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The powerful Japanese Taiko drummers will perform at this year's annual Shumei celebration May 19 & 20. Their complicated and artistic rhythms are not to be missed. See feature story on pages 12 & 13. photo by Shumei staff  
To see this photo in color and more, visit our website at [www.crestoneagle.com](http://www.crestoneagle.com)

## Wildfire scorches large area near Road GG & Highway 17

by Mary Lowers

According to Baca Grande Fire Chief Tad Crawford an area of “roughly forty to sixty acres near Highway 17 and the intersection of County Road GG, about a mile north of Joyful Journey Hot Springs” ignited on the afternoon of April 23. Chief Crawford reported that firefighters from Villa Grove, Crestone, Baca Grande, Moffat and Saguache showed up to fight the blaze. Chief Crawford commented “there was a good collaboration of resources, everyone was safe, and worked together well.” Nearby resident Caren Kerschner said in a Facebook post,

the fire “could have been bad news if wind started blowing. PLEASE don’t toss your cigarettes or roaches out the car window, burn trash, or build campfires.” When asked about what caused the fire Chief Crawford said he could not “comment at this time.” There have been reports from around the state of fires started near roads from lit cigarettes or possibly dragging chains causing sparks.

Also on April 23 there was a small structure fire south of Saguache off Hwy. 285. Our volunteer firefighters successfully extinguished both blazes.



A wildfire takes off near the junction of Highway 17 and County Road GG. The Villa Grove fire department with assistance from other departments quickly put out the blaze. See our B-1 feature about historic fires in the San Luis Valley. photo by Victoria Cohen

## Colorado State Patrol has no tolerance for behaviors that could spark fires—no butts!

The summer fire season is upon us even earlier than usual this year. The Colorado State Patrol is reminding residents and visitors alike that there will be zero tolerance for behaviors, whether negligent or knowing, that could spark wildfires.

Already this year, southwestern Colorado has seen numerous brush fires adjacent to public roadways and near residences. The US

Drought Monitor has the San Luis Valley listed as D2 (severe) to D3 (extreme) on a scale from 0 to 4. A recent (April 20, 2018) SNOTEL Snow and Precipitation Update Report from the Natural Resources Conservation Service reports that the snow water equivalent for the Upper Rio Grand River Basin is 33% of the 1981-2010 median, and the Water Year-to-Date Precipitation is only 55% of the average. The

Rio Grande and Conejos Rivers are expected to run very low and possibly even dry up in some locations.

Smoke from the Bonita Canyon fire, in northern New Mexico, which has been burning since June 3 and has consumed 1,800 acres thus far, is visible in the San Luis Valley. On April 17 near Alamosa a wind-driven fire consumed hundreds of acres and prompted evacuation

*continued on page 4*

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## The Crestone Eagle

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**Comments or opinions expressed in The Crestone Eagle are not necessarily those of the publisher,**

**but are solely those of the writer.**

Deadline for copy: 18th of the month.

Letters to the Editor must be 300 words or less.

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.



## Want energy from the sun?

Dear Readers,

Do you already have photovoltaics? If not, are you interested in getting electricity from the sun?

The Crestone/Baca Resiliency Energy Group wants to find out the current status of, and future desire for, residential or commercial solar electric power in Crestone/Baca and the surrounding area. If you already have pv, or have even thought about getting photovoltaics for your home or business, please go to <https://crestonebacaresiliency.net> and click on "Energy". There you will be asked to take our quick, easy survey. This involves no commitment; we just want to know the level of interest in the community.

Thank you for your time and participation.

Janet Woodman

## We the people

Dear Editor,

Our community-wide May 5th celebration at our POA Hall was canceled by the POA management. The celebration will now be held in the Town of Crestone. There will still be a restorative meeting at the POA Hall to discuss policies recently implemented by the POA management that may infringe upon the peoples' constitutional right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. New information appears to show that the covenants and restrictions currently in place at our POA may have been passed illegally, and that a cover-up of such information has been in place for years. Nevertheless, all punitive damages to the POA membership and people should cease immediately. These new policies were implemented recently without legal notice or the consent of the membership and create a culture of fear—it appears—and have imposed very steep land-use deposits, and this has prevented many people from being able to build homes in our community.

Many law suites against POA members paid by the same with less results than restorative measures. There have been documented cases of criminal trespass on private property by POA land-use staff.

Additionally, many of our nation's veterans who live here already, and new military service members who have moved here recently, don't agree with any breach of our constitution since they have taken an oath to defend the people from foreign and domestic enemies. I am one of many people who are going to shed light upon any breach of our US and/or Colorado Constitution, and bring forth a petition by the people to restore the POA management with ethical policies for our children's and grandchildren's benefit. Property values are not based on monetary exchange alone.

## Saguache County Fire Ban

**Issued by Saguache County Sheriff Dan Warrick**

Pursuant to Saguache County Ordinance 2013-1, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DECLARATION OF OPEN FIRE BANS BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OR THE COUNTY SHERIFF, I have determined that STAGE2 fire restrictions need to be implemented due to the "high" fire danger in Saguache County which is approaching "extreme". The following will now apply under Section II Prohibited Activities of Ordinance 2013-01;

This Fire Ban will be effective for the east side of Saguache County.

To Wit: East of CO Hwy 17, from Hwy.112 to Hwy. 285 and east of Hwy 285 from Hwy 17 and Hwy 285 Junction, North to the summit of Poncha Pass.

Section II. Prohibited Activities

1. The following activities are deemed to be "open fires" for the purpose of this Ordinance and are subject to ban:

A. Building, maintaining, attending or using an open fire to burn trash, debris, fence rows, or vegetation, any campfire (INCLUDING IN FOREST SERVICE CAMPGROUNDS), warming fire or charcoal grill. (propane grill fires are allowed)

B. Lighting fireworks of any kind, explosives, blasting caps, or any incendiary which may result in the ignition of flammable material.

C. Smoking except in an enclosed vehicle or building.

D. Welding or operating an acetylene torch with an open flame.

E. Disposing of any burning material or material hot enough to cause the ignition of weeds or grass such as cigarette or cigar butts or hot coals, except in a fireproof receptacle designed for such disposal.

F. The use of chainsaws or other internal combustion engines unless equipped with a spark arrestor, and accompanied onsite by a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher of not less than 8 OZ weight capacity, and a size 0 or larger round pointed shovel with an overall length of at least 36 inches.

The following person(s) shall be exempt from the provisions of this ordinance:

A. Persons with a valid permit or authorization from the Saguache County Sheriff specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act i.e. Outdoor cremations, agricultural needs

B. Any federal, state or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in their performance of an official duty.

We all breathe the same air and eat the same food. The quality of life we all share is our main property value. All the money in the world can't buy happiness or health.

In-service,  
 Nathan Good

## Mitigating at the Charter School

Dear Families and Community Members,

This winter has been unusually dry with hardly any snow. Now that spring has arrived, our creeks aren't reaching the valley as they usually do. Consequently, fire season has started early and will likely be dangerous in the summer. Our precious students and beautiful new school, nestled into the conifer forest, need to be protected from a potential wildfire. Therefore we request your participation in a community-wide fire mitigation day at the Crestone Charter School on Saturday, May 12, 2018.

Adam More from the Colorado State Forest Service will start the day with an information session on how to create a defensible place around homes, and will show homeowners on the school property how to fire mitigate their homes. After lunch, with your help, we all together will mitigate the forest around the school by hauling slash out of the woods.

The community at large has already offered the following help: One generous person has donated \$1,000 towards the \$4,500 that we need to raise for the sawyers and for the removal of slash from the site; Shumei has offered re-planting trees and shrubs that are too close to the school building; and the Zen Center will provide soup

for the lunch.

Now we need your commitment to complete this safety project! Please help us either by hauling slash on May 12, or donating funds to cover the full cost for professional sawyer and chipping services of \$3,500. Donations to the Crestone Charter School are tax deductible.

We will stack and cure all firewood gained, and auction it off in February to benefit our ski/snowboard program.

Please contact the school at 719-256 4907 or email Marie-Louise Baker at [mlbaker@crestone-charter.com](mailto:mlbaker@crestone-charter.com) with any questions or ideas.

Sincerely,  
 Marie-Louise Baker, Crestone Charter School Director

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:

COUNTY ROAD 71.2 LEADING TO THE NORTH CRESTONE CAMPGROUND WILL BE CLOSED FROM 7:30AM-5:00PM ON MAY 14-17 AND MAY 21-23. ONLY LOCAL TRAFFIC LIVING ON THAT ROAD WILL BE ABLE TO ACCESS. WE WILL BE DOING WORK TO WIDEN THE ROAD PRIOR TO THESE DATES, BUT ROAD ACCESS WILL BE AVAILABLE. WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

## Editor's Notes

### Who lives here?

Conversations in the Eagle office often center on housing. I have one staff member looking for a small place to rent, another who would welcome a change. People come in to check out the classifieds for rentals, trying to find an affordable place for one or two people. They are very rare. There is so much demand for small homes or apartments that they are now no longer "affordable".

This is really starting to hurt our community.

How is this happening? Too many rental homes have become Air BnBs. Good for the owners, but it cuts into the rental market.

Outside influence. If a 1-bedroom apt. in Denver goes for \$2000, then \$1000 here looks cheap. Except if you are trying to pay that rent by working at local jobs at local wages.

Property owners ask and can get higher rents. Don't blame them. If you have insurance, taxes and mortgage to pay, need to make repairs, or are living on a retirement income, you will ask what the market will bear.

Problem with this: Gentrification. The elimination of people who hold down the service jobs, work at the shops, volunteer, teach, try to raise a family or are retired on limited incomes. A loss of really good people.

Solutions: Allow for smaller homes. The Town of Crestone has a minimum sq. ft. requirement of 300 sq. ft. It allows for accessory dwelling units (ADUs), small apts. and cottages in conjunction with a home. The 900 sq. ft. minimum in the Baca means lots of expense has to go into a home larger than what may be needed. Allow for ADUs in the Baca (water law can allow for them). Encourage apartment buildings, senior or singles housing, duplexes. Allow owner/builders more time to build. Help rather than penalize where we can.

Living in Saguache County has never been about the money. It is about the people and the beauty. We need to keep both.

—Kizzen

## Windy Tuesday multi-car pileup

by Mary Lowers

Tuesday April 19 was one of the worst dust storms I have even seen in the San Luis Valley. It was a blowing brown-out until late afternoon in Crestone and the Baca Grande, but the conditions were more intense in the middle of the valley. Hooper and Center nearly disappeared in the dust storm.

According to Saguache County Deputy Wayne Clark, an eight-car pileup accident on Hwy 17, north of Hooper the afternoon of April 19 was "caused by sand blowing and poor visibility." Everyone in the accident must have been driving as carefully as possible because no one was seriously hurt. Hwy 17 was closed for several hours and many locals who were driving that afternoon said they had to pull over and wait for the dust to settle down or take a detour in order to get home. Spring dust storms are legendary around here. A number of years ago when scientists examined dust blowing around the valley, they found particles of dust here from the Gobi Desert in China!

## Fatal crash on Hwy. 160

by Mary Lowers

At 11:30pm on Wednesday, April 18, Colorado State Patrol (CSP) were called to the scene of a single car rollover accident on Hwy. 160 in Alamosa County near the exit to the Great Sand Dunes National Park. According to a CSP press release, the crash involved a 2005 Jeep Liberty driven by Dylan Vittoria, 24, of Mosca. Vittoria and a passenger, Theodor Ammerman, 32, also from Mosca, were driving north when they drifted off the left side of the highway and struck a post. Vittoria steered the Jeep to the right trying to gain control of the vehicle, causing it to rotate in a clockwise direction. Still attempting to gain control of the spinning Jeep, Vittoria then steered to the left causing a counterclockwise rotation of the vehicle before it left the highway. Vittoria succumbed to his injuries and died at the scene. Ammerman, the passenger, was transported to SLV Regional Medical Center with serious injuries. CSP is investigating excessive speed, alcohol, and drug use in connection with this crash. The cause of the accident is under investigation.



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## Saguache County Crime report

by Mary Lowers

While the Saguache County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) ramps up its warrant round up, bookings from the jail include a high number of people taken into custody on failure to appear charges. These sorts of charges along with fugitive from justice charges often indicate that they are accused law breakers with warrants out for their arrest.

A Center man, 29, was held in Saguache County Jail on \$1000 bail for being a fugitive from justice and failure to appear charges. Another Center man, 36, was taken in on failure to appear charges with \$3000 bail listed. Four fugitive from justice and three failure to appear charges landed a Center man, 34, in jail with no bail listed. A Baca man, 36, was jailed with \$350 bail on two failure to appear counts and a fugitive from justice charge. A Center man, 30, went to jail on two failure to appear charges with no bail listed. A Casita Park woman, 30, was jailed with a failure to appear charge and \$300 bail. A homeless woman, 31, from Del Norte was given \$250 bail to get out of jail on a failure to appear charge. A Crestone man, 36, was jailed on several failure to appear and fugitive from justice counts with no bail listed. His warrants include felony charges.

Domestic crimes are always a high statistic in economically stressed areas like Saguache County. This past month several people went to jail on domestic violence-related charges. A Saguache man, 44, was jailed for violation of a restraining order with no bail listed. A Center man, 32, was jailed with no bail listed on charges of harassment and domestic violence. A Saguache man, 65, was summoned to appear in court on charges of violation of a protection order. A Casita Park man, 43, went to jail with charges of harassment, criminal mischief, and domestic violence with no bail listed. A bail amount of \$500 was set for a Center man, 34, jailed for violation of a restraining order. A Center man, 37, was also given \$500 bail when he was jailed for violation of a restraining order. A Crestone man, 32, was taken into jail on a probation violation warrant from out of state.

There were several drunk or stoned driving arrests this past month in the county. An Ignacio man, 31, was issued a summons to appear and jailed with \$500 bail for: driving with a revoked license, being a habitual offender, driving an unregistered and defective vehicle. An Oolagah, OK woman, 36, was jailed for DUI charges with \$500 bail. A Crestone man, 39, was summoned to appear in court on charges including: DUI, prohibited use of a weapon, being intoxicated while in possession of a firearm, and failure to stop at a STOP sign. A Silverthorn man, 60, went to jail for DUI, speeding, and driving with excessive alcohol content. His bail amount was \$500.

Other arrests this past month include a Crestone man, 36, summoned to appear for careless driving. A Center man, 18, was jailed for theft, second degree burglary, and crimes against at risk adults and juveniles with no bail listed. Third degree assault charges landed a Center man, 33, in jail with no bail listed.

The record shows there are now two registered sex offenders residing in the Crestone area, one in Casita Park and one residing in the Grants.

Sheriff Dan Warrick wants to make sure everyone is aware of and is following the stage two fire ban instituted for Saguache County. His office told the *Eagle*, "If there is a genuine need to conduct a burn, citizens may contact their local fire department and the SCSO for consideration of approval." Please check out the fire ban for your safety!

I was told by SCSO that a "seat belt grant" received by the County has led to more funding for deputies to observe and ticket drivers and their passengers for not wearing the legal restraint. There was a rash of seat belt tickets given out last month. The average no seat belt ticket costs about \$85, so buckle up folks.

It has just been reported that Saguache County has the seventh-highest population growth rate in the state. We are also home to the second oldest jail in the state. Our abysmal jail situation is beginning to make news. In the past month KUSA 9NEWS has done a piece on our jail. According to Allison Sherry of Colorado Public Radio in her report on our county jail, "The cells don't have natural light or fresh air. And the whole place is not safe." Our jail was a previous sheriff's home and was converted into a temporary facility many years ago, which is desperately inadequate for current needs. I encourage citizens to support what is needed to get a decent jail for our county.

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## State Patrol warns of fires

*continued from page 1*

orders. In Pueblo County a fire near Highway 50 destroyed five homes and caused the evacuations of 200 families in the area. Wildfires are devastating and expensive. They also exhaust resources that are then not available for regular responses.

**Illegal and unsafe behaviors that could start destructive and costly fires such as these include:**

- Left/Deposit/Threw Burning Material from a Motor Vehicle (42-4-1406(1)(b), C.R.S.) Yes, this includes cigarettes and cigars and ash from cigarettes and cigars.
- Failing to remove (Lighted/Burning) Matter (Left/Deposited/Thrown) on Highway (42-4-1406(2), C.R.S.)
- Unlawful Possession/Sale/Use of Fireworks (24-33.5-2010, C.R.S.)

Even intentionally ignited and what are thought to be well-contained fires, like campfires in a fire ring, can easily get out of control. When and where fire bans are in place, it is imperative that they are followed. Low fuel moisture levels, moderate to high winds, high temperatures, and hilly terrain can contribute to fires getting out of control easily. Fires that result in damage to public lands or private property, injury, or death carry appropri-

ate arson charges. These charges can apply even if a fire is unintentionally started but without due regard, or if it is intentionally started for any reason but is not maintained in a reasonably cautious manner. The following are treated as an automatic summons to court:

- Unlawful Conduct on Public Property (such as starting a fire) (18-9-117, C.R.S.)
  - Built Fire Where Prohibited (33-15-106, C.R.S.)
- Additionally, drivers in Colorado are reminded that it is illegal and unsafe to:
- Fail to yield right of way to an emergency vehicle (42-4-705(1), C.R.S.)
  - Follow too closely behind fire apparatus (42-4-1403, C.R.S.)
  - Drive a vehicle over fire hose (42-4-1404, C.R.S.)
  - Park in front of a fire hydrant (42-4-1204(7), C.R.S.)

There are many reasons we love to live and play in the San Luis Valley. Please be aware of your actions this summer while driving, camping, and enjoying the many forms of recreation. Consider where you park your vehicle; hot exhaust components can easily ignite brush or dry grass and your car. Obtain information on fire bans and permits from the National Forest Service and by contacting your county or city. Help spread the word to family, friends, and neighbors. It will take every one of us together to ensure our area remains the safe and enjoyable place that it is.

## Be careful! Hantavirus history in the SLV warrants awareness

—*Saguache County Public Health*

Take precautions if you are cleaning sheds, garages or any area with mouse droppings! Hantavirus can be deadly.

Twenty-four years after its discovery, Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) continues to be a special concern in the San Luis Valley. The disease is of concern to public health officials here because it is more common in the San Luis Valley than most places, and it has an extremely high fatality rate. Of those who develop the illness, 38% do not survive.

“Awareness, prevention, and early medical care are key to protecting local residents from this dangerous disease,” says SLV Regional Epidemiologist Ginger Stringer. Prevent exposure by avoiding contact with rodents, their urine and droppings, and their nesting materials. It is especially important to take precautions, such as wearing appropriate face masks and wetting down areas to be cleaned with a bleach solution, to prevent the virus from being breathed in.

If a person is exposed to the virus, it may take 1-8 weeks for symptoms to develop. Early symptoms are fatigue, fever and muscle aches, especially in large muscles. Some people also have headaches, nausea, and other symptoms. Four to 10 days later, late symptoms of coughing and shortness of breath appear as the lungs fill with fluid. A patient’s condition can deteriorate very quickly at that stage.

Although it existed earlier, hantavirus was not identified until 1993, when a drought in the Four Corners area was followed by a year of heavy snow and rainfall. Plants flourished and the rodent population increased tenfold because there was plenty for them to eat. A young, healthy man and his fiancé came down with a mysterious respiratory illness and died very rapidly within a week of one another. Baffled doctors and researchers began investigating as more cases of the disease were reported. Eventually the researchers were able to link the illness to the previously unknown hantavirus. Forty-eight cases were identified that first year, and more than half of them were fatal.

Fast forward to 2017, and hantavirus cases have occurred in 36 states. New Mexico has had more cases than any other state, and Colorado comes in at a close second. Colorado saw 4 cases of HPS in 2017. One of those was in the San Luis Valley. The rate of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is between 9 and 63 times higher in the San Luis Valley than in the state of Colorado as a whole.

More info about hantavirus can be found at [cdc.gov/hantavirus](http://cdc.gov/hantavirus).

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## SCSO warrant sweep: Failed to appear? The Sheriff is looking for you!

by *Mary Lowers*

The Saguache County Sheriff’s Office (SCSO) is actively going after people with warrants in the county. According to Deputy Wayne Clark, “We are actively going after anyone with warrants now to clean up the county.” All the *failure to appear* charges you see in the *Eagle* Crime Report each month are about people who do not appear for court dates and get warrants issued for their arrest. This warrant sweep means the SCSO is no longer arresting, if they happen to come across them, those who have blown off their court dates but are actively persuing those with warrants. If you have a warrant out in your name you will definitely be booked into jail, so it would be smart to go over to Saguache and get the matter straightened out with the court before the SCSO finds you.

This past month, Deputy Clark told me a Baca man with numerous warrants including a felony warrant for his arrest tried to get away from deputies on his dirt bike. The chase happened over by the White Eagle and the Baca Library on the north side of County Road T. Librarians called me to ask what was going on as they observed a SCSO SUV chasing a dirt bike around the tennis court and into Casita Park. Deputy Clark and Corporal Hansen caught the fleeing felon and took him off to jail.

Crestonians observed a cara-

van of SCSO deputies coming down Road T. They fanned out across the area to nab people with outstanding warrants. Deputy Clark said, “We had a search warrant on information that an at-risk juvenile was at a Baca house. A suspect with multiple warrants was found hiding in the bathroom.” Before the man was arrested on his outstanding warrants he told Deputy Clark the location of the at-risk juvenile at KV Estates. Deputy Clark was able to go get the young person without incident.

Another man with warrants out for his arrest was “picked up by Deputies Pascoe and Clark at his mother’s house.” A Baca man with outstanding warrants was taken in after he tried to flee. Two Baca women were arrested on outstanding warrants and booked into Saguache County Jail.

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by Allyson Ransom,  
Crestone Town Clerk

**April 9 Board of Trustees meeting**

The meeting began at 9:32am, and the Board of Trustees passed the following motions:

- To approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting from March 12, 2018
- To approve the agenda as amended with the addition of adopting the Saguache County Stage 2 Fire Hazard Restrictions and completing appointments required by the CDBG grant for Phase II-Downtown Development project.
- To adopt Ordinance #2018-002 that amends Ordinance #2008-006, creating a municipal water system for the Town of Crestone
- To adopt Ordinance #2018-003 extending a moratorium on tiny houses for one year
- To approve paying the bills with the exception of paying the full amount of Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District's sewer collections bill and to direct the Treasurer to pay only \$1000 of their bill initially while research is underway regarding the rate increase
- To approve the financial report as presented by the Treasurer
- To approve Karen Kenney's water line extension application to Block 59 on W. Copper Ave. as presented by Water Systems Manager Ann Bunting and subject to the adoption of the amended Water Ordinance #2018-002 during the Attorney's Report
- To approve the Town paying 30% of the cost for three water taps to the Block 59 property while the trench is still open
- To approve paying the cost to install one standard-sized fire hydrant during construction of the water line extension to Block 59
- To appoint Mayor Danforth and Trustee Laki as the official town representatives for the CDBG-funded Phase II Downtown Development Project
- To authorize Burt Wadman to contract for geotechnical services, construction staking, and local construction for fence and sidewalk work on behalf of the Board for preliminary work on Phase II of the downtown project
- To appoint Mayor Danforth, Terry Goergen, Burt Wadman and Benjamin Byer as the design evaluation committee for the Downtown Development Phase II during the Request for Proposals process
- To solicit work to remove and prune trees in the public right of way for the Phase II project and subject to approval by the Crestone Tree Board
- To accept the resignation of Trustee Diane Bairstow as Mayor Pro-tem and to appoint Trustee Adam Kinney as Mayor Pro-tem
- To adopt the fire ban to Stage 2 danger level alert from

**Saguache County**

- To support Saguache County recognizing child abuse prevention month and direct the mayor to sign the proclamation
- To approve spending up to \$800 to purchase badges and body cameras for the two new code enforcement employees
- To submit an Intergovernmental Contract Agreement to Dan Warwick of the Saguache County Sheriff's Department requesting eight hours' coverage per week, patrolling within the town limits by a certified officer at an all-inclusive rate of \$45 per hour
- To approve Denise Peine's lot plan for volunteers to construct a pet cemetery in the southwest corner of the Town of Crestone cemetery parcel and to move forward with an independent contractor agreement including a liability clause
- To approve spending up to \$250 to commission Blue Earth Designs to create a visually pleasing sign for "Fire Ban Stage 2" and to be installed on the "Welcome to Crestone" sign; Trustee Kinney abstained from voting due to conflict of interest
- To deny the written request from Tom Hollmer to drill a well for water on his property in Block 28 at the corner of Carbonate and Cedar Streets.
- To adjourn the meeting at 4:06pm

**Citizen's comments**

Town resident Fred Bauder spoke to the Trustees about his experience dealing with storm water runoff on his property on Silver Ave., and his efforts to protect and mitigate as well as his future concerns about excess water coming down S. Cottonwood St. once Phase II of the Downtown project is completed. Mayor Danforth reminded him of a meeting scheduled on April 12 to go over his concerns in detail.

**Reports & discussions**

The Treasurer presented her detailed financial report and the month's bills for approval. The Trustees discussed several items with the Treasurer including:

- Previous month's sales tax revenue totaling \$19,391.29
- Report and confirmation

that the 2017 audit was completed on time

• An excessive sewer bill from the Baca Grande WS District after they installed a new meter device to measure effluent coming from town that is treated at the Baca Grande waste treatment plant. The Board members directed the Treasurer and Attorney Farish to research the situation further.

Mayor Kairina Danforth reported on the "Hear to Listen" session on April 2. She heard residents' concerns and suggestions about the extreme fire danger in town and the importance of placing a warning sign at the entrance to town, the need for all residents to support local businesses, and that electrical power lines could be buried underground with possible grants available for funding.

The Mayor also announced the Rights of Nature Movement event at the Colorado College Building on May 18, 2018.

The Clerk reported that:

• The election was successfully held on April 3 and was certified on April 12. The new Board members are Sam Pace, Bob Prather, Kizzen Laki and Diane Bairstow. The Trustees will be sworn in at the next regular meeting on May 14. The ballot issue asking the town electorate to approve a 1.2% sales tax increase failed with one third of the voters in favor while two thirds were against the measure.

• In a recent conversation, Sheriff Dan Warwick told the Town Clerk that he was amenable to reviewing an intergovernmental contract from the Town requesting part-time law enforcement coverage within Town limits for patrolling, writing traffic citations under the Model Traffic Code (MTC) and assisting the Town Code Enforcement Department with various issues that arise beyond the scope of a Town Code Enforcer's duties.

When the CYP closed their thrift store, the Board voted to use the space fronting Alder Street as a new meeting venue, and it was completed after repairs and repainting, located on the east side of the Crestone Town Hall building at 111 S. Alder Street. It is also the new location for the Crestone Food Bank, Saguache County Social Services, SLV Behavioral Health and other groups that used the old meeting room.

Remodeling also began in the old meeting room space to increase staff office space for 5 employees, more space for customers and most

importantly, all of the Town records will be moved into one primary location.

**Other news**

There is a severe fire danger threat at this time and the Town has adopted a Stage II Alert based on the Saguache County alert. There can be no outdoor fires of any kind; no covered BBQs, no outdoor smoking, no outdoor welding and chain saws may only be used if they have spark protection guards.

**The bears are back!**

Drought and warm weather caused some hungry black bears to come out of hibernation by late March. Trash left out has been raided and dumpsters tipped, so please be "bear beware." Information from the state wildlife department is available in Town Hall.

**Announcements**

• Hear To Listen—Trustees are available to speak with residents and others interested every first Monday of the month from 10am-noon at the Cloud Station, 222 S. Cottonwood Street.

• Board of Trustee meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 9:30am in the new Town Hall Meeting Room at 111 S. Alder St. on the east side of the Town Hall building. Contact the Town Clerk at least one week in advance to be placed on the agenda. Presentations are limited to ten minutes.

• Planning Commission meetings are also held in the new Town Hall Meeting Room the first Monday of each month at 5pm.

• Agendas and public notices are posted in the following public locations: locked bulletin boards outside of Town Hall and inside the Post Office lobby, on the Town of Crestone website at townofcrestone.org and *The Crestone Eagle's* online calendar.

• If you would like to receive agendas and meeting minutes, please join our listserv by contacting Town Hall at 719-256-4313.

• A Certified Notary Public is available during regular office hours; the cost is \$5 per signature being verified as per Colorado Secretary of State Guidelines.

• Free brush pick-up for Town residents takes place at the beginning of each month. Call Town Hall at 719-256-4313 to schedule a pickup and leave your weeds and brush piles next to the road.

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

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# New POA Communications Director hired; May 5 party canceled

by John Rowe

The regular POA Board meeting was held at 10am at the POA Hall on April 19. All five Board members were present including new interim director, Mark Repp. About a dozen audience members attended also.

The meeting opened with a long and lively Member Forum where any POA dues-paying member may speak on any topic and several chose to do so. An older gentleman gave an eloquent and impassioned speech centering around the POA Board needing to be more of service towards its membership and not overlords as he believes often happens. After all, he reminded everyone, the citizens of the Baca elected them to serve the community, not order everyone around. His commentary was well received, if not agreed to, by all.

The discussion moved on to a late cancellation of a large party that had been planned and approved that was to be held in the POA Hall and the parking lot outside. POA management found out through the grapevine and advertising on Facebook that several bands could play, an entire roast pig was planned to feed an anticipated crowd of up to 350 people. The POA was not at all prepared for a gathering of that size and scope and summarily canceled it with little notice. At least two Board members had not even heard about the party or its cancellation, as was the case with several audience members including this reporter.

Confusion and hard feelings were the dominant threads of the discussion and much back-and-forth ensued before a meeting was scheduled to try and iron things out for Tuesday, April 24, well after the deadline for this article. Folks will need to check out Facebook or call the POA office to find out the results of this meeting. Party planners filled out the proper permit request paperwork, were given the go-ahead, and felt this cancellation to be most hostile and unfair, particularly with only two weeks' notice.

The POA, for its part, was aghast that such a large gathering was planned for space it deemed woefully inadequate with no mention of the size and scope of the party given by its organizers. The Board was quick to point out that traffic control, proper sanitation (porta-

potties), fire fighters and ambulance personnel and the appropriate emergency equipment would all need to be present and would need much more time than the party planners gave them. Questions about the POA's liability insurance even covering an event of this size also were said to be needed addressed as well.

Event organizers countered that they were not even given a chance to demonstrate that they did have some of the aforementioned in place and could have met reasonable requirements by POA management, had they been given the chance. Lack of good communication between both parties was clearly evident as it is so often in friction between Baca residents and the only local government we all have, the POA.

### New Communications Director

A most timely announcement was made by the Board at this time, that being the filling of a newly created position, Director of Communications. A new Baca resident, Kristin Montgomery, has been hired and will start May 1. This was planned to be a 30-hour-per-week position, giving Kristin plenty of time to hold town meetings with various groups and giving citizens much more of a forum to express their views. Kristin could certainly avoid much of the frustration detailed above, as a significant part of her job will be to be available to talk with residents about their plans.

### Watering

Other news is a bleak outlook for watering the golf course this year as the water necessary just won't be available. Being able to water only the greens and tee boxes may very well become the order for the day. Maintenance Head Shawn Hollmer is also concerned about having enough water to keep the parks and greenbelts as lush as we are all used to seeing.

### Ambulance

Having a second ambulance at our disposal is really beginning to pay off as the EMS department has taken in as much money in the first quarter of this year as they did for the first six months of last year. Farming out an ambulance for transfers around the valley is responsible for most of that, and our good folks running the EMS expect that to get more lucrative as time goes on.

This long meeting adjourned into executive session at 1:30pm.



The kids had a blast putting out this "house fire" the crew had built for them to use at the First Responders Festival, which was sponsored by Baca Grande Emergency Services and held at the golf course on Saturday, April 20. photo by Lori Nagel



The kids were excited to learn about real live fire hoses at the First Responders Festival. photo by Lori Nagel

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### Baca Grande POA Logo Contest

The Baca Grande POA is in search of a new logo! The winner will receive \$500! Logo submissions should have three or less colors and must be in vector graphic format so it can be used in various ways. Submission deadline is June 1, 2018. POA Members will get to view and vote on their favorite logo to represent the Baca Grande POA. Voting for your favorite logo starts June 8, 2018 via the website: [www.bacapoa.org](http://www.bacapoa.org).

We are also in search of photos for the upcoming new website. The photographer's name will be printed on their photos. Please be sure the pictures are at least 1500 pixels wide. All logo designs and photos need to be submitted to [info@bacapoa.org](mailto:info@bacapoa.org). For any questions, contact the BGPOA office at 719-256-4171.

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# Saguache County News

by Sandia Belgrade

## A flicked cigarette away from a disaster

Fire danger dominates the news after a winter of no snow. The few instances of miracle moisture did not assuage the extreme fire danger in the San Luis Valley and our county. Dry conditions, red flag warnings and winds gusting to 65 mph have prompted the declaration of an open fire ban in the county, particularly east of Highway 17. For specific details and to comply with the ban issued by Sheriff Dan Warwick, residents are urged to go to the County website for specific details: [www.saguachecounty.net/index.php](http://www.saguachecounty.net/index.php).

### What is working

Bobby Woelz was recently hired as Director of Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and there is already praise for Woelz's work as well as a feeling of relief that in this critical time there is someone very competent at the helm. A multi-hazard Saguache plan is in place. He will set up a scenario-based tabletop exercise testing County readiness so measures are in place before any disaster.

The Salamander LIVE system is being put in place for the issuance of Identification Credentialing Cards (IDCC) to emergency managers, first responders, non-governmental organizations, and other personnel who provide support to local jurisdictions before, during, and after a disaster, or who participate in training, exercises, and other activities to enhance local capability to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond, and recover from all-hazard events.

Randal Arredondo, Supervisor of Road and Bridge, has been working on a draft of a fire mitigation mutual aid agreement with Gunnison County. The Intergovernmental agreement with Gunnison for the fire protection was approved by the Commissioners (BOCC).

### San Luis Valley 911 Emergency Alert Program

"Reverse 911" provides emergency and evacuation notifications by telephone, email or text. They are *not* automatic! You must sign up to receive them and 60% of the population in the region has. Even if you signed up a few years ago, sign up again as they have changed systems. To receive Code Red Emergency notifications: <https://bit.ly/2FgblIC>.

### What is not working

Inconsistency in readiness around the county is glaring. Most frustrating is the apparent lack of coordination between towns, county and the forest service. For example, Crestone and the Baca are adhering to the fire ban, which is primarily focused on areas on the east side of Highway 17. However, at the County Seat this is being interpreted that campers in north Crestone campground can

have open fires right in the woods because as yet the Forest Service has not put a ban in place. And at the County Court House, employees could smoke outside in the middle of 50+ mile an hour winds.

The number of people still smoking outside in the Crestone area may be due to lack of sufficiently visible postings of the ban. As of the third week in April, signage was still lacking in key places. The Sheriff's Department will be posting notice of the fire ban at the entrances to towns, for example on Highways 17 and 285.

### Sheriff's budget amended

A proposed budget amendment for General Fund/Sheriff/Jail Department fund was submitted to the Saguache County Board of County Commissioners for the ensuing year of 2018. A copy of the proposed budget amendment had been filed in the office of the Saguache County Clerk and Recorder where it was open for public inspection. Time was allotted at the April 17 meeting for a budget amendment public hearing before the County Commissioners approved and adopted the amount of \$103,507.

Presently the jail is at 80% capacity. There were 227 days with calls for service. Some of that included excessive speeding in the Baca, some over 60 mph on Two Trees and Wagon Wheel with children and deer around. The department is close to getting a new officer, and James Knight has been hired as the new Code Enforcer.

One interpretation of the Medicaid statute prohibits individuals from receiving Medicaid benefits if they are in detention, even if they have not been convicted. A referendum is in the works to urge Congress to amend the law so that Medicaid recipients not yet convicted not be stripped of Medicaid. This would relieve some financial burden on our county.

### Secure Rural School (SRS)

The County will again see Secure Rural School (SRS) money, after Congress approved the 2018 Omnibus Spending Bill that funds the federal government through Sept. 30. The act was approved for two more years, and the County will receive retroactively 95% of their expected funding from 2016-17, as well as funding for the current year. There will be a collective sigh of relief from counties like ours that have federal timber within their borders, providing funding for critical services to our rural communities. It's about 17% of the Road and Bridge department budget. Lee Swenson, presently on the staff of Colorado U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, was at the County meeting April 17 and said that the SRS omnibus bill will not draw money for SRS funds from the Forest Service.

### Are you registered to vote?

According to Trish Gilbert, County Clerk & Recorder, this is the voter registration as of April this year for active & inactive voters for the County:

- Republicans – 936
- Democratic – 1821
- Unaffiliated – 1483

Gilbert announced that the State has denied the County's request to reinstate drivers' license

services. Evidently the statistics or number of renewals in Saguache do not justify offering these services which would require an investment in new equipment. On average the County only issues 16 documents per month, well below state-wide average of 30 documents per day per employee.

### Peggy Godfrey reappointed

The Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) is governed by a Board of Directors who are appointed for three-year terms by each of the Board of County Commissioners within the District. The Saguache Commissioners approved the reappointment Peggy Godfrey, who represents the north part of the county, saying they appreciated her time and energy. Clive Simpson of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District said it was a pleasure to work with Peggy. His update noted it will be a challenging year for agriculture. The aquifer is 53% of normal and the District is keeping 160 acres out of use.

### Social Services report

The government has reauthorized the existing federal child welfare programs including prevention services, such as parent training/education, individual and family counseling, and mental health and substance abuse treatment. According to Linda Warsh, Director of Social Services, it remains to be seen how it will financially impact the County budget and how much it will help client workload. The department is putting out grants to extend their services. The older building housing Social Services is in sore need of a better heating system, and they will estimate the costs of upgrading or looking into a whole new, more efficient system.

### Land Use: Moffat annexation

The Mayor of the Town of Moffat came before the BOCC to present the impact study for their annexation proposal for 160 acres of unincorporated adjacent land. The study was approved by the BOCC. Moffat is a statutory town which is incorporated and does not have to have voter approval for the annexation, nor County approval. They did have the required public hearing. As it turns out, the Town wants to control and manage the 160 acres in question and take it out of the County's control.

### Mammoth Farms approval

Mammoth Farms owner Justin Trouard appeared before the Board to seek approval of a Conditional Use request for a second marijuana grow, this one for medical Cultivation/Extraction in addition to a recreational grow on his 640-acre property outside Moffat. He would proceed in two stages: year 1, recreational and year 2, medical.

This application faced severe resistance from neighbors and the BOCC. Jeff Shook of the County Planning commission, (SCPC) was present. He stated that the SCPC approved it and that Trouard knows the details, has made every effort to satisfy questions and is trying to be a good neighbor. Trouard appeared to have his ducks in a row. He has a badge and the mandatory cameras which allow the state to oversee the operation, as extraction requires additional oversights. The State has certified the equipment and space.

The BOCC went back and forth on this one. There were questions regarding the safety of butane in the extraction process, the use of water, insurance, details of the application. First there was a motion to deny, which was a split vote and failed. Then there was a second motion to approve. With the courtroom filled with residents who oppose marijuana, some observers felt the Commissioners seemed to be wary of public pressure. Jason Anderson commented on the long back-and-forth nit picking, questioning whether it would have happened with another product or because it was marijuana. In the end the application was approved.

Joyce Swinney read a statement to the Board regarding Mammoth Farm's application. She cited several issues, including the fact that residents were not notified of this grow. The BOCC will respond to her in writing by May 14.

### Landfill news

A gentleman is planning his own suicide and has requested to be compacted and buried at the Landfill. For his and other residents' information, the Landfill does not accept human remains. The County can't assist in a suicide and only the coroner can determine how human remains are to be disposed. County Attorney Ben Gibbons will send the resident a letter explaining why his request is denied. (Under the category of: Now I've heard everything).

### New bus schedule

Starting May 5 a new Mustang Outrider Service will depart at 6:45am from Moffat Park, which is at 5th and Reynolds (near the health clinic). It stops at Salida at 7:45am. In the evening it returns to Moffat at 6:30pm on its way to Alamosa.

### Short takes: Hope

Ken Anderson said there's reason to hope the Farm Bill gets passed.

Jason Anderson is hoping for a broadband level playing field; legislation may be in the works so a small broadband company can come in to assure that larger companies are more efficient in rural areas.

Me: I'm hoping for rain.

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# Local candidate forums to be held in Saguache County

by *Lili Zohar*

A committee from Indivisible Crestone/Baca has arranged local candidate forums. We encourage you to attend one or more! Cookies will be served. This is the first year that unaffiliated voters can vote in a primary election, on June 26 this year. Ballots may be mailed as early as June 4. The forums will take place:

• Wed., May 16, 6-8pm at the Center Kiwanis Hall, 5th & Broadway

• Thurs., May 17, 6:30-8:30pm in Crestone at the Community Bldg./Old Schoolhouse, 155 N. Cottonwood

• Wed., May 23, 6-8pm in Saguache at the Road & Bridge meeting room, 305 3rd St.

Please come at least 15 minutes early to sign in and to provide

written questions or write them out when you arrive. Volunteers will collect the questions, and we'll ask as many questions as possible to the various candidates in the time allotted. The same question will be asked to each candidate running for a particular office.

**Candidates and Unaffiliates\*** (incumbents listed first):

**Commissioner – District 3**

Tim Lovato  
Ellen Cox  
Lisa Rosen - Unaffiliated\*  
Terry Gillette -Unaffiliated\*

**Assessor**

Peter Peterson  
Rhiannon Curry

**Clerk**

Trish Gilbert  
Renee Hazard

**Coroner**

Tom Perrin

**Sheriff**

Dan Warwick  
Nobel Havens

**Treasurer**

Connie Trujillo

\*The Unaffiliated participants are not technically "candidates" until their nomination petitions have been deemed sufficient by the County Clerk, on Aug. 2. In the interest of inclusivity, Indivisible Crestone/Baca wants to include as many of our potential representatives as possible for folks to meet and question.

## Crestone Mercantile

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Lots of treasures! It couldn't have been a more beautiful day for the annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors garage sale last year, held in the Elephant Cloud parking and porch. photo by Lori Nagel

## Plan ahead! NHN yard sale is June 2

by Mary Lowers

The huge and exciting Neighbors Helping Neighbors Yard Sale will be coming to downtown Crestone June 2, the first Saturday in June outside the Elephant Cloud Market, on the Silver St. side. Many thanks to Michelle and Benjamin of the Cloud for letting us use this site for the sale!

NHN will be happy to pick up items big or small for the sale. Call Mary at 719-256-4185 or PM Mary Lowers on Face Book to arrange a pickup time. You are also welcome to drop yard sale items off on Mary's front porch at 330 W. Galena Ave. in town on the way to the cemetery. The more we have the more fun the sale will be.

We are also looking for a one-time donation of plastic "Rubbermaid" style storage containers of all sizes. These keep donations dry and mouse-free while being stored. We plan to keep them to reuse year after year. If you do not know how NHN works, all our funds go to helping clients in crisis in the northeastern SLV. Our only budget items are postage and a bookkeeper, so we cannot use our funds to buy storage containers, they must be donated . . . it's ok if they are cracked . . . just no holes please.

Thanks, community, for your 20 + years' support of NHN. Mark Saturday, June 2 on your calendars for the greatest yard sale of the year!



## Cielo Azul to establish a natural pet burial ground

A new community project, Cielo Azul, will establish a natural site to honor our beloved animals by providing affordable land for pet burial. The project, supported by Pet Partners, will be administered by the town of Crestone on town-owned land, close to the existing cemetery. The one-acre site is currently a "blank canvas" awaiting community involvement and assistance.

Cielo Azul will coexist with the pinyon, juniper, grasses and cactus that currently occupy the area, but will be improved with rock-lined paths to access the burial plots. Creative possibilities include a gate, signage, benches, a gazebo, a memorial area, etc. Ideas, designs, materials and labor are welcomed!

It's not uncommon for people in our rural area to bury deceased pets on their own property, and many will continue to do so. However, in their moment of loss, some pet parents may forget that they may not be living on their present land forever. Circumstances change. There are many in our community who, as renters, don't have the option to bury their beloved pets in their yard. Cielo Azul offers a permanent burial alternative for residents of Crestone, the Baca and the San Luis Valley.

The name Cielo Azul (blue sky or blue heaven) honors our environment and our heritage. The cemetery will follow general guidelines for "natural" or "green" burial without being certified as such. Graves will be hand-dug, eco-friendly containers or shrouds can be used and the land will be returned to its

natural state. Markers, if desired, can be local rock or other natural material.

Fees and final details will soon be complete. The next step is a call for volunteers for the following work days: Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20; Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16, 9am to 2pm each day. Volunteers will construct the rock-lined paths that lead to the burial plots. We're not moving boulders, but smaller, easier-to-lift rocks. Shovels and wheelbarrows will be helpful. Details will be posted on Crestonian and Crestone Chill a few days before the event.

Please come help create a beautiful space, unique to Crestone. Cielo Azul will be a natural extension of our existing cemetery, honoring lives of our beloved companion animals as family members, and reflecting love, respect and compassion for all beings in their final transition.

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# Crestone Artisans Gallery

## Artist of the month Kathy Strathearn

by Stephen Futral

Kathy Strathearn is the Artist of the Month. Weaving is her passion. She began weaving in the summer of 2001 in the small northern town of Los Ojos, New Mexico, at Tierra Wools Weaving Studio. She discovered the creative process to bring yarn to a loom and weave. She was hooked from the beginning. With her husband, Bill, they soon made a one-day journey from Denver to Taos to purchase a Rio Grande Walking Loom at Weaving Southwest.

The warping process of a loom that large is a complicated and intricate event, and it takes an entire day with two people working together. Normally, about 20 yards of warp is put on the loom each time, allowing Kathy to weave approximately five of her 3' x 5' blankets. Occasionally, she will weave smaller pieces side by side on the loom, creating up to five designs at once.

Soon after discovering Rio Grande style weaving, she heard about Navajo style weaving, and learned there was a local lady teaching Navajo weaving, and another love was found. Since then, Kathy has made yearly visits to the Navajo Indian Reservation learning the techniques of master weavers and making many new friends. It's the Navajo Master Weavers who have taught Kathy the complicated designs in her many tapestries. Kathy feels blessed to have these special friends in her life. She loves learning about their culture and spiritual beliefs. She has been honored to be invited to attend sacred ceremonies; these memories she treasures.

Another exciting experience for Kathy was when she went to Tio-

titlan, Mexico, to study with master weaver Felipe Hernandez and his family to study Zapotec weaving. The weaving techniques and looms are similar to the Rio Grande style, but the color of the yarn and the designs are totally different and completely Zapotec. They dye their yarn with vegetal dyes, which means their colors come from the earth, mostly plants and bugs. The colors they develop are simply beautiful! Their designs come from the ancient ruins, as their buildings were greatly decorated with beautiful geometric designs.

Kathy enjoys creating her weavings in her casita studio. It is a place of peace and tranquility. Along with her large Rio Grande loom, she has many sizes of Navajo looms and an extensive yarn stash. She is a member of the Crestone Artisans Gallery and Crestone Artists. Her studio is open for visitors. Contact: Kathy Strathearn [www.crestoneartists.com](http://www.crestoneartists.com) 303-243-1253.

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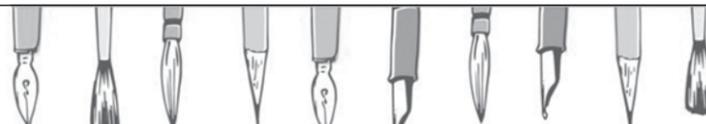


Come learn more about Ikebana at Shumei in Crestone on Sunday June 3 at 2pm

## Flower arrangement class at Shumei

Join us at Shumei International Institute on Sunday, June 3 at 2pm for an afternoon of Ikebana, the traditional Japanese art form of flower arrangement. Jane Imai will facilitate the event, sharing 40 years of flower arranging experience. Please bring your own vase/container and scissors.

Space is limited so please RSVP by calling the Shumei Crestone Center at 719-256-5284. The cost of the flowers is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 years and younger.



## Present & Creative

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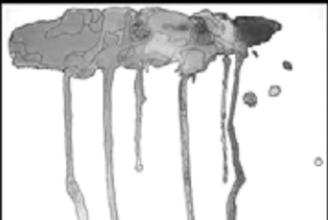
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[CrestoneArtists.com](http://CrestoneArtists.com)  
PRESENTS

### Studio of THE MONTH

Sunday May 13th, 2-4pm

**SD YOUNGWOLF**  
Paintings, masks, photography, gourds, drums, rattles  
318 Palisade Ct, Casita Park

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

More information @ [www.crestoneartists.com](http://www.crestoneartists.com)

# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CELEBRATION



## Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

## 25% OFF

**Clothing, Accessories & Jewelry**

**FREE THE MONKEY CONSIGNMENT**

Live Remote and Scanga Hot Dogs with Heart of the Rockies Radio from 11-1pm

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**Stop in and have a Weenie with Woody!**  
It's his birthday too!!

Instead of presents, he would like everyone to help him collect donations for the Ark Valley Humane Society



# Seeds of world citizenship

## Shumei International Institute celebrates 16 years of Crestone community

by Matthew Crowley

On Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20, the Shumei International Institute (SII) will celebrate the 16th anniversary of its Crestone center. The theme of this year's event is "Seeds of World Citizenship". This year, as a way of saying thank you to our greater community for sixteen wonderful years, SII is hosting a free concert featuring taiko and . . . our very special guest performer, world premiere performer of the Native American flute R. Carlos Nakai with Will Clipman on percussion.

For Shumei, the annual anniversary event is first and foremost our opportunity to express gratitude to you and this entire community. To that end, you are all in-

cluded. SII's prayer services involve chanting and the sharing of Jyorei, a spiritual healing practice whose intent is purification, spiritual transformation and . . . happiness!

The 16th anniversary events will begin Saturday afternoon at 2:30pm with the always-popular taiko performance. This year will feature members from both OMNY Taiko in New York, Makoto Taiko in Los Angeles and local performers of the newly named Crestone based Hikari Taiko. Speaking of popular, when R. Carlos Nakai with his jazz ensemble performed at a Shumei-hosted concert last year more than 250 people came! We anticipate the possibility of record-breaking number of attendees coming for this free concert.



The Shumei International Institute. Nestled on the slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the 3rd of 3 sacred sites in the world for Shumei, representing the element of Earth.

cluded to join us for part or all of the this year's festivities. All events are free and open to the public and do not require any RSVP, just come and join us!

The Shumei International Institute is very honored to have Sensei Tamao Koyama, from Shumei's headquarters in Japan, joining this year's anniversary celebration and presiding over 2 special Sampai prayer services and sharing the healing light of Jyorei. "Sampai" literally means "going to a higher place" and is Shumei's term for its prayer services. Sam-

pai services involve chanting and the sharing of Jyorei, a spiritual healing practice whose intent is purification, spiritual transformation and . . . happiness! The 16th anniversary events will begin Saturday afternoon at 2:30pm with the always-popular taiko performance. This year will feature members from both OMNY Taiko in New York, Makoto Taiko in Los Angeles and local performers of the newly named Crestone based Hikari Taiko. Speaking of popular, when R. Carlos Nakai with his jazz ensemble performed at a Shumei-hosted concert last year more than 250 people came! We anticipate the possibility of record-breaking number of attendees coming for this free concert.



Guests chanting the 3000-year-old Amatsunorito in the Crestone Sanctuary, an integral part of Shumei's Sampai prayer services.

speaker. Please see the accompanying article for information on this year's special art exhibition and guest speaker.

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

Following the concert, Sensei Tamao Koyama will lead the traditional World Peace Prayer Sampai that takes place Saturday evening May 19; we request that people be seated in the sanctuary by 5:30 for this service. Shumei centers from around the world join us simultaneously in chanting during this special sampai with an intention for a world free from poverty and strife.

Sunday's program begins with the anniversary Sampai starting at 10:30am. Once again Sensei Tamao Koyama will lead us in chanting and share the healing light of Jyorei during this Sampai. Following the Sampai, Sensei Tamao Koyama will deliver a keynote speech. Immediately following Sampai, SII will offer a complimentary lunch to the community as an expression of our gratitude.

ability challenges to contact SII's office in advance so that we can help develop plans to assist everyone in enjoying this concert.

Guests are invited to visit Shumei's Natural Agriculture garden and the art gallery for self-guided tours from 12:30-5pm on Sunday. Following lunch Shumei is pleased to host Ken Greene, founder of the Hudson Valley Seed Company, as a special guest

speaker. Please see the accompanying schedule in this issue of *The Crestone Eagle*, visit [www.shumei-crestone.org](http://www.shumei-crestone.org) or call 719-256-5284 for further details and information. Please note all events start promptly at the times listed. Plan to arrive early in order to park, walk to event locations and for best seating. Some events fill to overflowing and parking on the high road is sometimes challenging and may require you to walk some distance. Please carpool as much as possible to assist us with traffic and parking congestion.

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<p><a href="http://www.crestonemassagetherapy.com">www.crestonemassagetherapy.com</a></p>		

# Ken Greene: The Art of Seed

## Shumei's 16th anniversary guest speaker & art exhibition

In keeping with the theme of the Shumei International Institute's (SII) 16th anniversary—"Seeds of World Citizenship"—and Shumei's principal tenet of Natural Agriculture, we are very pleased to feature Ken Greene as our special guest speaker. Ken's presentation is titled "The Art of Seed". Planting a seed brings stories and spirit to life. See these ancient, historical, modern, and future seed stories through the eyes of artists—our cultural seed savers. Ken's presentation will take place following lunch on Sunday May 20 starting at 2pm in SII's sanctuary.

Ken Greene is founder of the first seed library in the country, a project he germinated in a small town library. Today, Greene helms the Hudson Valley Seed Company, a national seed company and regional seed farm devoted to ethically producing seed for home gardeners and farmers and celebrating seeds through art. Greene is also co-director of Seedshed, a new non-profit organization focused on seed justice. Greene's efforts have been profiled in a range of publications including *New Yorker Magazine*, *Washington Post*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Vogue*, *New York Times*, *Heirloom Gardener Magazine*, and NPR. He has given presentations for diverse groups including the Northeast Organic Farming As-

sociation, Culinary Institute of America, Seed Savers Exchange, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Omega Institute, Garden Clubs of America, National Heirloom Expo, and Sante Fe Farmers Market Institute. For more information about Ken Greene and Seedshed please visit: [hudsonvalleyseed.com](http://hudsonvalleyseed.com) and [seedshed.org](http://seedshed.org)

Directly connected to Ken Greene's presentation, SII's special art exhibition will feature a selection from Greene's remarkable art collection, many images of which are featured on his actual seed packets. Besides sowing seeds for plants, flowers and vegetables, Ken also sows the seeds of art, seeking artists and commissioning original art that are featured on the Hudson Valley Seed Company's seed packets and also in traveling art exhibitions.

This special exhibition will open from 12:30-5pm on Sunday May 20 in SII's art gallery and will hang through the month of June. SII would like to thank Ken for loaning pieces from his collection. The gallery will be open for viewing. We hope many of you come and enjoy this beautiful intersection of art and agriculture.



Ken Greene, founder of the first Seed Library in the U.S., founder of the Hudson Valley Seed Company and Director of Seedshed, a NPO whose mission is seed justice.

# Shumei International Institute's 16th Anniversary

## Seeds of World Citizenship

**Saturday May 19th 2018**

2:30pm

Come experience the power of Taiko at the Shumei Amphitheater  
R. Carlos Nakai  
and William Clipman concert

6pm

Sampai prayer  
for world peace at Shumei Sanctuary



**Sunday May 20th 2018**

\*10:30am

Anniversary Sampai at the Shumei Sanctuary  
Immediately following Sampai  
A delicious and healthy community lunch

2 pm

A presentation by Ken Greene of  
the Hudson Valley Seed Company

12:30 to 5 pm

Art Gallery and Garden tours

**Please consider car pooling, parking is limited**

**\*Plan to arrive early to give yourself time to park and be seated as all events start promptly at times listed**

Shumei International Institute, 3000 East Dream Way Road, Crestone, CO 81131, 719-256-5284, [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org)

# HAPS

## Spay/Neuter Clinic coming to Crestone

On Friday May 18, Saturday May 19 and Sunday May 20 at the old Pro Shop by the golf course on T Road, bring your cats and dogs over 8 weeks old and 2+ pounds.

Treatment includes Parvo/Distemper/Rabies vaccinations. We're asking a \$20 donation for Pet Partners.

Give your animal no food after midnight the night before surgery, although water is ok overnight.

Drop animals off at 7:30am; dogs on leash and cats in carriers, please. By appointment only; call Crestone Mobile Veterinary Service at 719-588-4024 or sign up at the Crestone Mercantile.

## Poetry reading & discussion May 9

On Wednesday, May 9 at 10am we'll explore Consciousness and the Cosmos from *Extensions of Mind* by Vince Palermo. How did this happen, and why are we here? 262 Moonlight Way, 256-4135.

## Real Love Fest May 26-28

The lies in our lives interfere with our happiness. The truth creates opportunities for us to find love, trust love, and to be loving. There are many opportunities to help you achieve this.

Read *Real Love* by Greg Baer MD; join us on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30pm at the Little Shepherd Episcopal Church; and join us at the Real Love Fest May 26-28 for an in depth experience. Go to RealLoveFest.com or call Ramloti at 719-480-5514 for more information.

## Sand Dunes recruiting local volunteers for the summer

Great Sand Dunes is looking for volunteers to assist in the visitor center, providing information to visitors from all over the country and the world. The individual would need to provide at least 10 hours per week for a three month commitment, work hours on Saturday or Sunday, and be available to start the first week of May. The Park will reimburse for round trip mileage and will provide customer service and operations training. Interested individuals looking to volunteer in a scenic setting should send an email to Kathy Faz at Kathy\_Faz@nps.gov or call 719-378-6341.



Jo and Nesta having fun working in the garden and adding soil amendments.

## Join the Curve Garden

Garden this season! Grow your own food! Join the Crestone Curve Cooperative Gardeners and be a Plot Partner! 15' x 6' plots are available for the 2018 season for \$50, fencing and water provided. Soil amendments and mulch available free to Plot Partners. Provide your own tools. No dogs, please. No marijuana. Call Robin at 256-4909 to get started.

## UPCOMING!! Foundations of Western Herbalism

40 Hour Course  
1 evening & 1 Sunday a month.  
begins June - September

This 40-hour course will give students the tools to expand their use of plant medicine for their health and well-being as well as for family and community. The class meets one evening and one Sunday a month combining classroom sessions with medicine-making labs and herbs in the fields experiences. The curriculum will cover: herbal traditions, terms and concepts, plant energetics and actions and body system, medicine-making and formulations, plant identification, ethical plant collection, handling and processing, Sustainability and Bioregional Herbalism.

Class limited to 12 students.  
Pre-registration required.  
Cost \$345  
Payment plan available

For more information and to register contact Stefan at: (575) 956-8814 or nuntriangle@gmail.com



Ready, set, go! The kids were super excited to go get some treats at Robin Blankenship's annual Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck Celebration on Easter Sunday.

photo by Lori Nagel



The little ones had so much fun egg hunting

photo by Lori Nagel



**Catherine Alelyunas**  
256-4248 for appt.

**Spanish Creek Mountain Medicine**

-needleless Oriental Medicine modalities, by donation in May:  
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*Learn to Live Without Anger, Stress, Depression, Fear or Splintered Relationships. Find Deep, Unconditional Love that Connects us Rather than Separates Us.*

♥ Join us for the Real Love Fest ♥  
May 26-28, 9am-1, Crestone Charter School

Go to RealLoveFest.com or call 719-480-5514 for More Information.

**Cozy Movies!**  
**Cozy Castle Cinema**

call or find us on  **facebook**  
for movies and showtimes

**403 4th st Saguache**  
**719-221-4159**

# Community Calendar—May 2018

Get the details at [www.crestoneeagle.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.crestoneeagle.com/myevent) (preferred) ~or~ e-mail to: [events@crestoneeagle.com](mailto:events@crestoneeagle.com) ~or~ submit in writing to PO Box 101, Crestone CO 81131.

## Monthly Events

### Saturday, May 5

- Bear Wisdom Workshop with Láné Sáan Moon-walker 9:30 am-4:30 pm \$165 719-937-7786
- Saguache County DEMS Fundraising Dinner – Desert Sage 6-9pm \$30/person; \$50 sponsor [saguachecountydems.org](http://saguachecountydems.org) 720-350-6905

### Sunday, May 6

- “Reaching for the Sky” choral music, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Alamosa, \$5, 2pm

### Monday, May 7

- Town Trustees: Hear to Listen, Cloud Station 10am-noon
- Crestone Planning Commission Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 5-7:00 pm 719-256-4313

### Wednesday, May 9

- Poetry & Discussion: Consciousness & Cosmos, Vince Palermo's, 10am, free 719-256-4135
- The Crestone End of Life Project Monthly Meeting, Little Shepherd in the Hills 7-9pm 719-588-7415

### Thursday, May 10

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

### Saturday, May 12

- Defensible space workshop, Crestone Charter School, 10am-3pm, lunch included, 256-4907

### Sunday, May 13

- Mothers' Day
- Studio of the Month – Youngwolf Studio 2:00 pm [www.facebook.com/youngwolf1](http://www.facebook.com/youngwolf1) 719-496-7943

### Monday, May 14

- Crestone Board of Trustees Meeting – Crestone Town Hall 9:30 am-5:00 pm 719-256-4313

### Tuesday, May 15

- New Moon
- New Moon Fire Ceremony, Haidakhandi Ashram 10am-noon [www.Babajashram.org](http://www.Babajashram.org) 256-4108
- New Moon Riwo Sangchö (Outdoor Smoke Offering) – Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 10:00 am-11:00 am
- New Moon Ordained Sangha Sojong Ceremony – Pema Cho Ling Nuns Community 5-6:00 pm N/A [pemacholingcommunity.org](http://pemacholingcommunity.org) 719-496-0946

### Wednesday, May 16

- BGPOA EAC meeting – BGPOA Meeting Room 10:00 am [bacapoa.org](http://bacapoa.org) 719-256-4171

### Thursday, May 17

- BGPOA Board Meeting – BGPOA Meeting Room 10:00 am [bacapoa.org](http://bacapoa.org) 719-256-4171

### Friday, May 18

- Spay/Neuter Clinic by appointment – The Pro Shop 7:30 am \$20 719-588-4024
- Rights of Nature talk – Colorado College Conference Ctr. 6:30 pm

### Saturday, May 19

- Spay/Neuter Clinic by appointment – The Pro Shop 7:30 am \$20 719-588-4024
- Trail opening – Near the USFS gate All Day
- Saturday Morning Prayer breakfast – Crestone Baptist Church 8:00 am-10:00 am
- Pet Cemetery Work Day – Crestone Cemetery 9:00 am-2:00 pm
- Shumei International Institute's 16th Anniversary 2:30-5pm free [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) 256-5284
- Ragtime Jack at Cloud Station – Cloud Station 7:00 pm-11:00 pm \$10 at the door [www.wepecket.com/radcliffe.htm](http://www.wepecket.com/radcliffe.htm) 508-292-5632

### Sunday, May 20

- Spay/Neuter Clinic by appointment – The Pro Shop 7:30 am \$20 719-588-4024
- Pet Cemetery Work Day – Crestone Cemetery 9:00 am-2:00 pm
- Shumei International Institute's 16th Anniversary 10:30am-5pm free [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) 256-5284
- “The Art of Seed” talk – Shumei Sanctuary 2:00 pm Free [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) 719-256-5284

### Thursday, May 24

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

### Saturday, May 26

- 3rd Annual Real Love Fest – Crestone Charter School 9:00 am-1:00 pm \$298 RealLoveFest.com 719-480-5514

### Sunday, May 27

- Pema Cho Ling Community Practice & Potluck Pema Cho Ling Nuns Community 10:30am-12:30pm [pemacholingcommunity.org](http://pemacholingcommunity.org) 719-496-0946

### Monday, May 28

- Memorial Day

### Tuesday, May 29

- Full Moon
- Full Moon Fire Ceremony – Haidakhandi Ashram 10-noon [www.Babajashram.org](http://www.Babajashram.org) 719-256-4108
- Full Moon Riwo Sangchö, Yeshe Khorlo Buddhist Temple (Choying Dzong) 10-11am
- Full Moon Ordained Sangha Sojong Ceremony – 939 Spanish Creek 5:00 pm-6:00 pm [pemacholingcommunity.org](http://pemacholingcommunity.org) 719-496-0946
- Women's Water Blessing & Potluck – Buffalo Goddess House 5:00 pm-9:00 pm no cost [www.buffalogoddess.com](http://www.buffalogoddess.com) 719-937-1331

### Saturday, June 2

- NHN Yard Sale – Beside the Elephant Cloud on Silver Ave., All Day

### Sunday, June 3

- Monthly Sampai at Shumei International Institute Shumei Sanctuary 10:30 am-12:00 pm free [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) 719-256-5284
- Ikebana class at Shumei in Crestone – Shumei International Institute 2pm \$10 for adults, \$5 for children [www.shumeicrestone.org](http://www.shumeicrestone.org) 719-256-5284

### Monday, June 4

- Children's Riding Program Session 1 – Baca Grande Stables 8:00 am-10:30 am \$150/session; assistance available 719-256-6200

### Thursday, June 7

- Primitive Skills Family Gathering – Earth Knack School All Day [www.earthknackschool@gmail.com](http://www.earthknackschool@gmail.com) 718-256-4909
- “Geezers into Geeks” seniors' computer clinic, Baca Library, free, 9:30-11:30am

### Saturday, June 9

- “Geezers into Geeks” seniors' computer clinic, Baca Library, free, 9:30-11:30am

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

### Sunday

- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm [www.slvaa.org](http://www.slvaa.org)
- Sunday Mass at Nada Hermitage Nada Carmelite Hermitage 9:00 am-10:00 am 719-256-4778
- Sunday Service Crestone Baptist Church 10:00 am-12:00 pm

### Monday

- Al-Anon weekly meeting Little Shepherd Church 1:00 pm-2:00 pm Donation 719-298-9133

### Tuesday

- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting marijuana users welcome Baca Grande Library back door 7:30 pm-8:30 pm 970-309-0710
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation [shaktisharanam.com](http://shaktisharanam.com) 719-256-5668

### Wednesday

- Wednesday Night AA Open Meeting in Lazy KV at the Clubhouse, Road CC/Hwy 17. 7-8 pm
- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30 am-10:00 am By donation [shaktisharanam.com](http://shaktisharanam.com) 719-256-5668
- Wednesday night Bible study Crestone Baptist Church 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

### Thursday

- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Baptist Church noon-1:00 pm [www.slvaa.org](http://www.slvaa.org)
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation [shaktisharanam.com](http://shaktisharanam.com) 719-256-5668

### Saturday

- Narcotics Anonymous Open Step Study meeting, Fellowship Hall, Little Shepherd Church 9:00 am-10:00 am 719-256-4931

Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth. -Albert Einstein

# Out & About with Lori Sunflower

What are some fond memories of your Mom?



**Zack Lavin**  
(mom: Zuki Abbott-Zamora)

I'm so grateful for all the freedom and tender loving care my mom has given me, as well as all the hard work ethics. I really love this beautiful land that she has shared with me. I grew up in Crestone and it's changed a lot. It used to be a lot freer. There's definitely more kids my son's age, he's 7, and a lot more going on here for kids that age than there was when I was 7. My mom didn't vaccinate me, and I definitely appreciate growing up off the grid and not having to deal with hospitals and all the things they would say in "normal society" that people do. I'm pretty good—I only get sick maybe once a year. It's the freedom, I guess, just livin' in the mountains.



**Sunia Beelendorf**  
(mom: Michelle Beelendorf-Byer)

My mother is the strongest person I know. Growing up with her, I always felt such a deep sense of security, even when things were crazy or not going the way we wanted them to, she was the rock of constancy in my life. And she taught me how to be a good mother. Whenever I'm with my girls, trying to decide what to do in a crazy moment, I stop and say, "Ok, what would mom do? . . . Ok, that's what I'm gonna do!" That just gives me that sense of knowing right from wrong. She is so passionate about what she does, and inspires me to be the fullest, biggest person I can be. My mom was a pioneer, maybe not the first of them, but definitely among the first wave of mothers doing things dif-

ferently. I'm grateful to have been born and raised in the health food industry and be a non-vaccinated child. She's given me the confidence to make those choices for my own children and to be a strong person with values and commitment to a way of life that really works. A funny memory I have from childhood is of going to the dentist and him saying, "I don't understand why your kids' teeth are so good and how they don't have cavities when you don't use fluoride!" She's like, "I give them probiotics!"



**Ben Potter**  
(mom: Karen Potter)

Nice memories of my mom, wow, there's a lot of them! The most memorable ones are when mom had something to teach us, when she didn't necessarily tell us it was a lesson but just kind of showed us. One time I got caught playing on the roof, and my mom found out. Instead of being angry, she told me to go to the refrigerator and get an egg. I thought, Ok, she's not mad, so I'm just gonna go with it. Then she told me to drop it on the floor. I had the hardest time doing that! We live out here in the middle of nowhere and food's a big deal and dropping it seemed so senseless. I said, "Mom, I can't do that. I don't wanna do that!" She's like, "Drop it on the floor!" So, I dropped it, and of course it splattered everywhere. She said, "Ok, now pick that up and put it back together." And I said, "Well, I can't, that's silly, that's impossible. I can't glue that thing back together for the life of me!" She responded, "That's how I'd feel if you fell off the roof." That has stuck with me for such a long time now; it's one of the most vivid lessons in my head.

She had lots of great teachings for us. If we'd get super emotional, she'd say, "You're the master of your own light. You can choose how you react to things." That's played a big role in my adult life. I find her in my mind when these things happen. Recently, at college, my good bike got stolen. At first I was super miffed about it, and then I was like, "Wow, this isn't doing anything for me." And I heard her voice saying, "Sucks, doesn't it? What are you going to do about it? Nothing! Nothing ya can do. Do whatcha can and let

that be the end of it." There are lots of good things growing up we don't necessarily think about until we're adults and realize how much effort she really put into helping us be conscious about our general awareness of our everyday lives and how we do things.



**Avery Runner**  
(mom: Caren Kershner)

One of my first memories of my mom was when I was one or two years old, back in Ohio, and this huge pillow that was covered with patchouli oil. I'd been so little that a few years later I couldn't understand why the pillow was smaller than me. Sometimes mom would sit me up on the counter and teach me how to cook. One of the first things I wanted to learn how to cook was lasagna; just the process of boiling down the tomatoes and adding all the spices. She really taught me how to be a good cook. Even to this day, my food is exceptional, even better than hers! (laughing) But, she's still an amazing cook as well. She's always been so nurturing and takes care of people and loves baking Christmas cookies and gifting people with food. I really appreciate that about my mom. She taught me how to, even as a man, be sensitive and not afraid of my feelings. A lot of men aren't really granted that opportunity. Maybe it's because my dad wasn't around so I had more of my mom's influence. I'm really grateful for those experiences with cooking and learning to nurture and take care of myself, my friends, and my community. More than anything, I just have gratitude for my mom. I'm glad we live close and get to hang out sometimes, and I love her very much!



**Kelly Hosner-Crowley**  
(mom: Holly Hosner)

So, there's this picture I like to look at. It's when I'm like three years old, before I can remember, and it's of my mom tying my shoes, taking care of me. It's such a great metaphor for what moms do, right? This 3-year-old ready to

run and take off and she's there tying my shoes and I just always think of that, that she had to do all that stuff, amongst whatever else she was doing in her life, she was still always tying my shoes, making sure I had good snacks and was well fed. Now that I'm a mom, I don't take for granted how much work that is. My mom was also very fun-loving. When I was little, we'd go on adventures, constantly, just her and me. She would come up with different ideas of things to do. And she pretty much let me do whatever I wanted—she was very free! She thought cultivating that in me was very important, so she had this rule of thumb: "If it can't hurt her and she can't hurt it, let her do it! Why not?" I'm super grateful for that because I feel I'm just full of possibility since she threw no limit to it. And her funness is awesome now that she's a grandma because she showers Arthur with it, and we love that we live close and he can be by his grandma!



**Edie Lee**  
(mom: Sasha Lovelace)

Something about my mother I've always respected is that, even though she is highly intellectual, she has always chosen heart as the first entryway to a person. My mother taught that in our Puerto Rican culture, to make someone feel comfortable and a part of the whole is the most important thing, to choose humanness over power and bravado. She has worked for the Crestone community over the years, from the old Charter School, to children's groups, the art gallery, and with me for Neighbors Helping Neighbors. She is a person who really cares. I think we need to change this title, "Mommy" to cover the broad wisdom that it brings and give it more respect in our world, so that people can be both intellectual and compassionate and then seen as wise, not as some simpleton to use and fool to get something free of cost. I think a mother's role is where you have to choose the path of heart and first see what the other person needs and not what you can give. Sometimes that means pretending you didn't see them make that huge mistake, and sometimes to build confidence you have to hold the wisdom of your experience in check and tell them, "Looks wonderful, dear!"

*If you have feedback or suggestions for future topics, please email [peacelovilove@gmail.com](mailto:peacelovilove@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](http://www.sunflowerstudios.us.com).*

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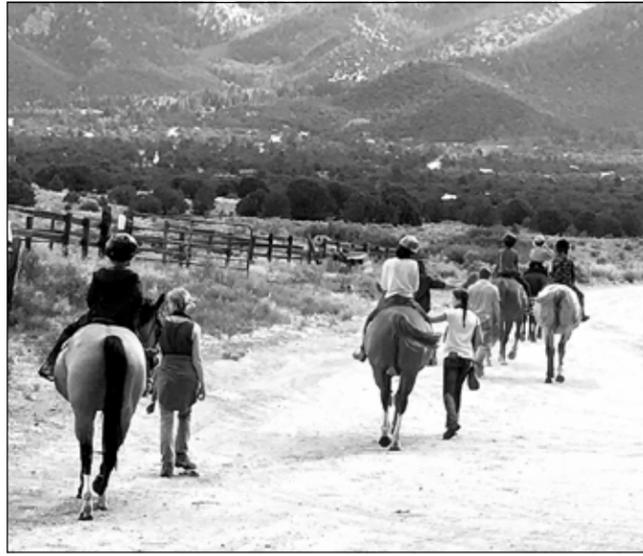
# Baca Grande Stables offers 2018 Summer Children's Riding Program

by Joanna Dokson

The Baca Grande Stables' 2018 Summer Children's Riding Program for children ages 6 to 15 will begin the week of June 4. Session 1 will be June 4-8; Session 2, June 11-15; Session 3, July 9-13; Session 4, July 23-27; Session 5, August 6-10. Each session is five days for 2 1/2 hours, from 8 to 10:30am. Lessons include riding in the arena and on trails and general horsemanship—safety, grooming and tacking up. Class size is limited to 5 students per session, so sign up soon. The cost will be \$150 per week-long session.

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

Summer is a busy time at the Baca Grande Stables. Private and



After training in the ring, the young riders are ready to hit the trail. photo by Eli Dokson



A young rider enjoys the Stables' Summer Riding Program. photo by Eli Dokson

group lessons are available for beginners through intermediates. We teach both English and Western riding. Our philosophy is based on discovering and establishing a loving, safe and knowledgeable part-

nership with horses. Body awareness, boundary setting, effective communication with honest intention and self-confidence are all enhanced by equine sports.

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

Community members who believe in the value of this program for local youth and would like to underwrite a partial scholarship for families in financial need can

make a tax-deductible donation to the Atalanta Association (the 501[c]3 non-profit organization that leases the Baca Grande Stables), earmarked "Summer Children's Riding Program." We will gratefully accept donations of any amount and will send a receipt to donors for tax purposes.

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



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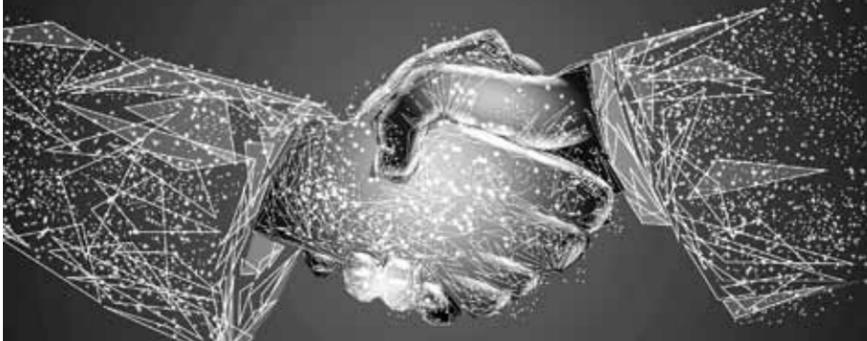
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## 28th annual Earth Knack Family Gathering June 7-12

A unique, local learning adventure for adults and families is taking place this June at the Earth Knack School.

The 28th annual Earth Knack Family Gathering will be held June 7-12 this year. The beautiful Earth Knack school site is situated along the banks of Cottonwood Creek near Crestone. Expert local and national instructors will once again offer a large variety of survival, primitive and ancestral living skills, as well as pioneer-style homesteading skills. Earth Knack teaches how to incorporate the wise skills and attitudes of our ancestors into our modern lifestyles. This allows us to make balanced, satisfying and sustainable choices for our personal and community future.

Classes are Friday through

Monday in subjects like ancestral weaponry, including bow and arrow and atl atl, astronomy and navigation, tracking, over-the-fire cooking, plant and animal fiber felting and weaving, edible plants, medicine plants, morning birding walks, beekeeping, natural dyes and "eco-dye" techniques, horse and buggy hitching, blacksmithing, knife making, traditional deer hide tanning, primitive pottery and firing methods, basketry, ancient Ayurveda healing, breathing and posture techniques, natural earth paints and pigment, camouflage and stalking, and so much more. Participants can choose classes with different instructors daily or spend multiple days focused on one subject area.

Lovely, woody campsites along the creek and a hearty dinner each night, including some wild food ingredients, are provided along with all instruction in the camp tuition.

Participants can register for the entire event or chose a one-to-three-day option at a daily rate. Youth must attend with, and be supervised by, their families. The site is not handicap accessible (yet). Tuition: Adults \$265, Kids 8-15 \$175, Kids 4-7 \$95, 3 and under free. Daily rates without dinner and camping: Adults \$68, Kids 8-15, \$45 Kids 4-7 \$25) The school site can accommodate about 80 participants.

Robin Blankenship is the founder of Earth Knack and a well know educator and author in outdoor and primitive living skills. Her most recent book, *How to Play in the Woods*, was published by



Mike Foltmer teaching fire making

Gibbs Smith, Publisher in April, 2016. Robin has been operating the Earth Knack school here in the San Luis Valley for 23 years. Our own Ernie Wilkinson was often a special guest instructor and presenter at Earth Knack programs.

Join Robin, Earth Knack and a host of quality instructors at the 28th annual Earth Knack Gathering June 7-12. To see a lineup of instructors and classes go to [www.earthknack.com/whats-new](http://www.earthknack.com/whats-new) or for general program history and information: [www.earthknack.com](http://www.earthknack.com). To register: [www.earthknack.com/registration](http://www.earthknack.com/registration), email [earthknackschool@gmail.com](mailto:earthknackschool@gmail.com), or write to Robin at Earth Knack, PO Box 508, Crestone, CO 81131.



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**Find Peter Peterson on Facebook!**



## Sri Aurobindo Learning Center

### Samsara & Nirvana

by Dr. Eric Weiss

A culture is, in large part, defined by the conceptual distinctions around which it revolves. Philosophical culture in the West tends to revolve around the distinction between Mind and Matter. We have Idealists, who think that Mind alone is real, and Materialists, who are sure that only Matter is real. We have dualists who think both are real, but separate, and Panpsychists who think Matter and Mind belong to reality together.

But Vedic thought, which underlies both Buddhism and the thinking of Sri Aurobindo, revolves around a very different distinction. It revolves around the distinction between Samsara and Nirvana (or, in the older language that Sri Aurobindo prefers, the distinction between "prakriti" and "purusha"). Samsara is the manifested, the relative. It is everything in time and space, including both Mind and Matter. It is everything with quality, anything you can point to and in-

dicating. Nirvana is none of that. It is absolute, beyond qualities, beyond time and space, nowhere, nothing, empty.

This "nowhere, nothing, empty," however, turns out to be of extreme importance. It is what we find at the mysterious center of our own conscious being, and it is the origin and the goal of all becoming.

When we are thinking just in terms of Mind and Body, our thought remains secular. When we begin to grasp the distinction between Samsara (which includes both Mind and Matter) on one hand, and Nirvana (which includes neither) on the other hand, our thought begins to become "spiritualized." We begin to taste the flavor of the Absolute, and we begin to develop the hunger for something beyond life and death that drives the spiritual path.

Sri Aurobindo has some very interesting ideas about Samsara and Nirvana that we will explore in next month's column.



The Ashram loves its children, teens, and families, shown here at the end of Spring Navratri honoring the children.

## Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

Thank you to everyone who supported the Ashram On-Line Fundraising Auction. It is all of your generosity that makes it so successful each year. Deep gratitude.

The new-moon fire ceremony this month is on Tuesday, May 15 and the full-moon fire ceremony is on Tuesday, May 29. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati is at 7am and evening aarati is at 6pm. At 8am there is generally a small indoor fire ceremony when we do not have a large one. Call us at 719-256-4108 for proper protocol for attending fire ceremonies and any other questions.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is full of wonderful items and more are always arriving: there are anklets, 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://mahalakshishop.wazala.com>.

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



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# Transcendentalism—rising above it all?

by Lee Temple

In North America, the first half of the nineteenth century saw the rise of the Transcendentalism movement in New England, fostered by the likes of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, and Henry David Thoreau. It began with a small group of New England educators, religious leaders, and social reformers, and eventually affected the values and beliefs of generations of American writers (e.g., Walt Whitman, John Muir, and Robert Frost) and Americans in general. Some of its most prominent ideas and focuses—individualism, self-improvement, spirituality, moral and political protest, intimacy with nature—still imbue US culture and political attitudes today.

At its core, Transcendentalism is the belief in a spiritual state that transcends the physical realm and is available only through personal intuition or revelation, as opposed to the doctrines and practices

of established religion. European Romanticism strongly permeated Transcendentalist thought: Rousseau's social and political views, Wordsworth's reverence for nature and solitude, Goethe's metaphysics, Coleridge's views on the divine source of Imagination, and Blake's individualism all weave through it. So does German Idealism, though the Transcendentalists imbibed their knowledge of Kant and others indirectly. Emerson was also thoroughly familiar with sacred texts of Hinduism (Vedas and Upanishads), Buddhism, Confucianism, and Islam, all of which he introduced to Thoreau. Renowned poet Walt Whitman was equally interested in Eastern teachings, though his study was less formal.

From the East, Transcendentalists drew their belief in cosmic unity, the interconnection of all things, and the view that the physical creation simultaneously reveals and veils its ultimate Oneness. They saw the cosmos as an

all-embracing whole and the physical world as a divine manifestation. Divinity could thus be known and revered in the natural world, as well as worshipped directly.

Of all the major American Transcendentalists, Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) undoubtedly had the largest impact on the future environmental movement. He published his most famous book, *Walden; or, Life in the Woods*, in 1854. Part memoir and part spiritual exploration, the book describes the period of two years and two months that Thoreau spent at Walden Pond on a piece of land owned by Emerson, just outside Concord, Massachusetts.

Thoreau's retreat to Walden Pond was neither a wilderness adventure (he was only two miles from Concord) nor a rejection of civilization (he spent a good deal of time reading and writing), but rather an exploration of self-reliance and a life lived close to nature in the simplest terms possible.

After returning to Concord at the end of his experiment in living, Thoreau revised *Walden* seven times over the next nine years, while supporting himself by surveying and making pencils. In addition to being a highly observant naturalist, he was dedicated to discovering deeper meanings in nature.

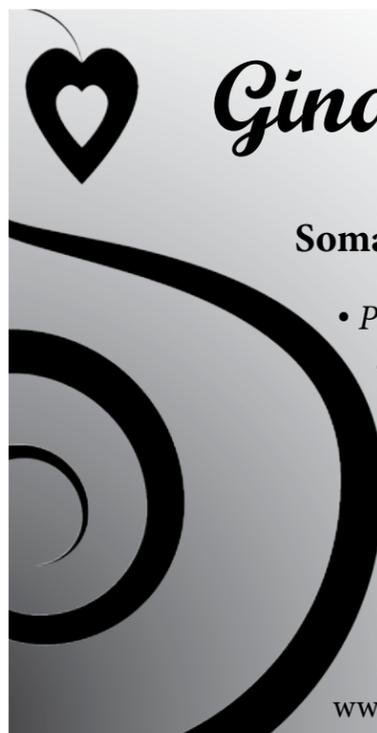
To the future environmental movement, he bequeathed any number of quotes that have moved multiple generations: From his

Journal in 1859, we have: "What we call wildness is a civilization other than our own." From *Walden*: "We need the tonic of wildness,—to wade sometimes in marshes where the bittern and the meadow-hen lurk, and hear the booming of the snipe; to smell the whispering sedge where only some wilder and more solitary fowl builds her nest, and the mink crawls with its belly close to the ground." He also gave us: "In Wildness is the preservation of the World," and "Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads."

Walt Whitman was the voice, though perhaps unwittingly, of the full democratization of Hermeticism, finding Divinity everywhere and in everyone.

*This article is another excerpt from Lee's award-winning book, **Awakening into Unity**, a comprehensive, richly illustrated compendium of the entire **Global Awakening** series, and a powerful healing balm for these troubled, turbulent times. View/borrow it at leading universities and the **Baca Grande Library**. Buy it at **Poor Richard's** and **Elephant Cloud Market** at a generous local's discount. Follow the source text for this article on pp 190, together with other similar topics in **Chapter Ten**, "The Power of Enlightened Intention and Choice." Learn more about Lee Temple, **Awakening into Unity**, and the **Global Awakening** series at award-winning [www.primamundi.com](http://www.primamundi.com).*

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## Messages from the heart of God

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### The bridge of life received by Earl LeRoy

My Child, I hear your heart seeking for truth and righteousness in the Spirit. Very few have come this way before. Set aside all of your preconceptions and listen to My voice. My Holy Spirit will lead you into all truth. Only those who will listen with a broken spirit and contrite heart will hear what I have to say.

First, you have to know that My only motivation to you and all others is to love you unconditionally and to draw you all nearer to Me.

When Adam choose to exercise his free will against what I warned him about, his decision to distrust Me caused a chasm between him and Me that there was no way for him to bridge it. Because I love all mankind so much, I built a Bridge over that chasm with My life and My Blood. This is the only bridge that started from heaven's side and ends on the earth. There are many bridges that have been started on man's side, but none of them have ever reached heaven's side.

In My love, I gave man a way that he could get on this Bridge. My Son Jesus, The Word became flesh, and became that Bridge. On the cross He cried, "It is finished!" as He rested His head and gave up His Spirit. The veil of separation was torn and the bridge was eternally anchored on the earth. This bridge is built out of the substance of Grace and entered onto by the

substance of Faith.

Enter this Bridge by believing My Word. I put My laws in your minds and I write them on your hearts. (Jer 31:33) This is the New Covenant that allows Me to be your God and allows you to be My people. Because I have loved you, you are now able to love Me. Because I have redeemed you, you can now live with Me. Because I have set you free, and healed you and made you prosperous, you can now choose to follow Me freely and be whole and healthy and live in abundance.

Now you are entering into heaven's time. The closer you come to Me, the more you know Me. The more you see My love for you, the more you love and trust Me. The more you realize that I do not hold your sins against you, and I do not even remember them when you repent because they were nailed to the cross and paid for.

Where I Am allowed to rule in your heart, My fullness manifests throughout your being.

Now as We proceed up the Bridge of Life toward heaven, heaven will overtake you like a cloud and will cover all of you. You will then be led by My Spirit like a pilot flying on autopilot. I will be manifesting My Glory through you.

I will tell you more later, but for now, stay on My Bridge.  
Love, Abba

## Crestone End of Life Project wants to better serve you—and we need your help

More than 200 area residents are registered with CEOLP, and some have been registered for more than five years. During that time the organization has revised and added to its registration requirements. If you are already registered with CEOLP, please help us out by reviewing your registration materials:

1. Check to make certain that all contact names, phone numbers, and physical and email addresses are current.

2. If you have asked a close friend or family member to act as your executor or designee representative, check with them to make certain that they still want to assume that role. Make sure their contact information is in your documents and that all information is correct and current.

3. If you have asked that a person act as your legally designated representative, make certain both you and your representative have completed the required documents. CEOLP has available copies of the Colorado Hospital Association's "patient rights" pamphlet, which contains forms for financial and medical power of attorney/guardianship.

4. Visit our website, informedfinalchoices.org, and click on "registration packet." Review the forms to make certain that you have all

the requisite documents.

5. Once you have made any revisions, please send a copy to the CEOLP registrar, P.O. Box 1238, Crestone, CO, 81131.

If you have any questions, contact CEOLP registrars Denise Peine, 256-4644 or Alicia Mason Miller, 256-4849 or email us at ceolp.info@gmail.com.

Another good idea: Because we are a small community where many of us live alone, it would serve us all to set up a "buddy system" to periodically check in on friends and neighbors—we never know when there could be a need for assistance. Think about who you might buddy with in this way.

### June registration party

Advance notice: The Crestone End of Life Project and Informed Final Choices is planning a CEOLP registration party on June 16, with the time and location to be announced. (See the *Eagle's* online events calendar). There will be a notary and copy machine on site, plenty of volunteers to answer your questions, and lots of delicious gluten-free cookies from local baker/caterer O.F.I.A. (Our Food is Art)! CEOLP welcomes new registrants, as well as anyone already registered who wants to confirm that their materials are current and complete.

### "Messages from the heart of God" is sponsored by the Free Spirit Christian Church

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Sunday Services	3:00 pm
Bible Study Thursdays	6:00 pm
Prayer Services Mon & Fri	10:00 am
Food Bank Tuesdays	2-4 pm
<i>Events at Sangre de Cristo Trading Post in Moffat:</i>	
Prayer Breakfast every 2nd Saturday	8:00 am

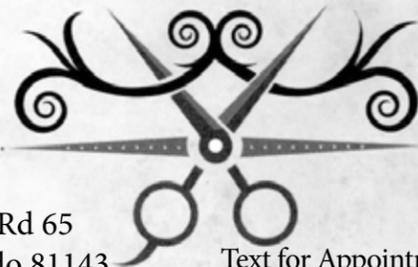
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The Divine is everywhere and everywhere is Divine.

Monthly open meeting **Wednesday, May 9**, at 7pm, at the Fellowship Hall of the Little Shepherd Church, Crestone. Call 719.588.7415 for information/directions.

## Pediatric dentist joins HRRMC medical staff

Sean Vostatek, D.D.S., a pediatric dentist with Simply Kids Dental in Colorado Springs, has joined the medical staff at Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Staff. He will see patients locally at Salida Family Dentistry, 7600 W. U.S. Highway 50, and provide care to children who require procedures under general anesthesia at the hospital.

Known as Dr. Sean to his patients, Dr. Vostatek is a board-certified pediatric dentist who specializes in treating infants, children and individuals with special health care needs.

After earning his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center, he spent four years in the National Health Service Corps serving uninsured children. Convinced that he wanted to continue helping underserved children, Dr. Vostatek sought further training as a specialist in children's dental care.

He then completed a two-year post graduate residency program, receiving his certificate in pediatric dentistry at the University of Iowa. During his training, Dr. Vostatek provided comprehensive care for well children and those with special needs including emergency care, conscious sedation, and treatment in the operating room under general anesthesia. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

Throughout his dental career, Dr. Vostatek has been involved in dental mission trips helping disadvantaged children receive basic dental care. He has led several dental mission trips throughout the world in various developing nations.

"HRRMC is very fortunate to have Dr. Vostatek on staff," said HRRMC CEO Bob Morasko. "He fills an important need in our community by providing children insured by Health First Colorado (Medicaid) with care."



Sean Vostatek, D.D.S., a pediatric dentist with Simply Kids Dental in Colorado Springs, has joined the medical staff at Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Staff. photo by Majesty Photo

Dr. Vostatek accepts most insurance including Delta Dental, Aetna, Humana, MetLife, CHP+, Health First Colorado and many others.

Dr. Vostatek lives in Colorado Springs with his wife and their six children. In his free time, he is involved with his church, cycling, backpacking, fly fishing and dental mission trips.

For more information or to make an appointment with Dr. Vostatek, call 719-598-5437 or visit his website at [www.simplykidsdental.com](http://www.simplykidsdental.com).

## Ask Dr. B about pets

### Warm weather pet alerts

by Linda Behrns, DVM

It doesn't seem like we ever had winter, and now we are coming up on summer with all of the potential health concerns that brings with it. There are a few issues that I wanted to make sure everyone knows about.

#### Rabies on the upswing

The first and most important as a public health risk is rabies. There has been an upswing in rabies across the country and Colorado is no exception. Last year the Colorado Department of Public Health reported that there were a total of 165 lab-confirmed cases: 63 bats (2 from Saguache County), 93 skunks, 5 foxes, 1 coyote, 1 raccoon and 2 dogs. 115 of these were known or strongly suspected of exposing 237 pets, 199 livestock and 63 people to the virus. So far this year there have already been 128 cases: 127 skunks and 1 alpaca, 39 of which have exposed 94 pets, 55 livestock and 12 people. All this before bat season has even started. It is therefore extremely important to get your dogs, cats and horses up to date on their rabies vaccinations as soon as possible if they are not already.

#### Cuterebra & cats

The second biggest health concern, especially for cats, is Cu-

terebra. Cuterebra are flies that resemble bees and are fairly common here. The female lays her eggs in areas where rodents and rabbits are present. When the eggs hatch they move onto the fur of passing animals including dogs and cats. They most often get into the animal through the mouth or nose and then enter into the body through the trachea causing a few days of coughing. Once inside they travel through the chest and abdomen and eventually under the skin where they make a bump with a hole in it so they can breathe. Although disgusting they are fairly easy to remove from under the skin but care has to be taken not to break or tear them as this can cause a severe anaphylactic reaction or infection. By far the biggest problem with them is in cats where they can end up in the brain or spinal cord, most often ending in the death of the cat. Monthly treatment with Frontline Plus may prevent their survival in dogs and cats and is recommended, especially for cats that go outside even for short periods, from early summer until late fall. It also kills fleas and ticks and can prevent the diseases they carry.

#### Rattle snakes!

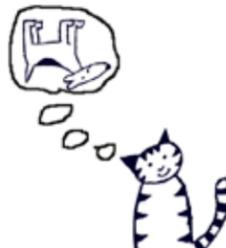
Rattle snakes are the third risk at this time of year and while not common on this side of the valley they are found on the west side. There is a vaccine available for dogs that can create immunity to the venom itself and buy a few hours to get to a clinic and get further treatment. If you take your dog hiking on the west side or other areas where rattlesnakes are present you might want to consider it.

#### Heartworms

Lastly is heartworms. There is a fair amount of contention as to whether or not heartworms can survive and reproduce in this climate but there are dogs in the valley with heartworms which could potentially act as a reservoir for infection to other dogs. Given the number of mosquitoes we can have I do not like to take the risk with my dogs and put them on heartworm prevention while the mosquitoes are around, generally mid-June to mid-September/October.

Those are the biggest concerns I have for our furry friends at the moment. I hope everyone with two legs or four has a great summer!

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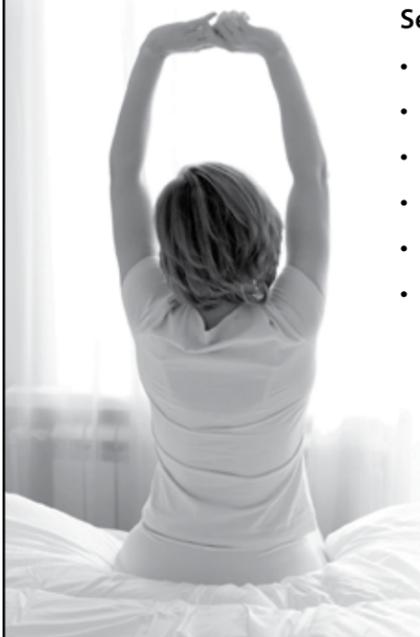
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## School year ends with carnivals & a new sponsor for Crestone Performances

Every month in *The Crestone Eagle*, Crestone Performances Inc. (CPI) will keep you informed on what we are doing and who is helping us do it. Our Youth Enrichment Program (YEP) has just completed its busiest month of the entire school year. We produced a total of five shows in Saguache County schools in April. Three of those shows were presented by the Shumei Taiko Drummers with two in Center and one in Moffat. The Pueblo Nature and Raptor Center brought their birds to Saguache and Crestone. These shows were big hits with the students and were funded 100% by Saguache County and Crestone Performances. We have now produced 211 shows by 40 different presenters over 16 years.

### Up coming events! Takio and Carnival

So what's next? We are taking the Shumei Taiko drummers to Salida Elementary on May 1. This show is funded by Amicas Restau-

rant and First Street Flooring in Salida.

We will also be producing our Kids Carnival in Center May 10 and in Moffat May 14. The cost of the Carnival is free to the schools, and the proceeds will go towards the Honor Clubs at each school. This is a new service we are offering in our efforts to expand our impact on schools in Saguache County. Be sure to check our website, [crestfest.org](http://crestfest.org), for current events and highlights of recent shows.

Crestone Performances is teaming up with local sponsors and individuals to keep cultural and educational performances flowing into the schools through YEP. We would like to thank Saguache County, *The Crestone Eagle*, Orient Land Trust, Joyful Journey Hot Springs, Sangre de Cristo Real Estate, Amicas Restaurant and First Street Flooring in Salida for their support.

Manitou Institute & Conservancy is our newest sponsor.



Fun and games at the carnival tent. A Kids' Carnival will happen May 10 in Center, and May 14 at the Moffat School.

Manitou was established in 1994 to support the programs and projects being developed on land donated to various spiritual and educational organizations by the Manitou Foundation. They have many programs and initiatives including the Earth Restoration Corp which addresses the problem of global climate change by mobilizing young people for sustainable livelihoods in earth restoration. Another is the Earth Origin Seeds which demonstrates and teaches organic farming practices and seed banking techniques. Others include: Habitat Conservation, Land Grants, an Indigenous Center and Hermitage Program. For more information please visit their web site at [Manitou.org](http://Manitou.org). Thanks, Manitou!

If you would like more information or would like to contribute to our efforts through sponsorship or donation, please go our web site, [crestfest.org](http://crestfest.org) and/or give us a call at 719-256-4533. Our address is PO Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131. Thanks for your time and stay tuned! Crestone Performances Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit community service organization now in its 16th year! All donations are tax deductible.

We are seeking folks that would like to get involved as a board member or volunteer. We still have a big 45' diameter tent for sale plus an assortment of fence posts, wooden and plastic fencing, trash cans and more. Please contact us for more information and ideas. Thank you.

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## YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

### ♪ MAY Events ♪

May 1st - Shumei Taiko Drums @ Salida Elementary @ 1pm  
May 10th - The CPI Carnival @ Center Elementary @ 4pm  
May 14th - The CPI Carnival @ Moffat Schools @ 4pm

### Thank you to our AMAZING Sponsors!

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# KIDZ KORNER!



Diane is a children's book author, host of The Fairy Train radio hour and other fun stuff. Her books can be found at local stores. For more info go to her website below.  
 Kidz Korner by M. Diane Bairstow  
[www.gypsypoetproductions.com](http://www.gypsypoetproductions.com)

## The Jokerster

What do you call cheese that's not yours?  
*Nach-o cheese.*

What did the hat say to the scarf?  
*You hang around, and I'll go ahead.*

What time should you go to the dentist?  
*Tooth burty.*

What did one firefly say to the other?  
*You glow girl!*

Why did the tomato blush?  
*Because he saw the salad dressing.*

What do you call a blind dinosaur?  
*A do-you-think-he-saw-us.*

How do you catch a whole school of fish?  
*With bookworms.*

How do you find Will Smith when he's lost in the snow?  
*You just look for fresh prints.*

Why did the mushroom like to party?  
*Because he was a fun-guy.*

Why did the man get fired from the orange juice factory?  
*Lack of concentration.*

What did one tonsil say to the other?  
*Gotta get dressed. The doc's taking us out tonight!*

Did you hear about the kidnapping in the park?  
*They woke him up..*

What do snakes take for their allegies?  
*Anti-bissssss-tamines.*

Why is it so windy inside a sports arena?  
*All those fans.*

How do you keep a bull from charging?  
*Take away its credit card.*

Why shouldn't you trust a pig with a secret?  
*'Cause it's bound to squeal.*

What do cows read?  
*Cattle-logs.*

What does a spider's bride wear?  
*A webbing dress.*

Where do young cows eat lunch?  
*In the calf-ateria.*

What do you call a rich elf?  
*Welfy.*

What do you call a smart group of trees?  
*A brainforest.*

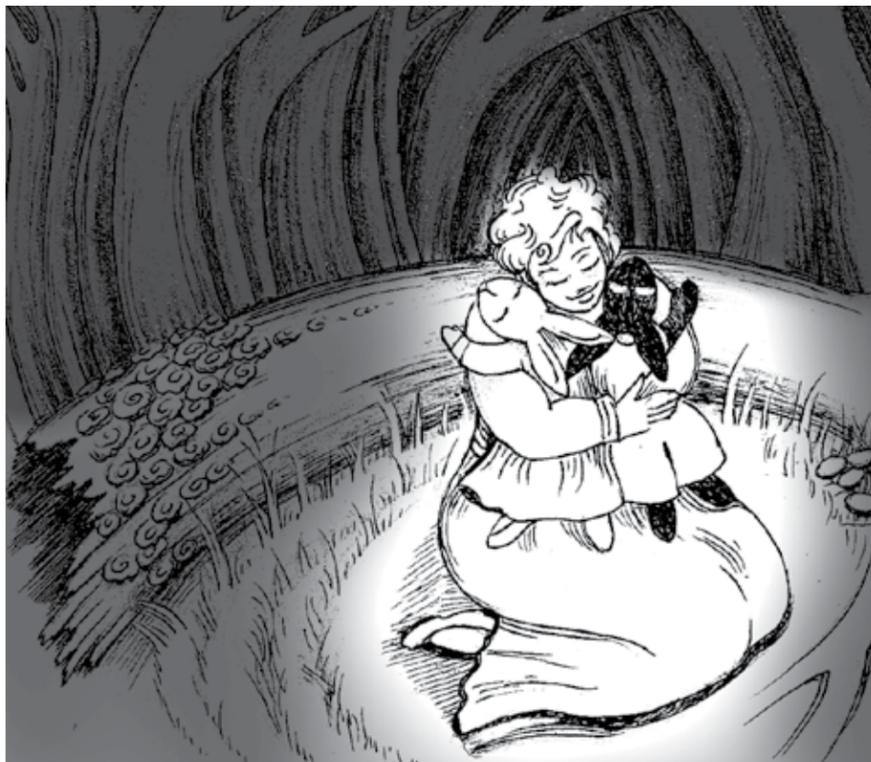
What's the definition of a good farmer?  
*A man outstanding in his field.*

What washes up on tiny beaches?  
*Microwaves.*

A sandwich walks into a bar.  
*Barman says, "Sorry, we don't serve food in here."*

## The Dark Forest

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



The farther they went into the forest, the more menacing it became. Gladseed trees were few and far between, and Poppy and Pierre felt an increasing sense of danger with every step.

"Listen!" Poppy stopped suddenly and whispered. "Sarah's coming this way."

"Let' get off the path." Pierre cautioned, "Remember she's supposed to be looking for us, so we can't be seen together."

Poppy followed her brother through a dense tangle of underbrush. They hunkered down behind a fallen tree and watched as Sarah passed by calling their names.

"She looks scared." Poppy said. "I wish we could go to her."

"You know we can't Poppy!"

"But we could follow her scent\* keeping a good distance behind her." Poppy suggested, and that's what the bunnies did.

~Sarah was frightened. Just like the bunnies she felt the forest had become more menacing and dangerous the deeper into it she went. The trees were close together and vines crawled up their trunks joining with the branches and leaves until the sunlight barely pierced the thick canopy. It was as if the forest was shrouded in a perpetual twilight that finally began to deepen into darkness.

Sarah stumbled off the path looking

for a place to spend the night. She felt so alone. Morningsong, the bluebird who promised the fairy that she would help Sarah, had not shown herself. And the bunnies? Where were they, she wondered? Were they safe?

She took a sandwich out of her pack. Peanut butter and jelly, her favorite. As she ate it she thought about her mother and sister, and then she started to cry. She cried and cried and cried.

The bunnies had gotten off the path when Sarah had, and they crept through the underbrush to be closer to her. They heard Sarah sobbing, and Poppy couldn't stand it.

"I'm going to her!" Poppy whispered, and before Pierre could object, she was crawling on her belly up to Sarah.

"What! Whose there!" Sarah called.

"It's me. Poppy." The bunny whispered, and within seconds, both she and Pierre were in Sarah's lap, cuddling her and covering her with bunny kisses.

Suddenly things didn't seem so bad.

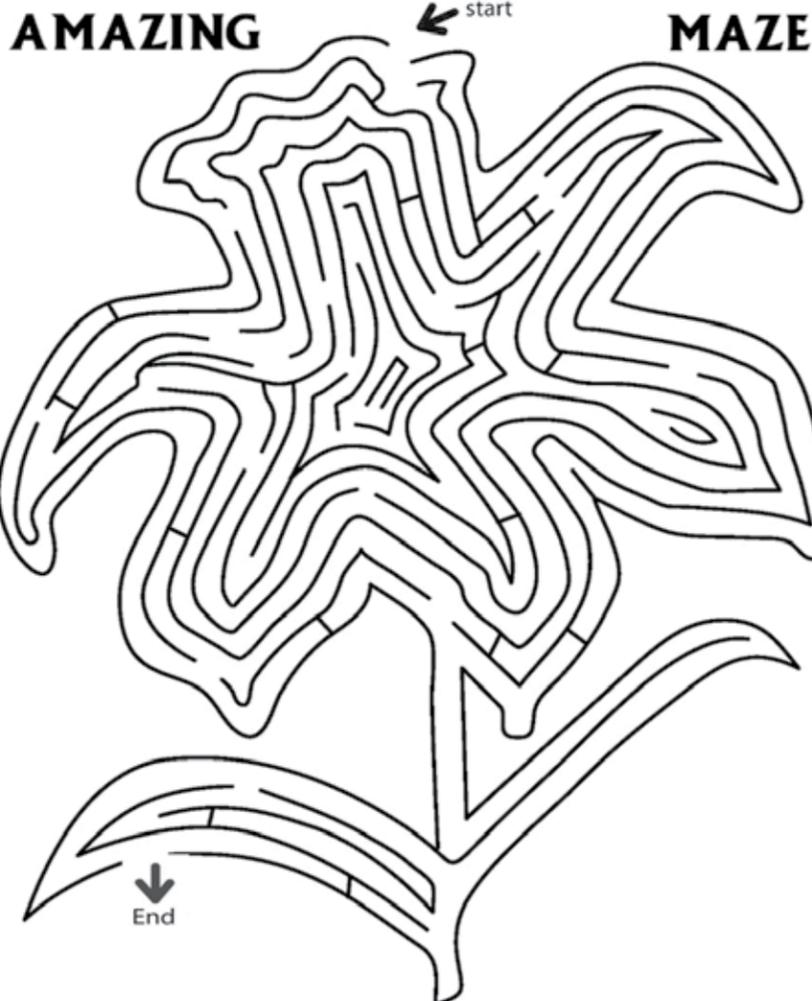
*To be continued.*

**\*Bunnies have 100 million scent cells; humans only have 5 million, and dogs have 220 million.**

### WORDS

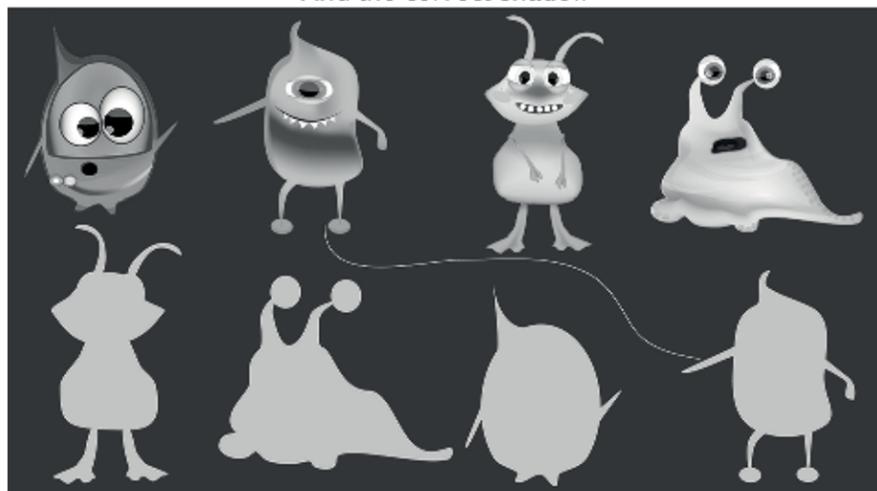
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Shade	M S A U Y X S B K T X R H N
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Long Sleeves	K A P W A T E R B L H S T J
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## Moffat students get their shot to attend Hamilton with Saguache County tax grant

by Emma Smith

"This is not a moment, it is a movement," said Mathenee Treco, cast member of the Broadway hit *Hamilton*. If there is one thing students from underprivileged Title One schools need more of it is to feel valued, empowered, and recognized for the unbridled potential they possess. This is exactly what

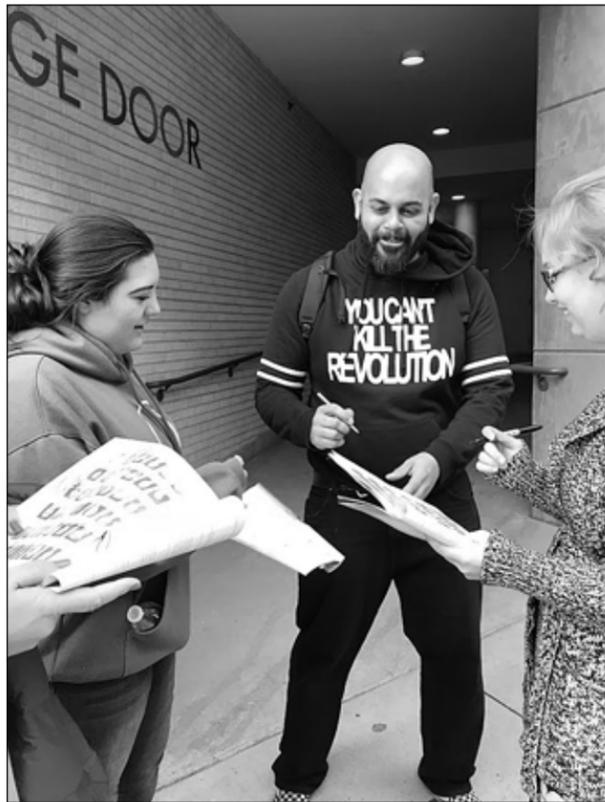
student performances. Of the 39 schools that attended, 14 small groups were selected to perform original pieces relating to issues and themes of the play and of the Revolutionary War, many of which apply to current social and political issues today. It was here that the crowd's excitement and pride was felt strongest. The energy of over 2,800 students and teachers electrified the Buell Theater as student performers took stage. To be in the room where these students spoke their unbarred and honest truths was beyond moving. The cast and crew of *Hamilton* provided something underprivileged youth rarely receive, a platform to speak and a community that not only supported their voices, but also amplified them for all to hear.

Moffat School's very own Ryker Poor and Sabian Storm were two of these voices. Prior to their performance Poor and Storm researched primary documents and key individuals during the Revolutionary War. They then worked together to

explore and express important issues of oppression, equality, and themes of freedom. The end result concluded in a contemporary rap battle filled with historical references and discussion, as well as commentary that hinted to current political innuendos. Like every other student performer that day, Moffat students proved that the youth of America are aware of the success, turmoil, injustices, and movements our country has undergone to be-



Thumbs up to great seats as student performers prep with the crew on the *Hamilton* stage.



Students Alexandria Harrison and Holly Fuller get autographs from Mathenee Treco who plays Hercules Mulligan and James Madison in *Hamilton*. Treco, an immigrant from the Bahamas, grew up and graduated in Aurora, Colorado.

the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the *Hamilton* Broadway production highlighted during a special, student showing of the Broadway phenomenon on March 21 in Denver. Students from across Colorado came together to not only see the show of a lifetime, but to also support and prove that the youth of America are capable of anything.

The morning of the "Edu-Ham" experience started with

come who we are today. And as the voice of tomorrow, these students also proved that their visions for the future and their desire to make abject situations better are achievable. It was invigorating and inspiring to hear young adults from challenging circumstances rise above their situations and define their own destinies.

After the student performances and a brief lunch break, students and teachers alike were seated in anticipation. After months of hard work and hours of research, the moment had arrived. The diverse and impressionable crowd watched in awe as the play began. Throughout the show students cheered, laughed, and cried as they watched the protagonist, Alexander Hamilton, rise above paralleled life themes of poverty and oppression to become a force to be reckoned with. The pride and potential this immigrant Founding Father had, and all he achieved, was the very reason so many students related to the story. Despite the constant obstacles he faced, Hamilton continued to push himself and write his way out of destitution and into a life of greatness.

For these students, future leaders, and unshakable voices of hope the *Hamilton* experience proved to be more than just a memory they would cherish forever. It was a podium they were able to express themselves on. It was a celebration of inclusion and a real-

ization of the power our diversity holds. It was the honest discovery that where we come from does not define our worth or where we are going. Most importantly, it was the beginning of something great for every student in attendance; it was the recognition that they hold value as the youth of America, as artists, and as human beings. Their lives matter. Their voices matter. They matter and I can guarantee, they are not throwing away their shot.

If you would like to watch the incredible student performances you may do so by scrolling all the way down to the student performers direct video link at: [www.denvercenter.org/blog-posts/news-center/2018/03/23/for-one-day-in-denver-hamilton-makes-students-the-stars](http://www.denvercenter.org/blog-posts/news-center/2018/03/23/for-one-day-in-denver-hamilton-makes-students-the-stars).

In addition, I offer a most sincere thank you to the Gilder Lehrman Institute, and the cast and crew of *Hamilton*, for providing this incredible opportunity to the impoverished and overlooked students who do not normally get chances like these (\$10 tickets wow!). Deep gratitude also goes out to the Saguache County Commissioners for awarding Tax Grant funding for this educational trip. Also, thank you to the devoted, selfless teachers who work so hard for their students and make experiences like this possible. You are advocates of acceptance, voice, and of the youth; and you are appreciated.



"Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much."

- Helen Keller

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## Defensible space workshop at Crestone Charter School

The Colorado State Forest Service will be working with Crestone Charter School to offer a wildfire defensible space workshop on site Saturday, May 12. Defensible space refers to the natural and landscaped area around a structure that has been modified to reduce wildfire hazards. It provides a more safe location for firefighters to work within to protect a structure.

CCS is located in the wildland-urban interface, which is the area where structures intermingle with or are close enough to wildland vegetation that a wildfire could spread and ignite the structures. The school, dear to both students and the community, is located within an area considered at risk of high-intensity wildfire should an ignition occur.

"CCS has done a great job protecting their site by improving emergency vehicle access, and through good building design and regular maintenance," said Adam Moore, forester with the Colorado State Forest Service Alamosa Field Office. "However, more work still needs to be done to keep the site protected from a wildfire."

Moore says that due to the fact that students may be present during a potential wildfire, the size

of the defensible space around the school will need to be bigger than what is considered adequate for a home.

The event on May 12 will be a hands-on training that includes an education component, where residents will learn about the basics of defensible space. In the morning, attendees will walk around the school to talk about how the building design and its immediate landscaping might affect its odds of burning during a wildfire. Attendees will then progress outward from the school to discuss which trees might need to be thinned or pruned. In the afternoon, participants will help the school actually start to create defensible space and demonstrate how much work can get done with simple hand tools.

"This is a great opportunity to learn about wildfires and help protect the local school," said Marie-Louise Baker, CCS Director.

The event is open to the public and will start at 10 and finish by 3pm. Baker has arranged for lunch to be provided.

To RSVP or for more information, email: [mlbaker@crestonecharter.com](mailto:mlbaker@crestonecharter.com) or call 719-256-4907.

The Crestone Charter School News is sponsored by: A supporter of the *Crestone Eagle's* important community service.

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# What does it mean for Nature to have rights?

by Myra Jackson

Crestone/Baca is nestled in the fabled San Luis Valley known by some Native people as the “Bloodless Valley”, a land once inhabited by a people who lived in harmony with nature.

Distinctive to Crestone are the twenty or more spiritual retreat centers of diverse traditions that settled here decades ago. Eleven of the centers represent various lineages of Buddhism. Remembering the role of the Earth in the Buddha’s enlightenment, it is not a great leap to wonder if Crestone/Baca is a fertile ecofield for the resurgence of a worldview that recognizes Nature’s intelligence.

The understanding of Nature as an intelligent and nourishing entity is also represented in an emerging legal field called “Earth Law.” While relatively new to western law, the inspiration behind Earth Law is the timeless respect for Nature found in indigenous worldviews worldwide.

For some, the idea of the rights of Nature is an inconvenient truth, while for others it is a modern restoration of an indigenous worldview in the form of Earth Law that is consistent with their own inner experience and viewed as an idea whose time has come.

## How does Earth Law support Nature and impact lives?

In most countries, Nature has the legal status of property. This means that our current laws protect Nature only for the benefit of people and corporations. The Earth and its ecosystems which provide a common home for all life, itself has no rights.

A primary component of Earth Law is recognizing the legal rights of Nature—including the rights of ecosystems to exist, thrive, and evolve. Under this paradigm, Nature is able to defend its rights in court, with the help of human representatives, or “guardians.” Earth Law aims to protect the environment for all creatures for the sake of Nature itself. It ensures true environmental protection via proactive action and effective restoration projects.

Nature’s rights benefit human rights. Where the environment is harmed, people suffer from disease, violence, and land loss. Therefore, in many situations, both human and environmental rights are supportable without conflict, and indeed would support each other.

What does “rights of Nature” mean in practice? It means that we can no longer impair entire ecosystems, but we can still sustainably maintain our house and backyard. It means that we can no longer excessively pollute and divert our rivers, but we can still draw their life-giving waters for drinking, growing food, and meeting basic needs. And above all, it means that living in harmony with Nature will be built into our legal system. And why shouldn’t it be that way?

Fortunately, many of the legal concepts necessary to establish rights for Nature already exist. For example, Nature would be represented in court by humans, which is already the status quo for groups such as children and incapacitated or disabled persons. It’s also the case

that nonhuman entities have held legal rights for hundreds of years—namely corporations and trusts. So why not Nature?

## Rights of Nature is a growing movement

The Schuylkill Region’s Tamaqua Borough, located roughly halfway between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh in the heart of Pennsylvania’s Coal Region, was the first U.S. municipality to recognize legal rights for Nature. After long lingering on the far fringes of the environmental movement, the idea took root there in 2006.

In 2008, the Town Council of Halifax, Virginia, voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance banning corporate chemical and radioactive bodily trespass. Enacted to confront concerns about the proposed uranium mine in adjacent Pittsylvania County, the ordinance establishes strict liability and burden-of-proof standards for corporations and government entities involved.

Situated in the middle of the state of New Hampshire, Nottingham and Barnstead are rural communities dating back to the early 1700s. They are about 18 miles apart with a little under 4000 residents each. In 2001, a company known as USA Springs wanted to put in three wells, to withdraw over 430,000 gallons of water a day from the local aquifer for a massive water bottling operation. These wells were to be situated at the headwaters in Nottingham and in nearby Barnstead, where most inhabitants rely on wells for their own water supplies. This bottling operation presented a threat to both water quality and quantity.

“At every planning board meeting, I was fully assured that the government would be there to protect us, that it would take notice of the will of the people of the town who did not want a water bottling plant. Yet at these same meetings, every permit asked for was granted and the community’s will was ignored,” said Chris Mills, Nottingham resident. The Nottingham rights of Nature ordinance was passed with 63% of the vote.

An additional 30+ municipalities have since passed rights of Nature ordinances including: Mahoney (PA), Newfield (NJ), Licking (PA), Packer (PA), Wales (NY), Pittsburgh (PA), Baldwin (PA), Forest Hills (PA), Mountain Lake Park (MD), State College (PA), West Homestead (PA), Broadview Heights (OH), Yellow Spring (OH), Mora County (NM), and Santa Monica (CA) among many others.

## Small towns leading the rights of Nature movement in the US

With the exception of Pittsburgh, small towns have taken the lead in enacting rights of Nature in United States. Specifically, rights of Nature wins have happened because of community-led initiatives.

One in ten Americans lives in a small town. Small towns represent roughly 75% of all municipalities in the United States and some 33 million people. Moreover, recent demographic data shows a movement away from expensive coastal cities as people, including millennials, are



After 140 years of negotiation, the Maori tribe in New Zealand won recognition for Whanganui river, meaning it must be treated as a living entity.

## Transforming our relationship with Nature, presentation on May 18

Is now the time to explore a path to recognize and protect the Rights of Nature to exist, thrive and evolve?

Learn how people in communities across the US and the world are evolving environmental law to establish Rights of Nature for the well-being of the planet and the species who call it home. Join us for an inspiring evening of informative stories from the field with Grant Wilson, Directing Attorney at the Earth Law Center at the Colorado College Conference Center, Friday, May 18 at 6:30pm. It is open to all. Please RSVP at [FieldofCreation@gmail.com](mailto:FieldofCreation@gmail.com).

The Desert Sage will serve a special buffet-style Himalayan Feast for \$18 plus tax and tip. Join us for dinner at 5:30pm.

Please park your car in the Colorado College parking lot, accessible from Rd. T, to ensure that business at the Desert Sage remains robust for the entire evening.

More about Grant Wilson: His grandparents ran the town’s newspaper in Omak, Washington, located in Eastern Washington, and earlier in Ritzville, Washington. His uncle ran a small-town newspaper in Port Townsend, Washington, for many years as well. He appreciates being in small towns where a local newspaper is alive and well. Grant will join the Volunteers of Outdoor Colorado, VOC for the weekend trail building just outside of Crestone, May 19-20.

looking for affordable single-family homes. The number of rural home mortgages has increased for five straight years.

These small towns demonstrate that at a time when state and federal governments slowly grind through gridlock and partisanship, responsive local leadership can still be decisive and make a real difference. This can be seen in the case of green energy. Thanks to the foresight of small towns, the growing presence of solar and wind power in rural communities has created opportunities and income (green power employs roughly five times more Americans than the coal industry). Green power is helping small towns to save both money and resources.

## Small town papers as beacons

Two-thirds of residents in small towns across America depend upon their local newspaper for news and information. This is according to the National Newspaper Association’s most recent newspaper readership survey.

“Central to small towns, local newspapers are a beacon of community-level democracy,” said Grant Wilson of Earth Law Center, a non-profit that seeks legal rights for Nature in the US and internationally. “Through newspapers, town hall meetings, and local organizing, many towns are now taking a hard look at the rights of Nature as a way of preserving their quality of life and connection to the natural world.”

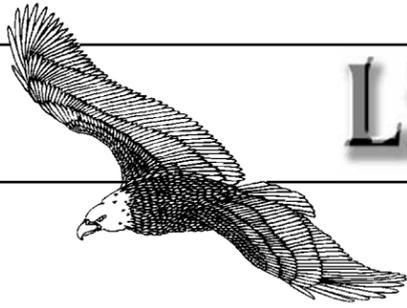
## Earth democracy

Adjudication is the legal process by which a judge reviews evidence, including legal reasoning set forth by opposing parties, to come to a decision which determines rights and obligations between the parties involved.

Establishing legal rights for Nature implicates familiar democratic and legal processes. For example, local communities can vote into law the recognition of the rights of Nature. If necessary, citizens can then bring lawsuits to remedy violations of Nature’s rights (as defined). City councils can review petitions brought by residents to amend existing laws, as well. And local governments work to implement Nature’s rights through city programs and policies. In other words, we see the same tenets of a rich democracy—but only with another stakeholder: Nature.

## Small towns have considerable power to make change happen.

Small towns have considerable power to make change happen. Writing about small towns for *The Atlantic* in 1942, Arthur Morgan stated that the “controlling factors of civilization are not art, business, science, government. These are fruits. The roots of civilization are elemental traits—goodwill, neighborliness, fair play, courage, tolerance, open-minded inquiry, patience.” In regards to the rights of Nature movement, such small towns will continue to be a source of hope and inspiration for a better planet.



# Living on the Earth

## Fires in Crestone history

by Mary Lowers

As summer approaches, we are living with a stage two fire alert in Saguache County. Crestone and the Baca Grande are drier than even the “old timers” have seen them. Even the spring pool behind the Town Hall, which no one remembers ever going dry, was waterless for over a month. I would like to remind everyone that many, many fires in our neck of the woods have been threatening in the past and have been extinguished by nature and human intervention. Houses burned down all over, parks, the forest and even the old train depot located on W. Galena Ave. (before the road turns north toward the cemetery gates) burned down.

During a dry, high cottonwood-fluff year in the 1980s a youngster with 4th of July fireworks set the lots just north of the Old Schoolhouse on fire. It was put out by quick-thinking neighbors with hoses. In the late 1970s or early 1980s the old house on the corner

of Cottonwood St. and Galena Ave. (across from the *Eagle*) burned to the ground. You can see the apple trees and tall spruce as well as the outline of where the yard was from Galena Ave. The tenant at the time, Bobby Troutman, stoked the woodstove and went to the Bistro (where the Desert Sage is now). His house ignited and burned quickly although local firefighters stopped the fire from spreading.

There was the fire up the San Isabel drainage in the late 2000s, started by the late Gary Boyce when he was burning ditches one windy day and the fire got away from him. About six years ago another, even bigger fire started on the Boyce ranch. While Boyce was grading his road, his blade struck some rocks, causing sparks. It was an extremely windy day and that fire went into the trees along San Isabel Creek, heading for the mountains. Every fire department in the area came out to fight that blaze, including a professional “Hot



Numerous fire trucks from many departments attack a large haystack fire in 2014 near Moffat. An arsonist had set about 15 fires that day alongside roads and highways.

photo by Talmath Lakai



Firefighters work to contain the fire that destroyed the commercial building on Alder and Galena. There was no central water system in Crestone then and tankers had to ferry water from the Baca.

photo by Kizzen Laki



It was a sad day in Crestone when the building that had once housed the Road Kill Cafe and other shops burned to the ground. It took over 60,000 gallons of water to drown that fire.

photo by Kizzen Laki

Shot” team that was in the area.

In 2015 there was the fire started by a lightning strike way up Burnt Gulch that burned itself out. I was living in Moffat then and the fire at sunset and sunrise way up above Crestone looked like a dragon winding its way down the mountain. A Shumei log house, east of Wagon Wheel Rd. in the Baca Grande, burned down in 2015. The cause of that fire was believed to be a spark from a power cord.

I remember the Old Town/Roadkill fire in the mid 1990s. It consumed the old-west style building that stood where the Sangre de Cristo building is today, on the southeast corner of Alder St. and Galena Ave. in Crestone. I visited with Kim Martinez who was Crestone Fire Chief then about the fire. Kim was five months pregnant at the time with son Drew and her family, the Sniders, owned the complex of shops and a restaurant that was burning. When it was discovered the fire was electric in nature Kim told me, “we cut the power.” So, garden hoses could not be used. I remember an orange inflatable water tank called a “pumpkin” was set up. The Town did not have a city water tank or fire hydrants in those days and drafted water from the creek or hauled water in tankers from the Baca. Shaking her head, Kim said, “That thing burnt for four days.”

She reminded me that the Old Town Hall was the original Crestone Fire House and that the founder of it was former mayor, George “Jack” Harlan. “Before the

new firehouse went in, the fire truck and ambulance had to be pulled out to have [space for] a meeting.” Kim and I talked about the fire stories surrounding Burnt Gulch which rises east of town. Some old timers like Jack Harlan, longtime mayor of Crestone and historian, said that Native Americans, probably Kiowa, who camped along North Crestone Creek, set the forest ablaze in the gulch to make it less attractive to white settlers. On the other hand, Kim told me a story about the name Burnt Gulch I had never heard. “From across the valley,” Kim said, “the brilliant red of the Aspen up there in the fall make it look as though the mountain is on fire up in that area.” And thus the name Burnt Gulch came to be.

In 1892, the so called Great Forest Fire was heading towards Crestone from the north. Miners left their claims and headed for the hills to stop the destruction of their new little town. The fire was stopped at South Crestone Creek and the town was spared.

Back in the old days word of forest fires did not spread quickly. On July 31, 1889 Mrs. Strong, living in the Short Creek area, wrote in her diary, “Fair, hot and smoky. There must be a big mountain fire somewhere to make so much smoke. Have not seen across the Valley in four days.” It must have been very concerning not to know where the fire was in relation to one’s home.

In her history of Crestone,

*continued on page B-10*



by Kim Malville

Venus dominates our western skies in the evening, getting higher in the sky throughout the month, remaining the brightest object in the sky next to the sun and moon. At the end of May it will set more than two and a half hours after the sun.

**May 2-4:** Aldebaran, the blood-shot eye of Taurus the Bull, and Venus will be close together, setting in the western skies soon after sunset. Venus is brilliantly white and Aldebaran, one hundred times fainter, is ruddy.

**May 8:** Jupiter reaches opposition, exactly opposite the sun. It will be due south at midnight and closest to the earth. It moves slowly retrograde (to the west). At the start of the month it is close to the brightest star of Libra, Zubenelgenubi.

**May 17:** The very thin and delicate crescent moon will be close to Venus, about 1 hour after sunset.

**May 21:** The first quarter moon forms a tight pair with Regulus, the brightest star in Leo the Lion.

**May 25:** The moon is close to Spica, in Virgo

**May 26:** The moon moves close to Jupiter.

**May 31:** The moon is close to Saturn.

**The Hair of Berenice**

As the evenings get warmer and before the mosquitoes arrive, you might scan the skies for this constellation. Nestled beneath the curve of the Big Dipper there is a wonderful, little-appreciated constellation known as Coma Berenices. The reason I think it is so wonderful is that because the skies of Crestone are so very dark, the constellation is a rare jewel, rarely visible in the lighted city skies, but for us easily spotted and enjoyed. Look for the curve of the Big Dipper and then move downward and you should spot a clustering of faint stars, which are the hair of Berenice. Its sight is one of the joys of living under the dark skies of Crestone.

A faraway cluster of stars known as the Coma star cluster requires a dark sky to be seen. It is in the constellation Coma Berenices—also known as Berenices' Hair—and it's an open star cluster, a loose col-

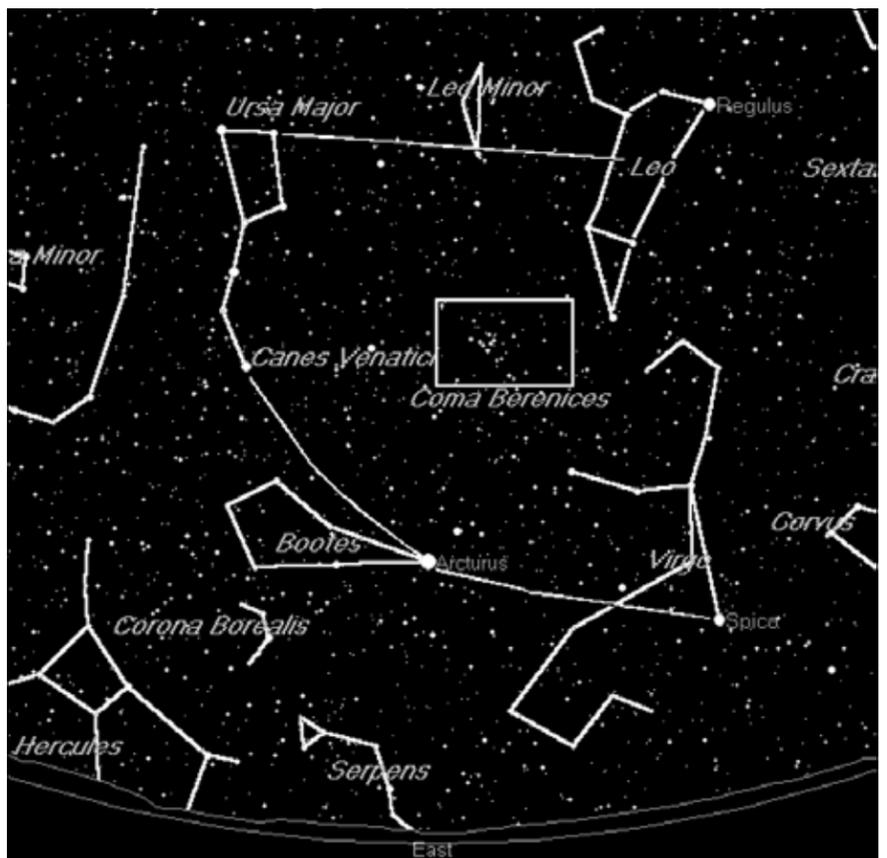
lection of stars held together by the mutual gravity of stars and perhaps some dark matter.

Just in case you are having a hard time finding it, here are some hints. You can use the arc of the Big Dipper and arc down to Arcturus, the brightest star in the constellation of Bootes. From there you can continue the arc to Spica, the brightest star in the constellation of Virgo (which star the moon will be near on May 25). To the west of Arcturus you will find Berenice's hair. Moving further west is Leo the Lion. You can also use the Big Dipper to find Leo, as indicated in the figure, moving downward from the bowl of the dipper to reach the backward question mark that is the head of the lion. Its tail is the star Denebola. Coma Berenices lies between Denebola and Arcturus. By the way, the word Deneb in a star name always means tail. There is also a Deneb which is the tail of Cygnus the Swan. You should see a faint clustering of stars, which is the hair of Berenice.

This cluster of stars is estimated to be about 300 light-years away and contains young stars that are only 400 million years old, a fraction of the age of our sun. This cluster of stars—seen by the early stargazers as Queen Berenice's Hair—is named for Queen Berenice II of Egypt, wife of Ptolemy III. In 243 B.C., Ptolemy went to war. His new bride, Berenice, swore to the goddess Aphrodite to sacrifice her long, blonde hair, of which she was extremely proud, if her husband returned safely. He did, and she had her hair cut and placed it in the goddess' temple. But the same night it disappeared, likely stolen by a mortal. The king was furious, and the queen wept bitterly over the loss. There is no telling what might have happened to the guardians of the temple had not a celebrated astronomer named Conon of Samos taken the young king and queen aside the next evening and in the dark skies of Egypt showed them the missing locks shining, transfigured in the sky. He assured them that the gods were so impressed by the beauty of her locks that Venus had placed Berenice's lustrous hair among the stars, and, since they were not



Coma Berenices, Bootes, and the Hunting Dogs (Urania's Mirror, 1824). This figure is one of 32 constellation cards, published in London and "elegantly" boxed for Christmas of 1824, known as Urania's Mirror. These cards were perforated with small holes for each major star, designed to be held up to the light, although many, it is rumored, may have been consumed by flames, held too close to candles. The iPhone constellation app is less dangerous.



The sky around Coma Berenices.

skilled in celestial lore, the royal couple were quite ready to believe that the silvery swarm of stars they saw near Arcturus had not been there before.

**The Needle Galaxy**

There are literally thousands of galaxies embedded in this constellation. One of its most magnificent spiral galaxies, known as the Needle Galaxy for its narrow shape, is what our Milky Way Galaxy would look like when viewed edge on. It lies 30 million light years away. It is cut by dark dust lanes, again similar to our own galaxy, in which we can see dark dust clouds in the Milky Way. The Coma Cluster of Galaxies, one of the greatest in our part of the uni-

vers, is some 300 million light-years away. It contains a whopping 10,000 galaxies. One of its brightest galaxies contains at its own center one of the largest known black holes with a mass of 21 billion suns. This vast collection of galaxies in the cluster is held together by dark matter, that mysterious invisible source of gravity. The cluster also contains the Dragon Fly Galaxy, discovered only recently in 2015. Measurement of the mass of the galaxy showed it to have the same mass as our Milky Way, but is only 1% as bright. The galaxy must be almost entirely composed of dark matter with only a few bits of bright matter in the form of luminous stars.



The Needle Galaxy in Coma Berenices.

photo from Kitt Peak National Observatory

This column sponsored by  
**Kim & Nancy Malville**  
 kimmalville@hotmail.com

# Starr Sightings

by Starr Sites  
Mars / Pluto

Intense anger is the over-riding theme this Beltane (May Day) as Mars unites forces with Pluto in late April, spilling into May, sparking intense arguments, tests of will, war-talk, and expressions of violence. With both planets in Capricorn, clashing egos, excessive ambition, patriarchal manipulations, and political power struggles are likely to erupt. Expect this spring to see an explosion of hyper-activity, megalomania and overblown hype. The Mars/Pluto energies together are very powerful and when used with precision and intention, they can help us accomplish much. However, when applied carelessly, they can wreak havoc!

**Disrupter-in-Chief**

Donald Trump does not take kindly to limitations being placed on him. He would prefer to run the country all by himself than follow the protocols of government! As Trump wiggles ever deeper into quicksand of his own making, Mars and Pluto will oppose his natal Venus/Saturn (control over women). He will lash out viciously at any woman who dares to cross his path. (Watch out Melania!) However, oppositions mean he will be met with considerable resistance. With transiting Saturn (fear) opposing his natal Mercury (state of mind),

and Mars/Pluto (fury) opposing his natal Saturn (caution), there could be fireworks! Luckily transiting benefic Jupiter is making positive aspects to transiting Pluto, Trump's Saturn and our national Mercury, so although there may be skirmishes, a full-blown war seems astrologically unlikely at this time, despite rising tensions. But loan scandals, and extreme political intrigue arising from "following the money" in the Russia investigation will continue to shock and amaze.

**The national chart**

Pluto, the Transformer, is transiting through the 2nd house of money and values in the US national chart (until 2040!) This period will mark the 2+ decade-long restructuring of our economic system. As slow-moving Pluto begins to oppose the US Mercury in the 8th house of other people's money, arguments will abound concerning how our national values became so degraded by a loss of integrity, rising systemic racism, gender inequality, gun violence, homelessness, gross income disparity, social media selling our privacy, etc. Meanwhile trade agreements, Korean communications, and the Iran Nuclear Deal may break down.

**The Great Depression**

The 1930s was a time of food rationing and hardship leading up to the Second World War. Many

of the conditions that led to that Great Depression are present now: an expanded economy, soaring stock markets, low wages, extreme income disparity, deepening debt, and increasing homelessness were national problems. In the '30's huge deficits, few regulations, severe drought affecting agricultural areas, and newly-imposed tariffs fostered global economic decline. Doesn't that sound disturbingly similar to today?

**Uranus in Taurus**

On May 16 Uranus will change signs—from Aries/Fire into Taurus/Earth—until 2026. Uranus last entered Taurus in 1934 during the Great Depression. The radical changes of Uranus will expose "climate denial" with earthquakes and seismic eruptions, gigantic storms and increasingly extreme weather events. Infrastructure may have to collapse before being repaired.

Taurus, the Bull, rules finance, so while Uranus (radical unexpected changes) transits the sign of Taurus (our possessions) we can expect financial disruptions, stock volatility, bank defaults, and money scandals. These times are calling for financial revolution to change the current scam of extreme wealth inequality, off-shore tax havens, huge earning gaps, etc. Crypto-currencies present alternatives to centralized banking, but are just the tip of the iceberg of this coming economic revolution.

**Jupiter in Scorpio**

Jupiter is in Scorpio, just like in 1934! Scorpio rules banks, mortgages, inheritance, loans, debt, default, death, sex, and se-

crets. Jupiter spends freely while ignoring the rules in order to maximize gains. By the early 2020s transiting Saturn, then Jupiter and finally Pluto (in 2022) will conjunct our national Pluto in the US money house. This portends another depression-style economic tumble—for both the USA and global markets.

Although this stressful economic onslaught is just beginning, acknowledge that our financial system needs to change. Stay as flexible as possible for whatever craziness may come. Grow your vegetables and appreciate your neighbors; you may need to rely on each other some day!

**Chiron in the 4th**

The 4th house in astrology represents the family. In the national chart, it represents our national homeland. On one hand Chiron involves questing for truth, independence and freedom. Immigration reform and DACA, although over-due, could be further delayed during the Pluto/Mercury opposition, due to partisan opposition.

Chiron, traveling through the US 4th house until June 2026, also involves wounding and healing. During these upcoming 8 years, expect the US homeland to suffer some serious natural disasters. Thousands may die while survivors scramble to relocate to safer areas. Advice: Talk about survival preparedness, plan escape routes, engage in serious discussions with your children about what to do in emergencies, where to meet if separated, etc. Be prepared, and then be grateful for the life you have!



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# Who We Are

## Baca Fire Chief Tad Crawford:

### *Back at his home station*

by Gussie Fauntleroy

Tad Crawford remembers the incredible excitement of riding for the first time in a Baca Fire Department engine. He was maybe nine and the truck was enormous. It was an experience many kids would love, but for Tad it was something more than an amazing few minutes. Growing up in the Baca, he spent hours hanging out at the fire station, where a close friend of the family happened to live. The guys on the crew took him under their wing, and as he grew into a teen he watched them training. He began to

learn about firefighting equipment and tactical skills, even when he was too young to be a member or go out on calls. As soon as he turned 18, he joined the crew.

"I always wanted to be a firefighter," Tad says, pulling up a folding chair inside the Baca fire station and sitting down near two towering, red and white engines. After living elsewhere for many years and working in a variety of fields, the 39-year-old Baca resident is back at his home station, where he serves as Baca Fire Department Chief. He is also a member of the Saguache County Search & Rescue team, one of three members certified in technical rope rescue. Both forms of service are ways of helping people while being physically active and spending time outdoors—things that have been important to him since boyhood.

#### An active life

Tad grew up adventuring, exploring, and climbing in the mountains with his buddies, although not with ropes—"We didn't look at safety, we just did it," he says, grinning. Crestone/Baca was a much smaller community back then, and most of the kids knew each other. They'd ride dirt bikes to each other's houses and play hacky sack outside the Road Kill Café. Tad's mother, Mary Lipscomb, worked at Curt's Store and managed the golf course pro shop for a time, and his father, the late Chris Crawford, was an oil



Tad Crawford.



As Baca Fire Chief, Tad has returned to the first fire station where he volunteered—and where he spent much time as a boy.



As a firefighter for almost 20 years, Tad has extensive training in wildland firefighting, as well as with structure fires and emergency services.

and gas well driller and later a long-haul trucker.

After graduating from Moffat High School, Tad worked in home construction before joining a water well drilling company in Bailey, Colorado. He alternated between drilling for water and building houses, returning to Crestone in his early 20s to work for a dome home construction company. When the company decided to try building domes in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Tad went along, living in St. Croix for almost a year. The dome project didn't pan out, but island life was great. "I did a lot of snorkeling," he says. "I loved the warm weather and the fact that you could walk ten feet and be in the ocean—some of the most beautiful waters I've ever seen."

#### Full time work + volunteering

Back in the valley, Tad earned his commercial driver's license, lived in Monte Vista, and spent six years driving for the Rakhra Mushroom Farm in Alamosa. With well drilling and then driving, he says, "I kind of followed my father's footsteps, but not intentionally. It just happened." All along, he was involved with local volunteer fire departments wherever he lived. "I was keeping my interest in fire, but it's difficult to stay with a volunteer service and still make a living and sustain yourself," he says.

But he did it. At one point he served as assistant chief and then chief of the Carmel Volunteer Fire Department, southwest of Alamosa, while also working full time in Monte Vista, operating Miller/Coors' second largest grain elevator. He also made time for his passion for motocross racing, ranking in the top ten in the SRAC (Sports Riders Association of Colorado) two years in a row. These days his hobbies involve less adrenalin—camping and fishing in the mountains and on the rivers he loves.

A few years ago Tad decided it was time to work for himself. He established TC Tree Service, traveling around the Southwest and managing a crew of seven or eight doing

fire mitigation, pruning, and other tree service. He no longer has the company but continues to work in mitigation, with Daniel Johnson of the Saguache County Firewise Program and with the POA. He's currently heading up a major POA greenbelt fire mitigation project along South Crestone Creek.

#### Coming full circle

While living in the southern part of the valley, Tad was aware of changes going on in the Baca Fire Department and wanted to see if he could help get the department back on track. He sold his home south of Alamosa and returned to his first firehouse. "Everything lined up for me to come back," he says. He rejoined the crew as a firefighter in 2015 and about a year ago took over as chief, which had become a paid position. Along with extensive structure firefighting training and certifications—he has a "whole wall of decoration," as he puts it—he is a certified EMT and a 400-level incident command system (ICS) wildland firefighter. He continually adds training to increase his skill and certification levels.

Which is crucial here, in what is known as a wildland-urban interface zone, where rugged terrain meets population in a heavily wooded area, not to mention Crestone/Baca's location, far from other response resources and hospitals. It's a challenging place to lead a fire department, especially during the drought and extreme fire conditions that currently exist. But Tad is committed to his home community and the department he heads. "We're trying to build opportunity here. The more we grow, the more we can do," he says of his team.

And that group of individuals is among the reasons he's glad to be back. "I've got a great crew of people to work with, not just the emergency services crew, but also the POA board and staff," he says. Plus, he adds, gesturing toward the mountains, "I've got all this right here in my backyard. Honestly, one of my ultimate long-term dreams was to be a full time firefighter. And here I am."

# Spring weather reminds us to be bear aware

Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds outdoor recreationists, city dwellers and rural homeowners that early spring is the time to become Bear Aware. As bears emerge from hibernation, all Coloradans need to be responsible and take steps to minimize human/bear interactions.

It's important to think ahead and be Bear Aware now when preparing your home, neighborhood and outdoor plans with the change in seasons. Bears are omnivores and primarily eat vegetation such as grasses, forbs, berries, acorns, and seeds, which are usually available as bears emerge from hibernation.

Human-bear interactions tend to increase in the summer months, however, when a late frost or warm, dry weather can lead to localized natural food failures. This can cause black bears from affected areas to become more mobile and persistent in search of human food sources like trash, fruit trees, pet food, bird feeders, livestock and agricultural prod-

ucts. Bears have an extremely keen sense of smell and excellent memories, and once they have learned about a reliable source of food, they will often return.

CPW officials say black bears typically do not hunt humans in Colorado; however, because they are large powerful animals, they pose a very serious risk to human health and safety when they become conditioned to finding meals from human sources.

"If you accidentally corner or surprise a bear, remember that one bite or swipe from that bear could lead to a person receiving life-threatening injuries, or worse," said Lamb. "Human health and safety is always our primary concern."

It requires diligence on the part of people to keep bears from becoming human food-dependent at home or while recreating. That effort can begin now; establishing proper Bear Aware behavior in the spring can create good habits that help minimize conflicts throughout the year.

## Tips to prevent human/bear conflicts for homeowners:

- Keep garbage in a well-secured enclosure and only put out garbage on the morning of pickup.
- Use a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster. These are available from your trash hauler or on Internet sites.
- Clean all garbage cans regularly to keep them odor free. The scent of ammonia can deter bears.
- Take down all bird feeders—birds don't need to be fed during the summer. Bird feeders are a major source of bear/human conflicts.
- Don't leave pet food or stock feed outside—never provide food sources for any wildlife.
- Keep garage doors closed.
- Review CPW's Bearproofing Your Home Fact Sheet at <https://bit.ly/2qGkp0h>.
- Conduct a home audit to be sure you are not attracting bears to your property.
- Talk to your neighbors and kids about being bear aware.



Baby bear in Town Hall's backyard.  
photo by Lori Nagel

## Tips for outdoor recreationists and travelers

- Read CPW's Camping and Hiking in Bear Country at <https://bit.ly/1P5zL4X> to prepare for your trip.
- Pay attention to the surroundings and watch for bear signs, such as tracks or claw or bite marks on trees.
- Make noise while walking or hiking to prevent surprising a bear. Clap, sing or talk loudly. Travel in a group if possible.
- Do not keep food in your vehicle; roll up windows and lock the doors of your vehicles.
- When car-camping, secure all food and coolers in a locked vehicle after you've eaten.
- Keep a clean camp, whether you're in a campground or in the back-country.
- When camping in the back-country, hang food 100 feet or more from your campsite.
- Cook food well away from your tent; wash dishes thoroughly.
- Don't bring any food or fragrant items into your tent.

Recreationists, residents and visitors are reminded to contact the nearest Colorado Parks and Wildlife office to file a report of injured or problem wildlife. For more information about Living with Bears, visit: <http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeWildBears.aspx>.

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 <p>894 Camino Real \$310,000 2BD 2BA Great horse property. 35 acres of nicely grassed, rolling land &amp; tremendous views. Library &amp; Sunroom.</p>	 <p>1356 Brookview Way \$309,000 3BD 2BA Lovely home with master loft &amp; balcony on 1 acre. Oversized garage w/music studio &amp; Apartment.</p>	 <p><b>UNDER CONTRACT</b></p> <p>2720 Happy Hollow Way \$279,000 4BD 2.5BA Spacious home/B&amp;B Beautiful, serene living spaces, fully furnished, vacation/permanent home.</p>	 <p><b>REDUCED!</b></p> <p>1315 Moonlight Way \$265,000 Large 6 BD 3 BA home on greenbelt &amp; Willow Creek. Remodel in 2014. New ETS Heaters. Adjoining lot available. FHA/VA</p>	 <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>CR 48X \$249,000 Lovely horse property on 6 acres with creek meandering thru. Fenced, barn, bunkhouse, charming home, newly remodeled.</p>	 <p><b>UNDER CONTRACT</b></p> <p>776 Table Rock Tr, \$245,000 2300 sf. 2BD 1 BA. Pristine 23 acres bordering 1/4 mile of Spanish Creek. Expansive 360 views. Newly remodled.</p>
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# OWNER/BUILDER CONVERSATIONS

## TINY HOME EDITION

by John Rowe

This month I am shifting to so-called tiny home builders who live in the north valley area. My conversations are with Lisa Bodey and Brent Vandever, both of whom built and live in their mobile tiny homes and have for years now.

I first had the opportunity to see Lisa Bodey's little house up close and personal one day last year while visiting a friend across the valley. She was trading my friend work for a space to park her house, and she had been there long enough to build a nice little homestead. She is nestled in the piñons with a wood-fired bathtub just outside her front door along with a makeshift outdoor living room and kitchen. She is set up completely off-grid with a full array of solar panels and enough plumbing to get the basics done. She uses the toilet inside my friend's place and hauls water from there, but other than that, she is fully self-contained. And I might add, very cheerful about



Lisa Bodey.

the whole thing as she gave me a tour of the place with infectious enthusiasm. She has an 8'x18' footprint plus a 8'x10' sleeping loft on a stout trailer frame, replete with a dual axle to handle the weight of her home while moving it around on various roadways. Lisa's house has everything you need and nothing you don't. It is well insulated, has a little wood stove, refrigerator, and cook stove and space for a composting toilet if needed somewhere down the line. The outdoor living space is thoughtfully compact and quite inviting, and you can actually sit up in the loft bed and read, if so desired.

Lisa began visiting Crestone in 2007, fell in love with the place, and moved here in 2009. She came up with the idea of building a tiny home when her Dad was diagnosed

with stage 4 cancer, and she wanted to be able to move it back and forth to be able to see him for extended periods of time. It also fit with her lifestyle that included much service work in the community—volunteer firefighting and working with children, with not much in the way of time to make money. So she built her little house in just about a year with some work trade-out with craftsmen in the area. It cost \$25-30,000, is sturdy enough to pull down the road at highway speeds and can be set-up here, there, and everywhere.

And the advantages of living in a tiny home? It is easy and fast and fairly cheap to build, gives Lisa the mobility to live about anywhere, allows her to really connect with nature and live simply. This low-overhead way of living has allowed Lisa to devote much of her time to community service, which she dearly loves.

And the disadvantages? There is little storage room for tools, art supplies and the like, no room for guests, no creative space (difficult to leave a half-finished painting in the outdoor living room) and "most municipalities do not allow them, making finding parking spaces somewhat tricky." And the floors can be cold, "you need lots of thick wool rugs." But all in all, Lisa has no regrets and "would do it again in a heartbeat."

Lisa has an interest in restorative justice and although she would never say so, I know she wishes she could have a smidgeon of it herself in the way of lifting the POA restriction excluding her little house so she could begin a more permanent life here in the Baca. It seems little to ask, as she has given so much of herself to us and her house would be a nice-looking addition to the place. This, I believe, would be a great example of restorative justice and cost the community very little. I left Lisa feeling very good just to have gotten to know her over the past couple of years. She and people like her are the reason I love living here.

Brent Van Diver built his tiny

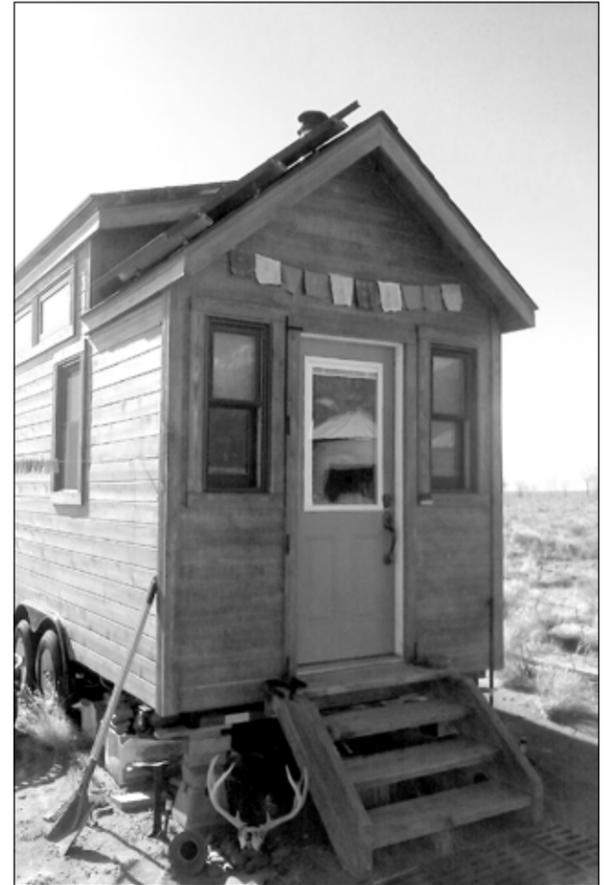
house when he was still living in Dallas. He knew he wanted a life change and he was not sure where his new soul searching would take him. He spared no expense in building his house and he thinks it cost him around \$40-50,000 altogether. "I wanted to be very sure my home would withstand the rigors of 60-70mph for hundreds of miles. There was no telling where I would end up in my new adventure." Brent was tired of being a householder spinning his wheels—going to work every day and paying mostly interest on a mortgage with little prospect of ever truly owning his own home. Brent's kids were grown up, he was single, tired of his job, and he wanted to pursue a yogic lifestyle and be free to go wherever that inspiration led him.

All that spelled "tiny home" to Brent and he began putting one together, on evenings and weekends. He included lots of bells and whistles: a full size shower with on-demand hot water, a composting toilet, a heater, a wood stove and even an air conditioning unit. He used all red cedar inside and out, as it was light, strong, and looks great. He has a full IKEA kitchen and everything he needs to live happily and comfortably. He is fully self-contained, with a gray water system, and a 1300-watt solar system that gives Brent all the power he needs. Crestone became the place his yogic intent led him as we are a small town, have great yoga and ashram, lots of sunshine, and this is truly a place a fellow can reinvent himself.

As so Brent is happy with his new life and new home. Would he do it again? "Absolutely, my home gets a little small sometimes but it spells 'freedom' to me and I don't want to trade that for anything." He may eventually build his house into a larger structure but is doing fine for the time being. Brent attributes much of his successful transition from a full-size house to a 200SF one to the fact that he leads an outdoor life and is not inside much except at night. He, like Lisa, has some well-defined out-



Brent Vandever.



Brent's tiny house.

side living space and describes tiny home living as "kind of like high-grade camping out".

Any advice to people considering a tiny home? "I had never been in a tiny home before I built one and it is a good idea to tape off a 18'x8' space in your home and see what it is like to try and live in that space. Or rent a similar size travel trailer and park it in the driveway and live in it. If you can't do this, tiny home living may not be for you. And definitely include dormer windows if you build one. They are great for circulation and keep the loft cool in the summer. And try and research places and see which ones allow tiny homes. Most do not."

Brent may call what he is doing a "yogic journey" or a "spiritual quest" but it seems like a second childhood to me, one which Brent is really good at, taking some of us with him as he goes. He keeps us all laughing during yoga class and is sorely missed when he is not there. And he has no mortgage and is as free as can be. Hmmm, maybe this is his yogic journey?

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# Celebrating Earth Day—First Annual Crestone Gardening Festival a big success!

On Earth Day, April 22, CrestoneCAN & the CBR Food Team presented its first collaboration at the Crestone Charter School. Realizing there are many local experts and longtime gardeners with

years of experience, the organizers invited them to come and present demonstrations and talks. Local garden-based businesses were also invited along with folks with plants, seedlings, tools and equipment to sell and show to the people of the Crestone area.

It was a perfect spring day with warm temperatures and light winds. Many vendors chose to set up in the Charter School's outdoor patio. Others filled the large main room for the school. About 25 vendors participated and covered a wide range of gardening topics and items including seeds & seedlings, worms, gardening books, gardening gadgets and tools, goat

milk sharing, food preservation, and a wall and table filled with gardening tips and information sheets.

Some of the vendors also gave talks, demonstrations and presentations throughout the day starting around noon. Topics and presenters included Michael Agape & John Luke Wall, Soil Building; John Luke Wall, Lactobacillus Inoculation; Ian St. Clair, HugelKulture; Heather Shaffer, Favorite Gardening Tools; Nick Chambers, SLV Food Hub; Donovan Sptizman, Vermiculture; Matie Belle Lakish, Drip Irrigation Water Systems; Star Char Lema/Whirling Rainbow Farm, Teaching Kids about Raising Bees & Gardening; and Peter May, Mycelium & Fungi in Soil.

Community members showed up and many stayed for the entire day taking in the presentations and demos and shopped with the various vendors taking home plants, fertilizer, bags of soil, and free seeds, worms, and information handouts. The day was capped off by a drawing of gardening items donated by CrestoneCAN, Crestone



Michael Agape, Anthony Benton and John Luke Wall demonstrated hands-on Hugelkultur soil building techniques on Earth Day at Crestone Charter School. photo by Chael Nox



Janet Woodman sells plants at the Earth Day event.

photo by Chael Nox

Mercantile, and High Ground Gardens. It was a day of high energy and connections, engagement and education for all involved.

A big thank you to the Manitou Foundation and others who donated "seed" money to make this celebration of our community unity happen!

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# There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root, RH (AHG)  
Community herbalism Part 3



If you've been following the last two articles, you'll know that I suggested planting 10 medicinal herbs in your garden this spring. I also suggested becoming familiar with 10 local herbs and learning how to wildcraft and use them. I'll continue going through a brief guide to harvesting. Then next month we'll talk about 10 kitchen herbs that can be used medicinally. This is all leading towards every family having the knowledge to grow, harvest, and effectively use 30 basic medicinal herbs. In other words, the idea is to empower families.

Last month we talked about wildcrafting Dandelion, Burdock, Mullein, Nettles, Yarrow, Violet, Plantain, Red Clover, Pine, and Thistle. In this year's drought,

best to skip Violet and Red Clover.

Nettles can be harvested (carefully) in the spring when they first come up. They can be used as an extremely nutritious food. Both cooking and drying will inactivate the sting. Nettles can also be tinctured and dried and stored for tea. After Nettles bloom (barely noticeable pale green flowers!) they are too harsh to use. Nettles have benefit for the kidneys, the reproductive organs, and more.

Yarrow: gather the top 1/3 of the plant while in bloom. Dry and store in a glass jar when crisp dry. Yarrow is a hemostat, it can stop bleeding in a cut or wound, has benefit for the urinary tract, digestive tract, and for kids' fevers.

Pine: gather needles and store in a paper bag. No need to

take huge quantities, they're always around. Gather a small amount of pine sap and keep in a baby food size jar. Pine needles are high in vitamin C. Pine sap can be used for a number of conditions including removing splinters, in a salve, and for coughs.

Plantain is best used fresh, but can be dried and used within the year. Fresh, it has been called "nature's bandaid" for wound healing and scrapes and burns. It can be used for poultices and compresses.

When gathering wild plants for family use, it's not necessary to take a lot. Think of how much you may need for a year. In most cases a pint canning jar will store enough herb. Family herb gathering trips can be planned every year, and kids will gain valuable knowledge.

Stay tuned for part 4 of this series next month. I will be offer-



Nettle in bloom.

ing an herb walk towards the end of May, announced on the Crestone Facebook pages.

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](http://www.rootsofhealing.com).



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Two bedroom mountain cabin with loads of character and views! \$165,000



**SOLD**

3670 Enchanted Terrace. Truly enchanting cabin in the woods, sold fully furnished for retreat. Must see! \$215,000

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Lots 5 & 6, Block 59, Crestone, \$35,000 each  
1463 Horseshoe Trail \$4,500

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# Crestone fires

*continued from page B-1*

*Drillin' Loadin' and Firing*, author Gladys Seismore says, "Fire has always been a horrible threat in Crestone and many houses have burned—most of them completely." She tells of the fire that burned the little community church just before a Christmas in the 1940s. Many spent "long hours of preparations for the Christmas Program . . . treats were bagged . . . packages purchased and wrapped. The crepe paper costumes for elves and angels were made and laid out for



Baca Firefighter Robin Durrance responding to a fire.

instant use. As the hour drew near for the big event, the old school bell started ringing frantically which at the time was a fire alarm. Escaped coal from the stove had set the church afire." Despite a citizen bucket brigade from the Town well, and folks using shovels and wet cloth "gunny sacks" to smother the flames, the little church burned to the ground, holiday goodies and all. Gladys writes, "Before the flames died down, Bill Seismore and Leon Carpenter started passing the hat and by the time the coals were cold they had collected enough to replace the treats." The Collins', who owned the Baca Ranch back then, had contributed originally for the gifts, and graciously sent money for more presents. Crestone's Christmas was saved.

Jim Hollmer, who has spent much of his life here, told me about a fire on Alder St. in Crestone about 1948. It took place at the home of Gene Bishop, a local who worked at the Baca Ranch. Jim said, "Gene went into the yard to get gas to fill his gas lamps and brought it into the house in a glass jar which broke when he accidentally hit it against the wood stove. Flames from the fire rose so high it could be seen from the Baca Ranch. Gene was burned pretty badly and went around in bandages for a long time." Jim recounted when the old Crestone Depot burned down in 1956. "Mabel Thorn, who lived there, had cleaned out the stove and put the ashes in a paper bag on the porch." Fuel shot out a hole in a nearby fuel tank, igniting the ashes. They were able to get everything out of the building before it burned down, but the old depot was lost.

I was working at the old Crestone Mart during the drought of 2002-2003 when the Million Fire ravaged the South Fork area. According to a recent article by Mike Blakeman in the *Alamosa Courier*, "while there have been four larger wildland fires in the Upper Rio Grande Watershed since then, the Million Fire is still the most destructive in our area in more than a hundred years." Winter of 2002-2003 was the driest in history, although this year may break that record. The snow pack was 0% in May and everyone in the valley was jumpy. To top things off, a fire bug was on the loose and several arson-caused fires had already been contained in the Del Norte/South Fork area.

The call came in that there was a fire up by the Million Reservoir. Forest Service employees were on the scene, quickly digging a fire line. Strong winds pushed flames up a steep incline and climbed to the tree tops where the fire took off, jumping rapidly from tree to tree. As flames ignited trees a huge smoke column grew that could be seen from all over the valley. It looked like the most dark and frightening mammoth thunderhead ever seen.

As firefighters from all over the valley responded to fight the inferno it moved with fierce force toward the Willow Park Estates subdivision. Helicopters poured the pinky orange slurry retardant on the fire to no avail. South Fork was under evacua-



A beautiful home being built in the Baca by Shumei burned to the ground in 2016. The fire was caused by a faulty extension cord. photo by Martin Macaulay

tion orders. There were beetle-killed pines and lots of other tinder-dry fuels feeding the monster blaze. Volunteer firefighters were focused at the sides and back of the fire, the roaring fast-moving front being too dangerous. They were clearing up and wetting down around homes they thought they might be able to save. Crews from Crestone and the Baca Fire Departments were there. Local firefighter Robin Durrance told me at the time it was amazing to her that a house could be burned so only the foundation was left, but the propane tank right next to it was untouched. That illustrates how fast this fire was moving. People from all over the valley rallied to feed fire fighters and help evacuees get back on their feet.

Throughout human history fire has been the friend and enemy



The Million Fire by South Fork filled the San Luis Valley with smoke. Fire fighters from Crestone, Baca, Saguache County, and all over the San Luis Valley responded to help. Commons photo

of our species. We love it and fear it now as in the past. It seems in our history we have counted on our neighbors and larger community to work together to keep fires at bay. Together we can survive another scary fire season.

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MAY 2018 Listings

**SOLD!**



**56 Wagon Wheel Road - \$299,000**  
Luxurious ~1800sf 2BD/2BA southwest-style ranch home built in 2002. 2-car garage w/studio. Large windows in great room w/stone fireplace & amazing views. 4.6 acres, well & septic.



**147 Moonlight Way - \$279,000**  
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.



**207C Foothill OL - \$255,000**  
2-story 3BD/2.5BA/Study 2192sf home on .965 acres built with non-toxic materials & energy efficiency. Lrg kitchen, bamboo floors, pine ceilings. Spacious master suite w/Jacuzzi tub, sep. shower, marble counters. Views/Deck.

**UNDER CONTRACT**



**4519C Grayline Ct - \$389,000**  
Elegant 2BR 2BA 1932 custom strawbale built in 2003 by Paul Koppana. A refined Asian/Southwest blend. On private cul-de-sac 5.35 acres backs to greenbelt. 30' yurt w/kitchenette & bathroom.



**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.



**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!

**UNDER CONTRACT**



**1596 Willow Creek Way - \$262,000**  
Lots of space in this passive solar 1857sf 3BR/2.5BA home with single detached garage on 2.794ac. Nice decks. Views to Blanca, Sangres and Valley. ETS & wood stove & trombe walls.



**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.



**1659 Willow Creek Way - \$195,000**  
Lovely 3BR/1BA energy efficient ranch-style stucco home on a .65ac treed lot, easily accessed just off paved road. Private setting w/greenbelt on 2 sides. Built w/Nudura block & heated by Cosmogas On Demand Hot Water Heater w/European h/w radiators.



**257 Baca Grant Way - \$179,000**  
Ranch-style 3BD/2BA 1,400sf high-end manufactured home on secluded 1.072ac., still close to all the conveniences of town. Lg wrap-around 288sf TREX deck, jetted soak tub, lg kitchen, 2 dining areas, propane forced air heat & wood stove.

**New Listing**



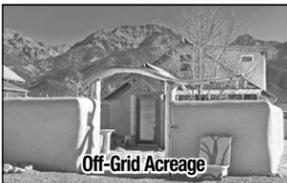
**3681CR Enchanted Way - \$497,000**  
One of a kind custom built 2700sf cordwood 2-story 4bd/office/2bath/2 living areas w/greenhouse and storage on 1.354 acres. Master and great room upstairs w/ amazing views. Solar/electric hot water heating, passive solar, trombe wall.

**Baca Meadows**



**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!

**Grants**



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

**Chalets**



**1974CR Highland OL - \$675,000**  
Beautifully designed by Bodhgaia Architecture and built by Teahen Construction, this one of kind 2005sf 2bd/2ba w/study maximizes the 2.651 acre site w/exquisite views and contemporary architecture. Priced under cost to build.



**780CR 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 Koppana 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.

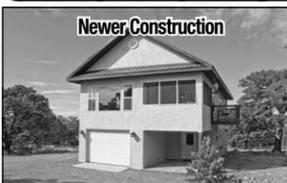


**1967C Rockyview Way - \$439,000**  
Luxurious 3BD/2.75BA/Office/3-car Garage 2953sf home sits on 2.374 acres & has a 2-room upstairs Master Suite. Beautifully landscaped courtyards & gardens with custom fence & deck, great views.



**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.

**Chalets**



**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.



**1212 Chaparral - \$229,000**  
Ranch style 3BR/1.75BA 1272sf stucco home w/mtn views. Built in 2017 by Terapin & Co. near paved road close to town. Great room w/hardwood floors & views. Passive solar. Modern kitchen, new appliances. ETS heater & baseboard heating.



**128 Skyview Way - \$182,000**  
Unique floor plan in this three level 2688sf home on a quiet street close to town and backs to greenbelt w/Crestone Creek. Lots of space for multi use along with lots of storage. Lovely valley views. Come use your creativity.

## Jump in on an Active Market!

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**2017-2018 HOME SALES (\*denotes listed & sold)**

380 N Alder St. ....	\$425,000	SOLD	2715 Happy Hollow Way .....	\$185,000	SOLD
120 W. Silver Ave. ....	\$399,000	SOLD*	635C Panorama Way .....	\$179,000	SOLD*
786C Panorama Way .....	\$399,000	SOLD*	1212 Chaparral Way .....	\$175,000	SOLD*
1038 Beaver Trail. ....	\$337,000	SOLD*	107 Pinewood OL .....	\$172,500	SOLD*
4511C Ridgcrest Way .....	\$312,000	SOLD*	1327 Badger Road .....	\$172,000	SOLD*
56 Wagon Wheel. ....	\$299,000	SOLD*	98 Skyview Way. ....	\$169,000	SOLD*
999C Badger Road .....	\$289,000	SOLD*	200 Evergreen. ....	\$169,000	SOLD
223 Moffat Way. ....	\$289,000	SOLD*	3705 Carefree Way .....	\$165,000	SOLD
147 Moonlight Way .....	\$279,000	SOLD*	4275C Fallen Tree OL .....	\$164,000	SOLD*
359 Chaparral Way .....	\$269,000	SOLD	3901 Rarity Way .....	\$163,000	SOLD
2145 Indian Well .....	\$266,500	SOLD*	415C Moonlight Way. ....	\$159,000	SOLD
1738C Willow Creek Way .....	\$259,000	SOLD	35 Camino Baca Grande .....	\$155,000	SOLD*
207C Foothill OL .....	\$255,000	SOLD*	1001 Badger Rd .....	\$149,000	SOLD
535 Thornwood. ....	\$255,000	SOLD	34 Camino Baca Grande .....	\$149,000	SOLD*
305 Palomino Way. ....	\$252,000	SOLD	3735C Jubilant Way .....	\$149,000	SOLD*
4376 E. Twinview OL .....	\$245,000	SOLD	760 & 761 Panorama Way .....	\$149,000	SOLD*
3481 E. Graceful Ct. ....	\$239,000	SOLD*	3708 Enchanted Way .....	\$142,500	SOLD*
757 Rendezvous .....	\$239,000	SOLD	354 Huerta Ct .....	\$89,000	SOLD*
323 Holiday Way .....	\$235,000	SOLD	4485 Ridgcrest Way .....	\$74,500	SOLD*
999C Badger Road .....	\$225,000	SOLD*	157 Moonlight Way .....	\$69,000	SOLD
983C Peaceful Way .....	\$224,500	SOLD	4519C Grayline Ct. ....	\$389,000	UNDER CONTRACT*
1202 Wagon Wheel. ....	\$219,000	SOLD*	499C Willow Trail .....	\$350,000	UNDER CONTRACT*
1867C Rockyview Way .....	\$219,000	SOLD	22 Alpine OL .....	\$279,000	UNDER CONTRACT
1541C Camino Real. ....	\$205,000	SOLD	1596 Willow Creek Way. ....	\$262,000	UNDER CONTRACT*
3762 Carefree Way .....	\$198,000	SOLD*	21820 County Rd. 48X .....	\$249,000	UNDER CONTRACT
661 Camino Del Rey .....	\$195,000	SOLD	1659 Willow Creek Way. ....	\$195,000	UNDER CONTRACT
2035 Lost Cave Way .....	\$189,900	SOLD	257 Baca Grant Way .....	\$179,000	UNDER CONTRACT
333 Palomino Way. ....	\$189,000	SOLD*			

# Garden Guru

Gardener's response to drought



by **Matie Belle Lakish**

A watering system that distributes water directly to plant roots, is, in my opinion, the best solution to drought. There are several ways to accomplish this. Two common ways are to use soaker hose or a drip system.

Soakers use a porous hose, often made of recycled rubber, to deliver water along the length of the hose in a slow drip. Over the course of an hour or so, it will distribute water to an area about 4" to 6" on either side of the hose and to a depth of 6" to 8". This is usually sufficient for most vegetables and flowers.

Drip systems use emitters to drip or spray water to the area where a plant is to grow. It uses a hose, which may have holes with special emitters placed about every foot along the hose, or it may have emitters that are on rods that are raised about a foot above the surface with a small sprayer at the top. These will water an area about two feet in diameter around the emitter. Maintaining a certain water pressure is important to this system, and it requires more in maintenance of emitters and sprayers than basic soaker hoses do. The sprayers have the same drawback as other overhead watering systems, which is that more water is lost to evaporation than with soakers, and the spray encourages weeds to grow within the dampened area. There are also many more parts to purchase and to maintain, and the installation is more complex, and generally more expensive. These spray systems can be helpful for watering small shrubs, or a small diameter garden, and are sometimes used in landscape plantings. They can be installed in a larger garden as well, but in my experience, mixing a system of emitters and sprayers is difficult because they require different water pressures to work optimally.

Both soaker systems and drip



Matie Belle Lakish demonstrates soaker hose and drip watering systems. Looks complicated? Yes! But Matie Belle can help you figure it out. photo by Chael Nox

systems have a role and can be used to advantage in a drought, but a system based on soaker hoses is simpler to install, is more durable, and does not encourage weeds to grow around the plants. Soaker hoses tend to clog up with sand over time, however, and are more likely to be cut by a hoe or shovel, as they are often under mulch.

There are two basic sizes of soaker hose: small and large. The small diameter soaker is 1/4 inch in diameter, whereas large is about twice that size. In reality, there are several sizes and styles available, as well as several brands of each type. I have used most of them and have found that there is considerable variation between brands. Here are some guidelines for using soaker hose.

1) Consider using some type of pressure regulator at the beginning of the hose system to control the water pressure in the system. Otherwise, high water pressure may blow out parts of your system.

Diagram 1

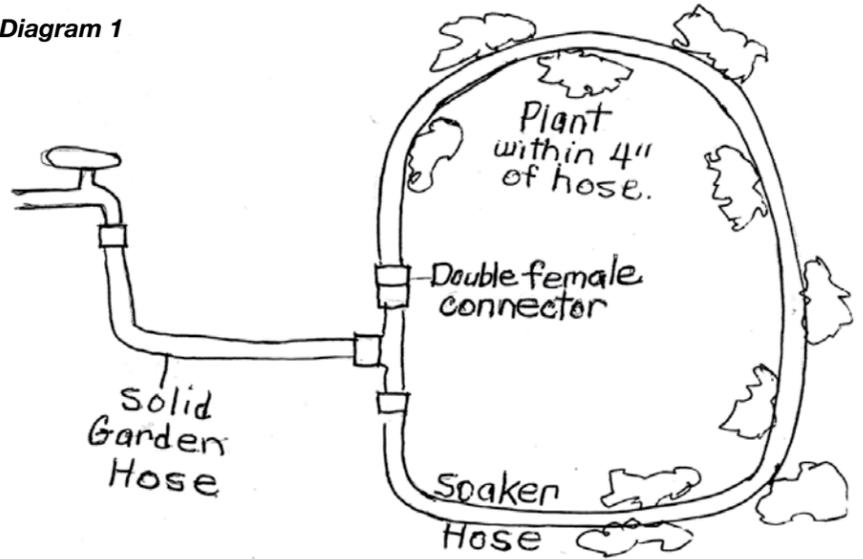
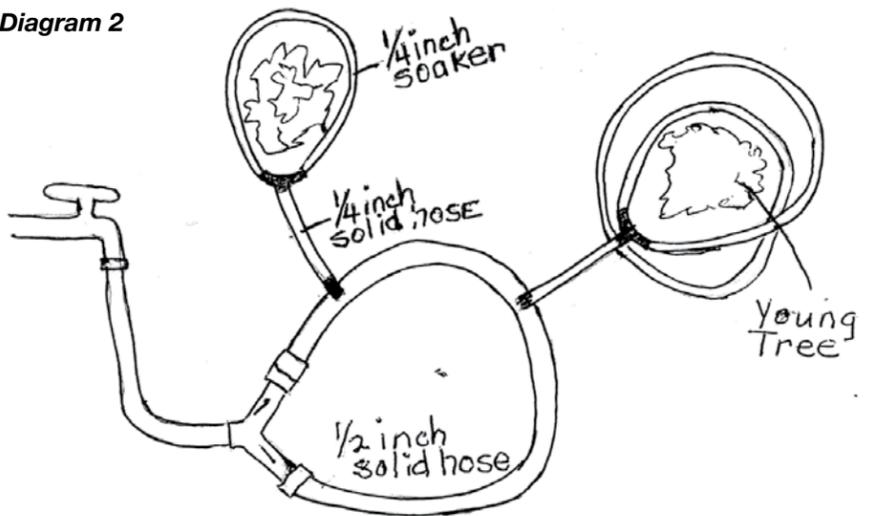


Diagram 2



Simple pressure regulators are inexpensive and may be as simple as a small hole in a plastic insert at the beginning of the system.

2) In each bed or project, be consistent with size and brand of hose. Porosity varies from brand to brand, and from older hose to newer hose. Mixing these will cause some plants to get more water than others.

3) Try to keep each bed approximately level. Downhill plants will get more water than uphill plants.

4) Limit the length of your system to fit your hose diameter and water pressure. In general, the narrower your soaker hose, the shorter the length of row that can be watered.

5) Use a Y fitting to feed water to both ends of your system. This equalizes the water pressure

within the system, making each plant's share about the same. If water is fed only to one end of a system, the last plants will get less water.

In my garden, most plantings are not in rows, but in variations on circles and swirls and loops of various kinds. There are also several levels. And various kinds and ages of soakers. This makes for a complex irrigation system.

Most soaker systems use some kind of solid feeder hose. This can be as simple as one solid hose attaching to a circle of soaker hose with a Y fitting. (See Diagram 1)

Or, it can be much more complex. In my young orchard, I used the 1/4 inch diameter solid hose to go from my 1/2 inch feeder hose to a 1/4 inch solid feeder hose that leads to each plant. Then I circled the plants with one or more rounds of 1/4 inch soaker hose. 1/4 inch fittings are inexpensive and readily available. Use a 1/4 inch special punch to create holes in the main feeder hose to insert fittings.

Fittings for 1/2 inch hose are more complex and harder to find, but you can sometimes use regular plastic plumbing fittings and clamps to make connections on the larger hoses. You will need to cut the hose to insert fittings. Warming the hose ends in hot water first will make inserting fittings easier. (See Diagram 2)

If you would like to learn more about using soaker hoses, I will be offering a one-day hands-on workshop at my garden on Installing and Using Soaker Hoses. Tentative date is Saturday, May 19 at 1pm. Cost is \$20, but scholarships are available. Call 256-4252, or email matieb42@gmail.com for more information.

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# In Search of Economic Reality

*Mortality—what do you want to leave to your grandchildren?*

by Ed Lyell

Tuesday April 17 around 10am I was getting dressed and heard a loud noise as my house shook. Having been raised in San Francisco I thought earthquake. Instead, it was high wind that knocked down one of the 15 evergreen trees on the southwest side of my home. While still getting dressed in my bedroom I could smell fresh pine. I discovered that a tree had fallen onto the metal roof and two big branches were sticking through the ceiling and into my living room. I am mostly wheelchair-bound and was slow to get into the living room to see the two tree branches and pine needles.

At 73 years old with some major health issues, like COPD, four artificial knees and hips, and thyroid issues, this incident further awakened me to the mortality that we all eventually face. A few feet over, or a bigger tree branch, and I could have been killed.

Since 1970 I have spent most of my life teaching business and economics to university students. This has become a negative-filled life since America keeps working hard to become a “third world” country with only a wealthy top 1%.

Republican economic decisions are ignored by major media as their billionaire owners make

them focus on Trump’s social life, or personal flaws. The billionaires get younger people hooked on stupid smartphone things such that our youth are no longer smart. One report said that 28% of youth under 24 believe that the earth is flat. I hope that this is “fake” news but it could be true as families and schools keep dumbing down curriculum, ignoring science and facts or distracting their own children so that the family does not realize how much worse off they are today.

Grandparents should be telling the young ones about when America was first in the world in education, higher education, innovation, creating new business, and even health. That leadership focused on having regulations and expanding government to serve everyone. Yet starting in the 1970s (yes well before Trump), we have permitted our elected officials to listen only to big business and the very wealthy. In the 1950s even my waiter/waitress parents could afford to purchase a new car every 3 years. We did weekend trips and had 2-week paid vacations. We had excellent health care since we were among the first to join Kaiser HMO through their union.

Now it takes two working people in a household to just survive, and much of the stuff purchased is

done on debt. The big banks now hurt people even more than the Mafia loan sharks of those past years. The banks charge higher interest, use high-cost fees to punish, and with access to our data can push a button and do more damage than the 1950s loan shark’s “leg breaker”.

Teachers made more money in the 1960s than they do today when you adjust for inflation. We are destroying our young people instead of treating them as the best economic investment for everyone’s economic prosperity. One recent OECD report showed that northern European countries spend 1.8% of their total economy (GDP) on early childhood starting before 3 years old. Some of those countries also give parents a year off with full pay to take care of newborn children. The United States is at the bottom of developed nations, spending less than 1/3% of GDP on early childhood care and schools. The reason Finland and others out-score our high school students starts at 3 years old, or sooner. Every time that I, or others, bring up this kind of data we get called socialists and shunned. The labels are promoted by the media, which is owned by a few billionaires, who also own our Congress, President, and many state governments.

Almost all the recent tax cut to corporations is being used to purchase their existing stock, known as buybacks. Buybacks used to be illegal because they permit and encourage stock price manipulation. Corporate executives and big investors love buybacks because they increase their wealth. Yet the richest 10% of Americans own 84% of all stock shares. In the past decade, 94% of corporate profits have been devoted to buybacks and dividends. Last year, big American corporations spent a record \$780 billion buying back their shares of stock. And that was before the new tax law giving them more hundreds of billions. Thus, we have fewer resources for our children, our health, job training, jobs or wage increases.

The rapidly rising wealth inequality has some solutions, including those reported in the op-ed at: <https://wapo.st/2F64GwF>. Doing what northern European countries have done since WWII, show that if the United States distributed its yearly national income evenly, every person would receive \$44,500, and every family of four would receive \$178,000.

As to mortality! We should all focus our time and resources on what we can do to help working class Americans and our grandchildren.

*Ed Lyell PhD, is Professor Emeritus, Business and Economics Adams State University. Reach him at [ehlyell@adams.edu](mailto:ehlyell@adams.edu), facebook [dredlyell](#).*

## Two Locations!



**LARGEST HYDRO STORES IN THE REGION!**

# Great Sand Dunes changes entrance fee to address infrastructure needs & improve visitor experience

The National Park Service (NPS) announced yesterday that Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve will modify its entrance fees to provide additional funding for infrastructure and maintenance needs to enhance the visitor experience. Effective January 1, 2019 the entrance fees (valid for 7 days) to the park will be \$25 per vehicle, \$15 per person, or \$20 per motorcycle. An annual park pass will cost \$45.

All of the money received from entrance fees remains with the National Park Service with at least 80% of the revenue going to Great Sand Dunes to ensure a quality ex-

perience for all who visit. The other 20% of entry fee income is shared with other non-fee-charging national parks for their projects.

In response to public comments on a fee proposal released in October 2017, there will be a modest increase for all entrance fee-charging parks, rather than the higher peak-season fees initially proposed only for 17 highly-visited national parks.

“Entrance fees collected at Great Sand Dunes support infrastructure projects that enhance the visitor’s experience,” stated Acting Superintendent Tucker Blythe. “In recent years, the park has been

able to use fee revenue to maintain, repair and improve our facilities, enhance essential visitor services such as events and programs, restore critical habitat for the wildlife that visitors come to see and enjoy, and to support our law enforcement rangers in their public safety duties.”

National parks have experienced record-breaking visitation, with more than 1.5 billion visitors in the last five years. Throughout the country, the combination of an aging infrastructure and increased visitation has put a strain on park roads, bridges, campgrounds, waterlines, bathrooms, and other visitor services and led to a \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog nationwide.

The additional revenue from entrance fees at Great Sand Dunes will support the renovation of the visitor center interior exhibits, upgrades to water distribution lines in the Pinon Flats Campground and the Mosca Creek Picnic Area, the restoration of Rio Grande Cutthroat Fish habitat along Sand Creek, replacement of exterior doors on comfort stations and visitor center, and rehabilitation of the entrance station.

Entrance fees collected by the National Park Service totaled \$199.9 million in Fiscal Year 2016. The NPS estimates that once fully implemented, the new fee structure will increase annual entrance

fee revenue by about \$60 million. Great Sand Dunes has charged an entrance fee since 1997. The current rate of \$20 per vehicle, \$10 per person, \$15 per motorcycle, or \$40 park annual pass has been in effect since January 1, 2018. The park is one of 117 National Park Service sites that charges an entrance fee; the other 300 national parks will remain free to enter.

The price of the annual America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass and Lifetime Senior Pass will remain \$80.

The National Park Service has a standardized entrance fee structure, composed of four groups based on park size and type. Some parks not yet aligned with the other parks in their category will raise their fees incrementally and fully incorporate the new entrance fee schedule by January 1, 2020.

## Center Redi Mix

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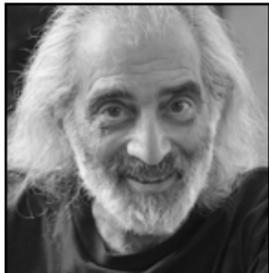
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# Aging as an adventure

by Ammi Kohn

## Moving in, moving on

Dear Readers,

I moved into my Boston apartment a month ago. It's time to move on.

I've enjoyed the opportunity to share my thoughts with you and appreciated the readers, and there were always several each month, who told me they liked the column. I've enjoyed the discipline of writing every month and having to keep the word length to 400 words.

But nothing good lasts forever and it's time to turn my writing energies to a memoir for my children.

But I have yet to say a final goodbye to you. I plan to spend summer/fall months in Crestone

at the house on Cottonwood Creek and Cordial Way, mid-July to the latter part of October. And I invite you all to my 85th birthday party, date and time to be announced. Guests of honor will be Crestone Octogenarians. So, please let me know who they are so can personally invite them. My phone number is 719-588-2064.

No doubt the Company of Players will have some entertainment for you.

More details as to time, place, events when I come to Crestone in July.

And a special thank you to Kizzen for providing this space over the past two and a half years.

See you soon, Ammi.



# DISPATCH

from the edge 

by Peter Anderson

Forensics might have noted the fragment of a button from a dress shirt, the metal frame of the eyeglasses, the shred of fabric which may have been the handle of a book bag, suggesting a professor of some kind. The shred of a textbook cover—a title having something to with imaginative writing—would have indicated possible affiliation with an English Department. Digital analysis of the car radio revealed that the driver had been tuned into a public radio station. Given the unending wave of Trumpian headlines at the time of burial, it may have been a suicide. Why else would someone drive a low-riding Mazda into a sand dune during a severe wind storm? Must have been a troubled liberal.

Here's what really happened. I was coming home from Alamosa when I found out, in Hooper, that the highway headed north was closed. There had been an accident, maybe a fire. The wind that day had already blown half of the valley floor up to Nebraska. Visibility was only marginally better than a Dust Bowl day in Oklahoma. I turned west out of Hooper, figuring I could drive through Center, take 285 up to County Road T, and drive east from there into Crestone. That's when the short cut occurred to me. Why go all the way west to 285? Why not head north on one of the many farm roads that ran up the center of the valley? Sand, that's why.

But that didn't occur to me as I turned onto a dirt road and drove off into the apocalypse.

It wasn't an apocalypse at first, but an airborne farmhouse and a John Deere tractor caught up in a dustdevil led me to believe that I might be headed in that direction. I passed a sign that said "No County Road Maintenance Beyond This Point"—don't worry, be happy—and kept driving north.

That's when the world beyond my windshield began to drift in an easterly direction. What had once been a discernible set of tracks heading home was now someone's back forty on the move. Only a nit-witted, knuckleheaded numbskull would continue driving. I put the pedal to the metal. And drove into a recently formed dune. It occurred to me, given the isolation and the weather, that my own fossilization in a future bed of sandstone was a very real possibility. "He was headed west out of Hooper last they saw him."

That's when I heard the Lord speak: "Better dig your ass out pretty quick." It was all I could do to open the door against the prevailing wind storm. Part of the dune flew in before I could close it behind me. My front tires were still visible, just barely. I swept armfuls of sand away until I could see the hubcaps—yes, progress!— and kept flailing away until I was able to rock that little Mazda around and back away from that man-eating dune, which followed me all the way back to the blessed asphalt of Highway 17 where I was able to escape.

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# Baca Grande Library News



by **Suzanne McGregor**

First of all, thank you to all of the folks who helped make the Spring Bake Sale a success! This event is put on annually by the Friends of the Baca Grande Library (FOL). We thank all of the volunteers who assisted in setting up and working at the table and all the community

members who donated special treats and helped clean up afterwards. The proceeds are used to enhance and improve our current library, including furniture, shelving, special programs and much more (like our new curtains, thanks to the very talented Pat Tullos!). Please consider joining the FOL and providing a valuable community service to your library.

At the end of April, the entire library collection was evaluated in terms of—keep or not keep! Library specialists from the Colorado Library Consortium (CliC) came down to assist us objectively with this task. It is hard for us to withdraw books from the

shelves as they are like old friends to us, so we just needed a gentle push to make the library more user-friendly for you. We have decided to keep all of the children's books that were withdrawn, and they will be in the Book Nook. There is now room for new books, both in fiction and non-fiction, so keep your recommendations coming. It is very important to us that we meet the needs of our community members.

The "Geezers into Geeks" computer clinic for seniors, sponsored by the FOL, will offer sessions on June 7, 9, 14 and 16 from 9:30am-11:30am at the library. Come in and ask questions on specific issues or just learn some new tips and

tricks. Please look for the complete clinic schedule on Facebook and the posting at the library. The clinic is conducted by Lori Sunflower who has many years of computer and creative experience—and lots of patience!

**Important Note:** Please *do not* leave boxes of books sitting outside our door! Our policy is to look over all books before they are accepted, and unwanted discarded items become our problem if they are left outside. We sincerely appreciate donations, but please follow our policy and ask first.

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

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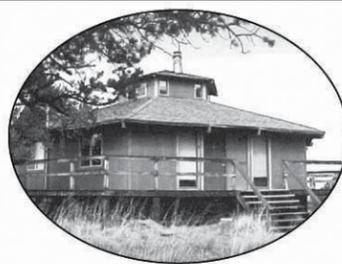
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# THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

## —MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

**1/ When a Snail Falls in Love:** (2016) (4.5 stars)

1 season, 21 episodes/China, primarily a crime, mystery thriller. Detective Ji Bai is very good at what he does but is very stoic in a black-and-white way. Xu Xu's entrance into his world forces him to expand his perspective. There is a very well orchestrated slow growth and development of both leads. Xu Xu's expertise lies in psychological profiling and she has to grow in her role. The cases began to overlap, with a gentle romance developing without it being forced.

**2/ Sleeping with Other People:** (2015) (4 stars)

Comedy, drama, romance—this is a smart romcom. This is about two “serial cheaters” who had a one-night stand with each other in college. They meet in NY 12 years later. They realize they have the same problem and make a pact to keep their relationship platonic despite the attraction. The leads are immensely likable as the veneer eventually cracks. Stars Alison Brie and Adam Brody.

**3/ Definitely Maybe:** (2008) (4 stars)

An interesting romantic comedy as a 30-something divorcing dad is confronted by his 10-year-old daughter who wants to know everything about how her parents met and fell in love. He recounts basically 3 relationships as he works for the Clinton campaign, changing names and keeping his daughter guessing as to which one was her mom. Light with dashes of humor and delight. Stars Ryan Reynolds, Kevin Kline, Rachel Weisz, Abigail Breslin.

**4/ Playing It Cool:** (2014) (3.5 stars)

A screenwriter is working on a script for a romantic movie but is having a hard time since he is jaded about “love,” since his mom left him when he was a young boy. Most of his time is spent ruining every relationship he has, but needing to write this script he turns to his friends for their experiences. He meets a girl who captures his heart but is already engaged. Stars Chris Evans, Michelle Monaghan, Luke Wilson.

**5/ Altered Carbon:** (2018) (3.5 stars)

TV series / 10 episodes / Sci-Fi, drama, thriller, set in the future where consciousness is digitized and stored in cortical stacks implanted in the spine. This allows humans to survive physical death by having their memories and consciousness “re-sleeved” into new bodies. Interesting plot starring Joel Kinnaman, James Purefoy, Martha Higareda.

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| <p>ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“___ Mouth” band</li> <li>*Special day honoree</li> <li>Gumbo pod</li> <li>Santa Maria companion</li> <li>*Ovine mom</li> <li>“He’s _____ nowhere man,” Beatles</li> <li>SAG member</li> <li>*Sean Lennon’s mom</li> <li>Bottled up</li> <li>*TV’s “Blackish” mom</li> <li>*President who designated official Mother’s Day</li> <li>Thou, today</li> <li>___ of Man</li> <li>*Rebecca Pearson’s and Clair Huxtable’s network</li> <li>CISC alternative</li> <li>Kismet-related</li> <li>Winglike</li> <li>Audience’s rejection</li> <li>Dinero</li> <li>Yorkshire river</li> <li>Tree in Roman Republic</li> <li>Seating section</li> <li>Poet’s concern</li> <li>“Better Sound Through Research” company</li> <li>Foul substance</li> <li>Angry</li> <li>Pharaohs’ cobras</li> <li>German river</li> <li>“___ in Show”</li> <li>Wade’s opponent</li> <li>*Carrie Fisher’s mom</li> <li>*Gifted arrangement</li> <li>Shelf material</li> <li>Mate</li> <li>Supercharger</li> <li>Artist’s model</li> <li>U.N. labor agency</li> <li>Was dressed in</li> <li>Like one showing reverence</li> <li>Mentally quick</li> <li>Like a backpack</li> </ol> | <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice in the ring</li> <li>Flexible mineral</li> <li>Opposed to</li> <li>Expressionless</li> <li>Harbour, alt. sp.</li> <li>Feline line</li> <li>Have title to</li> <li>#6 Down, pl.</li> <li>Loads from lodes</li> <li>Lotto variant</li> <li>Kind of delay</li> <li>Belgian brew</li> <li>Radiant</li> <li>Hair-raising board game</li> <li>Kind of person</li> <li>Watercraft with skis</li> <li>*Ashley and Wynonna’s mom</li> <li>Gloomier</li> <li>Social class</li> <li>Balkan native</li> <li>Campus military org.</li> <li>Wavelike patterned silk</li> <li>Part of small intestine</li> <li>*Sent en masse</li> <li>Snorkeling site</li> <li>*#19 Across’ real-life mom</li> <li>Reproduction, for short</li> <li>Waterproof material</li> <li>Luau souvenir</li> <li>Compass point, pl.</li> <li>Photo tint</li> <li>Peer</li> <li>Lateen-rigged sailing vessel</li> <li>Dexterity</li> <li>Had been phlebotomized</li> <li>To dry ink, in the olden days</li> <li>Pakistani language</li> <li>Deep black</li> <li>Chinese immigrant association</li> <li>*Treat mom to this type of relaxing day</li> <li>European peak</li> </ol> |
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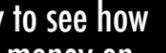
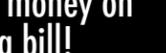
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**Certification of Election**

An Election held at the Town of Crestone and State of Colorado, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2018, the following listed the number of votes annexed to the respective candidates. Total number of votes cast were:

TRUSTEE	Number of Votes	Total
Sam Pace	twenty-nine	(29)
Robert "Bob" Prather	thirty-four	(34)
Kizzen Laki	thirty-one	(31)
Diane Birstow	twenty-eight	(28)

**REFERRED ISSUE A**

Ballot Title:  
An amendment to Ordinance #2000-1 (which enacted a 3% sales tax for the Town of Crestone) increasing the Town Sales Tax by 1.2% to a total of 4.2% on the retail sale of personal property within the Town of Crestone

Issue:  
SHALL THE TOWN OF CRESTONE'S TAXES BE INCREASED \$75,000 (FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR INCREASE) AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #2001-1, INCREASING THE SALES TAX ESTABLISHED BY SAID ORDINANCE BY 1.2% ON THE SALE OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY AT RETAIL AND RESULTING IN A TOTAL TOWN SALES TAX OF 4.2%, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE TOWN GENERAL FUND AND USED FOR TOWN OPERATIONAL EXPENSES AND OTHER GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE TOWN EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2018, AND SHALL SUCH REVENUES CONSTITUTE A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REVENUE OR EXPENDITURE LIMITATION CONTAINED IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Yes fifteen (15)  
No twenty-four (24)

STATE OF COLORADO )  
SAGUACHE COUNTY ) SS

We the undersigned Canvass Board for the Town of Crestone, do hereby certify that:  
- We have reviewed all ballot forms and ballot logs associated with this election  
- We have compared the number of ballots counted to the number of ballots cast  
- We have reviewed and do hereby certify the results in the Official Abstract of Votes Cast

Witness our hands and seal this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018.

Allyson Ransom  
Allyson Ransom, Town Clerk

[Signature]  
Mayor

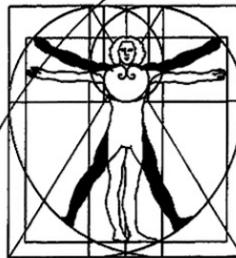
35

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# EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers  
About Our Environment

## Dear EarthTalk: What is so-called Regenerative Agriculture and why are environmentalists so bullish on it?

- Jess Mancuso, Montgomery, PA  
Regenerative Agriculture (RA) describes farming and grazing practices that help reverse climate change by rebuilding the organic matter in soil and restoring degraded soil biodiversity.

"Specifically, Regenerative Agriculture is a holistic land management practice that leverages the power of photosynthesis in plants to close the carbon cycle, and build soil health, crop resilience and nutrient density," reports California State University's Regenerative Agriculture Initiative (RAI). "Regenerative agriculture improves soil health, primarily through the practices that increase soil organic matter. This not only aids in increasing soil biota diversity and health, but increases biodiversity both above and below the soil surface, while increasing both water-holding capacity and sequestering carbon at greater depths." The net result is a drawdown of atmospheric carbon dioxide, and the improvement of soil structure to reverse human-caused soil loss.

According to Terra Genesis International, which helps businesses integrate sustainable farming practices into their everyday operations, key principles guiding the implementation of RA include: progressively improving whole agroecosystems (soil, water and biodiversity); creating context-specific designs and making holistic decisions expressing the essence of each farm; ensuring and developing fair and reciprocal relationships among all stakeholders; and continually growing and evolving individuals, farms and communities to express their innate potential.

How these lofty goals are achieved also involves the imple-

mentation of many of the practices that are now commonplace in organic agriculture, including permaculture design (utilizing the patterns and features observed in natural ecosystems), agroforestry (incorporating the cultivation and conservation of trees), keyline sub-soiling (to loosen compacted soils), no- or low-till farming (leaving it alone to do its thing), pasture cropping (growing annual crops in dormant perennial pastures), multi-species cover cropping and crop rotations (to introduce genetic diversity), the use of animal manure (to build up the resilience of the soil biota), encouragement of bees and other beneficial insects (for fertilization), the use of organic soil amendments such as biochar or terra preta (to enhance yield while sequestering carbon dioxide), ecological aquaculture (using water not land to grow food), perennial crops (they live on beyond one growing season) and silvopasture (integrating trees with forage and livestock production).

"Over the centuries, agriculture has caused the loss and degradation of fertile soil, leading to the downfall of civilizations worldwide," points out John Roulac, founder and CEO of the organic superfoods brand, Nutiva, and an outspoken advocate for RA. "Modern industrial agriculture is doing it even faster."

More and more farmers are starting to realize that their survival may well depend on whether they can pivot toward RA as the world warms. "Regenerative agriculture is an approach to food and farming systems that works with nature's rhythms and technology to feed our growing population, regenerate topsoil and enhance biodiversity now and long into the future," concludes RAI, cautioning that it's critical to change synthetic nutrient-dependent monocultures, low-biodiversity and soil-degrading practices. Indeed, our very existence may depend on it.

Contacts: RAI, [www.csuchico.edu/sustainablefuture/aginitiative](http://www.csuchico.edu/sustainablefuture/aginitiative); Terra Genesis International, [www.terra-genesis.com](http://www.terra-genesis.com); Nutiva, [www.nutiva.com](http://www.nutiva.com).

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Regenerative Agriculture (RA) describes farming and grazing practices — such as the use of cover crops as pictured here — that help reverse climate change by rebuilding the organic matter in soil and restoring degraded soil biodiversity.

photo by NRCS Oregon, FlickrCC.

## Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno

March 21 to April 20

### Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip (includes melted snow): 0.50"

Snow: 6.1"

Measurable precipitation fell on 3 days.

Measurable snow fell on 2 days.

Measurable rain fell on 2 days.

A trace of snow fell on 2 days.

A trace of rain fell on 2 days.

No Hail or Thunderstorms occurred.

### Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1 : 0.96"

### Total snow to date:

Since Jan 1 (for 2018): 12.6"

Snow Season\*: 15.6"

\*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

### Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 69.2°F on April 11

Low temp: 14.6°F on April 14

Avg. high: 58.6°F

Avg. low: 27.7°F

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

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 50°: 26

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: 28

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 20°: 4

### Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 4.0 mph

Highest gust: 55 mph on April 12

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

### Weather summary:

As has been the case for all of 2018 so far weather wise, for this period, temperatures were very much above normal while precipitation was well below normal. No weather records were broken, but the biggest highlight, was a dust/sand storm that hit on April 17 along with high winds for most of the morning and afternoon.

Our first rain of the year also took place during this period, with our first trace of rain recorded on April 6, and then the first measurable rain came just 2 days later. Another interesting note was that it started to snow with the temperature at 47 degrees on March 15, which has actually happened here several times in the past with such warm temps. Our high elevation is the main reason for this and yes, this is somewhat common in the springtime in many other Colorado locations, too.

But the main weather event for the last 31 days was the very dry conditions, as our drought sadly continues on. The relative humidity values went below 10% on 7 days, including all the way down to 4% on 2 days, on April 1 and then again on April 18.

### Outlook for May:

May is our fifth wettest month of the year, averaging 1.12 inches of liquid percip. We normally still see some snow in May, too, with an average snowfall of 2.6 inches for the month. Record snow for May took place just a few years back, in 2015, when 18.4 inches accumulated on the ground, while the overall wettest May also took place in that same year, with 5.05 inches recorded.

Temperature wise, the average high in the first week of May is 62 degrees, while the average low is right at freezing (32 degrees). By the last day of the month, the high is a warm 72 degrees while the low is 40 degrees. The warmest it has ever been in this month was an outright hot reading of 96 degrees on May 31, 2002, which is actually tied for the second highest temperature reading ever seen in our area (with 98 degrees on July 20, 2005, the highest reading ever). The coldest reading was 13 degrees on May 2, 2011.

The 30 day outlook from the NWS as of April 22, is calling for more of the same of what we have been seeing this year, with well above average temperatures, along with below normal precipitation.

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