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Alicia Mason Miller, Gussie Fauntleroy and Vivia Lawson from Crestone join hundreds of women at the Womens March in Alamosa on January 20. See more photos of the Womens March on page 12. photo by Lori Nagel To see this photo in color and more, visit our website at www.crestoneeagle.com

Marijuana topic of discussion, again Federal, State & County officials weigh in

by Lisa Cyriacks

On January 4 US Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a memo rescinding the Cole Memorandum, a 2013 policy that offered protection from federal prosecution for the cultivation, distribution and possession of marijuana in states where it is legal.

The essence of the agreement is that federal officials would not interfere so long as local officials worked to keep marijuana from

crossing state lines, from falling into the hands of children and from being swept up by criminal organizations, among other considerations.

According to the Associated Press, this policy shift will allow U.S. attorneys across the country to decide the extent of federal resources devoted to marijuana enforcement, depending on what they see as priorities in their districts.

Interim U.S. Attorney in the District of Colorado Bob Troyer

said in a statement issued by his office, "Here is the question we ask every time we consider allocating our finite resources to prosecute any of the vast number of federal crimes we can prosecute, from violent crime to immigration crime to opioid crime: Will this prosecution make Colorado safer? Under the attorney general's new memo, we have more freedom and flexibility to make decisions that make Colorado

continued on page 24



Goodbye to the Crestone Music Festival. Story on page 16. photo by Lori Nagel

Getting buzzed? Reporting military flyovers

by Kate Steichen
& Glenn Ennis

If you experience a fast, low-flying military jet over our community, you can lodge a prompt, polite, and firm complaint with COANG (Colorado Air National Guard), either via email usaf.co.140-wg.mbx.noise-comment@mail.mil, at the COANG website www.140wg.ang.af.mil, or by phoning Major Kinder Blacke at 720-847-9558. The more factual information you can offer, the better, i.e., direction of travel, altitude, aircraft description, speed,

High speed, military flyovers in the San Luis Valley are only legally allowed to fly from north to south. Their MTR (Military Training Route) enters our valley north of Villa Grove, proceeds over the County landfill, traveling southeast and crossing Hwy. 17 between Moffat and Hooper, before passing south of the Sand Dunes and eastward to La Veta Pass. MTR only applies to F-16 and other fighter jets at high speed (500 mph) and low altitude (500 feet). All types of military aircraft at low speed (200

mph) and altitude of 1000 feet or more, e.g., C-130 cargo aircraft, are technically allowed. We depend on a good working relationship with the military units to minimize these other flights.

In 1991 Kate Steichen led other dedicated community members in founding the Open Space Alliance in response to our community learning of COANG's plan to turn our valley into an MOA (Military Operations Area) in which large

continued on page 8

Inside:

- Got gas? Working on it 8
- Seed Exchange happening ... 11
- Starr Sightings Astrology 19
- Heat & cool with the Climate Battery..... B-1
- Skies Over Crestone..... B-2
- Dispatch from the Edge ... B-11
- Fun & games B-13

The Crestone Eagle

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



Thank you for your support

To the Editor:

Five years ago we came to Crestone to present a little concert of Christmas carols. At the time, there were approximately fifty in the audience—quite an unexpected treat to be able to share music with so many in such a small town. A few weeks ago we came to Crestone to present the 7th annual Concert of Carols. With us were three vocal soloists, three additional instrumentalists, two ballet dancers, and three additional singers. This program was presented to an audience of over seventy—a 50% increase in the past five years.

To say that it is a thrill to come to Crestone and share beautiful music with such a supportive and appreciative audience—in the beautiful Colorado College venue—is a gross understatement. Because of the support that the Crestone community has given us over the past few years we have been able to add more instrumentalists, singers, and, now, ballet dancers. While it is great fun to perform as a duo with someone that you really love performing with, with every additional performer the joy of performing increases even more. Without your support this simply would not be possible.

One of the reasons that the Mt. Blanca Summer Music Conservatory will even exist for a fifth year is because the Crestone community has not only supported our annual Concert of Carols; but, because it has also so warmly embraced the faculty concerts from our Conservatory. We truly are appreciative of the support your community has given us and you all hold a very dear place in our hearts. Please know that we do not take your support lightly or for granted.

In closing we would be quite remiss not to mention all of the assistance that Vince Palermo and Bill Sutherland have provided promoting all of our concerts. They are both true gems.

Again thank you for allowing us to share our musical talents with you. It is our sincere hope that we will be able to share many more years of beautiful music with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sarah Off and Randy D. Macy, Mt. Blanca Fine Arts Association

Giving Tree is a big success

Dear Crestone Community,

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Giving Tree! We provided Christmas gifts to 52 children and 15 disabled and elderly members of our community. We met so many different needs ranging from those of a two-week

old baby boy to a teenager who just moved from Texas with no winter clothing. I wish all of you could be in my shoes when parents come to tell me that the Giving Tree provided the only Christmas presents that their children received. I get the hugs, see the tears, but the credit goes to all of you! This community is so generous and the Giving Tree is a wonderful example of the care and concern this community has for those less fortunate. A very special thank you goes to Neighbors Helping Neighbors who made a very generous contribution. Big or small, every contribution was greatly appreciated!

Elaine Johnson

NHN thank you

Dear Editor

I would like to take a bit of space to thank this community for supporting Neighbors Helping Neighbors so NHN can continue to help those in crisis in our area. The Intuit benefit at the Cloud Station was an awesome event and many, many thanks to Benjamin, Michelle and the Cloud crew as well as Crestone Spirits, who helped us a great deal with the beverages, and to all the NHN Board members and volunteers who helped make it happen. You are wonderful.

Recently Curtis Goodnight generously donated a storage unit to NHN. Thanks so much. It will help make the annual May Yard Sale a success.

We are sure blessed to live in a place where we look out for one another.

Mary Lowers, NHN

CCD Board selections

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the current Crestone Creative District Board of Directors (President Elaine Johnson, Don Gifford, McGregor Gaines, and myself), we'd like to thank everyone who submitted a Letter of Intent to serve on the CCD Board as one of three new members. Thanks as well to the Eagle for providing a platform to assist in our search.

We received many applications from well-qualified candidates, and made selections based on a number of criteria, including diversity, specialized skills, and past participation in CCD.

For those who were not notified of their appointment, we invite you to submit again this December, and meantime to participate actively in the organization, including with events and special-committee activities. Check out CrestoneCreativeDistrict.xyz for more information on activities and membership, and tweet us @CreateCrestone.

All best wishes for a prosperous 2018!

David Scott

Principal, CONTENT Media

A community unlike any other

Thank you, Community.

Recently I broke the humerus bone in my shoulder and sustained other injuries, including a concussion. It turns out if you're going to have some disabling accident,

there is simply no place like ours. For the outpouring of help and food and love, I write this letter acknowledging, as best I can, my gratitude to all of you who helped in so many ways.

Firstly and foremostly, to Cheyenne Mendel, who drove me to the hospital, orchestrated everything, provided acupuncture, was always there to help me live through the pain and inability to take care of basic needs. And to all the many who also came to help me (and my cat Bentley), with such loving care: Anna Louise Stewart, Kai Beetch, Robin Helm, Gwynn Busby, Denye Scott and Nick Marros.

And special thanks to Steve and Elaine at the Crestone Mercantile for your flowers and food and help and to David Lindsey, who is always there in a time of need.

So much more to say. For keeping my house warm (no small feat), thank you Clark Gregory for your constant help, as well as Michael Zichella, Allyson Ransom and Matthew Gourdjian.

There is simply no way to thank all of you who so generously provided food. I especially want to thank Sarah Henninger, Edie Lee, Denye Scott, Anna Louise Stewart, Judie Rose, Lilli Zohar, Debra Gourdjian, Lisa Cyriacks, Malathy, Denise Peine, and the Cloud Station.

For the continuing support of Shumei International Institute with their continuing visits to provide their offerings of jyorei and food, I give my special thanks, and also to William Martino who was always there to serve as chauffeur and provide needed help.

It is likely I may be forgetting some one or ones, and to them I extend not only my thanks but my apologies.

For all of your help and prayers, my deep gratitude. A community so filled with selfless folks. There is, in truth, no place like Crestone. Thank you, one and all.

Kairina Danforth

Rhiannon Curry for County Assessor

Dear Editor,

I would like to take the time to introduce myself and announce that I will be running for Saguache County Assessor. My name is Rhiannon Curry and I have been in the San Luis Valley for two and a half years now. Prior to coming to the valley, I worked in the lending industry for mortgage companies and title companies. During my time in lending, I worked with multiple County Assessor offices for mil levy and assessments as well as senior and military tax exemptions, for real estate transactions.

After moving to the valley, I started with the Saguache County Treasurer's office, where I had the opportunity to familiarize myself with Saguache County citizens, in taking tax payments, notarizing documents, and processing redemptions and other required paperwork. I also worked hand-in-hand with the Saguache County Assessor's office, as a Treasurer's clerk doing things such as address changes, and comparing information in assisting customers.

Editor's Notes

The pink wave

As we walked towards Denver's Civic Center we joined a throng of people carrying signs, carrying toddlers. When we came to a table selling hats and buttons my teenaged grandson picked out a flaming neon pink hat and proudly put it on his head. Yeah!

With our pink and red hats we joined thousands of people at the Denver Women's March. A sea of people marching through the streets, chanting slogans, holding very creative and often humorous signs. There was both an air of protest and of celebration.

This year there were many more men at the Women's March. Men who understood that it was about raising your voice and being present to support a bigger cause. Many, like my grandson, sporting bright pink hats.

The signs reflected many broad concerns, political corruption, health care, DACA, racism, environmental causes, gay rights, and of course women's rights. There was a wide protest against Trump and the GOP, inspiring a wave of women activism. "Grab 'em by the ballot."

Thousands marched in cities all across the US and the world. In blue states and red. Thousands even in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

But all the major TV stations barely mentioned it. I came home and started flipping channels. Denver stations carried it, but not national TV. There should have been a big fuss about the implications of millions marching. So why not? My guess is that most big media corporations are owned and run by white men. "The revolution will not be televised."

But it is all over the internet and you can see the sea of pink for yourself. And it is being sung. A band struck up an old 60's song. Old protesters sang along, while new ones learned the words. "Stop, children, watch that sound, everybody look what's going down."

Watching, marching, voting
—Kizzen

For the last year and a half, I have been working as an Office Manager for the Saguache County Road and Bridge Department, and doing the meeting minutes for the Saguache County Board of County Commissioners. In my role at Road and Bridge, I have become more familiar with the vastness of Saguache County, road and access requirements, and budgetary procedures for the County. In taking minutes for the Board of County Commissioners, I have familiarized myself with the government process, and have been able to keep abreast of changes within the County, as well as the expectations for the County offices.

I am running for Saguache County Assessor as I feel there are vast improvements to be made in that office, such as documenting and recording all assessments throughout the county. It is time that Saguache County citizens stop complaining about the problems, and start becoming part of the solution. It is because of this and my background, strong work ethic, and desire to initiate positive change that I am confident I am the right choice for the position of Saguache County Assessor. I have also asked and confirmed with the Secretary of State, as well as the County Attorney Ben Gibbons, that my currently being a County employee does not violate, in any way, the Hatch Act.

I intend on showing the citizens of Saguache County what a strong, intelligent, hardworking candidate looks like in running a positive campaign for the Saguache County Assessor's Elected Office.

Rhiannon Curry

Connie Trujillo to seek re-election as Saguache County Treasurer

Trujillo began serving in this capacity in January 1995 and has continued through the present day. She is a life-long resident of Center, has one son, Jacob, and her partner Geno.

The Office of County Treasurer has the responsibility for the collection, custody and distribution of County funds as well as all investments and budgetary obligations. The office is also responsible for maintaining the records of all

financial payments issued and received in the County. Along with the duties of Treasurer, Trujillo also serves as Saguache County Public Trustee. She is responsible for all foreclosures filed within the county, as well as the processing of Releases of Deeds of Trusts.

Many changes have taken place since taking office and most recently during the past four years. The decision was made a couple of years ago to go with a new software provider along with several other valley treasurers. Along with this change came new interactive website advantages. It provides easy access for customers to research property, tax, and general information. All this is updated daily. Customers may make credit card payments as well. The office will now offer paperless statements for customer convenience.

Trujillo is an active member of both the Colorado Counties Treasurers Association and the Public Trustees Association of Colorado. She completed the approved CCTA/PTAC Accreditation Program through Mesa State, which certifies her as a Colorado County Treasurer and Public Trustee. She continues her education through this program. "Changes in legislature and procedures constantly change. It is very important that we follow all new laws."

She has served on the San Luis Valley GIS/GPS Board for several years, currently serving as the secretary of the board, previous Past District Chair for CCTA, previous member of the advisory board for the former Saguache County Credit Union and was instrumental in helping plan the CCTA/PTAC conference that was held in Alamosa last summer. She currently advocates and helps with Wreath's Across America.

"I credit my staff for their outstanding work. As I have said many times in the past, we are nothing without the staffs that we employ. I am so pleased and proud to work with each of them. It will be an honor to serve Saguache County another term. I ask for the support of all Saguache County citizens."

Ellen Cox running for County Commissioner

Dear Editor,

I, Ellen E. Cox am announcing my candidacy for Saguache County Commissioner. As a 38 year resident and concerned citizen of Saguache County, I want to be in service to the people. I have worked for the County for over 20 years, and am presently the Saguache County Victim Advocate Coordinator. If elected, I will be your voice, and to that end, respectful and proactive to concerns and issues presented to the Board of County Commissioners. I am presently on the County Planning Commission, and have held many board positions in my work with the County.

I live in Saguache, am a small business owner, having a small Bed and Breakfast. I participate in my town and county with benevolence and community outreach programs related to victims of crime and economic depression. I am committed to reaching and interacting with

our youth about the hazards that impact our lives and homes. They are our citizens and leaders of the future.

I feel it is my responsibility to stay informed and active in the activities of our communities, county and region in which we live. I value our diversity of spirit, abundant natural beauty, truly unique place in this world, and want to dedicate my abilities and passion in representing all of us, as a Saguache County Commissioner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ellen E. Cox

Are we ready for a disaster?

Dear Editor,

2017 was a year of witnessing an increase in natural disasters and challenges that no one could have been totally prepared for.

We observed with grief and sorrow the loss of life and material possessions. Have we also learned from these tragedies?

We the residents of the SLV live a sheltered life in that we have not experienced the disasters we have witnessed elsewhere in our world. Has this lifestyle we live caused us to become complacent? What is our most critical vulnerability? Do we each have our own personal emergency plan if we were to experience loss of electricity for a week or more resulting in loss of water along with every other amenity we currently enjoy? As a member of the Crestone Baca Resiliency Group, I am encouraging each of us to become as resilient/prepared as possible in the event of an interruption of services. Let us become as self-sufficient as possible and also think of others who might need our help.

Janie Thomas

Community resource inventory survey

The Crestone Community Action Network (CCAN) has been working on the Community Resource Inventory Survey since last October and now has it available for anyone in or near the Crestone community to fill in and return. We hope to inform and assess the community on personal and community resources and preparedness in the case of a short or long-term disruption in commodities, utilities or other normal services.

You can take the survey online by going to the CCAN website (www.CrestoneCAN.org) and follow the link on the Home page by clicking the big button that says "Survey". The link will also be available from the Facebook page. Look for CrestoneCAN on Facebook. If you want a paper copy, please call/text 303-715-0356 and leave your name and address and we'll send you one in the mail. Drop-off locations will be posted on the website and Facebook. Please call/text with any questions to the above phone number. Thanks!



Roxane de la Roche

December 29, 1969 - January 4, 2018

Roxane de la Roche, 48 years, born Dec. 29, 1969, Bellevue, WA., died Jan. 4, 2018 in Southern Pines, N. Carolina of a long illness. For four years she lived in Crestone and attended Moffat High School. She graduated from the University of Florence, Italy and was a successful model in Milan, Paris, and London. She is the daughter of Lorain and David Davis, Lakewood, CO, and the sister of Ed Torrison, Hilo HI, Eric Torrison, Port Orchard, WA, Therese Kunicky, Okotoks, Alberta, Can., Laureen Torrison, Oceanside, CA, Christine Mackay, Seattle, WA, and Lissa O'neil, Seattle, WA. Her ashes will be returned to earth at Mt. Sinopah, Two Medicine Lake, MT.

Roxane

was a complex woman, a beautiful, brilliant, funny, creative, passionate woman.

A sad, broken, wounded, rebellious, drama queen

with a heart of gold, a drive for significance, and unending curiosity.

She was spiritual, mystical, witty, and compassionate

with a remarkable memory and a love for great books.

She modeled in Paris, London and Milan

and graduated from the University of Florence.

She spoke five languages fluently

and was a poet, an artist and a dreamer

who loved Shakespeare and Monte Python,

ancient history, old movies, opera and jazz.

When the great life in Europe fell apart

she returned home struggling with depression.

She was overqualified for average work

and unprepared for an average life.

She lived high and burned out fast

and dragged her memories behind her.

She was like a shooting star ...

amazing, unstoppable, and gone too soon.

Rest in Peace Rox, we love you.

Thank you to all the dear hearts who sent

prayers and messages of love.

—Lorain and David Davis





Congressional candidates Diane Mitsch Bush and Karl Hanlon will join community members at the table at the Crestone Charter School on Sunday, Feb. 11 from noon to 2pm. Bush and Hanlon are vying for the opportunity to oppose incumbent Republican Congressman Scott Tipton in the November election.

3rd Congressional District candidates & local state legislators headed our way

Congress has a 15% approval rating today and our communities are searching for new options. Because everyone knows how important the 2018 mid-term elections are, Indivisible Crestone/Baca invites you to take a seat at the table when it hosts 3rd Congressional candidates Diane Mitsch Bush and Karl Hanlon and two special guests at the Crestone Charter School, 330 E. Lime Ave., from noon to 2:30pm Sunday, Feb. 11.

Take a seat at the table

Come meet and get answers from Mitsch Bush and Hanlon in a unique face-to-face event format where they will spend time with small groups—not hiding behind a podium or trading barbs.

Mitsch Bush is a former State Legislator and County Commissioner from Routt County; Hanlon is a rancher and water law attorney from Garfield County. Both are vying for the opportunity to oppose incumbent Republican Congressman Scott Tipton in the November election.

Congressman Tipton was in-

vited to this and other San Luis Valley forums on Feb. 10-11, but declined due to prior commitments.

Special guests will also attend

Special guests State Sen. (SD35) Larry Crowder (R) and HD62 Rep. Donald Valdez (D) will also participate in the Crestone event, where they will take questions about the Colorado legislative session.

Local folks are urged to take advantage of access to local, regional and state media as well as informed individuals to become aware of the issues that affect us and come prepared to express concerns and ask questions.

Ample opportunity to meet the candidates

If you miss the chance to meet candidates Mitsch Bush and Hanlon in Crestone, know that there are other opportunities. However, Sen. Crowder and Rep. Valdez are confirmed for Crestone only. They may be in Saguache.

Saturday, Feb. 10 1-3pm in Alamosa at St. Ives, 719 Main St.

Saturday, Feb. 10 4-6pm at Monte Vista Information Center/ Chamber of Commerce, 947 1st Ave.

Sunday, Feb. 11 noon-2pm at Crestone Charter School, 330 E. Lime Ave.

Sunday, Feb. 11 3-5pm at Saguache Road & Bridge meeting room, 305 3rd St.

For more information, contact Barbara Tidd with Indivisible Crestone/Baca: slvbarb498@gmail.com; 719-221-8434.

Saguache Democratic Caucus training & Central Committee meeting Feb. 11

by Barbara Tidd, Secretary, Saguache Co. Democratic Party Central Committee

Join us Tuesday, February 13 at 5pm at the Saguache Road & Bridge Meeting Room, 305 3rd St., Saguache for caucus training to be ready for the March 6 caucuses.

The Saguache County Central Committee also will meet to determine the number of delegates to our County Assembly. For questions or to become more involved with the Party, please contact Kevin Noland at 970-351-6747, or nolandkk@gmail.com.

Central Committee members who are authorized to vote on any matters coming before the meeting are officers, precinct committee persons and elected officials of the county party.

Caucus training and the meeting are open to the public. All are welcome!

Saguache County Crime report

by Mary Lowers

Folks kept speeding along Saguache County roads during this unusually dry and warm January. Lots of tickets issued for going too fast. We'd best watch it if winter storms start; going too fast and not paying attention could result in a crash. Tickets for passing on the right have risen the past few months, which is a worry if you ask me. There are way too many people in a big hurry these days, particularly on Hwy. 17. Why people feel the need to pass on the right, rushing at breakneck speed, is beyond me.

A Center man, 33, was jailed in Saguache with a \$50,000 bail listed. The charges he faces include: second degree assault, harassment, criminal mischief, resisting arrest, violation of a restraining order, and second degree criminal trespass. A Denver man, 26, was arrested in Saguache for theft and second degree criminal trespass with \$500 bail set. A Moffat man, 46, was jailed on a theft charge and two failure to appear charges. His bail was listed at \$3,500. Two failure to appear charges sent a Center man, 39, to jail with his bail set at \$3000. A Crestone man, 32, went to jail with \$1000 bail set on charges of violation of a restraining order. Domestic violence, harassment, violation of a restraining order, and three counts of child abuse landed a Center man, 29, in jail with no bail amount listed.

The Saguache Sheriff's office Victim Advocacy Group sent a thank you for donations of coats and blankets. They also thank volunteers who helped with this effort. If you need coats or blankets call Ellen E. Cox at the Saguache County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), 719-655-2544. The SCSO continues dialogue with the Saguache County Board of Commissioners about staffing and facility issues.



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Sparks fly over builder appeal of EAC decision at POA Board meeting

by John Rowe

The regularly scheduled January Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) Board meeting was held at 10am on Thursday, January 19 with a private executive session to follow. The morning start is a departure from the usual 6:30pm starting time and may continue. Please check with the POA office for updates. Four Board members were present, as Bill Straithern has resigned for personal reasons. The Board will continue with four members until our next election. About eighteen audience members were present.

The main event of the evening was an appeal to the Board by a POA member of an EAC (Environmental and Architectural Committee) decision to suspend the member's building permit this last October. Their primary reason for doing so was that the EAC failed to see substantial building progress in four and a half years of building and decided to end the project and not issue any further extensions. The member in question was quick to point out that he had asked for and been granted a one year-hiatus of his building permit so that in fact, he had only been building for less than four years. He also mentioned a more lax POA attitude in 2013 that encouraged him to build, despite the fact that he lived elsewhere and would be here to build only a few weeks a year;

he stated the 2013 Board did not push the eighteen month build-out covenant. He was adamant that he lived here now and would be free to build much more and showed photos that illustrated progress in just the last two months.

The Board was impressed by his impassioned defense and were open to coming to an understanding that everyone could live with. To their everlasting credit, the Board stayed calm and focused on the matter at hand, despite the home builder's presentation being marred by some hostile responses to Board questions. The Board's helpful attitude calmed the man down and a resolution was reached, with the builder agreeing to make certain commitments in exchange for a promise that he would be given a full year from now to reach the substantial exterior completion necessary to have the EAC consider the building permit fulfilled. A prevailing attitude that the POA Board has it in for owner-builders and looks for reasons to kick people off of their land has been notably absent from all hearings of this kind that this reporter has attended. Indeed, the Board appears to me to have bent over backwards in these hearings to try to find solutions that most in the community would consider acceptable.

Other news included department reports that found our fi-



Finally! Fresh snow topped our mountain peaks on January 10.

photo by Lori Nagel

nancial picture is more encouraging as time goes by and that the increase in dues we all have had to pay is digging us out of a hole we found ourselves in over the last few years. Taking a harder line towards collecting unpaid dues is also paying off and giving the POA some financial options such as paying \$250,000 cash for a brand new road-grader and saving \$40,000 in finance charges. Lucrative ambulance transfers are on the rise and will substantially help the POA's bottom line as well. It should be noted that while Emergency Services would love another paramedic on staff, they are providing full paramedic care on all runs. The Board noted that a better and more interactive website, regular town hall type meetings,

and a 30 hour/week community liaison hire are all in the works and should be available by March or April. A statement was added to POA Design Guidelines to support all state laws, particularly concerning marijuana cultivation anywhere in the Baca.



CRESTONE MERCANTILE

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

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

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



Happy Valentine's Day ~ come see us for all your holiday needs!



This month's pictures are "Then" ...
If you want to know the "Now" ~
see us at the Mercantile!



Hardware is getting ready for
Spring Cleaning and Repairs.
Come see us!!

Saguache County News

by Sandia Belgrade

The first order of business each new year is the re-organization of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). Jason Anderson was chosen as chair of the BOCC for this year. Other assignments for County departments and responsibilities were also confirmed with many retaining their position from 2017.

New Emergency Manager

One addition is the appointment of Bobby Woelz, who made his first appearance before the commissioners as the new Emergency Manager. He has already drafted a multi-hazard mitigation plan that



Saguache County's new Emergency Manager Bobby Woelz.

was approved by resolution. This is one position that might not garner attention until we are faced with an emergency situation such as an epidemic or a disaster, in which case he will be the one to coordinate emergency operations, direct disaster volunteers and serve as a liaison with other agencies. Because of the national flu alert he is keeping abreast of the Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report.

Two issues dominate County news

County residents have genuine concerns about the Sheriff and marijuana grows, both legal and illegal. Twice this month they have come to County meetings and taken up a large amount of time, so these events comprise much of the County activity this month. The first meeting of the year proved to be a challenge as the small courtroom was filled to capacity with residents expressing their complaints regarding marijuana grows and the understaffing of the Sheriff's Department. While the meetings were orderly, it was a bit claustrophobic, with people standing or sitting on top of one another. Some noted that another venue such as the Road and Bridge meeting room might have been more appropriate.

James Falsetta had concerns about the influx of growers and the uncontrolled increase of grows that are having a negative impact. He said many growers coming in are not community-minded and show a lack of respect for land and water resources. They are polluting the aquifer with chemicals because there is no monitoring, and they damage the roads. He wanted

no additional licensing and for the County to suspend grows. A grower pointed out that potato farmers use more toxic chemicals than marijuana cultivators. One resident said the water was so muddy near KZ estates he can't drink it. Wendi Maez said it was due to a water main break.

Concern about water consumption is on many minds this year because a moderate-to-severe drought is expanding across southern Colorado and the southwest. Kevin Boyle of the Colorado Division of Water Resources was on hand at the work session. Boyle said marijuana grows do not use alarming amounts of water. This flow of information sums up what happened in the group discussions: for every point offered there was a counter argument, but few solutions offered.

Other residents have been disturbed by the unacceptable lighting which is on all night and affects residents and wildlife. Dawn Anderson said she supports marijuana, but not only are there light violations, but noisy generators with fumes, and people can't sleep. Once they are approved some cultivators feel they can do what they want. Mike Wheeler's take on it is that growers have invested in our county and have paid the large fees. They have gone through the process and don't want illegal growers either.

Concern for children

There were reports that students were coming to Mountain Valley School unclean and unkempt, mostly from KV estates. David Daboll, Director of Public Health concurred. He was concerned with the impact on youth when kids were coming to school needing to be washed and fed.

Revenue

There were questions about discrepancies with fees and how marijuana revenue is used, some suggesting it was not going where it was intended. Revenue from marijuana now pays part of the salary for code enforcer Wayne Clark, who was instrumental in the recent big bust of foreigners running a large illegal grow operation near Bonanza. He encourages illegals to register and many do. Ironically, Communities that Care, the program designed to help with youth drug prevention, is funded by marijuana money.

The Planning Commission's perspective

Bill McClure, who is on the Planning Commission, said they're working to correct enforcement. He cited the excellent work of Wendi Maez, Land Use Director. They review a monthly list of conditional uses. With conditional use permits, the County regulates the legal commercial operations. It monitors grows. He himself goes around to check grows and takes pictures. He has found that the legal ones are doing an excellent job; it's the illegal ones that don't get checked.

Can a moratorium be productive?

The question that came up is what would be gained with a moratorium? What can the County accomplish? Several participants want to use the time to tighten

the regulations and application process. Another said you've had enough time. But time may be needed to develop a clear plan on what will be done. Will those in attendance who are being vocal now get involved and be part of a task force to work out the solution? Many of the same people come to the BOCC meetings to express opinions and demand answers, but few offer possible solutions. In the event of a moratorium, nothing will be gained unless more residents roll up their sleeves and tackle the problems with actual solutions and particulars to resolve them.

Commissioner Ken Anderson pointed out that a moratorium will not address the black market. How are we going to stop this? As with liquor prohibition a moratorium may in fact give impetus to illegal grows and the black market.

There is also the reality that the marijuana income will come to a halt.

Perception of Commissioners

One gentleman asked: "Where is the leadership? We want one of the Commissioners to be in charge. One of you take charge of this issue." He didn't have faith something would come out of the meeting; others said they wanted the Commissioners to do more. It may take an active citizenry to get the BOCC to be more proactive and motivated to find a positive outcome to this issue.

Spotlight on valley jails

In his Commissioner's Report, Tim Lovato was concerned with the inaccuracies being reported in other papers. He corrected how the Board pays the Sheriff. Lyn Zimmer, County Treasurer, confirmed that Warwick sent a letter requesting additional funding. The next step in the process is that he'll have to present an official budget amendment to the Board which will be advertised in the official county paper, the *Saguache Crescent*.

Marcia Heusted commended Sheriff Warwick for submitting a new revised budget. She expressed the necessity for more enforcement and an increase in the Sheriff's Department payroll and six new deputies. The resulting monetary increases cited were quite large without a solution as to how the County would pay for them. Other residents expressed their support of the Sheriff and demanded a new jail. Finding millions for that construction will not be easy, and the jail problem is not ours alone. All five counties struggle with the issue of safety, jail conditions and funding. Our BOCC attended a

roundtable with SLV county commissioners in January which revealed that jails across the San Luis Valley are struggling.

The medical needs of inmates are costly. Once an individual is booked into a county jail their Medicaid benefits are terminated. Since roughly 44% of the valley population is on Medicaid, the medical expenses significantly impact jail budgets for all the counties who must absorb the costs. Putting violators with mental health problems in jail along with those detoxing can result in alarming circumstances and expenses.

Sales Tax Grants

The first cycle for County Sales Tax Grants for 2018 has been announced. The Saguache County Board of Commissioners will be taking grant applications for Saguache County Sales Tax Grants until 3pm Friday, February 9, 2018. To be eligible grant applications must be in either of these areas: Emergency Services/Public Health and Safety; Youth and Senior programs, projects, or organizations; or Renewable Energy projects/Business Opportunities and Job Creation. Grant applications are available on the County website at saguachecounty.net or you can contact the Saguache County Administration office at 719-655-2231 to request a copy of the grant application. The grant process is not hard, and many worthy projects have been funded this way. What are you trying to accomplish for the good of residents in the county that an amount of \$5,000 or less would help jump start?

Two residents throw their hat in the ring

Connie Trujillo, who has served as Treasurer of Saguache County since 1995, is running for re-election. Rhiannon Curry, office manager of Road and Bridge who takes the minutes of BOCC meetings, is running for County Assessor.

Vehicle registration announcement

The new County Clerk, Trish Gilbert, expressed appreciation to former County Clerk, Carla Gomez, who has retired stating, "We appreciate Carla's important contributions to this office and wish her well." The department announced that beginning on January 23, 2018, residents can renew their vehicle registration online. This new service is available to all Saguache County citizens. Since the Center satellite office is closed, this may be especially welcome for residents in that part of the county.

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by **Allyson Ransom,**
Crestone Town Clerk
January 8 Board of Trustees meeting

The meeting began at 9:33am and adjourned at 3:27pm. The Trustees passed the following motions:

- To amend the meeting agenda with the addition of item 13G -Executive Session

- To accept a written notice submitted by Fedrica Solano on behalf of the CYP to end their lease agreement and vacate the thrift store premises belonging to the Town of Crestone at 111 S. Alder Street on February 1, 2018, and that the Crestone Board of Trustees would keep the space available for the Town's future needs.

- To approve a request from Nina Gonzales and Ara McDonald on behalf of their pagan group to have a contained fire next to the Plaza of Little Pearl Park for one evening on Friday, February 2, 2018 from sunset until 10pm with the following stipulations: that the fire and any live candle flames should be closely monitored and be extinguished by the 10pm park curfew time; that all electric battery-powered tea lights be removed at 8:30am the following morning and the area completely cleaned up, and that it will be inspected by the code enforcement officer.

- To adopt Ordinance #2018-001, an ordinance amending Ord. 2006-013 (an ordinance repealing existing zoning regulations of the Town of Crestone and enacting new zoning regulations for the Town) that includes permitting accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in residential zones.

- To adopt Resolution #001-2018 for setting appointed positions, calendar, posting places and the official newspaper for 2018. The vote of the Trustees was unanimously in favor with the exception of Trustee Laki who recused herself due to a conflict of interest.

- To adopt Resolution #002-2018 that amends Resolution # 015-2017 for appointing an election official and judges to include stating that a mail out ballot election will be held for 2018.

- To amend Resolution #001-2018 by including two additional newspapers as options for official legal posting locations as needed: the *Saguache Crescent* and the *Valley Courier*. The vote of the Trustees was unanimously in favor with the exception of Trustee Laki who recused herself due to a conflict of interest.

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

- To approve spending up to \$700 on a wood chipper for the Public Works Department.

- To appoint Mayor Danforth as primary representative and Trustee Goergen as secondary representative to the Crestone-Baca Sub Area Planning Commission for 2018.

- To move into executive session at 2:34pm as per CRS 24-6-

402(4) (b) to seek advice from the Town Attorney and as per CRS 24-6-402 (4) (g) to discuss confidential material as per state law.

- To close the executive session at 3:19pm.

- To adjourn the meeting at 3:27pm.

Reports & discussions

Treasurer Gwynn Busby presented her report and answered questions about the 2017 sales tax revenue, both the initial projected amount of \$240,000 and what was actually received, \$227,000. She discussed the following topics with the Trustees:

- 2017 Budget submission was accepted by DOLA.

- CDBG grant match money collected from donors in the bank totaled \$18,300

- Time spent on administrative duties for each donation check going through the downtown revitalization enterprise zone.

Also discussed was the request from the Public Works Coordinator to purchase a wood chipper.

Mayor Kairina Danforth announced that she was one of five representatives on the San Luis Valley Community Foundation and was representing both Saguache County and the Town of Crestone and reported on: the need to appoint two representatives to the Crestone-Baca Sub Area Planning Commission for 2018, the Eastern San Luis Valley Trails Coalition update, that fees were minimal to process donor checks and the advantages of Crestone being a state-designated "Enhanced Enterprise Zone," which allows extra tax credit for donors.

Clerk Allyson Ransom reported the following:

- Specifics about the upcoming one-day Board retreat and the offer of a free location to use and save money

- Partial road closure request for S. Cottonwood St. during the gas tank removal project in front of the Elephant Cloud Market

- CDBG grant updates and completion of all environmental and agency letters and responses required by the terms of the Community Development Block Grant for continuing the downtown improvements in Phase II

- Election preparation progress and candidate packets

Water Systems Manager Ann Bunting reported on: future water extensions on W. Copper Ave. and the best locations to extend lines to create a loop; the need to have a reimbursement policy for individuals running line extensions and holding another work session to discuss this subject along with completing utility policies in general; and that the Division of Water Resources sent a warning letter to the Town that all water sampling site information must be sent to the individual property owners as well as the State. Ann Bunting also stated that the water tank should be cleaned and that the Town Hall building should be connected to the municipal water system as per the state.

Public hearing

Attorney Gene Farish opened the public hearing at 1:45pm on the proposed zoning amendment to allow ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) in all residential zones in the Town of Crestone. All of the Trustees were present. Attorney Farish confirmed that the hearing was publically posted and read the ordinance aloud before asking for comments. There was no audience, and noting that there were no further comments, Attorney Farish closed the evidentiary portion of the hearing at 2:03pm and remanded the matter to the Board for action on ordinance #2018-001 to approve adding ADUs.

Other news

Fire Department Update: Adam Kinney announced that he had recently joined the volunteer fire department and reported on the state of the department, which is part of the Northern Saguache County Fire District (NSCFD). He requested more radios from NSCFD and was told they had none. The Board discussed Crestone's unique geographic location and its potentially hazardous situation with a high fire danger and the necessity for adequate emergency supplies.

Cristina Cabeza-Kinney presented a short film she created on an art-driven project called the Belonging Bandwagon. She stated that one of their goals involved creating cultural policies that they would like the Town to adopt to require cultural impact studies before any developments could be approved in town.

The Trustees scheduled a work session on February 5, 2018 to complete policy updates for water and sewer connections.

The Town of Crestone's Regular Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 and will be conducted via a mail out ballot. There will be four Trustee positions on the ballot and a referred measure asking for a sales tax increase of 1.2%.

The ballots will be mailed on March 12, 2018 and voters may return their completed and sealed ballots by mail or as walk-ins to the Town Hall office where there will be a secure "Vote Here" ballot box. The Town cannot accept ballots in the water payment drop box or shoved under the door.

There will also be a state-mandated TABOR (Tax Payer Bill of Rights) notice sent out to town electors by March 4, 2018 regarding the sales tax measure. Please

contact the Saguache County Clerk's Office at 655-2512 to verify that your current physical address is correct as signature and address verifications are now required for ballots to be counted by the appointed judges.

Correspondence

The Board discussed a letter received from Fredrica Solano on behalf of the CYP to end their month-to-month lease agreement at 111 S. Alder St. and that the thrift store would close February 1, 2018. Due to space constraints for the Board and staff, the Trustees agreed to keep the room available for future Town of Crestone administrative needs.

Other information

- Free brush pick-up for town residents takes place the first Monday of each month. Please call Town Hall at 719-256-4313 to schedule a pick up 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; however, the office will be closed on February 19 for President's Day.

- 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 one week in advance to be placed on the agenda. Presentations must be kept to ten minutes.

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

- 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, as well as *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.

- A Certified Notary Public is available during regular office hours and the cost is \$5 for each signature being verified and notarized 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 prior to arrival as there is limited space at the counter.

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The old underground gas tanks were emptied out and removed from the ground on January 17. It was thought there were only two tanks in the ground; turns out there were four. Two had been emptied and discontinued over 30 years ago. All were removed according to environmental health and safety standards by the contractor. Soil samples have been sent in for testing. *photo by Lori Nagel*

New gas station construction continues in Crestone

The making of a new gas station at the Elephant Cloud grocery store has been underway. The old gas tanks have been removed. Including two unexpected and unused old ones that probably date back to the 1950's. At times the road at the corner of Cottonwood and Silver have been closed as heavy equipment worked.

Work will progress on putting in new tanks and pumps to the east of where the pumps had been. The old pumps were in the town right

of way. It is expected that work will continue into mid or late February and everyone's patience is appreciated. Until then, the town of Crestone does not have any gasoline available. The nearest gas stations are in Saguache, Mosca or Salida. So plan ahead if you are visiting Crestone!

All work is being monitored for safety and done according to state and federal health standards for the removal and placement of gasoline tanks.



The Town of Crestone is getting new gas pumps at the Elephant Cloud! The first big step to this project was tearing out all the concrete surrounding the old gas pumps and hauling it off. *photo by Lori Nagel*

Flyovers

continued from page 1

scale battle training could happen over our heads up to 24 hours a day. This occurred in a climate in which military jets were flying in both directions in a one-way MTR over the Sangres, breaking picture windows from their sonic booms, and scaring civilians and cars whom they would mock-strafe over the Moffat School and Hwy. 17. The Open Space Alliance joined forces with 5 other citizen groups throughout southern Colorado to protest the planned MOA. While all of us defeated the MOA after only 8 months, the Open Space Alliance, later under the leadership of Glenn Ennis, worked with COANG over a decade in a process including an EIS to change the ex-

isting MTR from the previously existing 30-mile-wide strip through the valley to the 6-mile-wide MTR described above. In 2002, the Saguache County commissioners (unanimously), the FAA regional office (Redmond, WA), and the National Guard Bureau (Andrews AFB; D.C.) all agreed on the current MTR. The Airspace Manager at Peterson AFB also agreed to designate the Crestone/Baca area as a "sensitive area" on their flight maps, primarily because of the numerous spiritual centers.

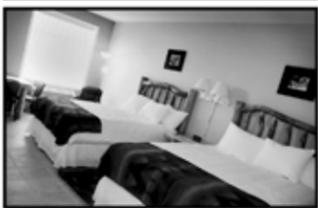
It's critical that we continue to inform COANG when military jets fly over our community, as otherwise, with the turnover in COANG leadership, we may once again experience the alarming flyovers that were widely experienced in the '80's and '90's. Remember that COANG has helped us before and will help us again.

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Classical piano event at Shumei February 18

Grisha Krivchenia brings a matinee performance Sunday, Feb. 18 at 2pm. Join us for an afternoon of classical music. Grisha Krivchenia is a composer and pianist residing in Santa Fe and the Seattle area. He enjoys a busy performance schedule. Professional ensembles throughout North America and Europe realize his compositions, and recent premieres have taken place in Seattle, Los Angeles, and Bucharest.

Grisha completed his studies at Oberlin Conservatory, where he studied piano with Sedmara Rutstein and composition with Jeffrey Mumford. Other teachers include Lewis Nielson, Eric Larsen, Marilyn Neeley, and Falko Steinbach.

Grisha has devoted the past few years to exploring ways in which a musical career can intersect with a life of public service. In 2007, Grisha founded the music program at Spring Street International School in Friday Harbor (WA), where he taught for seven years. In 2008, Grisha collaborated with students, families, and the Gates Foundation to build a recording studio for all Friday Har-



Grisha Krivchenia performs at Shumei Sunday, February 18 at 2pm.

bor youth. He writes original music with veterans, hospice patients, and refugees in an effort to tell the stories of those who usually go unheard.

To hear examples of Grisha's work visit <http://grishakrivchenia.com> or look him up on YouTube.

Call 719-256-5284 or visit www.shumeicrestone.org for further information. There is a \$10 suggested donation at the door.

Gallery Mint Valentine event Featured Artist Stephen Futral

by Desi Faraci

Saturday, February 10, 4 to 6pm the Crestone Artisans Gallery will host an event titled, "Mint To Be My Valentine." Mint-inspired flavors will be served, like mint cookies, mint tea, mint chocolates and more, along with live music. A free drawing for a piece of artwork by our featured "Artist of the Month", Stephen Futral, will be raffled.

Stephen Futral, locally known as "Ish," is the artist of the month for the gallery. He will showcase his original works on the gray feature wall. You will find original art with calligraphy brushstrokes, encaustics with mixed media, watercolors, acrylics and more. From fine art originals, prints and greeting cards, Ish creates an array of subjects with a poetic nature. He has become a well known local face as part of our gallery, a member of the Creative Arts District and local art group known as Crestone Artists.

He attended four different art schools over the years and has done a wide range of projects. Stephen's eclectic past includes adding decals to a Rolls Royce, designing strobed 8' mandalas for various discotheques, light shows, and programming lighting for a rock band in a beer commercial. His unique history includes being an assistant art director for a Hollywood film, he opened two Integral Yoga Institutes and was even on stage for the open-



Calligraphy brushstrokes. Art by Stephen Futral

ing of the Woodstock Music Festival with Swami Satchidananda. A myriad of other careers have followed through the years from being a jeweler, winning first place for design in the prestigious east coast Rhinebeck Craft Fair; a massage therapist, working on his doctor and chiropractor; a cook, cooking for Swami Satchidananda, Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche and Thrangu Rinpoche as well for groups of 500.

Stephen tries to explore the relationship of mind/heart with the creative process, whether that be painting, writing, cooking and simply being. The idea of genuineness and authentic presence, which can't be manufactured, are the pillars of his Firstthought Studios, where he offers workshops in Calligraphy and Encaustics.

In moving to Crestone 6 years ago, Stephen Futral has been able to be in the position of pursuing his art and writing while sharing with the middle and high school students through the mentorship program offered through the Crestone Charter School. He was just in an International Art Show in Beirut, Lebanon, and is currently showing in Crestone Artisans Gallery and Shumei International Institute simultaneously. Stephen Futral's art is in collections throughout the US, Canada and Europe.

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

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

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

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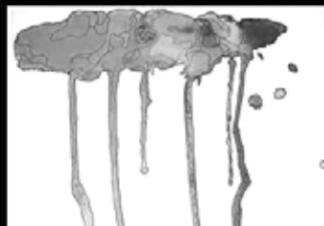
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PRESENTS

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The Crestone Poetry Festival (Poem Fest) February 23-25

The Crestone Poetry Festival (Poem Fest) will be taking place in Crestone this coming February 23-25. The three day event will be a gathering of regional poets, many of whom are affiliated with writing programs at Adams State University, Western Colorado State University, Fort Lewis College, Colorado College, and Colorado State University (Pueblo).

The event will begin on Friday evening February 23 at 7pm at the Crestone Charter School, featuring poets whose work explores communities, cultures, and places in and beyond the American Southwest. John Brandi and Renee Gregorio of El Rito, NM whose explorations have taken them through a variety of geographies, will be reading from their latest book, called *Po' Siempre: Cuba Poems*. Aaron Abeyta, the mayor of Antonito, Colorado and a professor of English and creative writing at Adams State will be reading poems deeply rooted in the San Luis Valley.

Master of ceremonies Peter Anderson of Crestone, one of the festival organizers and also a writing instructor at Adams State, hopes to introduce some aspiring poets from the Crestone Charter School as well. The evening performance will be followed by a Poet's Café at the Cloud Station in Crestone beginning at 9, featuring local jazz musicians and open mic reading opportunities.

On Saturday morning February 24, a variety of writing workshops and classes will be offered at the Crestone Charter School beginning at 9:30. On Saturday afternoon, from 1-2 at the Charter School, Crestone poets will take the stage followed by seasoned poets from all over the state of Colorado alternating with open mic participants until around 5:30.

Saturday evening's reading at 7pm will feature Esther Belin, an award-winning Diné poet and multimedia artist with several award-winning books from the University of Arizona Press, and Eutimia Cruz-Montoya, born in Denver, who is a poet, performer, a contemporary medicine woman, and a Stanford-trained anthropologist. Shortly after the evening reading, from around 9 till closing, former Western Slope poet laureates Art Goodtimes and Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer will host and animate a music and poetry event at the Crestone Brewing Company with local band Lunar Verde. Art Goodtimes will also be closing out the weekend back at the Charter School with a "Talking Gourds" poetry circle on Sunday morning February 25 from 10 to 12.

Anyone wishing to volunteer, participate, provide housing for visiting poets or make a donation to the event can email Peter Anderson at pilgrimage@fairpoint.net.



Esther Belin.



Eutimia Montoya Cruz.



Juliana Aragon Fatula.

Weekend schedule at a glance:

Friday Feb. 23

6:00 Registration, Crestone Charter School (CCS)

7:00 Reading, "Heartbeat Geography"; John Brandi, Renee Gregorio, and Aaron Abeyta. CCS, \$10

9:00 "Poet's Café," Jazz and spoken word; Cloud Station \$5 cover

Saturday Feb. 24

9:30-12:30 Poetry and writing workshops, CCS, \$15 each

1:00-2:15 Crestone Poets, CCS

2:30-5:30 Featured Colorado Poets and Open mic, CCS, \$10

7:00-8:30 "Poetic Medicine" Esther Belin and Eutimia Cruz-Montoya, CCS, \$10

9:00-???: "Rhythm and News" Music, Poetry, Good Cheer and Dancing with Art Goodtimes, Rose-

merry Wahtola Trommer, and Lunar Crest, Crestone Brewing Company, \$5 cover

Sunday Feb 25

10-12 "Talking Gourd Circle," CCS; Bring a poem to share

POETS DO IT WITH PASSION



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FEBRUARY 23-25 @
CRESTONE CHARTER SCHOOL
CLOUD STATION
CRESTONE BREW COMPANY
www.poemfest.com**



Crestone, will you be our Valentine?

Friday Night Music Series ~ 9PM

- 2/2 - The Audience (CBC House Band)
- 2/9 - Luna Verde (Local Jam Band)
- 2/16 - Fever Dream (rock/pop)

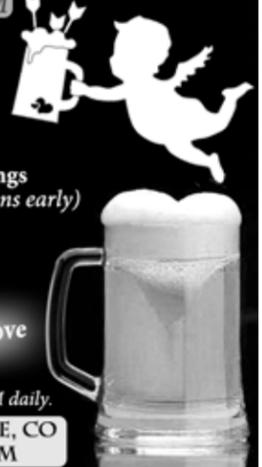
Upcoming Events

- Wednesday 2/7 Karaoke with Nikki Z
- 2/14 Valentines Day Prix Fixe and Beer/Wine Pairings
Musical stylings by Barry Monroe (make reservations early)
- 2/23-2/24 Sushi Night with Chef Carl Cole
All fish flown overnight directly from Honolulu
- Wednesday 2/28 Steve Storm and Friends
- Friday 3/17 St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Come in from the cold and enjoy our new cozy wood stove

HOURS Mon: 4PM-Close, Tues-Sun: 12PM-Close Kitchen closes at 9PM daily.

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ALMA

and Friends
Annual Concert 2018
at Society Hall
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featuring
Max Gomez
with Fiji Acoustic




Saturday, February 17, 2018

Tickets \$20 at the door
Free to new or renewing members for 2018
Light refreshments will be available
Doors open at 6:00, concert starts at 7:00

Annual SLV Seed Exchange happens February 11 at Joyful Journey

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.

This is a great way to meet your neighbors. Come enjoy the presentations and talk gardening and seeds!



Jason Anderson shared his worms with eager recipients at a prior SLV Seed Exchange. Ansley Bryce, pictured here, was looking forward to making a new home for these little guys. This event has become very popular in the region as local gardeners share gardening tips and heirloom seeds from plants that have grown well in the San Luis Valley. photo by Lori Nagel



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*My dearest Ellie,
Crazy for you!!!*



— all my love,
Dune



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Tues 5pm/Joyful Journey

Bodywork by appointment

719.298.0360
CynthiaNielsen@Olt.org



8TH ANNUAL *San Luis Valley* Seed Exchange

Sunday, February 11, 2018
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa
Conference Center
Moffat, Colorado

1:00 P.M. GUEST SPEAKER:
ABE ROSENBERG
Conejos Clean Water
Director of Community Gardens & Outdoor Programs

Thanks to all of Our Sponsors:

Always Azul Pottery, Brady's West Garden Center, Colorado Central Telecom, Crestone Brewing Company, Crestone Eagle, Crestone Mercantile & Hardware Store, Elephant Cloud Market, High Ground Gardens, Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa, Mirage Trading Company, Moffat & Sallida Hydroponic Supply, O&V Printing, Rockey Farms, Saguache 4th Street Diner & Bakery, Saguache Crescent, Saguache Works, Shumel International Institute, Simple Foods Market, Sol Mountain Farm, Sunshine Market, The Village Pub, Valley View Hot Springs with Everson Ranch and Villa Grove Trade

- ◆ SAVE AND SHARE WITH OTHERS
- ◆ PRESERVE LOCAL HEIRLOOMS
- ◆ DOOR PRIZES
- ◆ GARDENING BOOKS
- ◆ VISIT FROM A MUDITA DAIRY CAMEL
- ◆ INFORMATIONAL BOOTH BY EVERSON RANCH
- ◆ PRESENTATION OF NATIVE SPECIES BY ALAMOSA FOREST SERVICE
- ◆ TOUR OUR ON-SITE GREENHOUSE
- ◆ FOOD & DRINKS
- ◆ DISCOUNTED SOAKS WITH EVENT BROCHURE
- ◆ PUBLIC EVENT
- ◆ BRING CLEARLY LABELED SEEDS, BULBS OR CLIPPINGS (NO SEEDS PROHIBITED OR REGULATED BY LAW)
- ◆ DON'T HAVE SEEDS? DON'T WORRY!
- ◆ SUGGESTED DONATION \$5.00 PROCEEDS BENEFIT MOUNTAIN VALLEY COMMUNITY GARDEN IN SAGUACHE

INTERESTED IN BEING INVOLVED?
Contact Valerie at Joyful Journey
(719) 256-4329



Joyful Journey's Customer Appreciation Event

On Tuesday, February 6 admission to Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa will be free from 5-10pm. Join us for our Customer Appreciation Event. We are so grateful for the continued support of our guests and are looking forward to another successful year in the San Luis Valley.

Local filmmaker presentation Feb. 9

On February 9 the Crestone Creative District is proud to present the next installment in the Local Filmmaker Series. Filmmakers Sharron Rose and Jay Weidner will present a film made through their production company, Sacred Mysteries Productions, which was founded in 2000 by Sharron and Jay. Since that time they have created numerous documentaries and a feature film which can all be seen on Gaia.com. All of their work at Sacred Mysteries Productions has been based upon sacred teachings and initiatory experiences that lie at the heart of the world's spiritual traditions. Currently, Sharron is producer/director for Sacred Mysteries' new documentary series, Quantum Qi: The Taoist Art of Nurturing Life, and Jay is the Senior Director of Original Content at Gaia.com.

The films will be shown at the Colorado College Conference Center on Friday evening, February 9 at 7pm. Refreshments will be available.

Free computer clinic for seniors

February 5, 7, 12, and 14, from 9:30-11:30am 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 (aka Lori Sunflower), 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 peacelorilove@gmail.com to register, as space is limited.



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 + Movement Meditation

It's Cabin Fever time!

Crestone Charter School and Neighbors Helping Neighbors are excited to announce the annual "Cabin Fever Talent Show" will be held on Saturday, March 10 at CCS. This year's program has an awesome lineup of local talent.

The doors will open at 5:30 for a \$7 chili dinner to ward off the winter chill, and the talent show begins at 7pm.

During intermission, choose from cakes, pies and more plus hot and cold drinks.

After the talent show once again will be featuring the Decadant Dessert Auction. Do not miss it! The cakes will be exceptional.

Admission is \$10 for adults. Cabin Fever is a fundraiser for the Crestone Charter School and Neighbors Helping Neighbors

For more information, to volunteer or donate a cake or dessert, call Judie Rose at 256-5110 or Isaline Simms at 298-9133.

Community invited to CEOLP memorial celebration

For the past five years, members of the Crestone End of Life Project have held a contemplative retreat day at Dragon Mountain Temple, which is followed by a ceremony at the cremation site honoring each person we have served since CEOLP became a legal entity as well as those who came before and set the precedent for open-air cremation in Crestone.

We invite friends and family members of those we have served to join us in celebrating their lives: sharing stories, music, poetry, tears and laughter. Sunday, February 4, 3pm at the cremation site. Call 719-588-7415 for more information.

Sophia Writers Circle

Interested in writing or in polishing your writing skills? Need encouragement or cheerleading to get your writing projects completed or published? Consider joining the Sophia Writers Circle.

Made up of community members who write in many different genres, the Sophia Circle meets weekly to provide support for writers and their writing projects. Benefits of this local group include: no attendance requirements, writers may drop in on any meeting; writers of all ages are invited. In order to get feedback from fellow writers, plan to bring up to 5 copies of the work you want to share with the group.

For more information, call Holly at 719-588-7066. Meetings take place in the downstairs conference room at the Colorado Welcome Center in Alamosa, 6th and State. Sophia Writers Circle meets weekly on Sunday afternoons from 1-3pm.

Studio 828
 Tues * Thurs * Friday 10-3
 Salon located on East side of Sangre De Cristo Inn
 call for appointment 682-553-5797

Women's March in Alamosa draws a big crowd

by Anrahyah Arstad

There was a delightful feeling of unity as a variety of women, men and children marched to the beat of the ASU drum corps at the SLV Women's March in Alamosa. Participants were varied in age, gender, and location. One count put the total of those walking at around 500, which clearly felt like many more than last year's march. Following the walk into the heart of Alamosa, organizers had a nice program on the campus. A mantric invocation opened the program, led by two Kundalini yoga instructors. A woman rancher from the valley spoke of feminine collaboration and the importance of story. Of interest was a mixed panel of 20-somethings sharing their outlook toward activism from a generational perspective. It is so nice to join with sisters and brothers from all around our diverse valley community.



Women's March in Alamosa January 20

photo by Lori Nagel



A long line of pink hats among the marchers in Alamosa

photo by Lori Nagel

Happy 25th Anniversary to the Wife of my life! Love you always, K



"This is what democracy looks like!" A poster of Ruth Bader Ginsburg from the Women's March in Denver January 20. Kizzen Laki, Janet Woodman and many SLV citizens drove to Denver to join the tens of thousands of people who marched there. Many others drove to Santa Fe to join the marchers there. They marched for "social justice, human rights, and equality for women and all marginalized people nationwide."

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Community Calendar—February 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

Wednesday, January 31

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

Thursday, February 1

- Imbolc

Friday, February 2

- Groundhog Day

Sunday, February 4

- Holy Eucharist, Little Shepherd in the Hills 2-3pm
- CEOLP Community Memorial Celebration – CEOLP cremation site 3-4:30 pm 719-588-7415

Monday, February 5

- FREE Computer Clinic for Seniors, Baca Grande Library 9:30-11:30am Free 719-937-1202
- Crestone Planning Commission Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 6:-8:00 pm 719-256-4313

Tuesday, February 6

- Saguache County Commissioners meeting – Saguache County Building 9:00 am saguache-county.net 719-655-2231
- Joyful Journey Customer Appreciation event – Joyful Journey Hot Springs 5-10:00 pm Free

Wednesday, February 7

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

Thursday, February 8

- Rumi Study Circle. All welcome! – 3:00 pm-5:00 pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602

Friday, February 9

- Local Filmmaker showing, Colorado College Conference Center 7-9pm \$ 10.00 719-849-8081

Saturday, February 10

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

Sunday, February 11

- Congressional Candidates Roundtable Forum, Crestone Charter School noon-2pm 719-221-8434
- Studio of the month – Beatris Burgoin's Art Studio 2:00 pm-4:00 pm 719-256-4706
- Congressional Candidates Roundtable Forum, Saguache Road & Bridge 3-5pm 719-221-8434
- Mystical Qur'an Class. All welcome! – 3:00 pm-5:00 pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602

Monday, February 12

- 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, February 13

- Saguache DEMS Caucus Training & Central Committee Meeting, Saguache Road & Bridge Meeting Room 5-7pm 719-256-5436
- Crestone End of Life Project Monthly Meeting – Fellowship Hall, Little Shepherd Church 7-9pm 719-588-7415

Wednesday, February 14

- Valentine's Day
- Ash Wednesday mass – Nada Hermitage 9:00 am-9:45 am 719-256-4778
- FREE Computer Clinic for Seniors, Baca Grande Library 9:30-11:30am Free 719-937-1202
- Shivartri – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 pm-3:30 am babajashram.org 7192564108

Thursday, February 15

- New Moon
- New Moon Riwo Sangchö – Partial Solar Eclipse (Outdoor Smoke Offering) – Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 10-11am
- New-moon Fire Ceremony, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am-noon babajashram.org 256-4108
- BGPOA Board Meeting – BGPOA Meeting Room 6:00 pm-8:00 pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Friday, February 16

- Losar, Tibetan New Year: Earth Dog Year – Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Saturday, February 17

- Grammy's Kitchen Grand Opening – Grammy's Kitchen All Day 719-256-6000
- Prayer B'fast, Crestone Baptist Church 8-10am

Sunday, February 18

- Classical pianist Grisha Krivchenia at Shumei, 2pm \$10 www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Monday, February 19

- Presidents' Day

Tuesday, February 20

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

Wednesday, February 21

- BGPOA Environmental & Architectural Committee (EAC) meeting – BGPOA Meeting Room 10:00 am bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Thursday, February 22

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

Friday, February 23

- Crestone Poetry Festival – 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 24

- Ibn Arabi Class 2:45-5pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-588-8602
- Crestone Poetry Festival – 9:00 am-9:00 pm
- Quilters monthly meeting – Saguache County Rd. & Bridge Building 10am-1pm 719-256-4845

Sunday, February 25

- Crestone Poetry Festival – 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- Guru Rinpoche Tsok (Feast Offering Potluck) – Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Wednesday, February 28

- Purim, sundown

Tuesday, March 6

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

Saturday, March 10

- Cabin Fever Talent Show, Crestone Charter School 5:30 pm \$10 for adults 256-5110, 298-9133

Sunday, March 11

- Start of Daylight Saving Time

Thursday, March 15

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

Tuesday, March 20

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

*A society that has more justice
is a society that needs less charity.
-Ralph Nader*

Daily/Weekly Events

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

Daily

- Morning Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 7-8am, 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.org
- Jyorei, Shumei Sanctuary, please be seated by 7:50am and 5:50pm, 256-5284
- Tours, gallery and Jyorei, Shumei, 9am-5pm, 256-5284.
- Open meditation & prayers in Vajra Vidya Retreat Center Shrine Room 9-10am daily; Traditional Buddhist Shrine Room available till dusk; All welcome to come and practice. 719-256-5539 vajravidya.com
- Tours, Temple, & Gift Shop ~ Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.org
- Evening Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 6-7pm. Chanting in Sanskrit and Hindi. All are welcome. 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.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
- Sunday School & Service Crestone Baptist Church 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Monday

- Al-Anon meeting, Little Shepherd in the Hills 1pm

Tuesday

- Community Yoga, Joyful Journey w/Cynthia 5-6:15pm \$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
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Stories for Little Ones, Baca Grande Library 11:00 am Free 719-256-4100

Wednesday

- Wednesday Night AA Meeting, Moffat Free Spirit Christian Church 7:00 pm-8:00 pm
- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30 am-10:00 am By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Wednesday Night Bible Study Crestone Baptist 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Thursday

- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Baptist Church 12:00 pm-1:00 pm www.slvaa.org
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Indivisible Postcard Posse Desert Sage Restaurant 12:30 pm-2:00 pm 719-937-7699

Saturday

- Narcotics Anonymous Open Step Study meeting Fellowship Hall, Little Shepherd Church 9:00 am-10:00 am 7192564931

Out & About with Lori Sunflower

Tell me a love story




Christine Gingrich

After a study abroad in Mexico, I embarked on a quest to find “La Boca del Cielo”, a pristine beach on the southern coast of Oaxaca, featured in a film I had seen. I failed. A year later, when I moved to the city of Oaxaca to teach English, I met Armando. When I told him of my failed mission he offered to drive me six hours to the coast. When we could no longer drive on the isolated sandy road to Bahía Cacaluta—the real name of the beach—we walked. The center island arose into view, then the expanse of the ocean. As I stood in awe, Armando said, “This is just the first of your dreams that I will fulfill.” For Armando, those are not just pretty words. In our 14 years together he has never stopped manifesting my dreams. We make a good team. He is grounded and steady. He brings form and force. I am creative and impulsive. I bring possibility and movement. We stretch and complement each other. From the beginning, my dad told Armando that the secret to a long marriage is two words: “Yes, Dear.” Armando sometimes says the words, and he always lives them.



Joe Reininger

Stephanie and I have always regarded ourselves as soulmates. We went to UCCS in Colorado Springs, and were both members of the intervarsity Christian fellowship. There was a table where everyone hung out, and I showed up one day and she was there and just burst into light with her smile. We met in January and married in

December. We were listening to Tiny Tim one night and of course back then, you put the record on and then you had to get up and switch sides, and that’s when I proposed to her. So his song, “What of It” has always been our song. It’s about people living in near-poverty. We’ve always been one step ahead of financial crisis, which has drawn us closer together. We’ve been married 40 years and have 3 beautiful daughters. Of course, over the years, we’ve changed—she’s still an evangelical, but I’m a theosophist, feminist Buddhist, things like that. But we’ve found that beyond shared beliefs, beyond common likes and dislikes, the greatest of these is love.



Myan Sorenson

It’s ironic because at the ripe old age of 23, I adopted the motto, A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle. I hadn’t had much luck in the love arena! A couple months later, working at a record store in Boulder, this guy came in, ordered a bunch of really obscure blues records, then proceeded to stop back every week to see if they’d come in. In June of 1978, he asked me to go for a hike. I lived in Nederland, west of Boulder, so that piqued his interest, like, “Oh, she’s already a mountain girl!” He arrived in this old jeep with a mock orange blossom bouquet from his grandma’s garden, and I started keeping score like, “uh-huh, that’s one!” He was well prepared for the hike—bottle of wine to put in the creek, cheese, bread, etc. I was duly impressed; it was both romantic and simple. Six weeks later, we were living together, married two years later, and now we’ve got 2 children and 2 grandchildren. Life has unfolded nicely. When you’re together 40 years, life happens, but the richness in it is: can you allow each other to grow? If you can give leeway so one doesn’t always have to follow the other, but there’s a center course you both walk, that’s the magic of a long-term relationship.



Peter Taylor

My love story is with my sweet, darling, hermosa, preciosa, esposa, Denise Peine. We met in a college Portuguese class in 1970. I was immediately struck by her low, sexy voice, really long legs, and wonderful sense of humor, but shy about asking her out. One night, it was snowing lovely on the University of Colorado campus. I ran into Denise and asked her out for coffee, which became much more! She graduated one year before me and went to school in Arizona, but we stayed in touch. A job took me to South Dakota, and it didn’t seem right for Denise to follow. I returned 16 years later and became very curious about my lovely little Denise. She had a different last name, so I knew she’d married. Just as I was calling her, the song came on the radio, “Oh Denise, Scooby-doo, I’m in love with you . . .” I put the receiver to the radio when she answered, then I spoke, “Denise, this is Peter Taylor. Remember me?” She was divorcing. We dated, but for 10 years (Denise calls it the “dark decade”) we weren’t actually together. Then we went to a Habitat build in Hawaii, and I realized the most precious woman in my life was right in front of me. As I’d told her in a Valentine’s Day card, I’ve loved her since before she was born. Proposing in Hawaii with the old trick of the waiter bringing the dessert with the ring, he put it down in front of me by mistake. I don’t think he quite got the concept of what I was doing there! She said yes. The rest is history. Thirteen years later, I still believe I loved her before she was born!



David Lee

We met in Columbus, Ohio in February, 1972. I’d seen Carol at a couple parties because we had some mutual friends and knew a little about her. Anyway, we met

at a friend’s house and that was it! There was a spark between us and we were together from then on. We got married in August. Carol always says that when my knee touched hers she felt an electric current. Shortly after we wed, we went to Malaysia, which was actually really important for our relationship because of all the stuff that surfaces at the beginning—the knight in shining armor isn’t so shiny, she’s not such a princess. With no family or friends to complain to about each other, we had to work it out. During that first year, we started to really love where we were, being there and doing things together. That really cemented our relationship. In our 45 years together, we’ve had many adventures in different places. Crestone is our newest adventure! We have 2 kids and a grandson. My long term relationship advice to others is patience, gratitude, compassion—all those things are important. But above all these is patience!



Ashley Van Wart

Justin and I met at Valley View. I’d gone there with somebody and that relationship became a mess. I was in a bind and didn’t have a way to get back to Boulder. Justin and I had met the day before, so I tracked him down and asked for a ride to Boulder. He said yes, and from there, we became a couple. We connected on the 4-hour drive and decided to see where it went. We dated long-distance 2 months, and then Justin asked me to move in. We got married a year later. Another year later we had a beautiful little baby! We were both ready for something real and serious, and there were a lot of similarities for us. I’ve always had the sense that it’s new, like we’re not old soulmates, but new ones. We’ve had to work at it, as in any relationship. You need to find your own groove and work out your past history with this new person. Ideally, we’d all come together and just be perfectly fresh, ready and baggage free, but no, that’s not the case. For sure, we have to work at it. But, working at it together makes us stronger, both individually and as a couple. And now as a family!

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.



Crestone Music Festival goes enjoying a fabulous performance back in the day when the festival was packed with people. This wonderful Crestone tradition will be greatly missed. photo by Lori Nagel

New CPI Board members needed

Crestone Performances Inc. is extending an invitation to those in the community who might be interested in joining our Board of Directors. They meet once a month and also participate in fundraising events. The only experience needed is life experience. All walks and all talks have something to offer. The focus of CPI is evolving and we need new Board members to help steer us into the future. Current Board members are: Don Richmond, Eli Dokson, Cheryl Rowe, Sarah Koehn Frye and Peter Taylor.

The meetings are fun and our mission is certainly rewarding. Our mission is to create a positive cultural, educational, and economic impact in Saguache County and the San Luis Valley by providing affordable access to presentations from diverse traditions and cultures. CPI is a 501(c)3 community service organization now in its 16th year.

For more information please peruse our web site and call us at 719-256-4533. Thank you!

Goodbye to the Crestone Music Festival

Festival to close, but school performances will continue

by Tom Dessain

It is with sad hearts but sound minds that Crestone Performances Inc. officially announces there will be neither CrestFest nor the Crestone Music Festival in 2018. After nineteen amazing musical years, it's time to hang up the mic cables. It's been a wild ride with unforgettable experiences along the way. The Crestone Music Festival became one of Colorado's premiere music events. The beautiful rural remote location and unique population along with national headliners and a multi-genre and multi-cultural approach made for a one-of-a-kind event to which folks enthusiastically responded. Over the years we booked over 400 acts which translates to over 2,000 musicians, dancers and clowns. We also infused over a million bucks into the local economy while doing so.

But, times have changed. Nineteen years ago there were very few festivals and we stood out. Now there is a glut of festi-

vals across the state and we can no longer compete. It was always a long shot and it's amazing we went as far as we did. We made our run and had our fun. We aren't slamming the door completely shut, but we can't speculate on an expensive outdoor event again anytime soon. We had never had two bad years in a row but have now had four and we just have to throw out the anchor, folks. However, we are not quitting but rather forging on with our other worthwhile, yet much less expensive programs.

Our Youth Enrichment Program just produced our 204th show with our 39th presenter in the schools. We have been able to subsidize the cost of shows 50% to 100% over the years and that program continues to grow and expand. Our community service program is also growing. This service provides consulting and technical assistance to worthwhile community productions. CPI books bands, erects tents, provides fencing and grounds supplies, and provides

and operates sound and lighting equipment. We also help organizations with advertising, accounting and all aspects of event production and planning. We annually assist ten to fifteen events a year and consult endlessly.

There are so many folks and organizations to thank. Special thanks do go out to Meryl Ennis, Deb Morley and Barbara Hoepfner and also Kizzen Laki, Janet Woodman and Lionel Covert for starting the fest. Special thanks also go out to the Baca POA and their staff for being so helpful and letting it continue at such a stellar

location. Thanks to all the Board members over the years along with all the sponsors, vendors, volunteers, coordinators and staff. But mostly, thank you community for being such a cool audience that created such a cool vibe in such a cool place. Thank you all!

PS . . . We have cut our overhead considerably and have a new office . . . in my bedroom. We are also selling off some of our assets accumulated over the years such as one of our large tents, sound equipment, lumber, trash cans, fencing, extension cords . . . etc. Give us a call at 719-256-4533 if interested. If you would like information on how to help us continue our endeavors, please see our web site at crestfest.org and let's talk. Thanks again!

Crestone Performances is selling one 46' diameter, 12 point, 1500 sq. foot, blue and beige tent for \$3,000. It is complete and in excellent shape. Included are 12 legs, straps, center pole with new winch, T-posts and T- post driver. It comes with a rolling storage container and portable loading ramp. We will train to put up. Also for sale are T-posts, snow fence, plastic fence, trash cans, electrical cords and 3 utility sinks. Please call 256-4533 for more info.



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Dr. Bradford Moss returns to HRRMC

Urologist Bradford Moss, M.D. has returned to the medical staff at Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center. He will join Drs. Chad DeRosa, John Mancini and Dayne Nelson in the HRRMC Urology practice located in the HRRMC Medical Clinics, 550 W. Hwy. 50, Salida.

Dr. Moss provided urology services at HRRMC from 2012-2015 before taking a sabbatical and relocating to Kansas City, KS. He and his wife, Peg, decided to return to Chaffee County where he could resume his medical practice.

Before his initial tenure with HRRMC, Dr. Moss was with the Center for Urologic Health in Akron, OH. He has also practiced in Florida and South Carolina.

"We are happy to welcome Dr. Moss back to our team," said CEO Bob Morasko. "He will be locally based and will work collaboratively with the other urologists to improve access to care and increase



Urologist Bradford Moss returns to HRRMC.

the availability of appointments."

Dr. Moss is board certified by the American Board of Urology. He received his medical degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine and completed his internship at Akron General Medical Center in Akron, OH. He completed his residency in urology through Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine.

To make an appointment with Dr. Moss, call 719-530-2000.

Deep vein thrombosis: A pain that cannot be ignored

(StatePoint) Fifty-three-year-old Bernie McKay never would have guessed that the pain he thought was a simple muscle cramp was actually a serious medical condition that could have stopped him in his tracks forever.

Bernie, who leads an active lifestyle and works in a hospital, experienced severe cramping in the back of his left thigh one morning while walking into work. The pain became so severe that he rushed himself to the emergency department, knowing that something wasn't right. After a series of consultations and tests, he was diagnosed as having deep vein thrombosis, or DVT.

DVT affects approximately 900,000 people in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and while a clot can form anywhere, it usually occurs in the legs or pelvis. Sometimes part of the blood clot can break off and travel to your lungs, which can cause a pulmonary embolism, a serious and potentially deadly condition.

Doctors typically diagnose DVT through tests such as an ultrasound or blood tests. First line of treatment can consist of medications and compression stockings, but these options don't actually remove or dissolve the clot. Many DVT blood clots can be absorbed by the body over time with the help of blood thinners; however, as long as the clot is present, it can cause permanent damage to the valves in the vein, leading to chronic pain and swelling called post-thrombotic syndrome (PTS).

Another treatment option that physicians may consider for their patients is a medical procedure called a mechanical thrombectomy. This procedure can help quickly restore blood flow by removing the clot altogether, thus reducing the amount and duration of medications a patient needs to take, and may help prevent future

complications.

"Recent medical advances are allowing more and more patients to have blood clots removed using minimally invasive procedures," said Dr. Kush Desai, Northwestern Memorial Hospital. "Some patients, like Bernie, may be candidates for a mechanical thrombectomy, which uses a special catheter designed to help break up and physically remove all or portions of the clot."

Only half of the people who develop DVT experience any symptoms, such as swelling, pain or tenderness in a leg with skin that's warm and red or discolored. However, there are risk factors that you should be aware of as they can increase your chances of developing DVT:

- Treatment for cancer;
- Prolonged lack of movement such as long distance travel or long periods of bed rest;
- A personal or family history of blood clots;
- Older age;
- Pregnancy.

Understanding the risk factors and being aware of various treatment options can help reduce your chance of developing a dangerous blood clot and the serious health complications that may be associated with it.

"With such a short recovery time, the procedure allowed me to spend time with my family and friends—without having to take medications for the rest of my life," said Bernie. "I'm more active than I was before, and I couldn't be happier with the outcome."

There are risks associated with all medical procedures. Talk with your doctor about the risks and benefits associated with mechanical thrombectomy. For more information visit ClearingtheClot.com or the Clearing the Clot Facebook community, patient resources developed by Boston Scientific. For more information, visit bostonscientific.com.

Take control of your health to help decrease your chances of developing DVT by understanding the risks and treatment options available.

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Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

January was a month of travel for Premanand and I as we did programs in various parts of Florida for 2 weeks. Life went on as usual at the Ashram under the dedicated guidance of Jonathan with help from Theo, Bill, Deborah, and Rita.

Maha Shivaratri occurs on Wednesday, February 14 this year. We will begin with a paduka puja honoring Shri Babaji at 6pm since it is also Babaji's Maha Samadhi that day followed by aarati. At about 7pm, we will perform the first of the four Lingam pujas that take place throughout the night. We will begin the all-night chanting at 10pm with another Lingam puja. There will be another puja at 12:30am and at 3am with completion of the all-night chanting at 3:30am. Shivaratri is a night of great sacredness and said to be when Lord Shiva's presence is most present on the earth. We ask that all who attend respect the sanctity of the evening. You may call the Ashram for more information at 719-256-4108.

The new-moon fire ceremony is on Thursday, February 15. The full-moon is on Thursday, March 1. 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.

We are also beginning to prepare for our annual on-line fundraiser auction which will be in April. In the past many of our local businesses have donated. If you are able to do so this year, please let us know at info@babajiashram.org.



Shivaratri at the Ashram Wednesday, February 14 from 10pm until 3:30am.

It is a large part of our operating budget, so we thank you in advance for this. You may view the site and even make your donation here directly at: biddingforgood.com/babajiashram.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is full of wonderful items and more are always arriving: there are brass statues, hand-decorated deity candles, 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://mahalakshmiashramshop.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, February 18 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.

Sri Aurobindo Learning Center News

by Charles Elerick, Ph.D.
celerick@utep.edu

In the second half of the 19th century, evolution was established as a fact and the organizing principle of biology. Darwin and his successors radically altered the scientific and broader cognitive framework of the western, and wider, world. In the early 20th century the other shoe dropped. Sri Aurobindo, having recognized evolution as a secure theory, however imperfectly developed, reminded humanity that the important question was what "mysterious energy" lay behind what was, he said, the superficial fact of evolution. And even more importantly, he recognized that human spiritual understanding could only be advanced by seeing life, including of course humanity, as the evolutionary expression of Consciousness. He shined a spiritual light on evolution and used light borrowed from scientific exploration to investigate the less accessible domain of spiritual understanding.

Sri Aurobindo shared unique insights regarding the relationship between evolution, understood as progressively biologized Consciousness, and reincarnation. To epitomize his approach, he said that rebirth makes no sense without evolution and that evolution makes no sense without rebirth. He thus challenged the classical notion of rebirth as taking another "turn on the wheel", the undesirable result of spiritual non-attainment. Equally unorthodox was his understanding of karma. He rejected the idea of karma as a regime of rewards and punishments, and instead he held that karma was experiential, experimental, and formative, with the potential to grow the evolving soul. For Sri Aurobindo there is no "bad karma." Mistakes borne of ignorance, omissions, distracted behavior, and even malfeasance retard the growth of the evolving soul, though they may provide lessons that in the long run accelerate growth. Their cost, spiritually, may or may not represent lost opportunity, ignoring for purposes of this discussion any societal price or penalty.

Evolutionary rebirth and formative karma constitute a single integrated concept that supports our understanding and ongoing exploration of its implications. It is the basis and motivation for living in intentional collaboration with the manifesting Consciousness, the Consciousness-Force. We are born, a reincarnated soul, with knowledge and progress from previous lives. We can open ourselves to this knowledge, typically subtle inclinations and impulses. We can seek, cultivate, and use the three-sided synergies between soul knowledge, life experience, and genomic inclinations to higher consciousness to accelerate the evolution of our soul. Our thus-evolved soul will, when it next takes birth, proceed with new impetus on its evolutionary journey to divine realization.

Sri Aurobindo willed to humanity insights and guidance but never the constraint of dogma. He experimented with a profound philosophical method that surfaces as practical guidance for living, and evolving in collaboration with the expressing Consciousness and with the never-changing Divine Principle.

<p>Many wonderful items from India! 50% off all gently used suits, saris, and blouses.</p>	<p>Maha Lakshmi Shop</p> <p>Incense, scarves, shawls, saris, candles, jewelry, oils, diffusers, prayer flags, singing bowls, CDs, crystals, books, purses, statues, clothes, Weleda products, & more.</p> <p>Open 10am - 5pm Everyday Call: (719) 256-4108 email: shop@Babajiashram.org www.Babajiashram.org</p>
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	<p>SRI AUROBINDO LEARNING CENTER</p> <p>A Non-Profit Educational Foundation</p> <p>P.O. Box 88 83 North Baca Grant Way Crestone, CO 81131 719-256-4917 sriaurobindolc@gmail.com sriaurobindolc.org</p>
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Starr Sightings

by Starr Sites
It's eclipse season

Note: The Crestone Eagle would like to welcome a new column to the paper "Starr Sightings". It is written by Starr Sites, who, when she lived in Crestone for many years was known as Betsi Sites. Hope you enjoy her column. -kz

Perhaps you saw the "Super Blue Blood Moon" lunar eclipse in the wee hours before dawn on Jan 31. But if you missed it, don't fret. Its energy is pervasive all around you. ("Super" refers to proximity to the Earth, making the Moon appear larger than usual; "Blue" is a quirk of the Gregorian calendar with its uneven-numbered months and indicates the second Full Moon occurring in any given month; and "Blood" is the red effect caused by the atmosphere during a lunar eclipse's totality.) In January the news was electrifying, revealing "fire and fury" in a chaotic White House, while culminating in a government shutdown on Trump's first anniversary as US President.

These two eclipses, Jan. 31 and Feb. 15, are the energy vortex

moments influencing this "eclipse season". The most precarious time during any "eclipse season" is between the first and the last Eclipse—in other words, the first half of February, during which time life can be uncertain and unexpected things can happen. Extra precautions and patience will be needed. The Jan. 31 eclipse chart reveals an "unaspected" and therefore rogue Uranus, so some less stable people may lose control under the pressures of this time.

Moon & Ceres

The eclipse Moon on Jan. 31 was "conjunct" (melded with) the Asteroid Ceres. While the Moon is emotional and domestic, indicating focus on the home front and keeping things together, despite outside challenges, Ceres rules gardens, the harvest and the Earth. She is a nurturer who helps us feel supported. Both are very feminine in nature, bringing together mothers and daughters, sisters and aunties, as when hundreds of thousands of women, plus some male allies, took to the streets of Los Angeles, New York,

Las Vegas, Oakland, Washington, D.C. and elsewhere in the Second Women's March to protest policies against immigrants, poor people and people of color. They stood up for women's rights to own their bodies, whether through "choice", or to say "No" to harassment in the work place, and to speak out against sexual abuse by men in power. These women demanded equal pay, they defended civil and voting rights for *all*, and some were even activated enough to run for public office.

The Leo-Aquarius polarity

With the Moon in Leo during the first Eclipse, there was pride and power "on both sides". Both Sun and Moon during the second eclipse are in Aquarius, so many will express humanitarianism—concern for our democracy, justice for the less fortunate, and citizenship for the D.A.C.A. kids brought here illegally but who call this country home. Politicians are being tested to "do the right thing", while citizens are either engaged in the political issues of the day, or are mentally tied up in their own preferred pursuits, where they also will be tested before they can "break on through to the other side".

The solar eclipse chart of Feb. 15 intensifies this focus. All the planets reside on one half of the chart, so while some people think "it's all about me", others are busy looking out for their neighbors, depending on which side of their natal chart these planets occupy. Sun (self), Moon (emotions), Mercury (mind), and the South Node (lessons from the past) are all in the fixed sign of Aquarius during

the Feb. 15 eclipse, although the Moon and Mercury will move into creative Pisces later in the month. Aquarians often won't budge on issues because they are so sure they know what's best. Hasty and impulsive Mars in fiery Sagittarius may get pushy and self-righteous. Loving Venus, gentle Neptune and inquisitive Chiron in compassionate Pisces, are sincerely trying to find solutions that serve everyone. But when they bend to the will of the strident, they are often perceived as weak by more dominant forces. However, stalwart Saturn and intense Pluto in determined Capricorn give support to the Pisces planets, for they know that the long-term future belongs to those who care for the Earth and for their fellow man. Meanwhile the animosity and opposition between factions is threatening the very fabric of society. It will take free thinkers with innovative plans (independent Uranus in Aries) to bring these polarized forces together.

All planets direct

But there is hope! All the planets are *direct* this month and will be until March 9. So it's a good time to initiate programs, start new businesses, review what is unfinished, apply for a new job, and open to fresh new partnerships. Despite the political chaos in Washington and around the world, if we grab the bull by the horns in our own personal lives, we can move forward, intuitively in sync with the natural flow of life. So don't let fear hold you back. It's time to work together to create a better future for *all*!



The Zacheis Planetarium at Adams State College in Alamosa.

Zacheis Planetarium announces February schedule

The Adams State University Zacheis Planetarium has released the free public showings schedule through February 17.

Thursdays, 7pm and 7:45pm:

February 1: *Supervolcanoes* and *Origins of Life*

February 8: *The Dark Matter Mystery* and *Space School*

February 15: *Chasing the Ghost Particle* and *Distant Worlds: Alien Life?*

Saturdays, 3pm and 3:45pm:

February 3: *Fractal Explorations* and *Seven Wonders*

February 10: *Undiscovered Worlds* and *Earthquake*

February 17: *Stars of the Pharaohs* and *Extreme Planets*

As always, admission is free for everyone, just check in at the front desk. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Doors open 15 minutes before the first show.

Visit: blogs.adams.edu/zacheis for details and movie descriptions.

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Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, meekness, gentleness, and self-control are the only way

Let's start fresh today. Do you know why you turn away from Me? You think I Am unmerciful and judgmental. You know you are not holy and you know I Am to some degree. You would rather do something else than confront your sin. Most of the time, you cannot walk in forgiveness so you do not think I can forgive you when I have paid the price for all sin. All you have to do is repent. You think if you can avoid Me long enough you can forget about your sin and unholy. You don't know you are on a slippery slope going down to destruction. I Am the only life, love, light and comfort that will bring you true peace, wholeness and rest. Don't you know that a good life starts and ends with a good God. You serve yourself an abundance of deception and then think you will find the happiness and love you are seeking. That is impossible!

You cannot mix dirt and rock and water together and make bread. You have tried church, but were told that you must be good or face Me and My judgment. That is an impossible task. You cannot be good in the flesh, and flesh will not and cannot approach Me. I Am a consuming fire.

So, how do you overcome the

perception you have of Me?

My love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control are the only way. These fruit can be so real in your lives when you invite Me in your heart. If you are angry, harsh, overbearing, or judgmental toward people, they will never know Me either. If you ask My Son Jesus in your heart, you become a new creation and live by My Spirit. Then you can be My witness. With me in your heart, you can let the Fruit of My Holy Spirit flow through you that will bless you and all those around you. Then you can come together to praise, worship and hear Me speak to you and others. When you are walking in My Spirit, you can expect to hear Me and be ready to share with others so all can be built-up. Take what you hear from Me in the assembly and wherever you go in your daily life and I will help you live it.

Watch—with Me in your heart, My Holy Spirit in you will bring you opportunities to touch people that think they cannot approach Me and are struggling without peace. I want so much for men and women to receive My love, mercy and compassion. You can show them when they see Me living through you. I rejoice every time you bring one to Me. Ask Me in your heart and show them My joy!

All My love to you,
Daddy



Two AmeriCorps members of Alpine Achievers Initiative stand with chosen "members of the month" at the Boys and Girls Club of the San Luis Valley.

Local non-profit creates lasting impact at the Boys & Girls Club of the San Luis Valley

Alpine Achievers Initiative, a local non-profit focused on positive youth development, has taken a strong entry into the southern San Luis Valley of Colorado. Members are serving throughout Del Norte, Monte Vista, and Alamosa, at different schools and community centers.

In Alamosa, upwards of five members have been serving at the Boys and Girls Club of the San Luis Valley (BGC SLV) on a regular basis, making a big impact to their local community. Alex Winch, a member of Alpine Achievers Initiative (AAI) AmeriCorps took the time to interview Claire Lara, the Director of Operations at BGC SLV, only to learn that AmeriCorp members make a bigger difference than most are aware of. When asked what her favorite part about having Alpine Achievers serve at the Boys and Girls club, she responded, "I like the diversity that the Alpine Achievers Initiative have been able to bring into the Boys and Girls Club with the different AmeriCorps members, and just really getting to know all of them has been a great experience. I've seen a lot of leadership from the AmeriCorps here at the Boys and Girls Club and I love the presence of that leadership here in the club's environment."

It is apparent that members of Alpine Achievers Initiative have been dedicating their time and energy toward helping create a more positive future generation and can truly tell that their service is making a difference in the lives of many.

One of the many missions of Alpine Achievers Initiative is to promote and provide positive youth development throughout the San Luis Valley. This is a very broad

way to put it, though, as it entails so much more. The AmeriCorps Members that serve at the Boys and Girls Club always strive to remain positive role models, sources of light and inspiration to the kids, and provide safe spaces for those who simply need extra love and support.

Other than serving the kids at the Boys and Girls Club, the members of Alpine Achievers Initiative assist the staff members in their day-to-day tasks, ranging from tutoring, helping with Club Council, serving snacks, facilitating games and other team or larger group activities, and ensuring the kids are respectful when other staff are speaking. Lara explains that having AmeriCorps members "really benefits us on many levels such as leadership and diversity, and financially as well. Being a non-profit we operate on a tight budget, so being able to get volunteers who are willing to come in and give us their time and really commit to our program is incredible."

Although the early days at the club were tough and overwhelming, AAI members have learned many names, heard many stories, helped so many kids, and developed a new understanding in what it means to be a loving and supportive figure for kids who deserve the most. They do feel like mentors and big siblings to these kids who want someone young to look up to. Being there as a consistent adult in their life who plays with them, does homework with them, shares snacks and meals with them, is a great way to form a lasting bond of trust with this next generation. The Boys and Girls Club motto says it all, "Great Futures Start Here."

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The Jokester

Knock, knock. Who's there? Goliath. Goliath who? Goliath down, you look-eth tired!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Broccoli? Broccoli who? Broccoli doesn't have a last name, silly.

Knock, knock. Who's there? Wooden shoe. Wooden shoe who? Wooden shoe like to hear another joke?

Knock, knock. Who's there? Amish. Amish who? Really? You don't look like a shoe!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Boo. Boo hoo? Why are you crying?

Knock, knock. Who's there? Atch. Atch who? Bless you!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Harry. Harry who? Harry up and answer the door!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Cash. Cash who? No thanks, but I'll take a peanut if you have one!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Canoe. Canoe who? Canoe come out and play with me?

Knock, knock. Who's there? Lettuce. Lettuce who? Lettuce in, it's cold out here!

Knock, knock. Who's there? I am. I am who? You don't know who you are?

Knock, knock. Who's there? Ice cream. Ice cream who? Ice cream if you don't let me in!



Rats Laugh when Ticked

Rats have been observed giggling when they're tickled - but only when they're in a good mood.

Knock, knock. Who's there? Yah. Yah who? No, I prefer google.

Knock, knock. Who's there? Nana. Nana who? Nana your business!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Justin. Justin Who? Justin in the neighborhood, thought I'd come over.

Knock, knock. Who's there? Orange. Orange who? Orange you glad I didn't say banana?

Knock, knock. Who's there? Alpaca. Alpaca who? Alpaca the suitcase, you load the car!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Tank. Tank who? You're welcome!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Car go. Car go who? Car go BEEP BEEP!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Leaf. Leaf who? Leaf me alone!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Isabel. Isabel who? Isabel working? I had to knock!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Dishes. Dishes who? Dishes the police!

The Magic Wand

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



"Look!" Sarah said, "A new shop. Can I go in it while you go to the bank?"

"Okay." Her mother agreed, "But I won't be long."

The shop was dark and musty. An old woman with long white hair sat at the counter, and behind her were bottles filled

with strange objects and weird liquids.

"Come in, come in." The old woman stood up, "we've been waiting for you."

"Waiting for me?" Sarah asked.

"I mean, waiting for a customer." The old woman smiled, "Can I help you?"

"Just looking." Sarah answered.



FIND THE 10 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE PICTURES



There were crystal balls, decks of tarot cards, and an ordinary looking stick with a \$200.00 price tag. She picked it up. "What's this?"

"It's a wand, my dear." The old woman came and stood beside her.

"It just looks like a stick to me." Sarah started to put it down.

"Really?" The old woman stared into Sarah's eyes, and Sarah shrugged.

"You should take it." The old woman said.

"I don't have \$200 dollars." Sarah told her, "and besides, it's just an old stick."

At that moment, the door jingled.

"Let's go Sarah. You've got homework to do."

"I'm coming." Sarah dropped the stick on the counter, and as she turned to go, she thought she saw sparks fly from the end of it.

"What's this stick doing on the hall table?" Her mother asked. "Who put it here?"

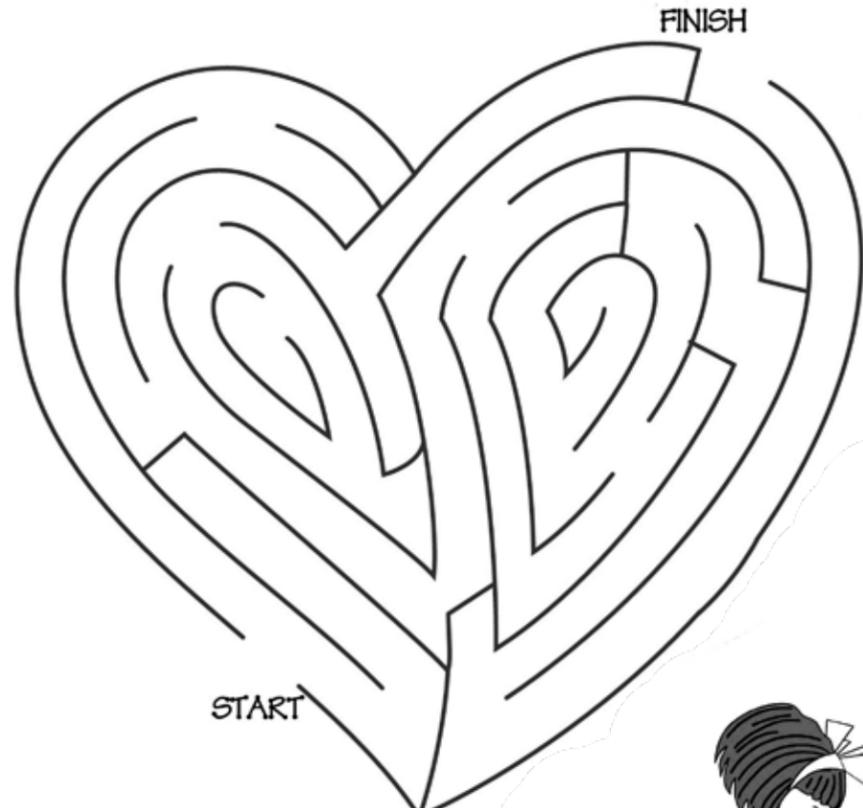
"An old lady left it for Sarah." Sarah's younger sister Jen called from the living room.

"A stick?" Her mother looked confused and handed it to Sarah.

Sarah shrugged and took it outside. In the sunshine, she could see spidery handwriting etched into the length of it, but it was in another language. The old lady had called it a wand, so she waved it around and began turning in a circle, round and round, faster and faster. The world blurred and suddenly she fell to the ground.

When she opened her eyes, she saw two bunnies that seemed as startled to see her, as she was to see them

to be continued



Open up!

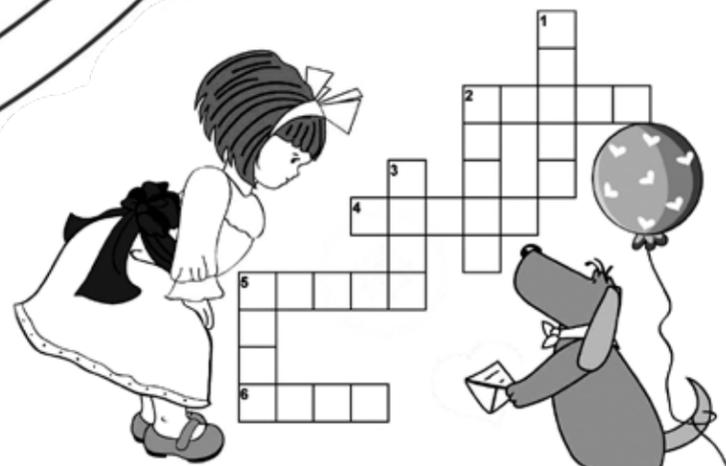
Knock, knock. Who's there? Isabell. Isabell who? Is a bell working?

Knock, knock. Who's there? Tank. Tank who? Your welcome!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Alex. Alex who? Alex-plain later!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Ketchup. Ketchup who? Ketchup with me and I'll tell you!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Annie. Annie who? Annie body home?



ACROSS

- The God of love
- Love _____
- _____ are red, violets are blue
- Something given

DOWN

- A young dog
- A sweet treat
- You give this to your sweetheart
- Goes on your finger

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Moffat School 2017-18 Honor Roll for first semester

The following students have earned a GPA of a 3.50 to a 4.00 and have made the Superintendent's Honor Roll:

- Jodi Campbell (4.00)
- Phoenix Carter (3.50)
- Alyssa Chavez (3.87)
- Nesta Davis (3.87)
- Holly Fuller (4.00)
- Casey Groom (4.00)
- Alexandria Harrison (4.00)
- Ian Horn (3.87)
- Jeremiah Jenkins (3.87)
- Andrew Martinez (3.63)
- Logan Maykowski (3.73)
- Ryker Poor (4.00)
- Michael Richardson (3.63)
- Makayla Sisson (3.87)
- Sabian Storm (3.75)
- Sheridan Taylor (3.75)
- Constaince Wallace (3.50)
- Will Beller (3.63)
- Nicole Berry (4.00)
- Caleb Boone (3.50)
- Logan Gallegos (3.60)
- Karmyn Hauger (4.00)
- Jacob High (3.50)
- Mahalia Hobbs-Clayborn (3.63)
- Guinevere Keenan (4.00)
- Zoe Marshall (3.63)
- Jacob Martinez (3.86)
- Tristan Martinez (3.50)
- Luke Maykowski (3.87)
- Stormy Rister (3.86)
- Rowan Sisson (3.62)
- Lilikoi Vodicka (3.71)

The following students have earned a GPA between 3.00 and 3.49 and have made the Principal's Honor Roll:

- Josephine Davis (3.06)
- Jessica Gore (3.21)
- Cheyenne Hunter (3.43)
- Dustin McColm (3.09)
- Owen McColm (3.06)
- Xavier Merryman (3.12)
- Malana Ramadei (3.37)
- Dakotah Richardson (3.06)
- Chelsea Slade (3.06)
- John Young (3.23)
- Matias Anderson (3.23)
- Alex Childers (3.33)
- Cheyenne Duhon (3.17)
- Riley Heater (3.43)
- Nia Hobbs-Clayborn (3.37)
- Samantha Jett (3.00)
- Isaiah Lembke (3.06)
- Robert Morley (3.17)
- Cairn Pike (3.28)
- Kodiak Reigel (3.06)
- Ethan Richardson (3.12)
- Marie Velazquez (3.28)
- Christopher Wallace (3.16)
- Taylor Wallace (3.00)



Moffat Key Club students donating Kuddlez for Kidz stuffed toys to the Heart of the Rockies Hospital in Salida.

Thanks for the generosity

On behalf of the Moffat School Key Club, I would like to thank our community for their generous donations during our winter coat and food drive. Moffat collected over 600 food pantry items that were donated to the local food banks of Moffat, Crestone and Saguache and 56 coats, and hygiene bags that were donated to La Puente in Alamosa and the Caring and Sharing in Salida. As a result of thoughtful contributions from people like you, we were able to continue to serve those people and families and provide them with a sense of security and hope during this time of year. Moffat School also participated in the giving tree in Crestone and helped to deliver gifts to many of our neediest kids in this community during the holiday season. In early December we also donated 25 stuffed toys to the Heart of the Rockies Hospital's pediatric ward as part of our Kuddlez for Kidz campaign.

Key Club is a service club founded by Kiwanis in 1925. We promote caring as a way of life.

Key Club is a student-led high school organization. Our members make the world a better place through service. In doing so, we grow as individuals and as leaders by answering the call to lead, summoning the courage to engage and developing the heart to serve.

Sincerely,
Patte Smith
Key Club Sponsor



Canned food drive donations from the community.

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CCS's Ski & Snowboarding Program undergoes changes

**Ayla Sirois,
CCS 10th grade student**

The Ski and Snowboarding Program has been something the Crestone Charter School has been doing since anyone can remember, and this year things are changing. This year, Thomas 'TJ' Walling, middle school science and math teacher, has been put in charge of the program, along with volunteer parents Carl Cole and Wade Probst.

One of the major changes this season is that Monarch will be involved with teaching CCS students how to better their techniques on the mountain, as well

as how to better practice safety regulations. Unlike previous years where the high school students were in charge of mentoring for the whole day, this year Monarch Ski School will be mentoring students during the first half the day for six out of the ten days. The remaining four days, the high school students will be in charge of mentoring and teaching for the whole day. The mentee groups are separated based on skill, as well as the free skiing after the lessons. In previous years students were allowed to ski with whom-ever they wanted, so it may be an adjustment for the students, but the biggest priority of the school is the student safety.

Another change coming this year is that Moffat was kind enough to offer to let us drive up in a bus, instead of driving up the vans. Carl Cole will be driving up the bus most days, with occasional help from Robin Blankenship, the fourth and fifth-grade teacher, and possibly the Moffat bus driver. Some say that it's putting all your eggs in one basket and some say that's it's safer than the vans, but like all changes this year, it's happening for the safety of the students. The Moffat bus and its epic chains will make the drive much easier on those fresh powder days.



This year as a part of Crestone Charter School's Ski & Snowboarding Program, Monarch Ski School will be involved with teaching CCS students how to better their techniques on the mountain.



Students participate in CCS's long-standing ski & snowboarding program.

Perhaps the funniest change this year is the new required gear for CCS students. This year, all participants (adults and students) will be required to wear pink helmet covers so we are able to find each other at all times. While students refer to them as "bubble gum heads," everyone enjoyed being able to find their friends and teachers on the slopes.

Every Friday for the next few months the students will arrive at seven o'clock so they can load up and leave the school campus by seven fifteen. The bus will then take them up to the mountain by nine o'clock so they can be there in time for their lessons. From

nine to twelve students have lessons with Monarch, then they stop for lunch where they find out who they've been assigned to ski with. Free ski is from twelve forty-five until two forty-five when they pack up their gear and load back onto the bus.

Not all students agree with this new system, but not all people like change even if it's for the better. With this new system, your kids are guaranteed more safety and structure than previous years. Being on the mountain will always be dangerous and people can always get hurt, but with this system, there will be less of a reason for you to worry.

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Marijuana

continued from page 1

safer by prosecuting individuals and organizations for marijuana crimes that significantly threaten our community safety.”

Colorado’s elected officials, from both sides of the aisle and from the Denver mayor’s office to the state Capitol and the halls of Congress reacted strongly.

Among the first Colorado lawmakers to react to the news, Republican Senator Cory Gardner stated, “This reported action directly contradicts what Attorney General Sessions told me prior to his confirmation. With no prior notice to Congress, the Justice Department has trampled on the will of the voters in CO and other states.”

Democrat US Senator Michael Bennet echoed that sentiment, “In rescinding the Cole memo, the Attorney General failed to listen to Colorado, and will create unnecessary chaos and confusion.”

State Attorney General Cynthia Coffman and Governor John Hickenlooper say that Sessions’s memo will not change their responsibility to carry out the will of the people, who voted to legalize recreational cannabis in 2012.

Republican US Representative Mike Coffman, “The decision that was made to legalize marijuana in Colorado was made by voters of Colorado and only applies within the boundaries of our state. Colorado had every right to legalize marijuana and I will do everything I can to protect that right against the power of an overreaching federal government.”

A week later, Colorado’s U.S. Senators continued their bipartisan push to protect Colorado’s legal marijuana programs, sending a letter to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network urging it to continue to protect financial institutions that work with legal pot businesses.

Senators Gardner and Bennet cosponsored a bill introduced last year that would bar federal regulators from stopping or penalizing a bank from working with legal marijuana businesses or taking away FDIC approval from said banks. It would also stop banks and regulators from barring loans to people operating legal marijuana businesses.

Part of the congressional delegation upset with Sessions’ new guidance—Reps. Mike Coffman (R) and Diana DeGette (D)—also introduced a bill last year that revises the Controlled Substance Act to keep the federal government out of state marijuana programs.

Rep. Jared Polis (D) in the past has introduced bills aimed at protecting marijuana; one would have the government regulate marijuana like alcohol.

Attorney Brian Vicente, who co-authored the legislation legalizing adult-use cannabis in Colorado, believes US Attorney Troyer will stick with the status quo based on past actions and remarks. In a recent interview with *Westword* he advises, “You need to double down on compliance, be a good neighbor, pay your taxes, and that should keep you out of the crosshairs with federal government.”

Saguache County Commissioners discuss moratorium on issuing marijuana licenses

In response to citizens’ complaints and concerns, the County Commissioners have met twice, taking limited public comment to discuss: enforcement of legal marijuana businesses, the continuing problems of illegal marijuana operations, and whether or not to limit home grows in accordance with state law.

A moratorium would be a temporary solution allowing time for the County to evaluate and work out problems in their first year of implementing and collecting an excise tax on marijuana cultivation and of having a marijuana code enforcement officer.

Although Saguache County passed a resolution in 2014 permitting the authorization and regulation of retail marijuana, 2017, the first year the 5% marijuana excise tax was collected, proved a landmark year for the County issuing permits for marijuana cultivation sites.

For some residents, the heart of the debate is the question of how the County is spending revenue from excise taxes and licensure fees collected from legal marijuana businesses. To further complicate things, there 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 same meeting Sheriff Dan Warwick addressed the Commissioners with concerns about being understaffed and underfunded, “We can’t get through another grow season manned the way we are. The grow we raided last summer in Bonanza may be coming back.”

Commissioner Jason Anderson addressed his fellow Commissioners regarding HB 17-1220, state legislation that went into effect January 1, 2018. The legislation was specifically aimed at



Fresh snow on Mt. Blanca, taken while crossing over Rio Grande River in Alamosa.

photo by Kate Steichen

Prescribed burns planned at Alamosa, Baca, and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuges

Alamosa – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducting prescribed burns this winter on the Alamosa, Baca, and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuges to remove wood piles and old, matted vegetation to improve wildlife habitat. The exact burn dates will depend on weather conditions and other prescription requirements but may extend through April.

Smoke will be visible to adjacent neighbors, towns and highways during and for a few days following burning operations. Signs will be posted along the nearest major roads and all burns will be monitored until they are declared completely out.

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

For more information, contact Baca Refuge Manager Ron Garcia, 719-256-5527 or Alamosa and Monte Vista Refuge Manager Suzanne Beauchaine 719-589-4021x 1003.

reducing illegal marijuana cultivation and closing “gray market” loopholes that exist in the current regulatory climate.

The new legislation 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.

How the County will apply this law is something Commissioners will need to decide, Commissioner Jason Anderson commented.

The same bill allows District Attorneys to charge people who

break the new plant limit law as follows:

- 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.

The Commissioners indicated an interest in creating a task force to review current rules and regulations, and recommend changes. A public meeting held on January 29, 2018, was scheduled to gather public comment on the necessity of a moratorium and the creation of a task force to address shortcomings in County regulations and procedures.



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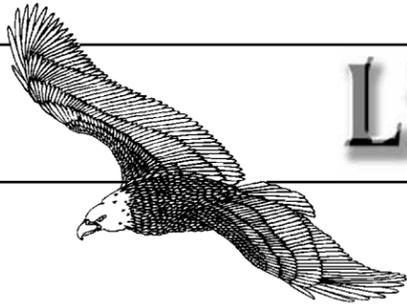
“Either everything is sacred or nothing is sacred.”
Dalai Lama

Monthly open meeting **Tuesday, February 13**, at 7pm, at the Fellowship Hall of the Little Shepherd Church, Crestone. Call 719.588.7415 for information/directions.



“In the end it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years.”
- Abraham Lincoln

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Living on the Earth

Thermal battery stores heat in summer for use in winter

by Nathan Good

For the last few years I've been experimenting with and learning from a thermal (or "climate") battery model in my small greenhouse here in Crestone. I was initially inspired by Jerome Osentowski, who works with Michael Thompson, back in 2012. I visited the working models at his permaculture school (CRIM-PI) near Aspen that grows Cuban red bananas, passion fruit, figs and other food in his greenhouses.

About 4 years ago I wanted to build a living model (food forest) based on permaculture principles, in the town of Crestone on a friend's empty lot, to showcase permaculture and a climate battery-powered greenhouse. Alternative descriptions include: climate battery, heat store or vault, underground/building energy storage, earth battery and geothermal heating.

I finally erected it at my own place because of zoning, so now I'm sharing with you what I've learned so far. In my greenhouse the system has raised the winter nighttime temperature by 10°-20° and cooled the daytime summer temperature by 25°-35°, although the model is not yet fully finished.

Over the years Jerome has traveled to visit Crestone many times, and around 30 years ago helped design Crestone's first climate battery home. This successful prototype includes a solar-heated crawl space, and is powered by the heat from his friends' flower nursery (a small attached greenhouse). In this case the thermal mass is in the form of boulders which absorb daytime heat pumped in via fan. The thermal mass in the crawl space slowly releases its heat at night to warm the home's floor.

In the summer of 2016 Jerome Osentowski presented a climate battery (CB) talk at the Cloud Station during a Grange meeting. Attendance was good, and the talk was followed by a hands-on workshop hosted by a Baca resident. This experience inspired at least two other locals to build their own climate battery greenhouses. There are currently about 6 or 7 of these in Crestone, and most likely more than 50 in Colorado. The Grange/HUB proposed such a project in their prospectus, which includes a community building heated by an attached greenhouse and CB system (see link at bottom). Alive and well, this thermal battery solution from the sun seems to be catching on more and more, and hopefully will be integrated into buildings being proposed by Burt Wadman,



A climate battery manifold with 4 inch perforated tubes coming out of it. For scale, look for the ladder and the human figure. Notice repurposed plastic barrel to accommodate vertical riser. This is at a home in the Baca Grants.

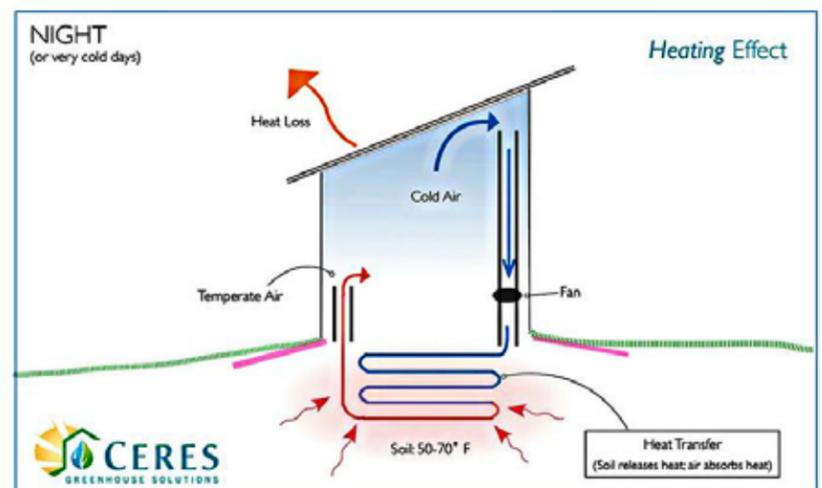
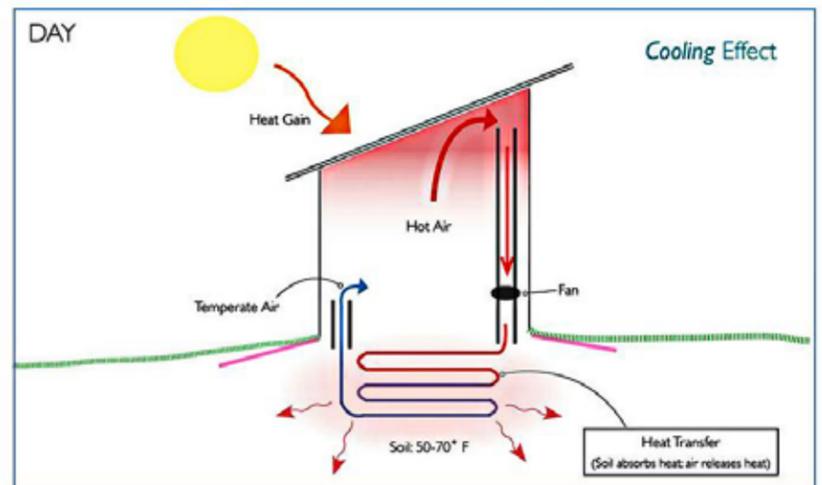
who's working on the Master Plan with the Town of Crestone.

No bananas for me, yet, though I'm still working on and testing the system before investing in any cold-sensitive fruit-bearing trees. My TB of earth and rocks is warm due to the insulated (about 2" of foam) foundation, but next time I build I will use 4"-thick insulation. This relatively low-cost investment (around \$1000) creates a long-term heating system, and at this time works well for three seasons.

Once again, the overall idea of Permaculture Design is to be more in concert with nature, so we use less harmful and more appropriate technology in order to produce "energy productive" buildings (which includes the use of attached heat-producing greenhouses for capturing heat to charge thermal batteries). These buildings can then be used to grow food year-round in cold climates. Computer or non-computer-controlled thermal battery heat can tie-in to existing in-floor heat, or link to subfloor heating tubes. This is a winner with on- or off-grid homes and buildings. The TB movement seems to be driven by people with passions for bio-friendly, whole-living practices, as this can be a fully off-grid solar-powered heat storage system which responds to the need for local and renewable energy without burning fossil fuels.

A simple example could be: collecting heat from the apex of any building, attic or greenhouse using solar-powered fans and/or pumps to move air, water or glycol to circulate the heated component through an array of pipes embedded within

Ground to Air Heat Transfer (GAHT) System



A 12" dia. and 8' tall PVC pipe intake riser (with a fan) captures and utilizes solar energy in the form of heated air from the greenhouse's apex. The intake pipe goes below grade about 36" and hooks up to a 12"x20' long PVC manifold that directs that heated air into 36 tubes that are 4" in dia. These drain tubes are perforated and allow some of the hot air to infiltrate into the soil/gravel below. The 4" tubes then lead to the other side of the structure to the exhaust manifold(s) and risers.

How it works: Some of the heated air component is forced from the perforated tubes into the earth and rocks (by damper). The heat is stored in the earth and rocks for later use—thus the term thermal battery (TB). A thermostat controls the fan to go on when interior temperatures reach 85°F in the day to heat-charge the battery, and off at night, until the temp drops below 40°F, at which point the fan comes on to bring up the warmer air from the TB to help keep the plants from freezing.

the thermal battery—a "mass"—beneath the surface of the soil or concrete floor of structure. The heat is deposited via conduction into the mass, and voilà: the thermal battery. This captured heat is now stored in the TB mass, which adjusts the climate of the structure as it warms. Well-planned TB masses are constructed within the highly insulated foundations of buildings and greenhouses. The temperatures across the thermal battery can be increased from its natural temperature of 50°F to over 77°F in the course of the summer months.

Heat moves slowly in the ground—this is called Thermal Inertia. It is a characteristic of earth that heat only moves very slowly through it—as slowly as one meter a month. We can use this thermal inertia to input surplus heat into the TB "mass" over the summer months, and extract that heat over the winter months for use in the space heating of buildings.

These solutions can be seen in ancient architecture in the Middle East where it's hot and dry; strategies were adopted to improve living conditions. In the case of the famous building Muhib Al Din Al Shafei in Cairo, Egypt (1350AD), the malqaf, a windtower (wind catcher)—a traditional Persian architectural element which creates natural ven-

tilation in buildings—is situated up-wind, and catches the air of the dominant wind and lets it flow down the building, where there is a fountain which increases the relative humidity and lowers the temperature of the air. The airflow exits thanks to a stack effect, through the wooden grills situated in the clerestory which is in direct contact with the sunbeams which increase the desired effect. The natural heating of the clerestory does not influence the microclimate, because it is situated on the top of the roof and very far from the liveable space. Where a fountain is not possible, some ancient Egyptian buildings use underground tunnels full of cool air which is siphoned into the building. Instead of windcatchers, risers heated by the sun create an updraft from these tunnels to pull the cool air in.

Modern heating and cooling methods are in question lately, associated with high energy consumption and environmental unsustainability. The basic wisdom of most alternative heating and cooling does indeed come from our ancestors, whose strategies were adopted more recently by permaculture in order to improve living conditions off-grid. Of course the aspect and layout of the

continued on page B-9

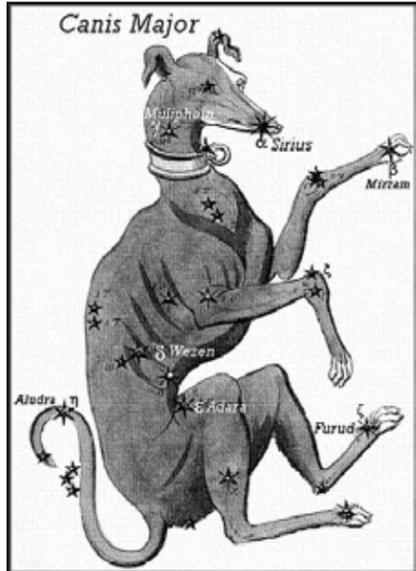


by **Kim Malville**
Sirius and Canis Major

The brightest star to the southeast in our evening skies is Sirius in the constellation of Canis Major, the Great Dog. Sirius, known as the Dog Star, is bright because it is a relatively close neighbor, a mere 8.7 light years from the earth.

Sirius has a companion white dwarf known as Sirius B, the Pup, which orbits Sirius every 50 years, and can only be detected in large telescopes. There was a flurry of excitement when anthropologists dis-

covered that the Dogons of west Africa had a description of that object embedded in their mythology. Could that be evidence that we had been once visited by an alien party, who left as their "calling card" this secret knowledge? According to their oral tradition people from a planet in the Sirius system, called Nommos, visited earth thousands of years ago. The Nommos were ugly amphibious beings looking like mermen and mermaids. They landed on the earth in an arc that made a spinning descent with great noise and wind, and then informed the Dogons about Sirius B. It was truly a luscious and very intriguing proposition. Then, it was pointed out that the Dogons had probably been visited by a French priest soon after Sirius B had been discovered in 1861, and he (probably not the Nommos) had passed that information on to the Dogons, who worshipped Sirius as one of their gods.



The Great Dog and Sirius.

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A teaspoon of material from Sirius B would weigh the same as a locomotive. Once that seemed too extraordinary to be true. But then neutron stars were discovered

which are balls of neutrons compressed tightly together. A spoonful would weigh as much as a billion locomotives. The fatigue of astronomical numbers began to set in. But wait! There are still black holes. A teaspoon of black hole matter from a hole with the same mass as the sun would weigh a billion trillion locomotives. I leave it to you, dear reader, to figure out how to weigh those locomotives.

Just to the right of Sirius, lying on the left leg of the Dog is Mirzam, the "Herald", the star that announces the rising of Sirius. Although appearing fainter than Sirius, it is by far the greater of the two stars, lying much further away at a distance of 500 light years. If it were at the same distance as Sirius, it would be truly brilliant, many times brighter than Venus at its brightest.

Sirius is part of a super constellation, the Winter Triangle, combining Procyon, in Canis Minor, and the red giant Betelgeuse in Orion, known in Arabic as the "armpit of the great one". Beyond this triangle there is a Grand Tour of some of the brightest stars of our sky, which you can easily take. Moving clockwise along the hexagon from Sirius and Procyon, there are Pollux and Castor, the twins of Gemini and then Capella in the constellation of Auriga. Of this group of stars, Capella is the one that is closest to our sun in temperature and in brightness. Next is Aldebaran, a red giant, which is the blood-shot eye of Taurus the Bull, and then Rigel, a blue giant, approximately equal in brightness to Betelgeuse but intensely blue because of its high temperature.

January 31: At 5:51 a total eclipse of the moon begins and will end at 7:08. (Whoops, many of you may have missed it)

February 15: Partial eclipse of the sun visible throughout Antarctica.

February 16: The slender crescent moon, 20 minutes after sunset passes near Venus just above the west-southwest horizon. Venus will get easier day by day, and at the end of the month should be visible for an hour after sunset.

February 23: The moon passes Aldebaran in Taurus

February 27: The nearly full moon passes Regulus in Leo

Water for future astronauts on Mars

The geologist Colin Dundas working at the U. S. Geological Survey in Flagstaff has spotted



The Winter Triangle and Hexagon.



Ice cliffs on Mars.

on high-resolution images beamed from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) at least seven steep cliffs up to 100 meters tall, that appear to reveal pure ice. The discovery suggests there are significant amount of ice buried only a meter or two below the surface at surprisingly low latitudes. These cliffs appear to be the end of glaciers.

Finding ice on Mars is nothing new. Ice covers the poles. White ice caps advance and recede with the seasons, mostly due to the evaporation of thin deposits of dry ice. Water ice remains. But in the future astronauts will not want to live at the poles: the Antarctic is difficult enough!

These ice cliffs may be the remains of ancient glaciers that existed millions of years ago when the planet's spin axis and orbit were different. In addition, images on the MRO have revealed pools of seemingly pure ice in the floors of small craters that were carved out by fresh meteorite impacts. Perhaps these frozen pools were connected to water released from the buried glaciers due to the impact, or were merely isolated patches. These frozen pools persisted through the Martian sum-

mer, when any thin layers of ice or frost would have been vaporized. MRO has also recorded several boulders tumbling out of one of the cliff faces, suggesting that gradual erosion had released them from a glacier.

If you look closely at the image you can see banding that indicates that deposits of ice and snow were built up over many seasons. Ice-blown dust buried the sheets producing these layers. If a remote drilling rig were to extract a core from these ice layers and then could be returned to earth, it would produce a wonderful history of climate on Mars over thousands of years or even millennia. Alternately, of course, this drilling and analysis could be performed by human visitors to the red planet. Ironically, this ice under their feet would be a major resource for survival. Water could be combined with carbon dioxide, the main ingredient in Mars's atmosphere, to create oxygen to breathe, as well as methane, a rocket propellant. Wow, suddenly, migration to Mars does not sound too impossible; actually it sounds like a great adventure for a short time.

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Who We Are

Peggy Godfrey:

Caring, risking, dreaming

The human spirit does not use its wings / until the next step's taken on thin air. ~ from an untitled poem by Peggy Godfrey

There are two ways of “being nice,” in Peggy Godfrey’s view. One is genuine, and connected with kindness, honesty, integrity—values Peggy absorbed in her Louisiana Christian upbringing. The other is a sweet façade of being nice, which in essence means, “Don’t be who you are; please me.” That’s what girls and women were taught when Peggy was growing up in the Deep South. From early on she resonated with the true kindness and resiliency she witnessed in women who carried great burdens, but with strength and joy. Since then, Peggy’s life has been an exercise in being just exactly who she is.

For almost 45 years that meant leaning into the daily and seasonal rhythm and hard work of caring for livestock—first one temperamental milk cow, then a small herd of cattle, then cattle and sheep on her Moffat ranch. Along with raising livestock, she was married (twice) and raised two sons, learned to weld, served on the Moffat school board, worked for other ranchers, and was—still is—on the Rio Grande Water Conservation District board. All of which provides plenty of material for her poetry and stories. Humorous, incisive, tender, plainspoken, and always reflecting daily life as a woman ranching in the high desert, Peggy’s words have been published in five books, featured in two short films, and performed countless times over the years at state, regional, and national Cowboy Poetry gatherings and other public events.

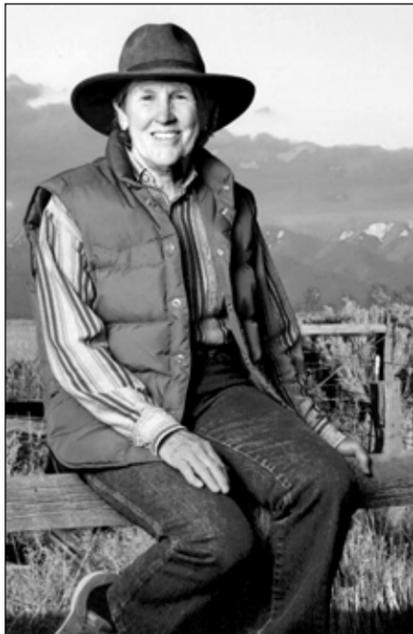
Life’s surprising turns

Even growing up as a tomboy in Homer, LA, Peggy loved to write. When she entered Baylor University in Texas, she intended to major in English. But during her freshman year she discovered a fascination with science, and also had an important insight. “I realized my heart’s desire was to learn to ask good questions,” she says. “Good questions really serve everything in life.”

Peggy’s energetic, inquisitive mind, along with a B.S. in biology and a minor in chemistry, led to a post-college job in immunology research at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas, her dream job from 1968 to 1971. It was one of a series of surprises for her physician father and traditional Southern mother, who had warned her not to expect a good job without an advanced degree. Sipping coffee in her Moffat kitchen, she smiles with intense blue eyes as she recalls that time. “My life was in defiance of their paradigm,” she says.

Learning livestock

The next unexpected development began in the early 1970s when Peggy, her dentist husband, and their young son were living near Taos. Her father-in-law, Roland, was a mechanic-turned-cattle-rancher, and she began helping him with chores. Roland taught her to



In 2016 Peggy was selected to be part of an exhibition and book called *Return of the Corn Mothers*, honoring extraordinary women of the Southwest for their community activism and creative endeavors. photo by Todd Pierson



Peggy’s “Ewe Mow Lawn Service—Not a Baa-aad Deal!”

fix machinery, use tools, and believe in her ability to do whatever she set her mind to. Together they learned about livestock. Soon Peggy had her own small herd and was the first woman rancher in the Taos County Grazing Association. A poem she later wrote about Roland expresses her deep appreciation for their relationship and all that she learned from him.

After divorcing in the mid-1980s, Peggy moved to Moffat and was married briefly a second time. She continued raising cows and also worked for a sheep rancher who gave her several lambs. Later she bought 21 pregnant ewes. So she learned about raising sheep. For a time in the late 1990s she offered Moffat town residents the service of her sheep as efficient, free lawn mowers, an arrangement she called “Ewe Mow Lawn Service—Not a Baa-aad Deal!” Her end of the deal was grazing her sheep in a coyote-free environment.

Inner knowing

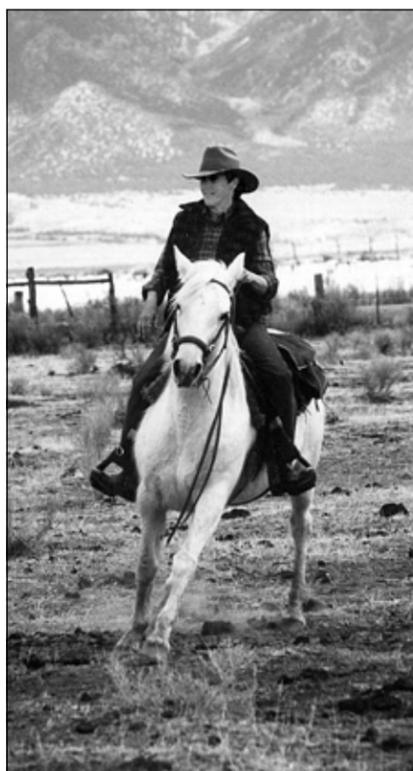
Throughout her life, Peggy has found herself relying on intuition, asking “good questions” and listening in the quiet for a response from within. When her middle child was stillborn in 1975, she says, “I knew when I was pregnant that my baby girl wouldn’t come home from the hospital. It was a gentle breaking of



Peggy raised livestock—cattle and later sheep—for almost 45 years.



Peggy as a young girl (middle) playing cowgirl with friends.



Riding the range.

the news that kept me from falling off the planet.” In 2001, clear inner guidance compelled her to donate a kidney to a friend.

That intuitive sense kicked in again last spring, when Peggy asked if 2017 should be her last year with sheep. In March, a powerful microburst of wind had blown down her lambing shed. She needed to know whether to replace it. Five days before Easter, she awoke long before dawn to a series of nine clear, distinct thoughts, all pointing in the same direction. Among them: “Your

help is aging out.” Within a week, as it turned out, injuries in two families meant both her helpers were unable to trade chores with her. Another of the nine thoughts was inevitable drought. “We’ve had a good four years of moisture, but we’re in a desert,” she says.

A new chapter

Last August Peggy sold all her lambs and in September a ranch family in the valley bought all 30 of her ewes. “I had a good cry because I’d been in livestock 44 years and loved every day of it,” she says. Yet her life has barely slowed down. She grins. “I keep wondering how I used to fit livestock into all this,” she says. “All this” includes involvement with water-related issues in the valley, occasionally visiting her sheep at their new home, taking care of a horse, lama, dog and cat, and of course, writing and performing poetry and stories, dipping into her journals from over the years to share more of her eventful, satisfying life.

But it’s a quote from an unknown source that for Peggy reflects the rewards of a lifetime of being herself in spite of all odds. She remembers tears rolling down her face when she first encountered it: Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise, risking more than others think is safe, dreaming more than others think is practical, and expecting more than others think is possible. “What I’ve done is so unimportant; it’s how I’ve done it,” she says. “Being willing to step through that door.”

Contact Peggy to purchase her books or videos: 719-256-4989.

SLV selected for program to help reduce future wildfire risks and costs

The Colorado State Forest Service announced today that the San Luis Valley has been selected as one of eight new “communities” from across the country that will receive technical assistance in 2018 under a national program that helps reduce the impacts from wildfires.

As more cities and counties across the country experience devastating wildfires, the Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) program offers much-needed support at the local level. Through CPAW, communities in the SLV will collaborate with the Colorado State Forest Service and a team of consultants, including land use planners and risk mapping experts, to help communities

identify and implement local planning measures, such as improved policies to reduce wildfire risk to future development.

“This will provide a great opportunity to bring together new partners to help plan for a potential wildfire affecting communities in the San Luis Valley,” said District Forester Adam Moore. Alamosa County Commissioner Darius Allen adds, “This project fits in with our goal in the San Luis Valley of not being reactive, but active with our forests & public lands where we need to plan for the future, including potential wildfires.”

CPAW was founded by Wildfire Planning International and Headwaters Economics, and is funded through a cooperative agree-

ment with the U.S. Forest Service and private foundations. The CSFS Alamosa District will be one of the members of the steering committee for the program, bringing its expertise in wildfire mitigation and work with communities on Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

“We believe the San Luis Valley is in an excellent position to benefit from CPAW due to the wildfire risk to its communities, anticipated planning updates, and strong leadership support for this opportunity,” said Molly Mowery, President of Wildfire Planning International. “Many communities have an interest in reducing wildfire risk through land use planning mechanisms, but may lack the capacity or expertise. CPAW pro-

vides the assistance needed to help achieve a positive outcome.”

As wildfires in the U.S. increasingly burn more acres, last longer, and cause damage to communities, CPAW provides an opportunity to help communities reverse these trends through better land-use planning.

“Good land-use planning is not about telling people where to build. It’s about respecting private property while making safer, smarter community development decisions to avoid future wildfire disasters,” said Ray Rasker, Ph.D., Executive Director of Headwaters Economics.

More information is available via the CSFS Alamosa District and at www.planningforwildfire.org.

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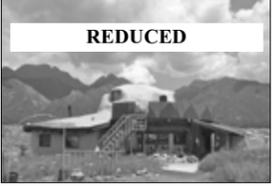
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 <p>REDUCED 80 Cottonwood Creek Road. \$199,000 Large home on 7+ acres in the Grants, tons of charm! Built in 1998. 2555 sq ft with an additional guest cottage and out buildings.</p>	 <p>UNDER CONTRACT 1590 Crown Point OL \$165,000 3BD 2BA. Large living room with wood stove. 2 car detached garage, grow dome & 1.5 acres on a quiet cul-de-sac.</p>	 <p>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.</p>	 <p>157 Moonlight Way \$69,000 Great creek site, close in on paved road. Lots of amenities, underground utilities, 1000 sq ft round home started with utilities, radiant heat, piping & plumbing installed.</p>	 <p>613 Cinnabar Trail \$20,000 Secluded cottage on 3.83. Acres. Root cellar, green house, utility shed. Amazing panoramic views.</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p style="font-weight: bold;">We would like to welcome Niamh Kelly-Weston to our staff!</p>  </div>

OWNER/BUILDER CONVERSATIONS

Lonny Roth
by John Rowe

I have known Lonny Roth from his Crestone Creative Trade Co. and around town for as long as I have lived here but never really had much in the way of a conversation with him until this interview. Like so many of the other owner-builders I have talked to, I am grateful to have had the chance to get to know Lonny a little bit and to hear part of his story. We have so many interesting people here in Crestone!

Lonny came here in 1995 looking for property to build a home and get out of Boulder and move to a small mountain town somewhere in Colorado. He was also looking in La Garita and Fairplay, but things fell into place here in Crestone as he was able to find a piece of property out in the Grants for \$1000 down and the owner to carry the balance. He got an inkling that this may be the place for him when he saw advertising downtown for yoga, a variety of healing folks, and all manner of Eastern spiritual practices. Hmmm, maybe just maybe, this was to be his place.

He found plans online for a small simple stick frame home to build and took them down to the POA to get approval from the EAC (Environmental and Architectural Committee) to begin building. Most of the committee seemed to be skeptical of his ability to get this done as Lonny had had no building experience and he was, as he describes himself, “pretty rough and confused looking at the time,

even for Crestone.” He also asked for a variance to be able to take five years to build as he knew there was no way he could hit the six month time frame the EAC was asking for at the time. The committee members also showed resistance to this but Lonny persevered and in the end, he was granted the variance, approval for his plans, and permission to acquire a building permit.

Lonny chose a 900sf simple frame house because it seemed like something he could actually do and thought it would be a fine home. He traveled to Denver and Boulder every two weeks to see his infant daughter and in the process also went dumpster diving on construction sites and found ample materials to start out with. He also used those trips to sell various and sundry at flea markets along the Front Range to augment his small income in Crestone. Lonny emphasizes “sticking to it and never quitting” and slowly but surely got a well, septic, electrical, and a foundation in. He then used his mostly free and recycled materials to put up his small two-story house. Lonny estimates that he built his home with 50% free and 25% recycled supplies. He is certain that he spent only \$25,000 total on his house, including well and septic.

During this building process, life threw Lonny a real curve and he was asked to take custody of his two-and-a-half-year-old daughter. Being a loving dad, Lonny said sure thing and proceeded with the seemingly impossible (to me) task

of providing for him and his daughter, building his house, and figuring out how to be a single parent to a small child. Somehow all this got done and Lonny actually seems to consider it all a blessing. “I came here needing to heal and to connect my interior self with an exterior life that was simple, close to the earth, nurturing, and made sense to me. Raising my daughter and building us a home in this beautiful place really fit the bill.” He stresses that the building process and raising a family and connecting to folks in Crestone was a blessing, not a burden. He sees this period of his life as “an external reflection of the internal process”. Lonny and his daughter Molly, who lives here and in Salida, are still close, although she is all grown up now.

Lonny points out that he and Molly moved into his house well before it was complete and none of the powers that be ever objected to this, as times were different in the late nineties.

And what advice does Lonny have for the new owner-builder? “If you have any doubt or indecisiveness or lack of commitment, don’t build. If you haven’t done the soul searching and don’t have the clarity of the task at hand, don’t build”. Emphasize responsibility to those around you and yourself. “Stay at it—never quit.”

And what advice to the POA? “Change to an HOA so that homeowners, people that live here and are invested here, have the say so about what goes on around here. Eighty percent of the POA voters don’t live here, don’t have homes here, and have the lion’s share of the voting power. That makes no sense.” The true community values



Lonny Roth.

of the place don’t take precedent because of this inequity.

Anything specific the POA that exists now as it does could do to make things better for the owner-builder? “Yes, have some alternatives to monetary requirements to make things easier on the financially strapped builder and make things better for the community at the same time. An example would be to let builders commit, on paper, to volunteer 4-5 days a year to clean up abandoned home sites in lieu of the \$5000 upfront fee.” Lonny adds that the POA can always charge them retroactively if they fail to live up to their commitments.

Lonny has moved from the Baca into town and is still building; he has added an old-timey-looking building next to Crestone Creative Trade. And he, like so many long-timers I have talked to, is still very much interested in building Crestone into a place so many of us moved here for.

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What's going on in soil?



by **Matie Belle Lakish**

Soil is easy to take for granted. Our eyes can see only the broad picture of soil—its color, texture and overall composition. We can perceive its general moisture level by feeling it, and can pinch it between our fingers to see how well it holds together. Does it have more clay or sand? By examining its color and texture, we may make an educated guess about the mineral and organic composition. If we are lucky, a shovel will turn over earthworms. What we don't see, however, are the billions of organisms that live in and make up the soil, and that provide the workforce for growing our food.

Most life forms on Earth are dependent on a very few critical elements: Oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon, phosphorus, and sulfur. These elements make up the majority of living cells of both plants and animals and are critical to life on earth. A shortage of any one of these in our soil, and plant growth will be limited.

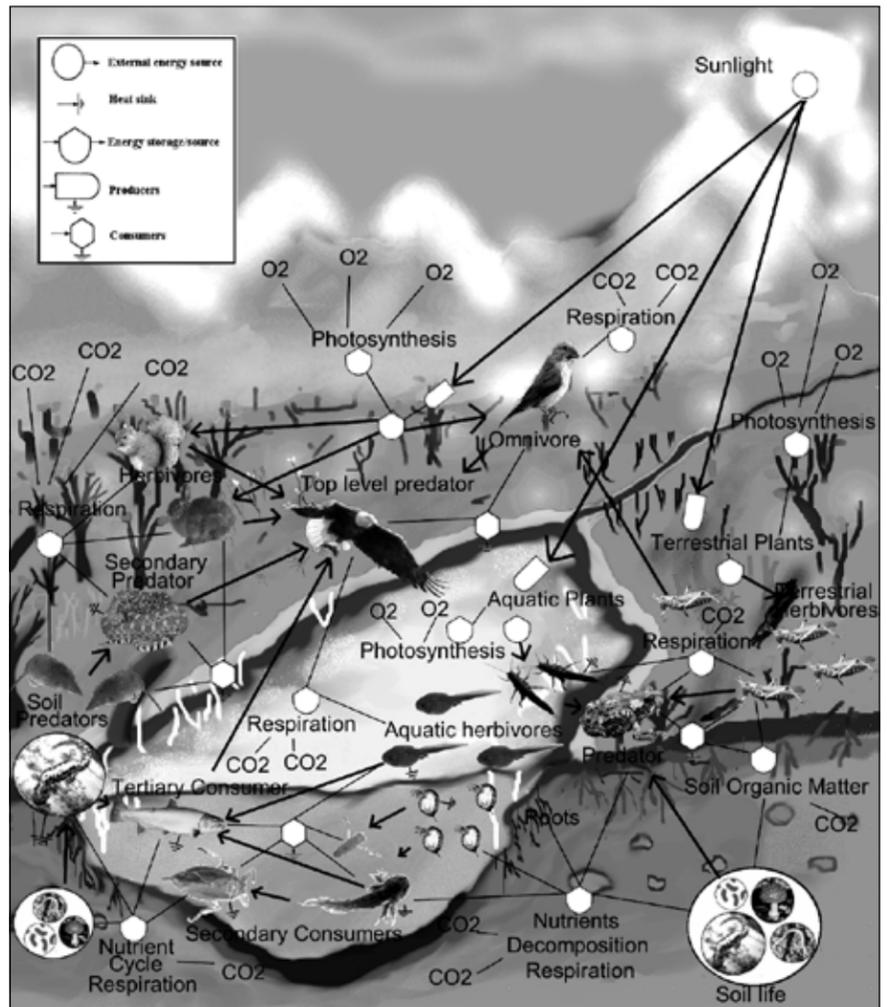
We often think of plants as the saviors who take the carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the air and use it to build tissues, while emitting oxygen back into the atmosphere. This is true, and all animals depend on this relationship for life. But plants also need carbon and oxygen for their root systems to grow, and this must be supplied via the soil. Some of those trillions of organisms help aerate the soil, bringing life-giving oxygen to the underworld. While above-ground leaves can take carbon-dioxide from the air, and through photosynthesis, incorporate the carbon into their tissues and release oxygen back into the atmosphere, their root systems also need carbon. In nature's plan, the carbon would be supplied by decayed plants that have been reincorporated back into the soil over millennia. This job of breaking down raw plant material also falls to

those organisms found in healthy soil.

Although nitrogen is the most abundant element in our atmosphere, plants cannot directly absorb and use this atmospheric nitrogen, as they can carbon dioxide. Most of us have heard of nitrogen fertilizers, and may know that ammonia (NH₄) and its derivatives have been used for providing nitrogen to plants for decades. The discovery that ammonia could be used to provide the nitrogen component of plant cells was a real breakthrough for modern agriculture. Prior to the 1940s, the primary source of nitrogen, an essential element for building protein by plants, had been the breakdown of plant and animal tissues and their deposition in the soil by microorganisms. This breakdown and redistribution was helped along by the organisms in the digestive systems of ruminant animals whose manures were deposited across the plains of North America and other continents.

Wikipedia says, "The primary source of organic matter contained in soil is vegetal. In forest or prairies, as well as agricultural fields, dead plants are transformed by different kinds of living organisms. This process involves several steps, the first being mostly mechanical, and becoming more chemical as it progresses. The small living beings that work on that decomposition chain are themselves part of the soil organic matter, and form a food web of organisms that prey upon each other and are preyed upon."

There are literally billions of organisms in a square meter of healthy soil. While some soil organisms are pests, such as nematodes, root aphids, fly and beetle larvae, and slugs, snails and caterpillars, most organisms are beneficial. They can be categorized into 5 different groups, depending on size.



The largest, and first to impact a leaf or blade of grass when it falls to the ground will be the organisms known as the megafauna. While we might think bison, this refers to smaller creatures such as rodents and small mammals who dig tunnels and take the plant debris from the surface into the lower depths of the earth. Large earthworms also fall into this category, along with other insects that burrow into the soil and create the channels that allow air

and water to enter the soil. The macrofauna are also very diverse. This includes most earthworms and other segmented worms, millipedes and burrowing caterpillars. It also included slugs, snails and beetles and flies, and their larvae. They feed on plants, other organisms, or on decaying matter while also tunneling and carrying nutrients below the surface.

Mesofauna are still smaller, but still usually visible to the human eye if we look closely. These feed on smaller organisms, decaying matter and living plants and include such creatures as nematodes, mites, springtails, pauropods and proturans. Did you ever hear of those?

Still smaller creatures are the microfauna, which are less than 100 microns in length. They generally feed on other microcritters, and cannot be seen without magnification. These include rotifers, tiny flatworms, tardigrades and single-celled protozoans.

The smallest of all are the protists, including bacteria, eukaryotes, algae, fungi and actinomycetes. This group actually does a lot of the converting of broken down chemicals into other substances usable to plants. Without this biological breaking and reassembling, life as we know it would not exist.

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There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root, RH (AHG)

St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)



St. John's Wort is known in popular literature as "the depression herb". While it's true that St. John's Wort has been used to treat depression, the whole picture, as with all herbs, is that it is useful for so much more! We understand how we place someone in a small box when we label them with a one-liner. It's the same with plants—they have whole personalities, and multiple gifts and uses.

St. John's Wort is not only an anti-depressant, it is also anti-inflammatory, antiseptic and a nerve, among other qualities. It has been used as a salve for skin inflammations (use an oil extract as a base). It can be used on wounds, burns, bruises, hemorrhoids, acne, sciatica, and more. It's well known as one part of an ear oil for ear in-

flammation and infection (with garlic and mullein oils). Oil is lightly warmed and dropped into the ear (not for perforated ear drum!), and held in with a cotton ball. It has far more uses than I can write about in this article!

And then of course St. John's Wort is helpful for anxiety, stress, irritability, fear, and depression. I imagine it might be quite wonderful to sit in a meadow filled with the blooming plants; I know I always feel happy when harvesting it. Because it assists liver function it can clear many drugs and pharmaceuticals from the body more efficiently. For this reason it is contraindicated with many prescriptions, but note that it is because it is helping the liver do its job.

St. John's Wort is not local

to Crestone/Baca, but it is found widely in Colorado and is considered to be a weed. It gets its name *H. perforatum* because of the tiny pinholes in the leaf. Although the leaf is green and the flower yellow it produces an amazing blood red color when tinctured in alcohol or macerated in oil.

Homeopathic *Hypericum* is used for nerve injuries, or injuries to an area that has a lot of nerves, such as crushed fingers or toes and injuries to the coccyx. It's also used for puncture wounds, especially with nerve pain, shooting pains, numbness and tingling. As a flower essence SJW is used for "overly expanded states leading to psychic and physical vulnerability."

This is just a small description of the uses of this amazing weed. I hope you study it more deeply if you're interested in its use. Enjoy!

Dorje Root, RH (AHG) is an herbalist and natural healer; also working with Plant Spirit Medicine, Intuitive Energy Healing and 'The Journey' cellular healing. For an appointment call 719-937-7786 or visit www.rootsofhealing.com.



St. John's Wort is native to Europe and naturalized elsewhere. The Greek physicians Galen and Dioscorides recommended it as a diuretic, wound-healing herb, and treatment for menstrual disorders. During the Middle Ages remarkable, even mystical, properties were attributed to it—St. John's Wort was thought to be best if harvested on St. John's Day, June 24. Traditionally it was used for wound healing, especially for lacerations involving damaged nerves, and as a diuretic, astringent, and mild sedative. Now used for mild to moderate depression, in clinical trials patients who took Hypericum extract felt significant improvement in depressive mood indicators such as feelings of sadness, hopelessness, helplessness, and uselessness, as well as fear and difficult or disturbed sleep. St. John's wort extracts may interact with conventional drugs.

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In Search of Economic Reality

Why we regulate and why it is important

by Ed Lyell, PhD

Big business has always tried to reduce or eliminate regulations affecting their business. No regulation means less cost and thus more profit. Reducing regulation has been the mantra of the Republican Party, especially since the 1980s. So if you run or own a business, or make your money from your stocks and bonds in business, then you make more money when you can get regulations eliminated.

But why do we regulate?

When you have a perfectly competitive marketplace you have multiple buyers and sellers. You have substitute products and consumers have choices. This type market is thus self-regulated by consumer power to choose.

Yet for decades we have permitted big business to get bigger and bigger. Companies buy up their suppliers and their competitors, thus becoming monopolies or near-monopolies. The regulators have let this happen for decades, Democrat and Republican. Why? If you are a federal or state regulator, you learn that if you help a business or industry you can leave your government job and make big money, millions even, by having being nice to an industry and then getting a great job working for those that you deregulated.

Economists know that incentives like this are what drive human behavior.

Regulations are always hard to get created and made into law. Yet much of business regulation used to come from the industry itself. Workers want licensing in order to limit competition for their jobs and thus can drive up wages. Polluting companies want to operate cheaper and yet if you live in the valley where your power plant fumes are killing people you go to state or federal government and urge specific regulations to clean the air and water in which you and your family live. Yet over the last decades American companies have been purchased by foreign agents, directly and through hedge funds that can hide the names of owners. This foreign ownership only wants to maximize profit and does not live in the area being damaged, or purchase the products being produced. Being monopoly-like in many industries means that all Americans are going back to the bad air and water pollution of the 1960s. American products contain harmful chemicals to addict buyers, so much so that the multinationals have to produce a safer product under the same label in Europe and other countries that still put people before profit.

If an industry is no longer in a competitive marketplace then we need more regulations, not fewer.

Yet how do we get back to sensible regulation? The criteria should be what is good and safe for the majority of people. If using more coal hurts people, we should drive the energy industry to use less polluting energy sources. Yet the oil, gas, and coal industries not only are being deregulated, they are getting case incentives from the federal government to pollute.

A 2011 study showed that global renewable energy subsidies reached \$88 billion. At the same time the International Energy Agency (IEA) said that the current \$409 billion equivalent of fossil fuel subsidies are encouraging a wasteful use of energy, and that the cuts in subsidies is the biggest policy item that would help renewable energies get more market share and reduce CO₂ emissions. Since the Republicans took over the federal government and most State leaders, the polluting industries are getting even more financial and deregulation help than ever.

Now we also need to add the newest attack on the majority of Americans—the internet. The new Federal Communication Commis-

sion Republican leadership has voted to do away with Net Neutrality. Thus the big companies can start to charge more for some internet access than others. They are also deregulating the financial incentives that caused the internet to also reach poor people, urban and rural. With no obligation to serve higher cost, lower profit areas, millions of Americans, especially their children, are going to lose access to the vast educational resources of the world internet. Everything is going to cost more while getting less bandwidth and less free content. Those with money will win while the 99% will lose, again.

Education is now able to create 24/7 learning for all ages using the internet. Video games exist that entertain but also educate in all areas for all ages. Now we have online schools, colleges, and independent learning. One interesting book was titled something like Now that We Have Google Do We Need Schools?

Whether old stuff, like the oil and gas industry, or new things like broadband internet, regulations are needed to level playing fields, subsidize the disadvantaged, protect our air and water, and many other areas including bank regulations. Regulations help the 99% limit damage to them by a greedy 1%.

Ed Lyell is Professor Emeritus, Business and Economics, Adams State University; reach him at ehlyell@adams.edu, facebook dredlyell.

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Thermal battery

continued from page B-1

buildings is of utmost importance to harvest efficiently the power of the sun and/or the wind. Secondly, the most advanced natural climate technologies are developed from traditional Arabic, Persian and Mediterranean cultures, with ancient solutions to climate issues while avoiding harmful practices.

One more example comes from Spain. In this case water or glycol is heated by rooftop solar thermal panels. It then flows into the house to the thermal energy storage unit where it circulates among the plates of the unit. As it does, the heat in the water is absorbed by the aluminum and passes through to the paraffin (which is in a solid state at the time).

Upon reaching a temperature of about 60°C (140°F) the paraffin melts to store the heat energy. When heat is needed later, cool wa-

ter is circulated through the channels, lowering the temperature of the paraffin. Once it drops below 60° C and re-solidifies, it releases the stored heat. The use of the thin plates allows the thermal energy to be released from the paraffin relatively quickly. Normally, such phase-changing takes a long time to release energy, which has limited usefulness in thermal energy storage devices. The paraffin and other phase-change materials, such as fatty acids, are capable of storing even more energy. Experimenters are also building a full-scale prototype, which will be tested via real-world use.

I truly hope this has been informative and valuable for you. If you would like more information please feel free to call me at 719-256-4768, check us out at www.shangrilahcolorado.com, www.crestonehub.com, or contact the real experts—Jerome Osentowski at 970-927-4158, <http://crmpi.org>, or www.ecosystems-design.com, and Michael Thompson at 970-274-0634.

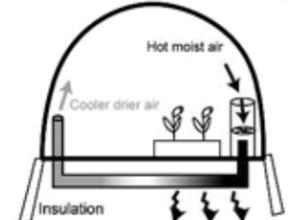
The Solution: Climate Battery

Carly Gayle
Mitchell McKinnon
Stephen Chisa
Kitaia Dao
Erin du Vair
Tara Vaziri

Stores summer heat in the soil beneath a structure for nighttime and winter use

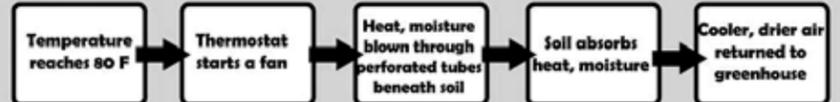
Maintains steady temperature year-round; fan is only energy input

Cross Section of a Climate Battery

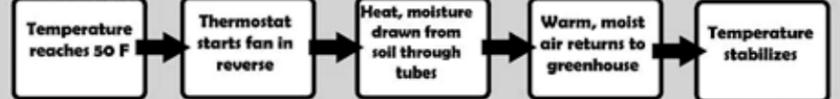


Approximate price for 600 sq ft climate battery: \$500 initial cost + \$42/yr operating cost (fan)

Summer, Day



Winter, Night



Heat is stored in the earth and rocks for later use—thus the term thermal battery.

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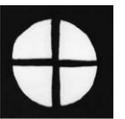


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FEBRUARY 2018 Listings

SOLD! Creek Property	SOLD! Fantastic Views	SOLD! Log Cabin	Under Contract UNDER CONTRACT WAS \$499,000	NEW LISTING & UNDER CONTRACT Southwest Sanctuary	UNDER CONTRACT Lots of Space
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535 Thornwood - \$255,000 2.72ac compound in the Grants w/ Ctnwd 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.	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 ste has built-in storage, soak tub w/views & balcony. Lg guest BR opens to outdoors via french doors. Xtra studio bldg on property.	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.	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.
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Under Contract Energy Efficient	NEW LISTING & UNDER CONTRACT Horse Property	UNDER CONTRACT Fantastic Views	UNDER CONTRACT 3 Creek Lots	New Listing Contemporary	Baca Meadows Remodeled Luxury Reduced from \$189,000
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1738C Willow Creek Way - \$259,000 Built in 2013, this Paul Koppapa 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.	21820 County Rd. 48X - \$249,000 Lovely 1606sf ranch home w/bunkhouse, horse setup, on 6.11ac on CR 48X just outside town of Saguache. Lots of updates to the home. Built in 1953, updated from 2013-current.	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.	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.	1212 Chaparral - \$229,000 Ranch style 3BR/1.75BA 1272sf stucco home w/mtn views. Built in 2017 by Terrapin & Co. near paved road close to town. Great room w/hardwood floors & views. Passive solar. Modern kitchen, new appliances. ETS heater & baseboard heating.	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!
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Grants Acreage WAS - \$389,000	 Off-Grid Acreage	Chalets Luxurious/Views	 Private Paradise 4 Bed / 2 Bath	 Indoor Exercise Pool	 A Private Paradise!
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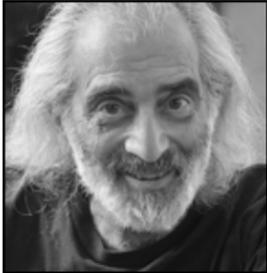
499C Willow Trail - \$350,000 A unique & rare find! ~3900sf with 4bd/3ba/ office/sunroom + attached greenhouse. 20+ acres. Tall trees. Private, long cul de sac & backs to Conservation Easement, offering extreme privacy. Well water.	1381 Saddle Rock Trail - \$280,000 Light-filled 1902 sf 2BR/1BA strawbale off-grid home w/stunning views. Radiant in-floor heat & heartstone woodstove. Open living space, private gardens, walled patio, greenhouse, shed & heated garage. 8+ acr incl. lots 1381, 1444 & 1445.	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 Koppapa 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 P.Koppapa 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.
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Chalets Private on the Creek WAS \$429,000	 Private Setting WAS \$449,000	 Spacious & near creek! WAS \$319,000	 Magnificent Views WAS \$295,000	 Newer Construction	 Log Home WAS \$249,000
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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 Koppapa. A refined Asian/Southwest blend. On private cul-de-sac 5.35 acres backs to greenbelt. 30' yurt w/kitchenette & bathroom.	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!	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.	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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2017-2018 HOME SALES (*denotes listed & sold)

380 N Alder St	\$425,000	SOLD	1212 Chaparral Way	\$175,000	SOLD*
786C Panorama Way	\$399,000	SOLD*	107 Pinewood OL	\$172,500	SOLD*
1038 Beaver Trail	\$337,000	SOLD*	1327 Badger Road	\$172,000	SOLD*
4511C Ridgecrest Way	\$312,000	SOLD*	98 Skyview Way	\$169,000	SOLD*
223 Moffat Way	\$289,000	SOLD*	200 Evergreen	\$169,000	SOLD
2145 Indian Well	\$266,500	SOLD*	3705 Carefree Way	\$165,000	SOLD
535 Thornwood	\$255,000	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*
3762 Carefree Way	\$198,000	SOLD*	120 W. Silver Ave.	\$399,000	UNDER CONTRACT*
661 Camino Del Rey	\$195,000	SOLD	999C Badger Road	\$289,000	UNDER CONTRACT*
2035 Lost Cave Way	\$189,900	SOLD	359 Chaparral Way	\$259,000	UNDER CONTRACT
333 Palomino Way	\$189,000	SOLD*	1738C Willow Creek Way	\$259,000	UNDER CONTRACT
2715 Happy Hollow Way	\$185,000	SOLD	21820 County Rd. 48X	\$249,000	UNDER CONTRACT
635C Panorama Way	\$179,000	SOLD*	323 Holiday Way	\$235,000	UNDER CONTRACT
			415C Moonlight Way	\$159,000	UNDER CONTRACT



Aging as an adventure

by Ammi Kohn

Get real, Ammi!

Really, Ammi, aging as an adventure? Get real! The body slows down, the machinery deteriorates. And you want to tell me that is an adventure?

Well, the Random House Webster's College Dictionary defines "adventure" as (1) an exciting or very unusual experience, (2) a bold, uncertain, and usually risky business." It seems to me that the experience of aging, depending on the attitude of the aging one, of course, can qualify as an adventure under both definitions. Every age has its own choices and adventures—childhood, young adulthood to maturity, raising a family, transitioning to life without intense parenting. Each of these, and other different periods of life, if not married and no children, can have their exciting, risky, unusual, and bold choices and actions. But there definitely is something special about the choices and perspectives of aging.

For me, what makes aging different from other stages of life is the the perspective of age that colors how I perceive and feel my life as it happens, immediately, and not in retrospect, a total gestalt feeling and understanding that comes only with age and experience. I live in the world, experiencing it as others do, but often I am not of it, I feel the experience and at the same time have some remove as I remember and am conscious of the past. I am not completely of the world.

I will be 85 next year, living with the typical number of medical problems, the major being heart disease—none disabling but, yes, curtailing. I do feel a decline of physical ability, a shrinking of some capacities, but, with luck and taking care of myself, I should have some "good" years ahead of me. I've enjoyed, and want to continue enjoying what Nathaniel Hawthorne called "an intercourse with the world." My seventies and eighties with the world of Crestone have been the most enjoyable, creative, and growing years of my life.

But, much more important, with age I now experience and know a beautiful and luxurious expansion of awareness and perspective that colors the world as I experience it. I have seen and felt great personal sorrows and joys, and I grew from them. I've watched economic booms and depressions, revolutions, wars, famines, migrations, massive corruptions of the body civil, holocausts, unbelievable scientific advances absolutely unthinkable when I was a child. I am more aware of the beauty of every day life and how everything, everything, everything changes. At 84 I have a personal, intense, comprehensive view of the past. This past history is always present, always consciously and richly informing my life, all this impossible at a younger age.

I know what an Almost Century is like.

My older remaining years are not a burden to endure and somehow make more tolerable. No, these years are more free, more meaningful because of the mental and emotional distance from those past decades when my younger life was governed by misunderstood drives and wants, rather than understood needs.

My inner life is free. I will make complete this life in my last years.

And then will come the Grand Final Experience. What will that be like?

And is this not all a Great Adventure, a bold, uncertain and usually risky business?



DISPATCH

from the edge 

Letter from the Bunkhouse on the Nature of God

by Peter Anderson

Dear Red, I know you been frettin' for some time now 'bout that brother of yours that's gotten all born again and wants to preach at you . . . like he's givin' his whole load of hay to some lonely old bull . . . So don't go getting all bent out of shape when I tell you I may have figgered God out last night. Oh I know what you're thinking . . . Old Slim's done gone and slipped a gear . . . but I'm hear to tell you, Red, I was standin' out by the bunkhouse, 'bout 3 o'clock in the mornin last night, looking out at the Milky Way like we do from time to time, and I was listenin' to . . . listenin' to . . . well actually there weren't nothing to listen to, which reminded me of all them Saturday nights when you used to say, let's go out and see what downtown ain't got. And then I thinks, as I'm looking up at all that sky, that there's more "ain't" than "is" out there, kinda like around here only moreso. So I'm standing here in the middle of everything that ain't and I says to myself, well, maybe this is where God lives, but then I remembers my Sunday school learnin' and I thinks, that can't be, cause God is everywhere . . . Now hear me out, Red, don't go off a jinglin your spurs quite yet. This is how I figgered it. You know how people these days are al-

ways saying, "well, it is what it is," whatever that means. Well I wonders to myself, "what if it is what it ain't?" And then I get to thinking how eveybody's yipping on the same old party line like a bunch of caterwallin' coyotes, and ain't nobody knows what their neighbors are sayin' anymore. Better to be out here at 3am when there ain't no one else around if you really want to hear somethin' and I figgered God might agree. "God," I said, "what you think bout that?" Well, God didn't have nothin' to say. And it occurred to me that maybe God don't hear real well. But that couldn't be, I says to myself, since God is all knowing like the book says. Then I'm thinking, well maybe God just don't talk much. Like Ed, remember old Ed? . . . the year he hurt hisself in that barb wire, and how we would always ask him at supper how his thumb was doin' just to hear him say a few words—Oh, it's a bit sore yet. And then I wonders if maybe God talks best when God don't talk at all, and maybe that's how come I feel like I'm listenin' to something big when there ain't nothin' to hear. So I believe I'll come out again tonight, Red, and see what happens.

Yours neath the ol Dipper,
None-Too Slim,
Vulture Gulch

How to stop unwanted phone calls

(StatePoint) Whether you use a landline, mobile phone or both, you've likely received those pesky robocalls—phone calls that use a computerized auto-dialer to deliver a pre-recorded message. As a consumer, here is what to know about this common annoyance to your home or personal line.

- Robocalls are often illegal. However, keep in mind that some robocalls are permitted, such as companies you have done business with under certain circumstances, medical appointment confirmations and school closing calls. Political and charitable calls are among others that also may be allowed, along with banks and telephone companies, provided those companies make the calls themselves. Remember, many robocalls illegally disguise, or "spoof," their Caller ID information or violate other rules.

- Advocates are working to mitigate the problem. For example, NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association and its members of more than 800 independent, community-based telecommunications companies, are working to provide information to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Robocall Strike Force to further develop and implement solutions to detect, assess and stop unwanted calls from reaching customers.

- Never respond to a robocall. The Federal Trade Commis-

sion (FTC) recommends that if you receive a robocall, simply hang up. They also warn consumers not to press any number to speak to a live operator or to unsubscribe from the list, as this will tell the robocaller that it's reached a live number.

- Don't give out personal information: If you receive an unsolicited call from any company, including one you do business with, tell them that you will not give them information until you verify the call is legitimate. Then, call the phone number you know or that you get from the company's website to confirm.

- Ask your phone company to block the number. Your carrier may be able to block certain numbers, although robocallers frequently change and disguise their numbers.

- You can use technology to block calls. Various companies offer products or services that help you control what calls ring on your phones. They range from mobile apps for wireless phones to devices you can plug into your home phone jacks in order to block robocalls to your wireless phone.

The FTC encourages consumers to report unwanted calls to www.donotcall.gov or 1-888-382-1222. Complaints may also be filed with the FCC online or 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322).

More information can be found at ntca.org/robocalls and fcc.gov/consumers/guides.



by **Suzanne McGregor**

Our current weekly reading program, "Stories for Little Ones," geared towards infants through age 4, is going strong. It is facilitated by our favorite storyteller, Penny from the Saguache Public Library, and is held each Tuesday morning starting at 11 and lasting until

everyone gets cranky! Please bring your little one(s) to this program and get an early start on a love of reading that can last a lifetime. In addition to the stories that Penny reads, there are art and craft activities and nutritious snacks. There is no registration required—just come when you can.

The Computer Clinic for seniors is continuing this month on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 (February 5, 7, 12, and 14). There are computers at the library that you can use or you can bring your own laptop, tablet or other device. The older folks in our community really find this program valuable, as they can come

in with specific issues and questions instead of enrolling in a class. You can just drop in or call Lori (937-1202) to reserve a spot.

One of the most difficult tasks we face is weeding/withdrawing books from the children's section. As our space in the children's reading room is limited, weeding becomes necessary when we cannot get a book back on the shelf without wedging it in—and the other books cannot breathe! So we have withdrawn quite a few, and they are now sitting in the Book Nook. Please come take a look at them as you might find the perfect book—or books—for your little ones.

For the newcomers in town, we extend a warm invitation to come visit the library. We look small from the outside, but many treasures lie within! There is a resource center with public computers connected to WiFi, and we offer printing, copying, laminating and faxing services (fees apply). There is an entire video room and a children's reading room, plus a large collection of fiction and non-fiction books, magazines and reference materials. Our alternative building and spirituality sections are among the best in the valley. We would love to show you around.

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/ Oh My Ghost: ★★★★★

[recently I've been enamored by Korean serials] (2015) Interesting storyline, well written and well acted. A lot of "romantic" a bunch of food prep, and lots of compassion and camaraderie. A timid sous chef with low self-esteem and no friends has the ability to see ghosts since she was a child because of her shaman grandmother. One day she is possessed by a seductress ghost who is a good chef in her own right. Watch the personality changes and relating to the ghost's father and brother and the amorous feeling of the shy girl's boss, who is a star chef. The plot thickens.

2/ Michael Clayton: (2007) ★★★★★

One of my kind of films, in that there is intrigue, smarts, outmaneuvering, and a win for the good guys! Michael Clayton (George Clooney) is what is known as a "fixer." In this case he's asked to come into play for this high-priced law firm whose main litigator has a (truth) breakdown on a class-action suit where he knows the company being defended is guilty. Meanwhile Michael has a gambling problem and owes, finding his life is at risk.

3/ Security: ★★★★★

This action, crime thriller has some good acting from Antonio Banderas, who plays an ex-marine who has just gotten a job as a security guard in a mall. He opens the doors to a distraught and desperate young girl who has fled the hijacking of a motorcade en route to testify as a trial witness. In pursuit is Ben Kingsley, as a psychopathic hijacker ready and willing to stop at nothing to extract and eliminate their witness. Just the right amount of ingenuity, tension, action and believability.

4/ This Is Not What I Expected: (2017) ★★★★★

Another very delightful play of personality differences in this Chinese haute cuisine romcom that is touching, tender, heartfelt and endearing. An obsessive, yet very polished CEO of a company, who goes around tasting foods at various hotels to see whether to buy them or not, meets his match in an illusive, loose and a bit ragtag lovely sous chef who knows perfect combinations in food palettes. Though their personalities are truly opposite there is a strong attraction that ensues, and one must take delight in the fantastic delicacies that are shown and experienced.

5/ Undercover Grandpa: (2016) ★★★

A shy 17-year-old finally scores a date with the girl he's been too shy to ask out. Meanwhile his grandpa is known for his tall tales of his time in the war with his special ops unit. So when the girl is kidnapped, grandpa summons his old cronies special ops unit for one more mission. Stars James Caan, Louis Gossett Jr., Paul Sorvino.

CROSSWORD

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THEME: WINTER OLYMPICS

ACROSS

- Nordic gl_hwein
- *It last broadcast the Olympics in 1988
- Sigma Phi Epsilon
- Yokel's holler
- Promise to pay
- Pre-bun state
- Dug up
- Luftwaffe's WWII enemy
- Provide with ability
- *Country with most Winter Olympic gold medals
- *Number of 2018 Winter Olympics sports
- Dog command
- Small island
- Cul de ____
- Partial haircut
- Geek and jock, e.g.
- S-shaped molding
- International Civil Aviation Org.
- Best not mentioned
- Pakistani language
- *American skating icon
- College cadet program
- Crocodile ones are insincere
- Make children
- This and the other
- Praise for a fearless one
- Dispatch
- Ornamental pond-dweller
- Classic sci-fi video game
- Drag behind
- *Done on 90m hill
- "I love the smell of ____ in the morning."
- UFO pilot?
- 1973 Supreme Court decision name
- "Complete ____'s Guides"
- Short for incognito
- Tokyo, in the olden days
- Impulse transmitter
- Indian restaurant staple

DOWN

- *Olympic participant's hangout
- Been in bed
- *8-time American speed skating medalist
- Regular visitors
- Long-billed shore bird
- Well-ventilated
- Flapper's neckwear
- Spots for links
- Arial, e.g.
- Ill-mannered
- Malaria symptom
- Subsequently
- **"Agony of ____"
- Like anchor aweigh
- Not well
- Ezra Pounds' poetry movement
- *Which Korea is 2018 Winter host?
- Come to terms
- Closet wood
- Frosts a cake
- Fence prickle
- Kindle content
- Powerball, e.g.
- *2014 Winter host city
- France's currency
- Shrek
- Busybody, in yiddish
- House cover
- Opposite of pro
- *Olympic no-no
- Shrek and Fiona
- Crane or heron
- Jainism follower
- Arm part
- Isinglass
- Lowly laborer
- Rhymes with #60 Down
- Plural of lira
- Change of address
- Lyric poem
- X

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Veterans Assistance Grant

The Saguache County Veterans Service Office has limited grant funds to assist with rent, utilities, food and gas. Contact Jim Sheeran at 719-655-2680 or at jsheeran@saguachecounty-co.gov for more information.

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

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supervision. Must show enthusiasm, be highly organized, efficient and possess great work ethics. Please visit www.bacapoa.org for the full job description and application or call 719-256-4171 for more information.

Misc. Wanted

Hello Crestone Community

I am in search for a pasture or safe haven for my horse for a while until I can get my place established for her. She has been with a very gracious family in Salida but they

have recently sold their ranch. I have tried the boarding type situation before and had a really bad experience so looking more for someone that may need a companion for their animal(s) or just needing a pasture maintained. I will be around and close to maintain, feed, water or anything needed to help care for her. She is well mannered and loving to people and animals. Thank you and will remain hopeful! 405 625 4083

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EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

Train vs Bus?

Dear EarthTalk: I always assumed the train was the greenest form of mass transit, but a friend told me I would be better off taking the bus. Could this be true?

-Jane McNeil, New York, NY
Most of us assume that train travel—whether for getting around town, commuting to work or for long hauls—is the most eco-friendly mass transit “mode.” Indeed, trains seem greener, with some relying exclusively on electricity while others utilize a single diesel-powered locomotive to pull dozens of passenger cars.

But even though trains are no slouch when it comes to fuel efficiency, buses, even though they spew diesel exhaust and get only about six miles per gallon, may be even better.

“The reason . . . is that they are usually full of people, giving [buses] the highest miles per gallon per passenger, at 208,” reports CNN’s Steve Hargreaves based on his research digging into Department of Energy data. He adds that trains are the next best choice for the eco-conscious traveler, whether commuting or doing a longer haul. “A city train (think subway or light rail) gets 52 mpg per passenger (or the equivalent, if it’s electric), while a commuter train—usually used to connect the suburbs to a city—gets about 44 mpg per passenger.”

A landmark 2013 study in Environmental Science and Technology by researchers at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO) backs up these findings. The researchers found that bus travel noses out rail travel in fuel efficiency and carbon impact on typical business or holiday trips ranging from 500-1000 kilometers (300-600 miles), generating only about 20%

of the per-passenger emissions as driving alone in a typical gas-powered car.

“Motor coaches leave carbon in the dust,” reports the non-profit Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), adding that a couple can cut their travel carbon emissions in half by boarding a motor coach instead of taking their Prius. “And if they take the motor coach rather than flying, they will cut their emissions by 55% to 75%, depending on the distance they travel.” And given that many bus companies have ditched their old buses in favor of new models replete with not only more efficient engines but also reclining seats, on-board entertainment and WIFI, the bus could become your new favorite way to travel.

Though buses are the current green leader, trains are catching up fast. All of Amtrak’s trains in its busiest Northeast Corridor now eschew the old diesel generators that used to power their locomotives, and run instead on an increasingly renewable supply of electricity. Some \$10 billion in investment in high-speed rail by the Obama administration means trains are getting more efficient across the country as well.

While Candidate Trump promised he would pour hundreds of millions of dollars into further boosting high-speed rail infrastructure, his 2018 budget does more to decimate Obama’s progress on the issue than augment it. Whether he will follow through with a plan to further bolster U.S. rail travel remains to be seen. In the meantime, while trains remain a viable green choice, choosing Greyhound over Amtrak might be the better option for the time being.

Contacts: UCS, www.ucsusa.org; Amtrak, www.amtrak.com; IIASA, www.iiasa.ac.at; CICERO, www.cicero.uio.no; Greyhound, www.greyhound.com.

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

Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

December 21 to January 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip (includes melted snow): 0.05”

Snow: 0.6”

Measurable precipitation fell on 3 days.

Measurable snow fell on 3 days.

A trace of snow fell on 4 days.

No rain, hail or thunderstorms occurred.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan. 1 (final for 2017): 14.03”

Since Jan. 1 (for 2018): 0.04”

Total snow to date:

Since Jan. 1 (final for 2017): 55.1”

Since Jan. 1 (for 2018): 0.5”

Snow Season*: 3.5”

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 54.7°F on December 30

Low temp: 3.5°F on January 17

Avg. high: 43.2°F

Avg. low: 15.5°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 50°: 5

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 40°: 18

Number of days with the high temperature at or below freezing: 2

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: 31

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 10°: 6

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 1.5 mph

Highest gust: 37 mph on December 21

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

Weather summary:

Two main weather features took place during this time period: well above normal temperatures along with major drought conditions for the third month in a row.

Temperature-wise, readings averaged 7° to 8° above the normal for the entire period, a trend that started back in October of 2017. For this time period, our average lows at night should be right around zero on average (between -2° and +5°, depending on

where you live in the area). Yet for the last 31 days, the average low has been a very warm 16°! Our high temperatures have seen the same warmth, whereas we should be around freezing each day, the average high has been 43°!

Then a total lack of snow has been the other unwanted feature, with only half an inch of snow seen for the period. The season total so far of only 3.5”, is the lowest total ever seen since records have been kept, and up until January 20, there had only been 6 days of a reported snowpack (of just one inch) in town, a record low number.

Thanks to an overall wetter-than-normal 2017, and with the current drought only getting started in early October of ‘17, we at the moment are only experiencing moderate drought conditions. But just 3 months ago we had no drought conditions here at all. This one came out of nowhere and hit our area fast.

Outlook for February

The month of February isn’t the best time of year to be in a drought, since it’s the driest month of the year for the greater Crestone area. Only 0.51” of melted snow (aka liquid precip) is expected on average, along with an average snowfall of 8.8” for the month. The wettest February on record was just 3 years ago in 2015, when 1.15” of precipitation was recorded. The snowiest February was in 2003, when 24.4” fell.

This is our third coldest month of the year, with the average high and low temperatures 36° and 9° at the start of the month, and by the month’s close, it warms up to 42° and 17°. The warmest temperature recorded in February was 63°, reached in 1986 and also in 2006, with a very cold -26° being the coldest reading, set on February 1, 1985. That is also the coldest reading ever recorded in Crestone, with the first week in February seeing 5 of the 6 coldest days ever recorded in our area (-20° or colder).

The 30-day outlook for February from the NWS is calling for more of the same warm and dry weather, with well above average temperatures expected, along with below normal snowfall.

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