Park near Alamosa. Wednesday farm park market at 4pm in summer.



A solar oven on display at the Crestone Energy Fair.

globalization. They provide workable solutions to its inherent problems—such as the unfair playing field between rich and poor countries, destruction of indigenous richness and diversity, etc. Localists often also point to the mass immigration to richer countries and the corresponding "brain drain" that further impoverishes poorer states. Although localist activism often invites us to adopt "buy local," "support local food," and "bank local" efforts, some also extend the philosophy to include the goals of local ownership of businesses, environmental sustainability, and enhanced social equality.

Examples of localism and relocalization include local food networks (farmer's markets, community-supported agriculture, community gardens, food co-ops, ranch/restaurant partnerships and restaurants that serve local food), locally owned businesses and industries (including banks and credit unions), local media that support a diverse news media to help counteract the corporate news monoculture, and the greater interest in the role of local governments and workers' councils in business.

The Post Carbon Institute (PCI), a think tank established in 2003, is a primary champion of relocalization. It employs a strategy to "build resilient societies based on the local production of food, energy and goods, and the local development of currency, governance and culture," in order to "increase community energy security," invigorate local economies, improve environmental conditions, and promote social equity. PCI started the Relocalization Network to educate communities about localizing food and energy production and cutting local consumption. In the same spirit, PCI's Energy Farms Network is a demonstration and partnership program intended to share knowledge that can enhance understanding among farmers, citizens, and community leaders about the possibility and practicality of producing vital feedstocks, fuels, and electricity locally for local users.

Their Post Carbon Cities program helps local governments understand and prepare for the challenges of peak oil and climate change, on which they published a valuable guidebook, *Post Carbon Cities: Planning for Energy and Climate Uncertainty*, aimed at U.S. and Canadian local government leaders. Transition Towns (TT, aka: the Transition Network, or Transition Initiatives) can be thought of as working demonstration models of the relocalization philosophy. TT comprises a growing grassroots network of communities working to build community resilience in response to peak oil, climate destruction, and economic instability. The movement is based in part upon the principles outlined in Bill Mollison's *Permaculture, a Designers Manual* (1988) and David Holmgren's *Permaculture: Principles and Pathways Beyond Sustainability* (2003). It primarily advocates a type of socioeconomic (re)localization. The UK's Transition Network was founded in 2007 to foster transition ideas and community transitions worldwide.

TT's primary focus is to raise awareness of sustainable living and enhance local ecological resilience. These goals are achieved by having participating communities find ways of reducing fossil fuel energy usage in general, and excessive reliance on long-distance

continued on page B-9



by Kim Malville

The best views of the planets this month will be after midnight. The best is from January 5 to 8 with a spectacular conjunction of Jupiter and Mars on the morning of January 6 when the pair will be 30° high in the southeast.

January 1: The new year starts off with a full moon. It is close to perigee—when it is closest to the earth—and will appear slightly larger than usual.

January 3: In its orbit around the sun, Earth will be closest to the sun. Don't expect anything unusual to happen.

January 5-6: The moon passes close to Regulus, the brightest star of Leo, in the middle of the night.

January 6: In the dawn sky, look to the southeast to a very close conjunction of Jupiter and Mars, when they will be only one-third of a degree apart. The view 45 minutes before sunrise should be spectacular.

January 11: Another sight for you early risers, the moon will form a triangle with Mars and Jupiter an hour before sunrise, visible above the mountains in the southeast.

January 31: Full moon

The target beyond Pluto

After the New Horizons spacecraft passed Pluto in July 2015, it has continued on through the Kuiper Belt, the collection of icy objects beyond Neptune. The team obtained permission to go a billion miles beyond Pluto to try to reach a tiny Kepler Belt object named MU69 as its selected target. The team had a good idea where it was, but they didn't know its size or precise location. They decided to try to observe an event known as an occultation, when the tiny rock would pass in front of a distant star and briefly blot it out. There were possible occultations of three different stars that would occur during the summer of 2017, over South Africa, the southern Pacific Ocean, and southern Argentina. The object is only about 20 miles across and lies at a distance of 4 billion miles. Its fast moving shadow (racing at 60,000 miles/hour) would produce an occultation that could last only two seconds! How's that for a long shot?

The team in South Africa failed to catch the shadow, as did a 747 aircraft fitted with a large telescope. They did, however, cross an even smaller shadow, which appears to have been produced by a moon of MU69 which is only 3 miles across! Finally, the team at the southern Argentine city of Comodoro Rivadavia was successful on

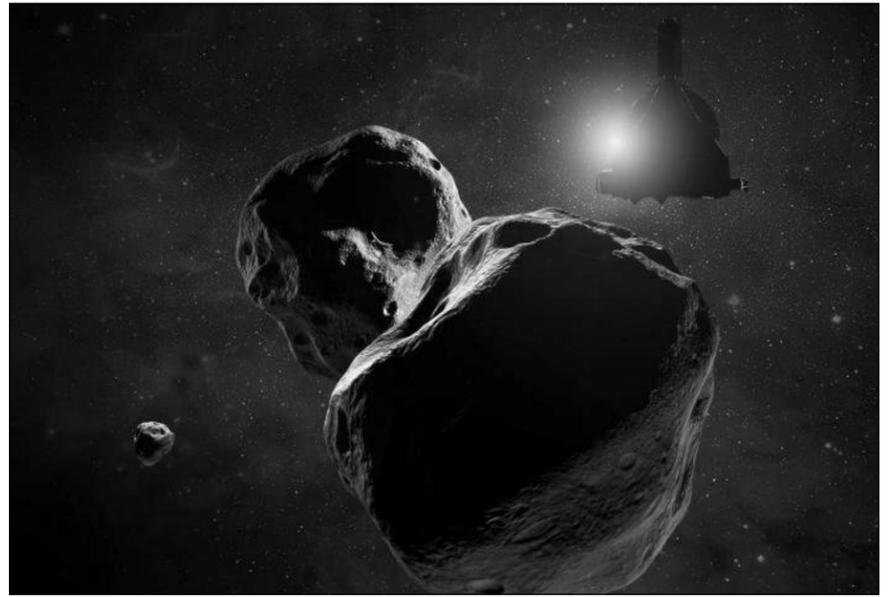
July 17. One student, Alex, whom I mentor in our department at CU, was on the Patagonian team. They placed 24 telescopes along a fence line, with an average spacing of 2.8 miles. Five of the telescopes captured the occultation. It appears to have an odd dog-bone shape with two lobes, which are 12 and 11 miles in diameter. Chasing a solar eclipse is child's play compared to this project.

The spacecraft will go into hibernation this month and won't wake up until August 2018 as it closes in on MU69. To avoid collisions, the probe will hunt for other moonlets and previously unseen rings. If its course requires adjustment to avoid danger, the craft will have nine opportunities between October and the end of December 2018 to make course corrections.

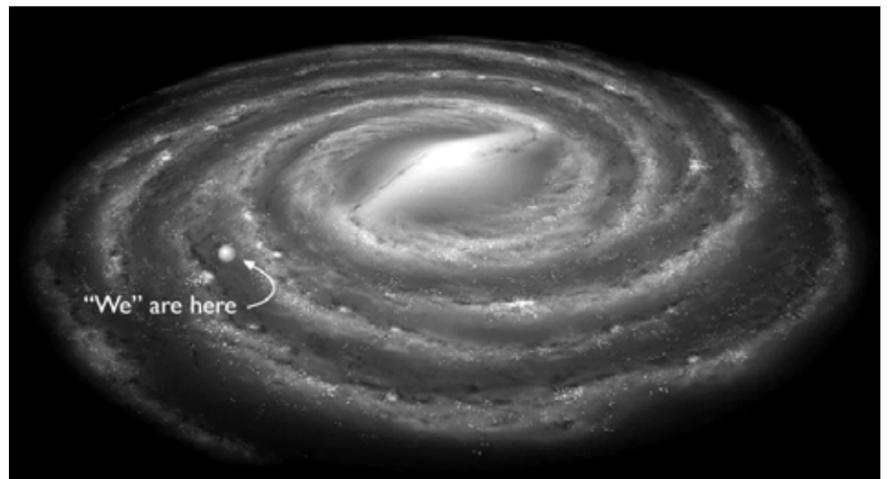
On Jan. 1, 2019, at 12:33am EST New Horizons will make its closest approach to 2014 MU69, passing within 2,175 miles of the object's surface, three times closer than it passed by near Pluto. Stay alert on New Years Day!

The visitor from beyond the solar system

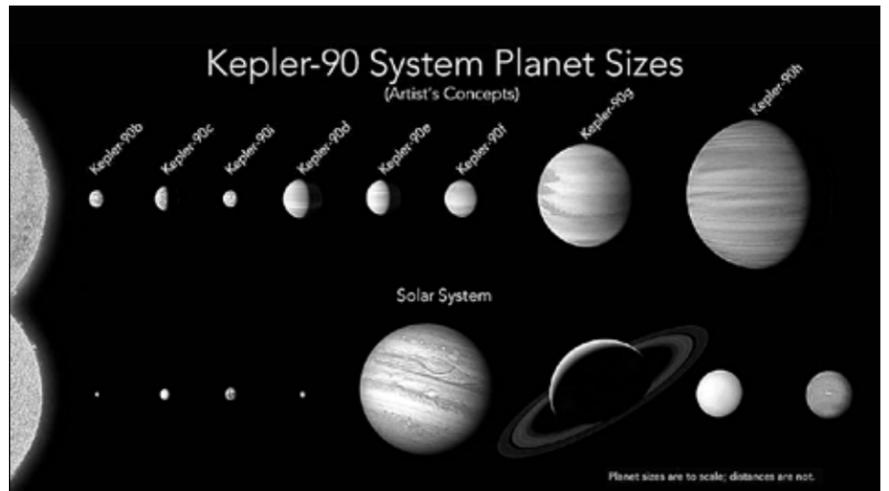
Last month I described the entry of the alien visitor in the form of the strange cigar-shaped object, known as Ounmuamua, into our solar system. It had first been spotted on October 19 by a telescope on Haleakala. It thus became the first interstellar interloper into Earth's solar system to be spied by astronomers. Entering the solar system, at a speed of nearly 60,000 miles per hour it had traversed one light year in 11,000 years and could cross our entire galaxy in about a billion years. We have no clue how old it is or how far it has travelled. The Milky Way galaxy is about 13 billion years old, so that this visitor could be extraordinarily ancient. Its strange shape, a quarter-mile long and 330 feet wide, immediately suggested an artificial space craft. Sci-fi buffs should find this tale delectably familiar. One of the great works of 20th-century science fiction, *Rendezvous with Rama*, by Arthur C. Clarke, involves a cylindrically shaped space craft dubbed Rama, which is huge, 54km long, moving briefly through our solar system at the same speed as Ounmuamua. It, too, arrives from the void, loops around the Sun, and vanishes into the distance again. For better or worse, it is likely that Ounmuamua is no spacecraft. It is a rocky cylinder, which appears natural. But it still has an interesting story to



Artist's depiction of the next target of New Horizons Space. photo courtesy of NASA



Artist's depiction of our Milky Way Galaxy. photo courtesy of NASA



Eight planets discovered around another star. photo courtesy of NASA

tell. It originated somewhere in the vastness of our Milky Way Galaxy, perhaps billions of years ago. It is, like Rama, un-crewed, except for the possibility that its icy core could contain ancient microbes, protected from interstellar lethal radiation, by the thick envelope of a tar-like substance.

We Earthlings did visit Ounmuamua, in a fashion. Ratio telescopes scanned it for six hours searching for any signals. None were found. I doubt it has a gold record like the ones that Carl Sagan placed in Voyager 1 and 2. However, having been thus once visited, there is intense interest at NASA and other space agencies in being prepared to visit the next alien rock that comes our way.

We are not alone: Another solar system has 8 planets

The star known as Kepler-90, is just a bit hotter and larger than the Sun and lies 2,545 light-years away and has eight planets. But its planetary system appears to be ordered in a similar way to our own. Small rocky planets lie close to the star and gas giants

further away. The entire system is squeezed into a space no larger than the orbit of the earth around the sun. The small, Earth-like inner planets should be scorching hot and lifeless. Only the most distant, Kepler-90h, lies within the habitability zone, but like Jupiter would be difficult to walk upon. It may also have its own dwarf planets like Pluto and objects like MU69.



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Who We Are

Narayan (Timothy) Matz:

Moving naturally through the world

by Gussie Fauntleroy

Long before the first gym or workout equipment and well before the Greeks began training to compete in physical feats, humans were inherently developing their bodies in ways that built strength, balance, and agility and allowed them to function as they needed to: moving quickly over uneven terrain, building shelter, defending family and tribe, gathering food—always in intimate connection with the land. This approach to movement resonates deeply with Narayan (Timothy) Matz. It's what he instinctively found himself drawn to a few years ago. He began running barefoot through the woods in the mountains, swimming, picking up and throwing large rocks, hanging from branches, balancing on logs. "In the woods, you never take the same step twice," he says.

When he came across a video of someone doing these same things as part of a natural movement training program called MovNat, he thought: "I already do that! I love that!" He became a certified MovNat instructor and went on to more advanced levels of training aimed at mobility and functional range conditioning, joint resiliency, and neurological vitality. This past October the 32-year-old Crestone resident, along with his brother Kevin Matz and Benjamin Antoniewicz, opened High Desert Movement in Crestone as a space to practice and teach natural, integrative approaches to "rebuilding our bodies so we can handle the complexities of life," as Narayan puts it.

Baseball & nihilism

Growing up in a canyon bordering a national forest halfway between San Diego and Los Angeles, Narayan and his two brothers were active outdoors, fishing and hunting on what in those days was unspoiled land. His mother was a naturopath and "granola mom" and his father was a semi-professional baseball player until age 24, then shifting into real estate sales. As soon as Narayan was old enough to pick up a baseball he trained seriously with his father, eventually becoming quite good.

Yet as a teen, Narayan's health was not great and his head was not in an easy place. "I was militant vegan, anarchist nihilist," he says. Switching from private to public school in 7th grade, his view of the world was blown open, ushering in disillusionment with almost everything. He and his friends created what he calls a resistance subculture, gathering at hardcore music shows (with alcohol but not drugs) and leaning on each other to feel "a little less insane." He was also still playing baseball, having absorbed his father's sense of pride and perseverance. At 18 he was lined up to play third base for Santa Ana Junior College, but just before the first day of practice, he dropped out of baseball and school. His heart wasn't in it.



Narayan (Timothy) Matz.

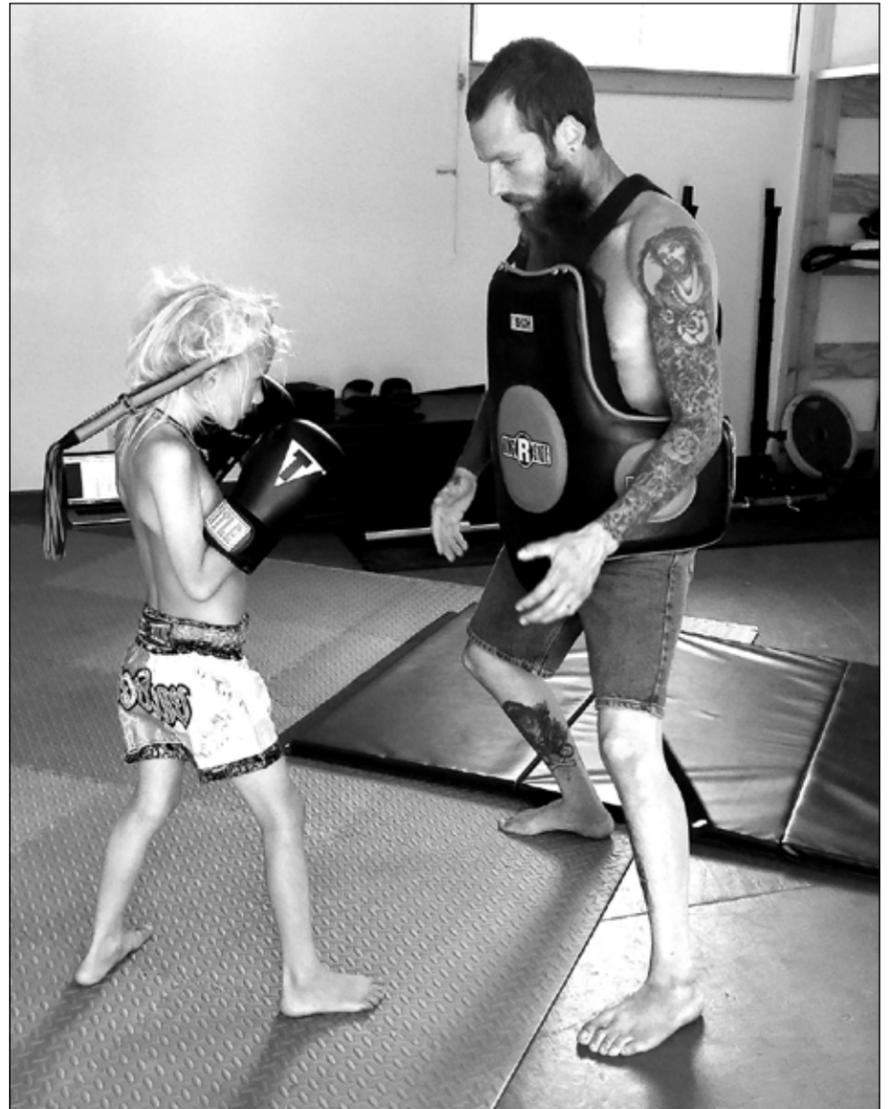
Out of the darkness

Instead he worked at a natural foods store and a vegan restaurant in El Toro, California and dipped in and out of junior college. He read Thich Nhat Hanh, Howard Zinn, and others as part of a peace studies course, and began to edge out of despair. By the time he met a "strange kid" and fellow employee named Edward, the seed had been planted for another way of seeing the world. Edward (later known in Crestone as Akash and also Yachay) became a very close friend and example of healthy living, introducing Narayan to superfoods, detoxification, Kundalini yoga, a strict, ascetic lifestyle—and Crestone. The two spent a month at Sacred Mountain Retreat and Narayan returned the following summer, immersing himself in hard physical work, spiritual practice, and solitude.

Then he lived for a year in Hawaii, where his brother Kevin and Kevin's then-partner Lauren and her infant son Keahi were part of an intentional community. It was an off-grid, clothing-optional, rainwater-harvesting permaculture farm, rich in coconuts and other wild foods, with underlying values of Nonviolent Communication and honesty. After a time, however, Narayan and his then-girlfriend and Kevin and Lauren were ready for a change. The community's nonstop emotional processing was starting to get old, he says. The



Trimming hooves using a natural hoof care method.



Teaching his nephew Keahi kickboxing in traditional gear from Thailand.

four returned to Sacred Mountain, where Kevin and Lauren spent a summer and then moved into Crestone/Baca, while Narayan stayed on at the retreat.

Whole horse care

There, while learning to ride the spiritual teachers' horses, Narayan noticed the animals seemed unhealthy and their feet were not in good shape. He set about researching equine hoof health and came across the Association for the Advancement of Natural Horse Care Practices, in Lompoc, California. The organization bases its "whole horse" care on the biology and natural hoof wear patterns of wild horses. When no one from the organization could travel to Crestone to trim the horses' hooves, Narayan went to Lompoc. He became trained and certified in the method, traveling for a while with an experienced trimmer and mentor.

Back in Crestone he applied his skills in rehabilitating the retreat's horses, which regained their health and have not needed

to wear horseshoes since. "Then I knew it was real, and I had to share it," he says. He established a business trimming hooves around the San Luis Valley and northern New Mexico. A brief marriage and a year in Oregon put a hold on that work, and today Narayan maintains a select handful of local horse owner clients. His primary job is as co-manager at Elephant Cloud natural food store.

Movement for better humans

Meanwhile at High Desert Movement, Narayan and his partners offer a range of classes, including KinStretch (Functional Range Conditioning group class), personal training, Natural Movement, mobility training, self-defense, strength and conditioning, tai chi, dance, and other movement modalities. Narayan hopes to bring in international movement teachers for workshops, and would like to establish a group where young men can connect with each other, build organic strength and learn self-defense, honor, and how to become better men. The space (the former Jillian's Studio) is also available to rent for group activities.

"I'm really into resilience and always taking that deeper into a more profound connection with nature, where we can be an active participant in the kingdom in a regenerative way," Narayan says. His passion includes the preservation and care of public lands through support of such conservation organizations as Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. "Fostering that connection with the land and rebuilding our bodies is such an important thing," he says. "A lot of it is about being a practical, capable, helpful human."

Info on High Desert Movement: highdesermovement@gmail.com, 949-326-3269, and look for it on Facebook.

Wintertime heating safety

by Nathan Good,
Crestone Volunteer
Fire Department

It's during this season of scarce light I implore you to not take life too seriously, but bring it to heart, for discernment and delight. With winter in full swing, these are hopeful tips for healthier and happier indoor living for you and your neighbors.

Please inspect all of your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to make sure that they're within the expiration date codes printed on them. This date code can usually be found on the outside ring or just inside the hatch near the battery. An expiration or manufacture date will tell you if it's still good. Most alarms have a seven-year life span, although some of the newer ones have a 10-year life and even come with a lithium battery that never needs replacing. Alarms must be kept clean and of course batteries fresh to be effective. In construction zones these alarms can be dead after just one season from sawdust or other debris from non-closed-in structures.

Fresh, clean air is not just required for alarms but also, and especially of course, for humans and all their combustion heating systems. The air intake method, whether it be for a gas, wood, or any other combustion appliance, must flow without obstruction, and is crucial to prevent negative pressure from occurring. All com-

bustion products at this altitude should be vented, and when doing so they will remove air from your structure unless it's of the direct-vent sealed combustion type. This air needed for the appliance is obtained in one or more of three ways:

1. Room air
2. Make-up air
3. Direct-vent

Room air is found passively in your house, and is then drawn into either a furnace, woodstove, or other vented appliance for its proper combustion. Room air is finite, unless of course there are lots of cracks around your doors and windows, or if you have an air exchanger. Some folks just open a window in order to renew the air. This is how most houses were in the old days. If your heating appliances use room air, ensure that they are getting enough fresh air just as you need, or negative pressure could result, along with dangerous levels of carbon mon-

oxide. Allow that leaky door seal near your appliance to let in a bit of fresh air.

Make-up air is typically an air exchange system in the mechanical room of your house. It usually utilizes one or more inlet tubes near the floor and the ceiling that lead to the outside and bring in fresh air based on the requirements of the appliance. They are not directly hooked up to the appliance. Ensure that rags are not stuffed into these inlet tubes, as improper combustion from negative pressure may lead to an unhealthy or deadly carbon monoxide (CO) release. Make-up air kits and appliances such as wood stoves utilize an outside air kit to feed combustion air directly from the outside. This is recommended for any appliance that is going to be used as your primary heat source. It will reduce negative pressure and the likelihood of poisoning by CO.

Direct-vent is commonly known as sealed combustion. This is the safest type of appliance, as an air pipe directly from the outside is hooked up to the combustion air intake. This is very efficient and reduces the likelihood of incomplete combustion leading to CO poisoning from negative pressure build-up. This is the most recommended type of heating system. Most have an outer pipe around the flu that brings down the air in the same penetration using a special cap to separate the flue gas from the intake.

The National Fire Protection Association recommends that all combustion heating appliances be inspected annually and be serviced by a professional and qualified contractor before the season's demand for heat arrives. Prevention saves lives and property.

Season's blessings from all of us here at the Crestone Volunteer Fire Department.

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UNDER CONTRACT!

2661 Happy Hollow Way
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BACK ON MARKET!

1468 Badger Road
3 bed, 2 bath, beautiful views from patio, convenient to town. \$149,000



NEW LISTING!
UNDER CONTRACT!

430 Heatherbrae. Great opportunity in the Grants. Off-grid privacy with shop, attached greenhouse, passive solar, horse fencing. Ready for rustic splendor! \$120,000



UNDER CONTRACT!

323 Holiday. Great views on private triple lot. 3 bed, 2 bath, garage, new kitchen & bath. \$235,000



SOLD!

2776 N Carefree Way
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SOLD!

865 Pine Cone. 2 bed, 2 bath beautiful passive solar home with great mountain and valley views. \$189,000

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OWNER/BUILDER CONVERSATIONS

by John Rowe

I knocked on the door of Joy Hill's yurt out in the Grants one morning last month and was greeted by a grandmotherly-looking woman who ushered me inside with a smile and told me to "sit anywhere". This was kind of a joke, I think, as there were only two chairs in Joy's cozy 300SF abode. She had converted a yurt into a hard-sided somewhat winterized structure that was surprisingly warm and cheerful. Her living space was thoughtfully and lovingly laid out to include everything she may need—and nothing she doesn't. I was surrounded by neat, well labeled boxes of all Joy's things on nicely constructed shelves, built by a young friend who steeply discounted his usual rate for Joy. I was to find out as I got to know her a little that many people had either given Joy materials and labor or discounted their rates to accommodate her very modest building budget. I was about to see why.

Considering Joy lives on a little Social Security and doing odd jobs, this 71-year-old grandma has made an admirable start on her homestead, with well and septic in, and the ICF (styrofoam and concrete) walls up on her 1100SF permanent house—the yurt is just temporary (and POA-approved). All this at an age most of us would not even attempt to build a garden shed. She has all the materials onsite for the roof and is only waiting for some warm weather and some promised free/discounted labor from young builder friends to get going on this. One of these friends came by to visit Joy as she and I were talking and assured

her in a son-to-mother way that he would be getting together all that was needed to put up her roof very soon. Joy took me around later to show me all the things she had done or had planned, and spoke softly, reverently and with some gratitude about what local build-it-yourself folks had given her without any thought of repayment. She clearly was touched deeply by their love and high regard.

And just how did Joy end up here in Crestone trying to build her own forever home? Fifteen years ago Joy came out from Oakland, CA to visit family and "fell in love with Crestone right off, like I belonged here." This, in spite of staying in an unheated and un-insulated school bus parked up on Hippie Hill her very first night in -30° weather. Being the "old lady" she got to sleep with the dog to help her stay warm. She finds the view of the Milky Way dazzling, the mountains beautiful, and over coffee one morning at Shambala Coffee House, she declared "I'm gonna have to move here." And so after a brief return to Oakland, Joy moved to Crestone and spent



Owner/builder Joy Hill.

five years working at odd jobs and construction labor, trying to save money and buy a lot. She threw herself into the community, working on the fire department for five years and doing a stint on the POA Board. She finally found a lot she could make payments on and thus began her home building adventure.

Joy is painfully aware that her very limited means and earning capacity is not optimum and has caused run-ins with the POA. After applying for her second extension, her building permit was revoked and she was declared a blight, mostly because of an un-registered vehicle and several construction material piles on her lot. Joy neaten up the property to suit them, has a nice clean building site, and is back building again. She is not certain where all this will end up as she has had serious health issues that have cost her over a year, and the POA fees are piling up. But Joy is determined to succeed here, albeit more slowly than she and others would like,

with a little help from her friends. She is quick to point out that her supposed "blighted property" has drawn no neighbor complaints that she is aware of. Not one.

And how would Joy like to see the POA be different? "I lie awake at night wondering what reason the POA is going to try to find next to push me off my land. I don't really have any other options than to stay here and make my stand or to go away and get some Section Eight apartment in some town I don't want to be in and finish out my life there. Which is no option at all. This is my home, this is where I belong." Joy adds that she does not wish to be a burden on anyone but wants to stand on her own two feet and can absolutely do it with a paid-for home, which she will have when everything is said and done.

"The covenants here were created for a homogeneous community—affluent people with second homes. We have a much more diverse community than that and the rules are not always a good fit. I think we should therefore rewrite the covenants to accommodate that diversity.

"A major flaw in the POA by-laws is that the Board has almost unlimited powers to change or enforce rules as they see fit with no oversight by anyone. This can change drastically from board to board. Another major flaw in the POA setup is the notion that the Board's major focus should be on maintaining and enhancing 'property values', as stated in the governing documents." Joy thinks this is undefined and means almost anything anyone wants it to and excludes views from people who see quality of life as the most important "property value." Joy feels that we in the Baca should have the "right to live as we choose—to a point," much more so than now.

And her advice to new builders? "Go to all EAC meetings that pertain to you and be very squeaky clean." And she adds, "be aware that new regulations are making it more and more difficult for working people to build and make a home here."

Some of what I had heard about Joy Hill had led me to believe I would not be enjoying my time with her; nothing could be further from the truth. I found her to be an interesting and delightful walking contradiction. She is, on the one hand, a feisty R-rated rugged individualist, protecting what she has clawed and scratched so hard to build, and on the other, a vulnerable old woman wondering what will become of her. Her next building extension will cost her \$720 and the one after that, if necessary, will be \$1440. Joy gets by on cleaning people's homes and taking in some sewing—she doesn't have that kind of money. She wants no part of being a ward of the state which will happen if the POA shuts her down, and she is not asking for a hand-out. She just needs some time, and has shown every indication that she can and will get this done, but probably not quickly (my assessment, not hers). I hope everyone in Crestone and the Baca will ask themselves the question, do we have room in our community and in our hearts for Joy Hill? I hope the answer is yes.

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In Search of Economic Reality

Will America's youth save it?

by Ed Lyell

I have been procrastinating about this column for weeks. I have started many columns and ended up in the same spot. That America is in deep sh*t and it is hard to see a way to change this downward trajectory. I have always been a policy wonk. That is someone who seeks information and evidence on policies, state and federal. Being trained as an economist means that it's the dollars that I follow since they usually help me uncover the real story. Who is winning or losing. People and organizations say one thing but their real policy is where they put their resources.

With retirement and an open internet I have had even more time to search the world's newspapers, magazines, and think tanks. The common theme is that America has sold its soul to the world's richest 1%, and so have most other countries. We used to be seen as the least corrupt, most fair democracy in the world, but no more. Now we are a world leader in corruption, lies, and shifting middle class resources to the richest 1%. Getting to more detail shows that this is even more a rip off by the richest one tenth of 1%. That is about 16,000 households in the

whole world who have changed policies and tax plans to move trillions of dollars from the middle to the richest. This small number now has more wealth than the other seven billion people, combined. These uber wealthy, as called in Germany, are mostly dictators in oil-rich countries, but also include CEOs, the long term wealthy who control banks, multinational corporations, and especially the world war industry.

In his farewell address in 1961 then President Eisenhower warned America to beware of the military-industrial big companies. He had watched them expand during WWII, gaining political power around the world, but mostly in the good old USA. Back then government was good and helped the average person. Government never became bad, just labeled as such by big business. I am far more afraid of Big Business than I am of big government.

The negative reinforcing cycle created back then has expanded its power and influence much like a hurricane getting more power over warmer water and becoming a super storm. These multinational companies promote multiple wars around the world, making money selling war goods to both or

multiple sides of any conflict. Yet other huge multinational corporations also now control markets in most countries, having become monopoly and oligopoly companies able to set a world price, not take a true capitalist market price. Most everyone is paying more and more for less and less. This is especially true in pharmaceuticals, legal drugs that make more excess profit than the illegal drug cartels. They get a license to exploit using multiyear patents for inventing a new drug, even if what they did was just to combine two existing drugs and give it a new name. As generic drug makers expanded in countries like Israel, India, Canada, and elsewhere, those governments were bullied into stopping production of affordable prescription drugs. When that does not work the pharma industry has gone out and purchased these generic competitors and then raised those prices to match the brand names, using a multitude of laws and marketing deception to raise their profit, even as people die from the lack of needed medicine. Congress, and governments in other countries, has been bought off to make this scheme work. Congress votes with them and your congressman's children get great jobs, or they

leave Congress for multi-million dollar second careers, as Speaker Ryan seems to be setting up.

Corporate profits are at record highs yet the USA is changing its tax laws to give these same corporations even more profit, and less regulations. In a functional democracy the majority of people being injured would rise up and vote out those that are destroying families and the country. Yet President Trump has shown that a top level con man can manipulate the masses to accept anything, and he has done that. Real news is ignored once labeled by Trump as "fake" news. Fake news is expanding as those who own that media make more money misleading people and denying reality. Our young people are so poorly educated that they can easily be deceived, and those that know better are afraid to organize against the 1%.

Us older folk, that have lived through the era of America being great to America being scary and oppressive, can rant and rave, or think back to better times. Thus I have started organizing my old pictures of traveling to almost 20 countries, and rafting and skiing the American west. I am enjoying pictures of my grandchildren growing up into the independent adults that they have become. Yet what can or will they do to really "Make America Great Again"?

Ed Lyell PhD is Professor Emeritus, Business and Economics Adams State University; ehlyell@adams.edu; Facebook dredlyell

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JANUARY 2018 Listings

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New Construction	Expansive Views	Log Cabin	UNDER CONTRACT Downtown Crestone WAS \$499,000	NEW LISTING & UNDER CONTRACT Southwest Sanctuary	UNDER CONTRACT Creek Property

1212 Chaparral Way - \$175,000 New construction by Richard Laurie, Terapin and Company. One story 3/1.75 on beautiful treed lot close to paved road. Lots of windows for great light and amazing views.	1327 Badger Road - \$172,000 Efficient 2BD/2.5BA/Office 1280sf 2-story wood-sided home on 1.88ac w/360-degree views, covered wrap-around porch & triple-glazed windows. Strong passive solar. Wd flrs. Heat Recovery Sys, wood stove & elec. baseboard heaters.	98 Skyview Way - \$169,000 Blt in 2002 by John Baxter, owner of Mtn Valley Lumber, this ~953sf log hm is 2BD/1BA down w/lg ~200sf loft up. Solid, rustic feel w/wd laminate flrs dwn, solid wd flrs up & wd ceiling. Close to town w/paved roads. Incl furnishings!	120 W. Silver, Town of Crestone - \$399,000 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. Potential seller finance.	999C Badger Road - \$289,000 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.	535 Thornwood - \$255,000 2.72ac compound in the Grants w/ Ctrnw Crk running thru. 3BD/2BA 1668sf SW stucco hm w/spacious living/dining. Brkfst nook w/expansive views of Sand Dunes & Mt. Blanca. Propane forced-air w/wdstv backup. Solar PV panels. Lg studio wkshp.
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Under Contract		Baca Meadows		Grants	
UNDER CONTRACT Fantastic Views	UNDER CONTRACT Fantastic Views	WAS \$419,000 UNDER CONTRACT 3 Creek Lots	Reduced from \$189,000 Remodeled Luxury	WAS - \$389,000 Acreage	Off-Grid Acreage

323 Holiday Way - \$235,000 3BD/2BA 1650sf recently renovated w/new kitchen & master bath. High-quality finishes. Oversized, insulated garage w/ adjoining bonus room. Private.	3762 Carefree Way - \$198,000 Lovely 2BD/1.75BA 1284sf 2-story wood-sided home w/mtn & valley views. Light-filled rooms w/lg windows. Master site has built-in storage, soak tub w/views & balcony. Lg guest BR opens to outdoors via french doors. Xtra studio bldg on property.	415C Moonlight Way - \$159,000 This 945sf SW-style 2-story, 1BD/1BA stucco home sits on 1.01ac. (+ Lot 414) adjoining Crestone Creek greenbelt & close to town. New roof & solar-thermal collectors. Add'l bldg slab for larger home to be built.	Townhouse #10 - \$187,000 Exquisite town house completely remodeled in 2008. 1480sf 2-story 2BD/2BA features redesigned kitchen & bathrooms, updated heat & lighting systems, beautiful patio. Must see!	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.	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+ ac incl. lots 1381, 1444 & 1445.
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Chalets					
Luxurious/Views	Private Paradise 4 Bed / 2 Bath	Indoor Exercise Pool	A Private Paradise!	Private on the Creek WAS \$429,000	Private Setting WAS \$449,000

780C 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.	437C N. Chaparral Way - \$479,000 Built by Paul Koppna 2020sf 4 bd/2 ba strawbale home + detached oversized 2-car garage w/potential apt is designed non toxic materials and energy efficiency. On 2.09 Acres bordering greenbelt of Crestone Creek w/ Sauna & outdoor oven.	1967C Rockyview Way - \$439,000 Luxurious 3BD/2.75BA/Office/3-car Garage 2953sf home sits on 2.374 acres & has a 2-room upstairs Master Suite. Beautifully landscaped courtyards & gardens with custom fence & deck, great views.	3813CR Virtue Ct. - \$432,000 Beautiful 3BR/3BA 2171sf custom strawbale by PKoppna sits on 2.505ac. Walled courtyard/garden. Non-toxic, energy eff. w/thermal hw, radiant in-flr ht, wd stove, on-demand hwh, adobe&wood floors, aspen t&g ceilings, prvt mstr suite.	3959C 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.	4519C Grayline Ct - \$395,000 Elegant 2BR 2BA 1932 custom strawbale built in 2003 by Paul Koppna. A refined Asian/Southwest blend. On private cul-de-sac 5.35 acres backs to greenbelt. 30' yurt w/kitchenette & bathroom.
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Chalets					
Spacious & near creek! WAS \$319,000	Magnificent Views WAS \$295,000	Lots of Space	Newer Construction	Energy Efficient	Log Home WAS \$249,000

147 Moonlight Way - \$299,000 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.	22 Alpine OL - \$279,000 CUSTOM 3bd/2.5ba/2 car garage 2232sf home close to town. Screened porch & wrap deck. Gracious Living with exceptional views!	359 Chaparral Way - \$269,000 4BD/2.75BA 3315sf home, remodeled in 2012. Amazing amt of space & close to town. Mstr BR has its own bathrm & opens to backyard. Lg laundry rm. Finished basement. Lg storage room. Attached 2-car garage & detached 1-car garage.	3461 Splendid Way - \$265,000 This newer 1,356sf two story 2 bd/1.5ba home with attached 660sf garage is truly well built and beautiful. The living and bedroom space is upstairs w/ screened porch, great windows, modern kitchen and bath. Energy efficient w/ in-floor heat.	1738C Willow Creek Way - \$259,000 Built in 2013, this Paul Koppna strawbale eco-friendly home sits up high in Chalet 1. 2BD/2BA, 1532sf on .91 acres. Strong passive solar. Solar radiant floor heat & domestic hot water. Energy efficient.	3760 Jubilant Way - \$239,000 Beautiful 1,683sf 2 bd/1.5bath/loft/2 car attached garage octagonal log home with bamboo floors, in-floor radiant heat, wood vaulted ceilings. Bonus unfinished 1,200sf walkout basement.
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2017 HOME SALES (*denotes listed & sold)

380 N Alder St	\$425,000	SOLD	107 Pinewood OL	\$172,500	SOLD*
786C Panorama Way	\$399,000	SOLD*	1327 Badger Road	\$172,000	SOLD*
1038 Beaver Trail	\$337,000	SOLD*	98 Skyview Way	\$169,000	SOLD*
4511C Ridgecrest Way	\$312,000	SOLD*	200 Evergreen	\$169,000	SOLD
223 Moffat Way	\$289,000	SOLD*	3705 Carefree Way	\$165,000	SOLD
2145 Indian Well	\$266,500	SOLD*	4275C Fallen Tree OL	\$164,000	SOLD*
305 Palomino Way	\$252,000	SOLD	3901 Rarity Way	\$163,000	SOLD
4376 E. Twinview OL	\$245,000	SOLD	35 Camino Baca Grande	\$155,000	SOLD*
3481 E. Graceful Ct.	\$239,000	SOLD*	1001 Badger Rd	\$149,000	SOLD
757 Rendezvous	\$239,000	SOLD	34 Camino Baca Grande	\$149,000	SOLD*
999C Badger Road	\$225,000	SOLD*	3735C Jubilant Way	\$149,000	SOLD*
983C Peaceful Way	\$224,500	SOLD	760 & 761 Panorama Way	\$149,000	SOLD*
1202 Wagon Wheel	\$219,000	SOLD*	3708 Enchanted Way	\$142,500	SOLD*
1867C Rockyview Way	\$219,000	SOLD	354 Huerta Ct	\$89,000	SOLD*
1541C Camino Real	\$205,000	SOLD	4485 Ridgecrest Way	\$74,500	SOLD*
661 Camino Del Rey	\$195,000	SOLD	120 W. Silver Ave.	\$399,000	UNDER CONTRACT*
2035 Lost Cave Way	\$189,900	SOLD	999C Badger Road	\$289,000	UNDER CONTRACT*
333 Palomino Way	\$189,000	SOLD*	535 Thornwood	\$255,000	UNDER CONTRACT
2715 Happy Hollow Way	\$185,000	SOLD	323 Holiday Way	\$235,000	UNDER CONTRACT
635C Panorama Way	\$179,000	SOLD*	3762 Carefree Way	\$198,000	UNDER CONTRACT*
1212 Chaparral Way	\$175,000	SOLD*	415C Moonlight Way	\$159,000	UNDER CONTRACT

Garden Guru

Plant-human reflections



by **Matie Belle Lakish**

January is, for me, a time of reflection. Reflection on last year's growing season and next year's garden seems natural when the ground is covered with snow. This year, however, I am expanding my thoughts to the consciousness of plants and how the plant kingdom and I can communicate better.

Over the years, I have read several books and articles that have talked about the way plants communicate, with each other and with other species, including humans. The real eye-opener for me was *The Secret Life of Plants*, by Peter Tompkins, which was published in 1973 and entered my life when I was living in the Ozark Mountains in an oak forest. The book recounted early experiments using a polygraph, or lie-detector, to measure the responses of plants to different stimuli and to human thoughts. It strongly suggested that plants have feelings and re-

spond to what is going on in their environment in a way that looks a lot like emotions. The researchers noted, for instance, that they could register what seemed like an emotional response in plants located in one room, when plants in another room were injured. As I recall, researchers found that plants even responded to the death of algae in the plumbing when Drano was put down the drain.

One observation I remember particularly was that plants that were warned ahead of time that disaster was on the way had a facility to shut down their "feelings". In the Ozarks, farmers who want to raise cattle will bulldoze large swaths of oak-hickory forest to plant grass, and such an event was planned for a neighbor's property. I remember going to sit with the trees and communicate with them about this event. I was very stressed about it. Just thinking about the death of all those magnificent trees made me feel sick, but I wanted to spare them the pain that I had just discovered they would be feeling. Whether it made any difference to the trees, I don't know, but at least I felt I had tried to warn them.

Lately, I have been reading a book, *Sacred Plant Medicine: The Wisdom in Native American Herbalism*, by Stephen Harrod Buhner. In it the author reveals his own experiences with plant/human interactions and the teachings he has received from Native American medicine men and women. In Buhner's experience, if one sincerely wants to be at one with plants, and spends time with them with that intention, the plant may eventually reveal something of its nature and its healing qualities to the receptive human. He cites the experience of many Native Americans, usually related to a vision, who have been shown a way to ap-



Dreaming of summer. Snapdragons and Feverfew.

proach and use particular plants to heal. He describes in detail his own experience with some of the plants he encountered while living in Boulder: Pasque Flower, Osha, Usnea, and Angelica, as well as shorter reflections on other mountain plants. He includes Native American songs and ceremonies to ask the plant for its help.

While I often spend time contemplating the plants and growing conditions in my garden, and I feel that I have a pretty good understanding of what my plants need to thrive, my knowledge is based primarily on learning and observation of what plants want and where they do best. I have not explored, very much, what they are communicating with one another or may be attempting to communicate with humans. One of my New Year's Resolutions is to learn how to communicate with my plants on another level, a level that comes from the heart rather than the head. I will try, in the months to come, to share some of that learning with readers, along with more findings from the

research that is being done on this topic.

There is also a lot of research lately on what is going on within the soil and the interplay between the soil and the plants that grow in it. What is the interaction like between the microorganisms such as bacteria, algae, nematodes, insect larvae, earthworms, and other living creatures in the soil, and the plants that we hope to grow for food and beauty? I'm hoping to learn more about that and share that with readers over the next few months while we are waiting for our soil and our plants to awaken.

In addition, I would like to explore with readers some of the systems of gardening that you may have heard of over the last few years. Permaculture and Biodynamic are two that come to mind. Efficient use of greenhouses is another topic that we may explore. In the meantime, enjoy the seed catalogs and dream of a cold winter that can kill the pine borers and other critters that destroy our native trees and shrubs.

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Roast corn, burritos, lemonade, friendly people, and treasures. Crestone's Saturday Market has something for everyone. photo by M. Diane Bairstow

Relocalization

continued from page B-1

transportation for the community's essential food/goods/services supply chains in particular . . . reducing the community's overall carbon footprint usually happens through grass-roots initiatives like the creation of community food gardens, business waste exchanges, encouragement of repair/recycling of existing objects (instead of purchasing new ones), creation of local currencies, etc.

The Transition concept emerged from permaculture designer Rob Hopkins's 2003 Kinsale Further Education College project for an "Energy Descent Action Plan," later adopted by the town council. This project studied how possible improvements in energy production, health, education, economy, and agriculture could help build a sustainable model for the town's future.

The idea was enhanced in the mid-2000s in Totnes, Devon, Hopkins's hometown, and became quite popular. By May 2010, over 400 communities were officially considered Transition Towns—in the UK, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the US, Italy, and Chile.

"Transition US" is the national hub whose mission is "that every community in the United States will have engaged its collective cre-

ativity to unleash an extraordinary and historic transition to a future beyond fossil fuels; a future that is more vibrant, abundant and resilient; one that is ultimately preferable to the present."

Transition US supports and networks with individuals and community across the country to facilitate greater implementation of the transition approach. Many transition initiatives can also be found on the WiserEarth community. Social networking sites, like the transition initiatives that spawned them, have also begun to spread worldwide.

This article is another excerpt from Lee's award-winning book, Awakening into Unity, a comprehensive, richly illustrated compendium of the entire Global Awakening series, and a powerful healing balm for these troubled, turbulent times. View/borrow it at leading universities and the Baca Grande Library. Buy it at Poor Richard's and Elephant Cloud Market at a generous locals' discount. Follow the source text for this article on pp 217-220, together with other similar efforts in Chapter Eleven, "Earth-Healing Movements and Methodologies Today." Learn more about Lee Temple, Awakening into Unity, and the Global Awakening series at award-winning www.primamundi.com.

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Crestone Baca Resiliency

Food: How prepared is your family?

by *Matie Belle Lakish*

Everyone occasionally thinks about what they would do if the lifestyle we are used to were to suddenly end, but how many of us take concrete actions to prepare? What would we need to be prepared for a two-week power outage? Or a month? A year?

How prepared are we to feed our families and pets for an extended period of time if, for instance, the grocery stores ran out of food, the propane tanks ran out of gas, and the electric stoves, refrigerators and freezers no longer worked? What if all the systems dependent on computers and electronics were to fail? How prepared are we, as families and as a community, to continue surviving and thriving?

Can you cook? What is your stove like? If propane, how full do you keep your tank? Did you know that almost all gas stoves now have electronic ignitions, either on the range top or oven? Can you override it and light the stove with a match? Do you have a supply of matches on hand?

Do you have a backup to your electric range, if the electricity goes out? If you have a wood heater, you can usually cook on the top of the stove if necessary. If you don't have a wood stove, how about a small propane hot plate? Do you have a solar oven?

It is feasible to keep enough food that doesn't have to be cooked for a two-week emergency, if you plan ahead. Consider the essential food groups—proteins to build tissue, carbohydrates and fats for energy, and vitamins and minerals to maintain good health—and try to maintain a healthy balance.

Good choices may include dried fruits and nuts, dried soup mixes with vegetables, and proteins such as canned or dried meat, fish, milk and soy products. Canned foods can be useful if you will not have to move around, but if an evacuation might be needed, lighter weight food is desirable. Supplements such as a Vitamin C drink with other vitamins and minerals, or herbs to maintain health, could be a good addition to the emergency bag.

If an emergency is prolonged for months, however, as a community we will need to become more resourceful and help each other out, and we will need different food supplies. Stores of grains and beans will become more important. Whole grains, such as wheat, rice, quinoa and buckwheat store well if kept dry and cool, and it is a good idea to buy these in bulk. Beans can be cooked on a wood stove, or they can be sprouted for extra nutrition and shorter cooking. Grains can be ground for flour with a hand mill or sprouted. Sprouted seeds provide Vitamin C as well as important enzymes to keep our community members healthy. Alfalfa, quinoa, millet, buckwheat and all beans can be sprouted in jars or buckets, provided clean water is available for rinsing.

Home canned or dried fruits and vegetables will be important sources of vitamins and minerals. Canning destroys enzymes, but proper drying preserves some of them. If power goes out and frozen food thaws, it may be possible to dry some of it. Meat can become jerky, or can be canned, while fruits and vegetables can be dried or canned, if done quickly. If power goes out in the winter, the freezer can be moved outdoors to the northern side of a building.

Other foods include fats. Oils should be stored in dark glass or metal containers, if possible. Olive oil and coconut oils are some of the best, as they oxidize slowly if stored properly. Dried protein products such as powdered milk, eggs, protein powders, and nutritional yeast are good choices for long-term storage. Nuts, including peanuts, are an excellent source of essential oils and proteins. Stocks of salt, herbs, favorite seasonings, soy sauce, sauerkraut, and other fermented products will be welcome additions to an emergency diet.



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—Thomas Edison

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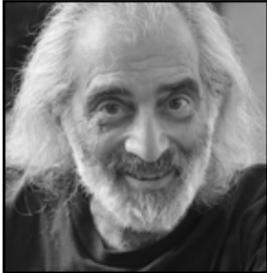
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Aging as an adventure

by Ammi Kohn

A Lion in Winter

by Ammi Kohn

Now the Lion, born under the sign of Leo, sleeps hours during the day.

The hospital bed has been moved to where Marv used to sit to watch TV. I sit by the bed, in the same chair and in the same place where until a week ago I would always sit when I visited him, he sitting the in his chair, facing the large monitor and I close next to him. I would visit most every day to read poetry, recite the Kaddish at his request (the memorial prayer for the dead), and sing a short Hebrew song that we both liked, dedicating each rendition to whomever we thought of that day; his favorite uncle, Joe, the plumber, his children and wife, Dylan Thomas, Bob Dylan, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Eleanor Roosevelt, Beverly, his first love on the beach, his favorite high school teacher, his in-laws whom he loved, Marv and Ammi, both writers in Crestone, the world and all the children in it. The routine was comforting to both of us and he loved the poetry, certain Neru-

da Odes which, after many iterations, was easy for him to listen to and understand and love. And, yes, sometimes we even read his poetry, *Beyond Yonder*.

The Lion is my contemporary, we are only three years apart in age. We share the same ethnic background and cultural nuances. We remember Coney Island and Nathan's hot dogs, the ocean and the boardwalk, World War II, our Army experiences, huge corn beef sandwiches and pickles from the Carnegie Deli and our Hebrew School teachers. More and more childhood memories come to him in these past weeks. He is my "boy-chik" and I am his.

We have this routine, the Lion and I. First I read two Neruda Odes; Ode to Sadness and Ode to an Ancient Poet. Then I recite the Kaddish and he says Amen at the appropriate places. Angela, the caretaker, plays the drum as I sing. Sometimes we also listen to a beautiful and creative arrangement of the song that his son composed. We have this routine, yes, that we both love and appreciate and, at some deep level, holds great meaning and solidarity between us. At



Marvin and his friend Ammi who has been reading to him every night for the last year!

the end of each visit I think of a different comedic way to lead to our saying together for that day, "there ain't no mo!"

I visit today. The Lion does not have the strength to talk, his roar silenced. His eyes are shut. But I believe he hears me because his lips move just barely at the appropriate pauses to say Amen during the Kaddish. I hold back the tears that I feel coming when I recite from Ode to Sadness the crucial line, "A poet lives here!". He very weakly squeezes my hand

when I loudly recite this line, adding the word "still".

I finish the poetry and the song, hold his hand, kiss his forehead and tell him that I will be back again in the afternoon to read and sing to him.

Suddenly, amazingly, he opens wide his eyes full blast and speaks to me with his Lion's mischievous smile. I am overwhelmed. Yet the Lion still roars!

"Post script: This column was written the day before the Lion died."



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26998 CO RD 65. \$480,000 Newly remodeled home nestled in the foothills next to creek on 36.99 acres Domestic well. 4BD 3BA 2 kitchens, 2 laundry rooms, multifamily/unit.	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.	1401 Badger Rd. \$387,000 Fantastic site, screened porch, contemporary 2BD 2BA home with quiet sun-room. Detached garage/workshop. Home and garage are on 3 consolidated lots.	668 Crocus Rd. \$375,000 SELLER CARRY. 41 pristine acres with Creek running through it. Home and meeting bldg total 3550 sq ft. Property is entirely off grid.	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.	2720 Happy Hollow \$279,000 4BD 2.5BA Spacious home/B&B has beautiful, serene living spaces, fully furnished, vacation/permanent home, or investment property.
					
1315 Moonlight Way. \$275,000 Large home on greenbelt and Willow Creek. Remodel in 2014. 6 BD 3 BA. Adjoining lot available.	80 Cottonwood Creek Road. \$249,500 Large home on 7+ acres in the Grants, tons of charm! Built in 1998. 2555 sq ft with an additional guest cottage and out buildings.	1447 Chaparral Way. \$229,000 One level ranch living, just off the paved road, yet private location. 2BD 2BA. Built in fire place, granite counter tops, and newly remodeled kitchen.	33 Sunset OL \$229,000 Charming 5 bedroom 3.75 bath home with additional room off Master suite. Attached 2 car garage with storage and extra bathroom. Screened porch.	463 Lime Ave. \$225,000 private 4BD 2BA 2,200 sq ft home on the edge of downtown Crestone. Excellent mountain views, 2 Blocks from schools and stores. .5 acres. 2 storage	1618 Willow Creek Way. \$215,000 2BD home, large garage with poss. apt. upstairs. 2 levels, living room, den, sep kitchen. Oversized garage. New screened porch, views, fenced yard, grow dome.
					
776 Table Rock Tr, \$195,000. 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.	1590 Crown Point Ol \$165,000 3BD 2BA. Large living room with wood stove. 2 car detached garage, grow dome & 1.5 acres on a quiet cul-de-sac.	250 S 2nd St. \$149,500 2BD 1BA Motivated sellers! Private, mountain views. Home sits on 1 acre, has a deep well, landscaped, with new roof, new paint. Wood shed, partial fencing, wood-stove.	613 Cinnabar Trail \$20,000 Secluded cottage on 3.83. Acres. Root cellar, green house, utility shed. Amazing panoramic views.		

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DISPATCH from the edge

by Peter Anderson

1. One winter afternoon in 1974, I knew how good a hockey goalie's life could be: skates sufficiently dull to slide around in the crease (but sharp enough for stability and precision), pads snug and riding well on legs, good light and clear vision though the eyeholes of a fiberglass mask, glove hands moving with speed and accuracy, kicks to right and left bouncing out shots along the ice. On a breakaway, the player I dreaded most hit the post after a risky cross-body lunge on my part. Good mojo held up until the third period clock ran down to all its lovely zeroes. We came out on top. Just barely.

Before the rematch with our big rivals later that season, someone from their squad sent me an unsigned note (prophetic as it turned out) made up of letters cut and pasted from a newspaper. It said simply: "Anderson . . . Your ass is grass." Soon that dreaded skater was back, drifting out toward the red line and receiving long breakaway passes from his defensemen. He beat me a few too many times that day—a gloomy denouement in an average, though occasionally transcendent, goalie career. Never again would I experience the adrenalin-infused task of guarding the net in such a big game, but the lure of a good day on the ice remained.

2. This mountain lake lives in shadow. The sun is a rounder . . . stays away longer each night, and sleeps it off behind the ridge during the day. The winds come down off the mountain, sweeping skiffs of snow across the ice. A father pulls on his skates, so much easier now with plastic and Velcro than it once was with leather and lace. He tests the freeze, first around the edges—a few feet thick—then out in the middle—clear and so deep, he can't tell where the ice leaves off and the black water begins. He skates as fast as he can, grateful this sprint is his own—no whistles, no coach. He slides one blade in front of the other, leans into a wide rink turn, and carves two thin white lines that follow him out to the edge of the lake where his daughter, still wobbly in her new pink skates, glides toward him. He takes her hands in his and skates backwards, looking over his shoulder for stones frozen in the ice, then back at his daughter, steady now, who sees only what lies ahead.

3. Other than a blue hole off to the west, from which a late afternoon sun throws a promised-land glow over the hills south of Del Norte, Colorado, we are driving

under a woolen-gray January sky. Gusts of wind carry billowing sheets of snow down the frozen Rio Grande toward the ranch where my daughter and I are headed. We turn off the highway and follow the signs—old-fashioned white figure skates dangling from fence posts and pasture gates—to the river. There we find several people standing around a fire, an assortment of grown-ups and kids skating between two homemade hockey goals, and a pack of ranch dogs circling the commotion and chasing the puck, all of this on a shoveled-off rink of Rio Grande river ice.

As I sit down on a log bench to lace up my blades, and I hear skates carving up the ice and sticks slapping pucks, I remember a frozen scene some forty-five years ago: long strong striding with a good pal into the great beyond of a glassy, black-iced lake, sliding the puck back and forth across the smoothness of it all, faster and farther, faster and farther, world without end, amen.

I could live in that flashback, but duty calls. I help my daughter lace up her skates, grab her a short stick, and show her how to lean on it for balance. She's a little wobbly, but she'll do fine. Then I grab myself a stick out of the pile and soon we are out in the fray. And it's slapstick, slapstick, and poke away the puck. And it's weave left, weave right, and steer through a maze of long and short legs. I forget, for a short while, that I am older now and out of shape.

This ice, this freeze, unlike the Zambonied surface most skaters are used to, has its own topography—bumps, ripples, crisscrossing fissures, mushy edges. I relearn this when I get the puck on a fast break, catch a blade in some slush, and fly face first into a snowbank. "Yeah, it's a little soft over there," someone says.

All too soon, the sun has gone down. By now our silhouetted herd of puck-chasers has thinned out and we part ways even more to let the little skaters make some memories. My daughter gets the puck. Slaps and whiffs. Slaps and whiffs. Shoots again. Score!

I learn on the drive home that this game is in her blood now, as it has been, for a long time, in mine. Yes, I tell her, we will play again soon.

Peter Anderson lives in Crestone and teaches writing at Adams State University. Portions of this essay are excerpted from his most recent book—Heading Home: Field Notes (www.bowerhousebooks.com).

There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root
Cleanses, fasts & detoxes



Tools of the trade.

by Dorje Root, RH (AHG)

Now is the time when many people think of doing cleanses, fasts and detoxes. After a holiday season of eating and drinking more than usual and perhaps gaining weight or not feeling so great, we have the holiday of "Let's reboot our lives" or New Years Day. It's only natural to think that this might be a good time to fast, cleanse, or detox.

Logically it makes sense, but in the coldest months of winter where temperatures could go below zero, at 8000' of elevation, it might not be the best time to make ourselves cold and vulnerable. Cleansing, fasting and detoxing are best done in the spring, when the weather is warming up and the element of wood (think liver) predominates according to Chinese medicine.

However, it's not a bad time to begin eating better and to include some herbs that can help. Here are a few suggestions. By eliminating all sugar (yes, including fruits) for a week, your body will readjust and at the end of that time a slice of apple will taste like dessert (especially with a little cinnamon).

Healthy hot soups are a great vehicle for many healing herbs, such as garlic, onion, turmeric, ginger, burdock root and dandelion root (if you can find these two fresh, probably in the produce department). Dandelion greens can also be found in stores this time of year. Kelp and other seaweeds can be added (be sure to check sources—I no longer use anything from the Pacific since Fukushima). Add a bit of cayenne if you like—it helps with warming and circulation. The Chinese herb astragalus can also be added for immune support; and medicinal mushrooms—especially Shiitake.

Here's a general recipe that I adapted from several medicinal soup recipes:

- Several organic chicken parts (omit for vegetarian)
- Chicken broth (veggie broth) or water
- Extra virgin olive oil
- 2 onions, sliced or chopped
- 2-4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 8 large shiitake mushrooms (fresh or dried)
- 4 oz. fresh burdock root (or 2 oz dried) thinly sliced
- 4 oz. fresh dandelion root (or 2 oz dried) thinly sliced
- 1 stick sliced astragalus root
- 1 tablespoon fresh grated ginger root

In a large pot sauté onions and garlic in olive oil. Add broth or water and bring to a boil. Add mushrooms and herbs. Add root vegetables of choice—carrots, yams, turnips, etc. Add chicken pieces, simmer for several hours. Add fresh herbs such as basil, thyme, rosemary, or parsley. Add greens. Salt to taste.

Enjoy, stay warm, stay healthy!

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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Baca Grande Library News



by Suzanne McGregor

We begin this new year without one of our dearest friends, Thom Ontko, by our sides to share the adventures of 2018 with us. Thom passed away last month surrounded by friends and family. He was the driving force behind our Friends of the Library for many years and was a tireless participant in all of their fundraising activities. He was instrumental in getting the 501(c)3 for the FOL that has served the library well in grant funding. We will all miss Thom greatly, but there are daily reminders of the love, dedication and caring Thom put into the library and into those who were touched and inspired by him.

We would like to thank all the individuals who contributed to our Holiday Open House last month, hosted by our very dedicated Friends of the Library (FOL). It is always a good way to end the

month and start the New Year by taking a break to visit with our friends. We had lots of good food, laughter, and 115 guests! Blessings and best wishes to everyone that 2018 is full of joy, serenity and peace, both within and without. We hope that one of your New Year's resolutions would be to visit your library often, as we have some great selections and resources for all ages. Come check us out!

We just finished another great year that included signing up 89 new members, the construction of an ADA-approved ramp, deck and steps at the back entrance, and the installation of a new circulation

desk and beautiful new storage cabinets. We have new carpeting in the front room and vinyl flooring in the circulation area and in the bathroom. We have had children's reading programs, parties, fundraisers, workshops, and record highs in average daily visits. We anticipate such successes in this coming year. And for all of our best moments, we think of the members of our community who support the library in so many countless ways.

Happy New Year from Suzanne, Barry and Sandia

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/ **The Family:** (2013) ★★★★★

The Manzoni Family is relocated to Normandy, France under the witness protection program. As old habits die hard, they deal with various situations in the only way they know how . . . Mafia style. A delightful, slightly dark comedy and action film. Stars Robert De Niro, Michelle Pfeiffer, Tommy Lee Jones and directed by the great Luc Besson with Producer Martin Scorsese.

2/ **American Dreamz:** (2006) ★★★

The president of the USA is in his own world and being advised on everything until he starts reading the newspapers and starts waking up to what's going on in the world. He becomes hermit-like, surrounded by books and gathering information. While he is depressed, his Chief of Staff talks him into being a judge of a show similar to American Idol. Stars Dennis Quaid, Hugh Grant, Mandy Moore, Willem Dafoe.

3/ **Scoop:** (2006) ★★★

A fun and interesting whodunit type with humor and wit. A journalism student visiting friends in London stumbles upon a possible "scoop" of a lifetime about a serial killer, while falling in love with a charming aristocrat. Written and directed by Woody Allen and starring Scarlett Johansson, Hugh Jackman, Woody Allen and others.

4/ **The Artist and the Model:** (2013) ★★★★★

A very powerful black-and-white film taking place circa 1943 in southern France, safe from the distant war that is raging. An elderly artist and sculptor, Marc Cros, has seemingly come to the end of his life and his art but becomes enlivened when he meets a beautiful young woman whom he gives shelter. She begins to pose for him, inspiring him, only to find out he is harboring a fugitive from Spain. Touching, poignant and tastefully done. Stars Jean Rochefort, Aida Folch.

5/ **Homefront:** (2013) ★★★★★

An action movie with a strong plot, written by Sylvester Stallone. A former DEA agent moves to a rural area with his 10-year-old daughter after his wife dies, to try and lead a quiet and peaceful life. He runs into a meth-producing gang and druglord and the action proceeds from there. Stars James Franco in his sinister best, Jason Stratham (whom I love as an action hero), Winona Ryder.

CROSSWORD														
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THEME: YEAR IN REVIEW

- ACROSS**
- Pepsi and Coke, e.g.
 - Batman punch
 - Tit for tat
 - Notable period
 - Opposite of hence
 - Cook-off dish
 - Nile's mouth
 - Jan. predecessor
 - *A United passenger was dragged down one
 - *2017 solar event
 - *Natural disaster or center of Hollywood scandal
 - Second Testament
 - "Best ___ schemes o'mice an' men"
 - Is no longer
 - Supermarket section
 - Broadband predecessor
 - Lyric poems
 - Commiserate
 - *Album of the Year Grammy recipient
 - Opposite of eve
 - *POTUS
 - Fender-bender damage
 - Kindle content
 - a.k.a. Atlantic Richfield Company
 - Jazz singing
 - Freshman?
 - Chutzpah
 - "Listen up!"
 - Freight horse cart
 - Noisy talk
 - *Late Playboy
 - *Fidget ____, banned by many schools
 - Hindu dance gesture
 - Anything female
 - Ransack or plunder
 - 4-letter word in speech on broadcast TV
 - Three strikes
 - Lucifer
 - *Tiffany to Ivanka and Don Jr.'s kids
- DOWN**
- Surrender land
 - Crude group?
 - Take it easy
 - ___ a play
 - Formed
 - ___ farewell, past tense
 - Bio bit
 - Barista's creation
 - Blade in Litchfield
 - Solomon-like
 - Friend in war
 - Crusty dessert
 - Esophagus-stomach connection
 - Hidden under a rug
 - "Farm ___" benefit concert
 - Church ritual
 - *January 21 marchers
 - Hacienda brick
 - Asian goat antelope
 - Turkey money
 - Contributes
 - Olden day doctor's prescription
 - Arm bones
 - *Deceased heartbreaker
 - One who looks down on others
 - Village People song
 - Tissue growth
 - Do this and hope for ransom
 - Before of yore
 - Landowners in the olden days
 - Match play?
 - Land on patellas
 - *"The Handmaid's Tale" channel
 - Adam and Eve's garden
 - Drive oneself crazy
 - Cobblestone
 - USS Constitution organization
 - Inherently bad
 - To bank on
 - Executive's degree
 - Tint

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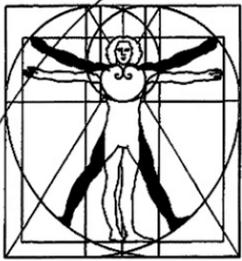
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Public Notices

Veterans Assistance Grant
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Saguache County Board of Commissioners Seeks Saguache County Planning Commission Members

Saguache County Board of Commissioners are seeking a member and alternates from: Town of Saguache surrounding area – member & alternate, La Garita/Center area – alternate, Town of Center and surrounding area – alternate, Cotchepta area – member and alternate, Moffat and surrounding area – alternate, Hooper and surrounding area – member and alternate, Alternates at Large for All of Saguache County. The representative must be a property owner or property manager and reside in the area they are interested in representing. Regular member terms are for three years and the alternate terms are for a one year term. Saguache County Planning Commission meets on the last Thursday of each month in the Road and Bridge meeting room.

The Planning Commission may also have work sessions through out each month to work on the Saguache County Master Plan and different items. If you are interested please send a brief letter of interest stating qualifications and interest to: Saguache County Land Use, PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 prior to Friday, December 29, 2017. Should you have any questions please call Wendi Maez at 719-655-2321.

Saguache County Board of Commissioners Seeks Crestone/Baca Planning Commission Members

A Member is needed from: 1 alternate member from the Baca Grande Subdivision, 1 member from the Area

Surrounding the Baca Grande Subdivision and/or Town of Crestone, but is not located within the subdivision or town, 1 Alternate member At Large, 1 alternate member representing the Baca Grande Property Owners Association, 1 Member from the Town of Crestone, 1 Alternate Member from the Town of Crestone. Each member that will represent the Town of Crestone and the Baca Grande Property Owner's Association will be appointed for a one-year term. The representative must be a property owner or a manager of property and reside in the area they are interested in representing. Regular member terms are for three years and alternate member terms are for one-year term except as listed above. Crestone/Baca Planning Commission meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Baca Grande Property Owners Assn. meeting room. The Crestone/Baca Planning Commission may also have work sessions through out each month to work on the Sub Area Master Plan and different items. If you are interested please send a brief letter of interest stating qualifications and interest to: Saguache County Land Use, PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 prior to Thursday, December 29, 2017. Should you have any questions please call Wendi Maez at 719-655-2321.



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EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: What are some ways companies are using plastic waste from the ocean in their products to take a stand for the environment?

-Simone LaTourneau, Boston, MA

A recent study published in the journal *Science* estimates that there are some 86 million metric tons of plastic in the world's oceans today—and that every year we add another eight million more. The pieces of plastic we discard break down into smaller and smaller bits during their travels through the ocean, but never break down completely, becoming part of our food chain when consumed by marine life. According to the non-profit Plastic Oceans, plastic particles outnumber plankton (the feedstock of the marine food chain) by a factor of 26-to-one in some parts of the ocean. Meanwhile, the BBC reports that anyone consuming an "average amount" of seafood in a given year ingests some 11,000 plastic particles annually.

The good news is that some companies are trying to do their part by collecting and incorporating ocean plastic debris into their products lines and packaging. Most recently, Canada's Lush Cosmetics announced it would start using in its packaging ocean plastic collected by volunteers in and around Vancouver, BC, where the company is based. Meanwhile, Method Home has been working with its recycling partner Envision Plastics to take plastic waste collected from beaches around Hawaii to go into its new line of Home Dish+Hand Soap bottles, now available coast-to-coast. Furthermore, Method's soaps are mostly biodegradable and the company powers its factory with renewable wind energy.



Clouds lift over the peaks to reveal fresh snow.

photo by Kate Steichen

Perhaps a more surprising user of ocean waste plastic is Dell Computers, which recently started processing plastics collected from beaches, waterways and coastal areas and using them as part of the packaging system for its leading "2-in-1" laptop line, the XPS 13. Likewise, German activewear maker Adidas has partnered with the non-profit Parley for the Oceans in launching three lines of its popular UltraBoost shoes all made from plastic debris from oceans and beaches. Each pair reuses 11 bottles worth of plastic and features laces, heel linings and sock liners also made from recycled materials.

Meanwhile, Norton Point sunglasses teamed up with the non-profit Plastic Bank in launching three styles of eco-friendly sunglasses made out of plastic collected around Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts where the company is based.

And then there's Pharrell Williams's newly released clothing line, G-Star RAW, which uses plastics salvaged from shorelines around the world and turns them into a clothing fiber called Bionic Yarn. Jeans, graphic tees and kimonos are the company's first products using the nouveau earth-friendly fiber, but fashion forward consumers should stay tuned for different products and styles coming soon.

Yet another twist on keeping plastic waste out of the ocean comes from Florida-based Saltwater Brewery. By now, we all know about how those plastic six-pack can holders can get wrapped around unsuspecting marine wildlife and choke them or cause internal distress if ingested—so the small beer maker has started manufacturing so-called Edible Six Pack Rings made from barley and other natural materials that break down easily once in the ocean water column and are easy for animals to digest, just in case one or two gets loose during your next picnic or outing on the water.

Contacts: Plastic Oceans, www.plasticoceans.org; Lush Cosmetics, www.lush.com; Method, www.methodhome.com; Dell Ocean Plastics, www.dell.com/learn/us/en/uscorp1/corp-comm/ocean-plastics; Adidas & Parley, www.adidas.com/us/parley; Envision Plastics, www.envisionplastics.com; Norton Point, www.nortonpoint.com; Plastic Bank, www.plasticbank.org; Saltwater Brewery, www.saltwaterbrewery.com; G-Star RAW, www.g-star.com.

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Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

November 21 to December 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip (includes melted snow): 0.10"

Snow: 1.1"

Measurable precipitation fell on 1 day.

Measurable snow fell on 1 day

A trace of snow fell on 1 day.

No rain, hail or thunderstorms occurred.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1: 14.02"

Total snow to date:

Since Jan 1: 55.0"

Snow Season*: 2.9"

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 64.1°F on November 27

Low temp: 0.2°F on December 7

Avg. high: 46.3°F

Avg. low: 17.7°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 60°: 2

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 50°: 11

Number of days with the high temperature below freezing: Only 1

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: All 30

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 10°: Only 4

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 1.5 mph

Highest gust: 40 mph on November 24

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

Weather summary:

Temperatures were very much above normal for the entire period, with the month of November turning out to be the warmest November ever for our area on record, along with 5 record highs. Temperatures for the first 20 days in December were also above normal.

Precipitation was almost nil, with drought-like conditions. We only saw one day of measurable precipitation and no real snow-pack, even up high in mountains above town, where there also was a major lack of snowfall.

Outlook for January:

January is normally our coldest month of the year. A reading of -20° on January 17, 2008 is the coldest it has ever gotten, with 59° the warmest it has ever been, on January 29, 1986. Normally for the month, highs in the first week average 31°, with the average low around 5°. By the month's end we can expect average highs and lows of 35° and 10°.

Precip-wise, this is a very dry month, with only 0.57" of precip expected on average, making it our second driest month of the year. We can expect 9.7" snowfall, on average, for the month. Record snowfall for January is 23.4", which fell in 2005.

The 30-day NWS weather outlook for our area for January is calling for warm winter weather, with very much above average temperatures along with average to below average snowfall.

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