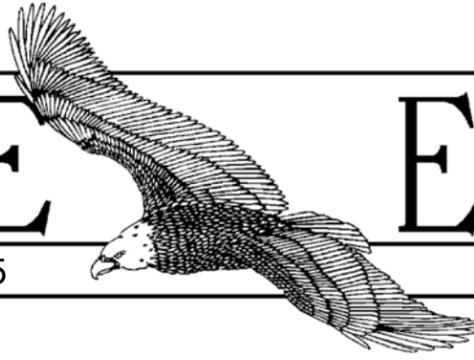


The CRESTONE EAGLE



Crestone, Colorado Volume 24, Number 5

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San Luis Valley fracked

Exploratory well fracked, but no finding of oil & gas

by **Bea Ferrigno**

Despite Rio Grande County's efforts to safeguard regional aquifers, and First Liberty Energy's (FLE) indication that fracking was not part of their plan, an exploration well near Del Norte was fracked on April 13 and 14, a few days beyond the required 48-hour notice.

Widespread concern about possible effects of oil and gas exploration and development on valley aquifers prompted Rio Grande County (RGC) to commission a hydrogeological study that resulted in

FLE's acceptance of more stringent conditions than those required by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), which had issued a permit for the well in October 2012. According to a report in the *Valley Courier*, representatives of FLE, speaking at a January 16 public hearing on the well application, maintained that the well was expected to produce without fracking and that "There is no fracking planned." They also noted, however, that if they decided to frack, they would have 48 hours to

inform COGCC. Rio Grande county tabled the application in order to study several documents including the lengthy hydrogeological report (see the *Eagle*, February 2013 at www.crestoneeagle.com). The RG commissioners were required to make a decision at the February 13 meeting and approved the application at that time.

The FLE well was drilled and cased to some 9,000 feet and no water was encountered in the process. The "pay zones" that were later fracked are at undisclosed depths, but well below the Conejos Formation and any sources of fresh water. The shales that hold oil and

continued on page 32



Tab Benoit, Cajun blues guitarist returns to Crestone Music Festival. See feature on this year's regional acts on page 11.

Prescribed burns planned at Baca National Wildlife Refuge

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced that they will be conducting prescribed burns on the Baca National Wildlife Refuge during the period from now through June 15. Specifically, areas along Willow Creek and Upper Deadman Creek have burn prescriptions in place for spring and early summer to contribute to wildlife habitat improvement at the ref-

uge. The burns will be conducted by professional fire personnel from the San Luis Valley Interagency fire management team. Exact burn dates will depend on weather conditions and other prescription requirements.

Adjacent neighbors and towns should be aware of large plumes of smoke temporarily generated as a result of the prescribed burning,

and some burn units have the potential to smolder for several days. All burns will be monitored until they are declared completely out. Signs will be posted along nearest major roads including Saguache County Rd. T and Colorado State Highway 17. Any neighbors or individuals that may require special consideration or assistance in the event that unplanned smoke issues arise, are encouraged to call the Baca National Wildlife Refuge Manager, Ron Garcia at 719-256-5527. You may also call him for any additional information requests.

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Fool

(a friend who reads the Eagle for AINC, Audio Information Network of CO which records readings from newspapers all over CO and plays on the radio for blind subscribers, sent in this note)

Hi there,

I just want you to know that I know to watch for the spoof article in every April issue of the Eagle. Of course I know—I look forward to them! But today, I am on the radio reading the Eagle and the story about Gas and Glide, and was totally buying the whole thing until I got to the end, where I just stopped short, silence on the air, and then loud guffawing. You guys are terrible . . .

Love,

Mary Ann Schaefer
Boulder, CO

Gas & read?

To the Editor:

I lived in Crestone for a few years while writing a book to be published this December by the State University of New York Press (SUNY Press). As an historian, I have always loved and needed libraries and appreciated the one in Crestone although I often wished it were bigger and better funded.

This April I returned to Crestone for a retreat at the Nada Hermitage and read *The Crestone Eagle* for April, including the "Gas and Glide" idea for the former Curt's Country Store as well as a letter to the editor from the library board.

I vote for a "Gas and Read" solution for the now empty space downtown. The country store space would provide centrality, room for stacks (literally) of books, an expanded community computer room, and a conference room for the public now that the library is a public library.

Crestone has a fabulous Charter School building for its youth. So how about a fabulous public library facility for everyone?

Cordially,

Ellen Lawson
Loveland, CO

Livin' Da' Dream in Crestone

Dear Editor,

Why is it that complaints come easier than gratitude? After all, taking a moment to recognize our bounty just feels so good while complaining only reifies a negative mind which is never a good feeling. So, I've decided to take such a moment and express gratitude to Steve McDowell and Elaine Johnson and Davin Rude who have made living our lives here in Crestone soooooo much easier.

Remember before we had the Mercantile? a Laundry-mat? the Hardware Store/Lumber yard? no Mechanic/Auto Body work? Planning a 120 mile RT could be un-

wieldy not to mention expensive. Now, it's no longer a serious bummer if you forget to pick up an item at the store or your car breaks down.

Not only have they provided us these basic services, but their efforts to keep prices competitive and upgrade the services, bring in more organic goods, and now fresh coffee beans, and new food items . . . Want something they don't carry? They'll try to get it . . . and we have a real butcher for goodness sake! Crestone is getting down right cosmopolitan!

Davin Rude just repaired some auto body damage to my car and *no one* could have done it better. He's an approved mechanic/body worker for many insurance companies.

It sure is easier and nicer living so remotely now. Not only are there basic services as mentioned above, we also have wonderful cafes to choose from (an many thanks to Jim and Michelle for sprucing up Shambhala—it's just lovely).

Buying locally is not just about food—it's also about local services as well. Let's support *all* local businesses whenever we can . . . so we can all Live Da Dream in comfort and mutual support.

Claudia B. Wolfe

Library Bake Sale

Dear Editor,

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all who helped make the Friends of the Library Bake Sale a huge success. Special thanks to those who baked and donated wonderful yummys, to those who shared their time selling the baked goods, to those who helped organize the event, and very special thanks to our wonderful community for their support. Thank You, Thank You.

The Friends of the Library Community

Dormancy fee?

Dear Editor,

As most of us in the northern valley, I supported the creation of our credit union more than a dozen years ago. To me, it stood for community, using all our money together to help our neighbors and friends.

Unfortunately, there seemed to be a lack of oversight and it was sold to a big city credit union, Aventa. I toyed with the idea that I would withdraw my money, but figured it would still support local folks, so why not give them a chance?

Last week, I received a statement showing that Aventa had removed \$15 from my long-term savings account, calling it a "dormancy fee." When I asked what it meant, they said there was no activity for a year. I pointed out there had been no activity for ten years; I had left my money in their hands for community good. Most financial institutions try to entice their clients to keep their money deposited for long periods of time, such as in CDs.

I told the employees that you can't mistreat your customers in a small town by making up new ways to take our money. Convinced that Aventa is just another big city bank, I withdrew my money and closed the account. They wanted action, they got action. I predict that this

credit union will not last unless they change their policies. They are certainly not too big to fail.

Daniel S. Johnson

Insane taxation level

Dear Editor,

I find myself in the bizarre situation of being billed by Saguache County for over 10% of the purchase price of my vacant lot in taxes, *per year*. This is an unbelievable and unsustainable tax rate for me. I had intended to retire part time to the Baca but now I am at the point of abandoning my property here.

On my recent county tax assessment, there is listed an "assessed value", then an "actual value" that is over 4 times the "assessed value". I have never heard of such a thing. By what criteria is the "actual value" determined and why am I taxed on this totally bogus value?

I feel that by purchasing property in the Baca I have become victim of a state operated tax fraud. Is there any relief in sight for those of us caught in this tax trap? In the absence of anyone who will purchase our property at any price, is abandonment the only option?

John Powers

Why prayers & wishes don't establish a lasting peace in the world

Dear Editor,

It is a safe assumption that ever since humans started experiencing the horrors of warfare, they also started to wish to live in peace that would not end with a war again. Humans in great numbers have been wishing, praying, meditating for peace since time immemorial, but, so far, with no lasting results. Why should this be so?

The answer might be that the very reason that wars always come back is precisely because we do want to live in peace!--we don't experience a lasting peace, because our ideas of what peace should be differ from each other so greatly, that we go to war to settle our differences again and over again.

A lasting world peace is possible, of course—it is within human capabilities to effect this—but since our ideas of what such a peace should look like are so diverse, we have to learn how to resolve our differences peacefully, instead of ultimately choosing war every time we feel the desire for peace.

All of us who pray, meditate, wish, and etc., for a lasting peace in the world have to get together one way or another, and come up with one unified design of a world we would like to live in. A design in which it would be possible to see how we all are to live together in one world in as small detail as possible. Differences that normally would get resolved in real life with often damaging results would be resolved harmlessly in a model during the process of hammering out of a design in which all of us would find an optimal place in.

Thank you,

Jan Hearthstone,
www.ModelEarth.Org

Editor's Notes

Wild times with dog

Early evening, and our husky mix talking dog Peggy Sue is out in the yard, lazing in a dirt wallow she dug on a slight promontory. From there she can keep an eye on the house—in case we come out to do something interesting—and on the driveway, trees and open field that could suddenly contain any number of wild or domestic creatures.

I hear her give a bark—a melodic "rrra rrra" with a "woo woo" at the end. Fox. I step out and see the black fox with white-tipped tail crossing the field. Peggy Sue heads off to a mound at the edge of the property to give the fox what for, then sits and watches. Fox keeps a wary eye as she hunts for field mice. At night, fox comes in close to the house, hunting, and leaves scat on top of a rock where Peggy can't miss it.

Later in the evening, Peggy puts out a stronger bark, followed by longer, deeper wolfy "wooo woos". I step out the door and she vocalizes a grumbly warning saying there are wow, wow, wows out there. Coyote. Sure enough, they are singing on the hill. Peggy heads for the mound again, returning a few barks to say "this is my turf!"—but wary, ready to retreat. The deer hear and move in closer to the houses—no time to be grazing that field where this winter the coyote pack took down an adult deer.

Late at night from inside the house Peggy Sue jumps up and gives a strong sharp alarm bark. "RRA RRA RRA!" Ruff fully up. Deep growl. BEAR! Neither she nor I go out. I turn the yard lights on and we peer through the door's window, hoping the bear is passing on by. The neighborhood dogs sing out, giving vocal tracking to bear's route as it heads downtown—lured away from our electrified bee fence by the tempting smell of french fries.

Next morning an insistent "oh ah wa" means it's time for our walk with many good sniffs and tracks.

Happy dog, happy me.

Happy Mother's Day

—Kizzen

Gathering and calling for prayers for Mother Earth

by Chief Arvol Looking Horse, 19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Pipe

Mitakuye Oyasin! My Grandmother shared with me a powerful time when the people came together for prayers during the Dust Bowl in the 1930s. She accepted a C'anupa to bring out the White Buffalo Calf Pipe Bundle to end the drought and bring healing to Mother Earth. Even the non-native farmers heard of this prayer time and offered a cow to feed for the ceremony. The prayer was answered!

Recently I accepted tobacco from a Grandmother—Anpao Wic'ah'pi Was'te Winyan of the Ihanktowan Oyate. She had a dream of bringing people together at the bundle to pray for a healing of the biggest cancer that is spreading upon Mother Earth, caused from the tar sand efforts with XL pipeline that is threatening to come through our territory and our sacred sites.

Our nation who is known as the Pte Oyate (The Buffalo People) will be praying with Sacred Bundle on May 18, 2013.

Please bring food for feast and tobacco offerings. I am asking "All Nations, All Faiths, One Prayer" to help us during this time of this gathering by praying with us on this day where ever you are upon Mother Earth.

We need to stop the desecration that is hurting Mother Earth and the communities. These recent spills of oil are affecting the blood of Mother Earth, Mni wic'oni (water of life).

Chief Bernard Ominiyak of the Lubicon Lake First Nation of Canada is also asking for prayers and to let the world know of his people's stand against the development that is happening against his people. They sit on 70% of oil; those that are after this oil are threatening their lives. His concern at this moment is of non-members, without their consent, signing away their rights and negotiating with corporations that will forever affect their way of life—to live off the land—handing them a death sentence. At this moment there are too many of their people dying from cancer. When they hunt, they are finding maggot-infested moose. When they fish they are finding two-headed fish. The people are dying from trying to survive in a traditional way in their territory. The UN has submitted a statement in support of Lubicon Lake Nation's stand to live in sovereignty and live in their tradition.

We have many concerns at this time. Along with the First Nations whose territory is within the tar sands desecration, with their lives being threatened and also the high death rates of cancer, along with the sickness of the land and animals.

Many other nations are committed to praying with us on the day of our ceremony. For those that cannot attend, Chief Wic'ah'pi To Wambdi is helping with his sister's dream representing the Ihanktowan Oyate, by asking those that cannot attend to send him tobacco ties and flags so he can carry them for the people to the bundle.

I have also been contacted by people who will have another gathering outside the UN at Isaiah's Wall in NYC. They are committing to support and pray with us on May 17 at noon.

In a Sacred Hoop of Life, where there is no ending and no beginning! Hec'el oinipikte (that we shall live)

For more information: www.lubiconlakenation.ca. Address of Chief Wic'ah'pi To Wambdi, 30702 Eggers Road, Wagner, South Dakota 57388.

Gas being stolen from vehicles

Since the gas station at Curt's Store closed, there have been increasing reports of gasoline thefts in the Crestone/Baca area. People have reported filling their automobile gas tanks and coming back to their vehicles to discover that someone has siphoned off a substantial amount of gas. Some people have been hit more than once. There was one report posted on the local facebook pages of someone who lives out near the Liberty Road twice having \$100 worth of gas stolen. Several other vehicles parked at and near the professional building at the entrance to the Baca had gas stolen.

It is a sad commentary on our community to know that there are residents here who would steal, trespass and greatly inconvenience their neighbors. People are urged to switch to locking gas caps, or if their gas door cover is released from inside their vehicle, to lock their vehicle. If anyone should spot someone siphoning gas, please make note of the siphoner's vehicle and license plate number and call the Saguache County Sheriff at 655-2525. By neighbors watching out for each other, maybe we can put a stop to this.

Youth held for school threats

by *Matie Belle Lakish*

According to the Saguache County Sheriff's Department, two male juveniles, ages 14 and 16, were arrested Easter Sunday for allegedly threatening to shoot teachers and students at Mountain Valley School in Saguache. One boy attends Mountain Valley High School and the other is a student at Moffat School. Both are residents of Saguache.

According to a report by Deputy Tyler Harford, the two teens were at the home of adult friends when the younger teen told the women that they were planning to "blow off a teacher's head and kill as many people as possible," then commit suicide following the shootings. The boys told the women they were inspired by the movie *Zero Day*, based on the school shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton. In the movie, the killers record themselves planning the attack, explaining how to make pipe bombs, and conspiring to keep their parents from learning about their plans. The younger teen told the two women to "be prepared." When Harford spoke to the younger boy's counselor, she expressed concern that the boy could carry out his plans. However, when Harford interviewed the younger teen and his mother, the teen denied he and his friend had made any threats or watched *Zero Day*. The older teen's mother would not let her son speak to Harford once he was read his Miranda rights.

Both teens were charged with false reporting of explosives, weapons or harmful substances, conspiracy to commit false reporting of explosives, weapons or harmful substances and menacing, and were transported to the Saguache County jail. The younger teen was later released on a \$2,000 bond and the older teen was transported to the Alamosa Youth Track Detention Center in Alamosa. The case is still under investigation.

Sheriff Mike Norris said, "We take any verbal threat very seriously and will respond and take the appropriate action." "People, especially students, should think about what they are going to say *before* they say it. Some think these types of threatening statements are a joke, we don't."

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Saguache County News

by **Matie Belle Lakish**

Important Announcement: If you have not filled out and turned in your Crestone/Baca Planning Commission Land Use Survey, please do so immediately. This survey is necessary to help our local Planning Commission with its Master Plan. If you did not receive one, please pick one up at the Post Office. It takes only fifteen minutes. Everyone's input is important.

The valley's first commercial scale egg farms will be built in western Saguache County soon. Two families have received Conditional Use Permits from the Saguache County Planning Commission and the County Commissioners to build facilities to house from 2500 to 10,000 birds to produce eggs for Organic Valley. This is a cooperative of producers of organic products that markets throughout the country under the Organic Valley brand.

Farmers who are accepted to grow for the brand must be family farmers and meet standards for size of operation, organic feed, water, nesting, and outdoor range, among others. David and Candace Toews have a farm on Co. Rd. E near Del Norte, while Royce and Tamara Nickel's farm is on Co. Rd. B. Each farm anticipates housing approximately 7500 birds. Birds will not be in cages, but will have at least 1.7 sq. ft. of floor space per bird in an open floor plan poultry house, and at least 5 sq. ft. of outdoor yard space for use in good weather. Feed must be organic, and Toews and Nickel hope to raise their own feed in the future, but for now, plan to bring in the required feed in semi-trucks.

Commissioner Linda Joseph pointed out that acquiring organic feed has been a problem for growing operations in the past, and hopes that the two families can work toward producing organic feed here in the valley. David Toews and Royce Nickel both expressed an interest in doing so, as well as helping other family farms expand opportunities for growing for the cooperative. Organic Valley prides itself on growing locally, and growing within the state is considered local. Eggs produced in the valley will be marketed on the Front Range.

Other operational concerns addressed by commissioners were blowing feathers, odor, water availability, and pollution control. They are currently satisfied with the answers they received, and approved the Conditional Use Permit, which must be renewed annually.

Recording of meetings

County Clerk Carla Gomez, one of whose jobs is recording the minutes for the county commissioner meetings, asked commissioners for an update on the issue of electronic recording of the meetings. Jason Anderson said he had consulted with other commissioners at state meetings, and that some other counties had reported some problems. One issue was equipment. Without high quality equipment, it was hard to hear the comments or to tell who was speak-

ing. Ken Anderson said the monitoring of the website showed very little interest in people downloading the minutes, which are currently available. Asked how she planned to distribute them, Gomez said that her plan was to make the recordings available on a CD that would be sold for about \$5.

Attorney

Ben Gibbons stated the official minutes will continue to be the written minutes, and that once the commissioners start recording the meetings they cannot go back. He expressed concern that the equipment the county now has is not adequate, and any plans to do a "trial run" with current equipment would not be legal. In his research on the topic, he found that citizens speaking at meetings often have concerns about being recorded, either because they feel their comments may be misconstrued by other people that listen to the recordings or that they will be intimidated for a stand they may take on a topic that might end up on the internet. On the other hand, he noted, some people tend to be better behaved if they know others can observe their behavior.

Jason said the feedback he had gotten was that "1) recording causes better behavior, and 2) we don't want a motion until we have something good." Gomez reported that Conejos, Alamosa, and Gunnison counties all record their meetings, and they all have hanging microphones. She said that Stacy, who currently takes the minutes, would continue to attend the meetings and could be sure that people identified themselves before they speak. However, she feels that the recording device currently used for Land Use meetings might be adequate. After further discussion, the board asked Gomez to try out the current equipment at a mock meeting of clerk's staff and provide them with input on the quality of the recording.

Court security

Sheriff Mike Norris has expressed concern about the security in the courthouse, especially in light of recent shootings and bombings across the country. Currently, he has an officer stationed by the front door. His concern is that Saguache County might have an incident where an angry individual might come into the courthouse with a weapon and start shooting. Last month he proposed limiting access to one door and installing a metal detector that citizens would have to pass through, like at an airport.

Commissioners decided to limit the metal detector use to persons entering the second floor to go to court. Norris said the county already owns the walk-through detector, but will add an x-ray machine which x-rays purses, backpacks, briefcases, etc. It is impossible to get the device up to the second floor, so it will be installed on the first floor for the time being.

Crestone bridge

Crestone Mayor Kairina Danforth and Akia Tanara, Crestone Town Manager, attended the commissioners' meeting to discuss the need to weight-restrict the Alder Street bridge, because of its deteriorated condition. The town brought the matter to the county because that bridge also accesses county land and North Crestone Campground, and Crestone officials are hoping that some county or federal money might be available

to match a Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Planning Grant to do the engineering work. DOLA requires a 50% match from another source.

The bridge can no longer accommodate heavy vehicles, including the tank trucks that the Forest Service uses to empty the toilets. In addition, a water truck used for fighting fires would be too heavy to cross the bridge safely, creating a potential fire safety hazard, and inhibiting the ability to fight a forest fire in North Crestone Campground and National Forest.

The engineering step, which is needed before the bridge can actually be replaced, is estimated to cost between \$25,000 and \$35,000. Federal requirements for the study could add as much as \$100,000 to the cost of engineering. Randal Arredondo, County Road and Bridge Supervisor, said that there could be no funding from the SRS Title II funding this year, which could normally be used for Forest Service projects, because the county did not accept the SRS funds this year. In addition, future funding from this source is in doubt, as it has to be appropriated every year, and federal sequestration may hold it back. Other possible funding could be from the Federal Lands Access Program or Colorado Dept. of Transportation (CDOT). He offered, in the meantime, to install a temporary culverted bridge, if that would be helpful to the town. This would allow the town to remove the weight restriction and give town officials time to pursue a permanent solution. Supervisor Arredondo stated that the town would have to provide the engineering for the temporary bridge.

Gunnison Sage Grouse

The county has two populations of this unique Sage Grouse. The larger, and relatively more stable population is in the northwestern section of the county in the Gunnison River drainage. This population is well connected to other groups of its kind in Gunnison County where conservation efforts on private land have been effective. A smaller population resides in the Poncha Pass area. This population has had some study, primarily by Jennie Nearing, who has studied the species for about 15 years.

According to *Eye on the County*, "For many years, private property owners there have learned about this unusual resource and taken care to steward their land and operations accordingly, connecting through the Gunnison Sage Grouse Poncha Pass Working Group. It is these outlier populations of GSG, at Poncha and in other more westerly counties that are the concern—small in numbers, more vulnerable, less resilient. At Poncha, the current multi-year drought has been devastating to habitat and ranching, with no end in sight. With only 2 private property owners within the most critical 6/10ths of a mile of the one known "Lek" (grouse mating area), residential growth and habitat fragmentation, concerns cited by US-FWS, are not really the issue. Degradation of habitat due to drought, lack of genetic diversity for a robust population, and lack of resources being applied to solve these issues are the real threats to the ongoing presence of Gunnison Sage Grouse at Poncha Pass."

"Saguache County's Planning Commission is studying this issue, and reviewing our wildlife regulations in place" . . . "The key (to avoid federal intervention) seems to

have been enough participation of landowners in establishing conservation easement areas, and, private property owners applying for Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA). Such measures ensure that the issue is being addressed locally, and precludes more challenging and complex compliance with federal procedures in the case of listing. Counties are contesting the quality and accuracy of the USF&WS analysis, in the first place. Nevertheless, there is a short window for property owners who would be affected to get their conservation easements and CCA's in place, in case of listing. For more information contact Land Use Director Wendi Maez, 719-655-2321, or wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov."

Marijuana hearing

As most citizens are aware, Colorado's voters approved the possession of up to six marijuana plants or two ounces of marijuana for recreational purposes in the November 2012 election. They also approved the sale of marijuana, under certain rules, for said use. However, the State of Colorado has authority to make rules regarding the sale, and many counties throughout the state have placed moratoriums on the growing and sale of the plant until those rules are in place.

Attorney Ben Gibbons asked whether the commissioners wished to do likewise. As a result, a hearing has been scheduled to explore a moratorium at the regular meeting on May 7. The hearing will take place during the Land Use time at 11am. The activities to be addressed would be business applications such as growing operations, laboratories, and infused products.

Sales tax grants

Saguache County's sales tax is used to fund activities in the county for which no regular funding is available. For several years, commissioners have held a twice-yearly grant cycle to fund projects in three areas. Grants relevant to the eastern part of the county include:

Renewable energy, economic development and job creation - Saguache County Tourism, \$1,000.00 (website revamping); Crestone Energy Group, \$7,500.00 (gas pump reactivation; biomass feasibility study); Small Business Development Center, \$2,000.00 (Support services and materials); Town of Crestone, \$6,000.00 (Youth/handicap workers and plant materials); Town of Moffat, \$10,000.00 (match State Historic grant for the final phase of construction on the Community Building).

Public Health & Safety; Emergency Services - Crestone Fire Protection District, \$1,000.00 (Election expenses); Neighbors Helping Neighbors, \$7,500.00 (hardship assistance program); Office of Emergency Management, \$8,060.30 (Resident EMT program Baca and Center/Accountability System); Saguache County Coroner, \$5,894.00 (3 body cooler); Saguache County Food Bank, \$1,200.00 (Refrigerator/Freezer); Saguache County Sheriff, \$10,169.00 (Phone-voice recording system for dispatch); Crestone Energy Group, \$1,500.00 (Emergency phone at gas pumps).

Projects that benefit Youth & Seniors - Crestone Performances, \$2,000.00 (Performances in Schools); Crestone Youth Plaza, \$5,000.00 (Summer Day Camp); Dance Factory, \$6,000.00 (Summer programs for kids); Kit Carson Rod & Gun Club, \$2,000.00 (Firearm Safety course).

County re-assessment complete

by **Matie Belle Lakish**

State of Colorado Division of Property Taxation Saguache County Project Manager, Curtis Belcher, and Saguache County Assessor, Jackie Stephens, gave an update on the reappraisal process. They reported that all field inspections of properties in the county have now been completed. As of April 16, 2013, 8782 residential properties have been evaluated. Of that number, 323 were omitted properties, meaning they were not identified on previous tax rolls as buildings. Only 8 properties remained to be completed. Of the omitted properties, most were residential, with a few being potato warehouses and commercial buildings.

Belcher, who was assigned by the state to oversee the re-assessment, commended Stephens for her knowledge and hard work over the years. He said, "Jackie has done all she could do with the resources available to her in the past." Among the new resources brought to bear in this assessment were some iPads that allow electronic transmission of data, and GPS units and photos of the county, which allowed the team to track new construction from the air. These innovations and the technological support of the state made this process much more efficient.

Commissioner Joseph asked Belcher what the system improvements are that the Commissioners need to look at to bring the county into continued compliance. Belcher said, "Jackie has supported and led this project, and done a wonderful job. She needs to have support. She has the skill set and the knowledge level. I want to emphasize that the Assessor's Office, and all of Saguache County, needs more robust support." Asked to elaborate, he said that Peter Peterson, who has helped a lot with the re-appraisal, needs to be brought on to the office full time, and they need help with technology, as the computer system is "not robust". He

suggested that the county have an I.T. department that could do most of the input to the database, rather than relying on the assessor and contract personnel to fill that need.

The commissioners agreed that all departments need I.T. support, but that the county's budget constrains them. They are currently negotiating with Crestone Telecom to install a tower on top of the courthouse, which will be a first step in that direction, as current internet accessibility is very poor.

Asked whether homeowners would see much change in their assessments, Belcher said no. Aside from those omitted properties, most homeowners will see no major changes. Belcher said, "The final report will show that there was nothing wrong with her valuation."

Stephens said she wanted to extend thanks to the state for allowing the county to "keep the dollars at home." A minimum of county revenues went to the Front Range because the state allowed most of the re-evaluation to be done in Saguache County using local labor and patronizing local establishments for food and housing.

According to the *Eye on the County* (choose-saguache.com), "The last of approximately 350 Special Notices of Valuations are being mailed to property owners who had not been previously assessed for structures built upon their land. According to State Law, the property owner is responsible for the past two years of taxes that were omitted from the tax roll. Property owners have 30 days to file a protest if they do not agree with the value of their property. Once a final value has been established for the account, the property owner receives a notification with the amount of taxes due, less the amount they had previously paid for the tax year. A contract is being offered by the Saguache County Treasurer for a 24-month payment plan without penalty and/or interest."



Summer projects, plans & grant funding

by **Baca Grande Water & Sanitation District Staff & Board**

As warm weather returns to the Baca, the District is busy planning its important annual maintenance activities as well as beginning preliminary engineering for a comprehensive water conservation project.

As it has in years past, BGWSD will employ two or three temporary summer staff to assist full time operations staff in accomplishing three key projects: completion of GPS/GIS data collection, fire hydrant maintenance, and cleaning one quarter of the district's sewer mains.

Completion of the multi-year GPS/GIS mapping to pinpoint the location of all water and sewer mains, valves, manholes and connections will give operators today and in the future a critical tool to do maintenance, repairs and hook-ups quickly and efficiently. The system also streamlines the process of locating underground lines when others are doing construction that requires excavation.

As part of annual maintenance efforts, each of the 277 fire hydrants is inspected, lubricated and verified as operational at least once each year to meet industry standards. Periodic cleaning of the sanitary sewer system is important for continued safe flow of wastewater from homes to the Aspen Treatment Plant. Operations staff targets the cleaning of 60,000 linear feet annually to inspect lines and clean out gravel that accumulates. These projects are important to maintaining a

viable system long term.

The district received approval from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) of a matching funds grant through the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund to undertake the preliminary engineering necessary to proceed with its water conservation project.

The estimated cost of the engineering is \$25,000 and the district will be reimbursed by DOLA for 50% of the total preliminary engineering expenditures. The primary focus of the preliminary engineering is the preparation of a hydraulic model identifying pressure and water flow characteristics of the water distribution system. Additional components of the preliminary engineering include developing a process and cost estimates for system-wide water leak detection and repairs, and planning for water meter replacement. The preliminary engineering is the first step toward preparing a grant application to DOLA for partial funding of the identified system repairs and improvements necessary to improve water conservation.



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POA to consider revised loose-dog policy

by Gussie Fauntleroy

No one disputes the fact that loose, uncontrolled dogs in the Crestone/Baca area are a nuisance at best and can pose a serious danger to people, other pets and wildlife. An incident earlier this spring in which a loose dog spooked three horses, causing the horses to throw and injure experienced riders, underscores the gravity of the issue. Jessica Brewer, a passionate advocate for responsible dog ownership, is among local residents working to address the matter with the Baca Grande Property Owners Association.

The POA has a loose-dog policy on the books and the legal authority to enforce it. But actually doing so is a lot more complicated than it might seem. "Ninety percent of the time we can't verify the identity of the dog," POA manager Lonnie Nichols said in a recent phone interview. The issue is made more difficult by the fact that neither the POA nor the Saguache County Sheriff's Department has a kennel or holding facility for dogs caught loose, Lonnie said. He added that the sheriff's department has stated it will not send an officer to Crestone in response to loose dog complaints, with the possible exception of an incident resulting in extreme injury.

Jessica, who moved to the Baca from Alamosa three years ago, currently is working on a draft policy proposal to submit to the POA, which if accepted by the POA board could enhance or replace the existing policy. Among the draft proposal's key points would be the required registration of all dogs, including a photo of each dog to verify the identify of animals involved in violations. In the draft policy as Jessica and other responsibility advocates envision it, registration would be free for those whose pets are spayed/neutered, with a small fee required for non-neutered dogs.

An essential element in addressing dog issues is education, Jessica believes. Her own education in responsible dog ownership came at a heavy price. In 2003 she ac-

quired her first pit bull. With no understanding of the need for socializing her dog with people and other dogs, she allowed the animal to take on the role of her personal protector. In 2010, when the dog was 7 years old, he had become aggressive and dangerous, and Jessica was forced to put him down. "I know what it's like to not know any better and to learn," she said.

Today Jessica has five dogs of her own and fosters others, all of which are kept securely and humanely contained on her property. Last year she organized a successful spay/neuter clinic that saw some 63 Crestone/Baca area animals spayed or neutered.

The POA board's review and decision on potential revisions to the loose-dog policy will take time, Lonnie said, adding that the association does not have the budget for hiring an animal control officer. "But if the draft policy is a really good plan, they would probably consider it. I would push for it," he said.

Jessica has established a Facebook page, "Love our Dogs Crestone/Baca," dedicated to the issue of harmonious relationships among Crestone/Baca residents and dogs. She can also be contacted at 256-4839 or jessicabrewer79@yahoo.com.



POA NEWS

Dogs, committees and weeds

by Lonnie Nichols,
POA Manager
Roaming dogs

The Baca Grande Property Owners Association would like to thank all those who have provided suggestions and input on the roaming dog issue. Janet Martinez and Jessica Brewer have offered to put together a draft policy for dogs, which is more detailed than the POA policy and will hopefully provide accountability for pet owners who do not keep their pets on their property.

Ultimately, it comes down to personal responsibility for our pets. The issue also requires pet owners to honor and be respectful of others in the community, as well as maintaining the diligent respect for their pets. Thanks again for those who have voiced their concerns, but more importantly for providing some viable solutions. It

will take a concerted effort of our community(s) to resolve this long standing issue.

Nominating committee

The POA Board of Directors is looking for volunteers for positions on the nominating committee. This important service will help the POA's election process. Volunteers must be members in good standing. If you are interested, please contact Community Manager Lonnie Nichols at the POA office at 719-256-4171 or email at: lnichols@ehammersmith.com.

County cutting weeds

As a "heads up", don't be surprised or alarmed if you see county crews working along the county roads this spring and summer. Chief Brack has been working with them, and they are going to be cutting the weeds (fuel) to support our effort for fire mitigation. The roads provide somewhat of a fire break.

Expected Items:
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From Alamosa: Go south on Hwy 285 to Hwy 370, west approx. 14 miles, to Hwy 15 (Gunbarrel Rd) south 1 mile to 11 South, east 1/2 mile. From Monte Vista: Go south on Hwy 15 11 miles, to 11 South, east 1/2 mile. Ben Coblenz residence. Look for signs.

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**by Leanna Bradbury,
Deputy Clerk
Alder Street bridge
weight-restricted**

Following the recommendations of three bridge engineers, the Town Trustees have restricted the Alder Street bridge to vehicles weighing less than ten tons. At the north end of the bridge several of the sixteen wooden girders and their end caps have deteriorated. The trustees also authorized use of \$10,000 of the town's reserve funds as a match for state-funded engineering plans. Meanwhile, heavy vehicles servicing the commercial district are unaffected and trash removal and propane trucks over ten tons may access the north end of town via the Cottonwood Street Bridge with its seventeen-ton weight restriction. Residents north of this bridge wanting a heavy vehicle delivery (for example concrete, gravel, or lumber), please ask the vendor to phone the Crestone Town Hall at 719-256-4313 to discuss alternative delivery routes.

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) public meeting

On June 3 at 7pm the Town Planning Commission will hold a public meeting to discuss with town residents proposed amendments to the Town of Crestone Zoning Regulations that would permit accessory dwelling units under certain conditions. If adopted, ADU zoning will allow many property owners to construct accessory units on their land.

Free branch and brush pickup May 21

Tuesday, May 21, fire mitigation workers will collect dead wood, scrap wood, branches, and brush that town residents have gathered into a pile (or piles) accessible from the road. Please phone Gretchen at Town Hall, 256-4313, to report the location and approximate quantity. The drought

is forecast to continue, so it is extremely important to reduce the amount of combustible materials in our forested town.

Downtown development progress

For the next few months, as Architect Burt Wadman works on downtown development design, a task force of Town Trustees, Planning Commissioners, community residents and business owners will meet on Wednesdays at 5pm at Town Hall to discuss design issues and options. The meetings are open to the public and will be posted on the Town Hall bulletin board 24 hours in advance.

New commissioner planning

Town resident Patrick Moore has been appointed by Mayor Danforth as a Planning Commissioner.

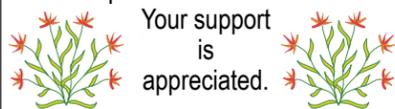
Bear season has begun

April 15 was the first incident this year of food trash being strewn from two downtown dumpsters. Eating plastic bags and junk food isn't good for bears, so please keep discarded food, toiletries, and their containers inside until the morning of pickup.

Crestone Botanical Garden

will open for the growing season on May 1st at Crestone Town Center; hours are Mon. – Sat., 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Shop locally for houseplants, garden starts from Green Earth Farms, yard art, and gardening supplies. Donations of plants, containers, etc. are always welcome. This project is sponsored by the Town of Crestone to promote economic development for disabled adults.

Your support is appreciated.



Tourism council gears up for summer, taking a different approach instead of giving grants

by Matie Belle Lakish

Tourism is becoming big business in Saguache County, and summertime is the top of the season here in the mountains, when residents of other climes enjoy our "cool sunshine" while urban areas blister with heat. To plan for the upcoming visitors, the Saguache County Tourism Board, an arm of Saguache County government, met to review summer plans.

The Saguache County Tourism Board is responsible for promoting Saguache County's attractions, and is tax funded. Approximately \$11,000 is generated annually from the Lodging Tax, which is paid by visitors to the county who stay overnight in hotels or motels. As directed by county commissioners, half of that, or about \$5500, should go to advertise our whole county, while half has traditionally been used to help fund tourism events in the county through a grant request program.

The first grant request cycle of 2013 ended on March 31. Over \$41,000 was requested in this first round of requests. The majority of members of the council, in light of the overwhelming number of requests, decided to try a new approach to pro-

moting events in Saguache County. Instead of awarding grants to individual organizations to promote their events, the council decided to promote all of the events together in a summertime advertising campaign. Each week, for four months, all of the Saguache County tourism events will be mentioned in an advertisement placed weekly in valley publications. The Council will also try to promote county events in radio and print ads on the front range. The Council hopes that this strategy will allow most Saguache County events to receive the attention of tourists traveling in the area, as well as residents of surrounding counties.

Updating the Tourism Council website to accurately reflect the many attractions and events going on in Saguache County is another priority of the members. The commissioners recently awarded a sales tax grant to help bring this to fruition. Hotels, motels, restaurants, tourist-oriented businesses, special events, and other attractions will be able to solicit visitors through the web. Watch for future announcements on how to access this resource.

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**Now's the time to
Clean it up!**

**Free wood, brush pick up in
Crestone May 21**

The Town of Crestone is offering free hauling of deadwood, scrap wood, branches and brush for Crestone residents on May 21.

Residents are asked to gather these into piles accessible from the road near their properties.

Fire danger is expected to be high again this year. It is important for all of us to mitigate our properties and help keep our neighborhoods safe!

Call Gretchen at the Town Hall, 256-4313, to report the location and approximate quantity of material you need to have hauled off. Thanks!

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The center stemwall showing 6" of deterioration



5" of eroded foundation on the east wall.

Board of Education receives report on foundation problems at the Moffat School

by Kirk Banghart

At the monthly meeting the Moffat Board of Education received an update on the crumbling foundation under the 1921 building in Moffat.

As part of the district's facilities master planning process it was revealed that the foundation under the original 1921 part of the Moffat PK-12 building is in the process of substantial foundation deterioration.

This was further witnessed by the board of education when the District Superintendent, Kirk Banghart and the Facilities Man-

ager, Steve Lucas, videoed sections of the foundation crumbling under minimal pressure.

The district contracted with Tarracon Consultants out of Wheatridge, CO in March to do concrete testing and chemical analysis of the foundation. During the last week of March, Tarracon was on site to take core samples at four different locations under the 1921 building.

This report along with an analysis by BKBM engineers was presented to the board of education at their April 15 regular session. The report for Tarracon showed

that the concrete in the foundation tested with a compressive strength (psi) test ranged from 510-680 (PSI). The Superintendent was informed that the average rage for concrete is 3000-5000(PSI).

James Dorr and Katherine Russell from BKBM engineers presented an analysis of the testing done by Tarracon. In their report they calculated that the low PSI tests show poor concrete but the current strength tests show that it can support the weight of the building. Dorr and Russell also address the idea of a redundant support system for the structure as a preventive measure. They stated that they believe "a redundant support system for the structure would be a difficult and potentially dangerous process to undertake." They also went on to say, "We do not believe providing redundant support is a

worthwhile pursuit ..."

The Moffat School Board has submitted for a Building Excellent Schools Today Grant (BEST) from the Colorado Department of Education. The board has applied for this grant in order to address the concerns presented by Tarracon and BKBM and other concerns that were identified in the Facilities Master Plan. The BEST board will meet with and hear presentations for funding May 28-30.

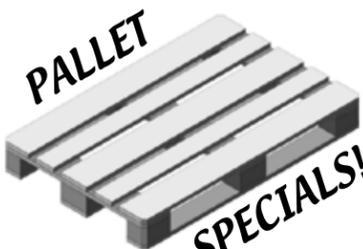
If the district is awarded a grant the Moffat school district will have the opportunity to have 73% of the project paid for by the state. The other 27% will have to be approved by the local voters in a November election.



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Celebrate 55 years of museum openings May 26 in Saguache

Be sure and join us as we celebrate another milestone in the saga of the Saguache County Museum says Virginia Sutherland, retiring as Chairman of the Museum Board, but retaining the title of "Chairman Emeritus". Virginia has been replaced by her daughter Lynn, who grew up with the museum and will be sharing the chairmanship with Thad Englert. It takes many devoted volunteers, some of whom turn into summer staff, to keep us moving on and growing into the next 50 years! We are not tax-supported and count on the public to help us meet our annual operating expenses. This year many changes are going on in the museum especially since some new (antique) showcases and displays have changed our look, so you just must come in and see! You can also meet our two new mannequins just arrived from New York City. Additionally you will find the gift shop area enlarged with more space for new artisans to display their works.

May 26 will be an action-filled day, starting with early birds meeting at the park pavilion at 7:30am to meet Ellen Cox who is heading up the "Run Walk Crawl" races. Her phone is 655-9937. After that you can have some breakfast goodies at the Church of the Val-

ley booth and visit the many other booths in the park. Want to have a booth? Just call Jeannie Ewing at 719-480-2920, to reserve your space for just \$15.

Next, though, you must rush out to the street to watch the parade go by. The theme is "United We Stand", honoring Bill Hazard as Grand Marshal. Lynn Sutherland is in charge of the parade, so if you would like to join with a parade entry call Lynn at 256-4279 for a space in the lineup, which will be on the street in front of the school beginning at 10am.

By the time the parade is over it will be time to rush to the Saguache Community Building, for the museum's beef BBQ, beginning at noon. Tickets are still only \$8 for adults and 4 for children 12 and under. Helpers are needed for Saturday and Sunday at the community building, so please call Virginia at 256-4272 to volunteer.

After lunch be sure and visit the museum. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$1 for children 12 and under.

There will be additional and special events in the museum yard or park, like the Baptist Church's Bounce House for kids, and a theater presentation by our local talented theater group at the Ute Theater at 3pm.



"Rising Appalachia is a genre-bending force of sound that uses vocal harmony, lyrical prowess and diverse artistic collaborations to defy cultural clichés and ignite a musical revolution..."

Come listen to Rising Appalachia at The Secret Garden May 14

Rising Appalachia will be performing at The Secret Garden in Crestone on Tuesday, May 14 at 8pm. The cost is a very moderate \$7. It is a real treat to have this band come to Crestone.

Listen to sisters Leah and Chloe's poetic harmonies, soul singing, spoken word rallies, banjos, fiddles, many beats of drums, kalimbas, washboard rants, groove, and community building through sound. Joined by a host of versatile collaborators expect anything from a folksy duo to stand up bass grooves, trumpet to beatboxing, poets to trapeze, and circus to soul!

Having toured over 14,000 miles across the United States and gracing many stages around the world, Rising Appalachia's vision and sound is quickly proving to be contagious to everyone it touches.

They have 5 independently released full length albums and a live DVD documentary project. Having been raised in the American south with soul music for breakfast and Appalachian lullabies at night, sisters Leah and Chloe have drawn

great inspiration from their global family. They have been shaped by the sounds of the south..

Rising Appalachia has been voted "Green Album of the Year" by the Huffington Post, "Atlanta's Best Folk Act" by the *Creative Loafing*, and have been written about in *Paste Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Performer Magazine*, *Dirty Linen*, *Sing Out*, *Anti-Gravity*, *Maverick* and more. Their tours have taken them across Europe, through the Caribbean, into Central America, into the Indian subcontinent, and across the United States.

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**Saguache County Museum Celebrates
55th Opening- Sunday May 26 2013**
"United We Stand" Parade 11 AM
Lineup 10 AM by School— join in >
Call Lynn - 256 4279 to get in lineup
5 K Race Starts 7:30 Park Pavillion
Run, Walk, Crawl, Bike
Call Ellen Cox - 655-9937

Crafts in The Park (also Breakfast Goodies) **9 am til 4 PM**
"Bounce House" - fun for kids too!
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Museum's Famous BBQ --12 to 2 PM Community Building
still just \$8.00 adult—\$4.00 Children 12 and under!
Meet and greet your friends here -do not miss out!
This is the Museum's Annual Fundraiser!

You Absolutely Must Tour the Museum
Open from 9 AM til 4 PM

Our Museum, created and run by volunteers, is Known Around the World as one of the best small historical Museums! This year there have been many added displays and much re-arranging, including expansion of our gift shop. Even repeat visitors will be amazed!

Admission is still just \$5.00 Adults \$1.00 children 12 and under.
See you in Saguache May 26th?



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Crestone Music Festival

2013

Early Bird tickets on sale now!

by Tom Dessain

It's Early Bird time! Get your tickets now for the 15th Annual Crestone Music Festival, August 2, 3, & 4, at the low early bird price. This special offer ends May 31. By ordering now, you are taking advantage of the lowest prices available.

We are very excited! We have amped up Friday even more and have great acts all weekend. Friday's headliner is the Haunted Wind Chimes. These three guys

and two gals have just had a prestigious appearance on "Prairie Home Companion."

They have a m a z i n g h o n e y e d harmonies and spirited pickin'. Opening for the H a u n t e d W i n d Chimes is Hit & Run Bluegrass, past winners of the best new band contests at both the Telluride Bluegrass Festival and Rocky Grass.

Tab Benoit was such a huge hit three years ago that folks are still talking about it and so we are bringing him back on Saturday, August 3. Tab is the real deal. Born and raised on the Louisiana bayou, this self-proclaimed "new kid from the old school" is the standard-bearer for a new generation of Cajun blues musicians. Tab is a traditionalist and an innovator at the same time, grafting elements of rock and soul to the indigenous sounds of the bayou.

Our Sunday night headliner is

the "Hendrix of the Sahara," Vieux Farka Touré. He is the son of the late legendary Malian guitar player Ali Farka Touré. Vieux gives new versions of the West African music that is echoed in the American blues. While he remains true to the roots of his father's music, he adds elements of rock, Latin music and other African influences. Vieux is known for dazzling crowds with his speed and dexterity on the guitar.

Other acts include: Atomga, Afrobeat; Shel, original songbirds; Logo Ligi, Ghanaian drum & dance; Chimney Choir, eclectic folk; F u t a b a, funk; Nokuthula, Zibabwian marimbass; Savor, Cuban street dance; Sweet radish, folk grass; Crestone Kaminari Taiko; Red Bandana, Teen Indie Rock; and Sandy Wells, country rock. Please

see their full bios in this edition of *The Crestone Eagle*.

Crestone Performances Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit community service organization that annually produces the Crestone Music Festival, subsidizes and produces cultural and educational presentations in San Luis Valley area schools, and provides free consulting and technical assistance to other worthwhile community endeavors. It's easy & secure to order tickets online at www.crestfest.org, or by phone at 719-256-4599.

T-shirt design wanted

T-shirt designs are now being accepted for the 15th Annual Crestone Music Festival. We pay \$200 for the accepted entry plus one weekend pass to this year's festival, 2 free T-shirts and an article on the artist in the festival program. The design is usually used for the program cover also. It does not have to be fully completed for us to review it. The general idea and look will be enough to start with. Entries should be post-marked by May 3. For more information please call 719-256-4533 or drop by our office at the Professional Center which is the first house in the Baca. We are at the top of the stairs in Suite 204.



Haunted Wind Chimes.

photo by The Gazette, Christian Murdock

Membership drive

This year we are excited to announce our second annual CPI membership drive. Memberships are helping to stabilize and grow our organization. Please consider becoming a member and help us continue our community services. There are levels of support that have great perks, so check them out below. Our community services are: We produce the annual Crestone Music Festival, now in its 15th year. The festival is a three-day, two-stage, multi-genre, multi-cultural event featuring local, regional, national and international performers as well as international cuisine, arts and activities for children and adults. The heart of our organization is our Youth Enrichment Program now in its eleventh year. YEP serves several thousand students annually with educationally and culturally diverse presentations. We subsidized the cost 100% at most locations as well as handled all booking, lodging, sound and production. With 35 underserved, budget-tight schools, the need is huge. CPI's third program is our community service program which provides free consulting and technical assistance to other worthwhile community endeavors. CPI books bands, does promotions and provides sound and lighting equipment and/or runs the sound and lighting systems for seven to ten community events each year at no charge.

We hope this has given you an idea of what we do for community. Please consider becoming a member. To say thank you to our supporters, members will be recognized in the Crestone Music Festival program, and on our web site.

Become a member!

We have four levels of membership

1. Copper Member - \$50, receives a Crestone Music Festival compilation CD.
2. Bronze Member - \$150 single/\$250 couple, the above plus an invitation to be on the guest list at schools for our enrichment programs.
3. Silver Member - \$250 single/\$350 couple, all above plus a one-day ticket and backstage pass to the Crestone Music Festival.
4. Gold Member - \$400 single/\$500 couple/family, all of the above plus all-access passes to the Crestone Music Festival.

We have a new, fast, easy & secure way to become a member! Go to www.crestfest.org and click on Membership-Donate. You can also mail your Membership/Donation form to CMF, PO Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131, or call 719-256-4533 for more information. So please remember how important your contributions are, and know that you are investing in community by investing in Crestone Performances. Make checks payable to CPI. All donations receive a tax-deductible receipt. Thanks and stay tuned!

Aventa team up for youth scholarships

CPI and Aventa Credit Union are offering scholarships to Saguache County students who want to further their education in the performing arts. This includes music, theater, voice, dance, etc. The scholarship must be used for performing arts costs and expenses for instruments, lessons, camps, workshops, etc. The scholarship value is up to \$500 and applications are available online at crestfest.org, at our office call (256-4533) or locally at the Crestone Post Office. Each school has also received applications for students. Guidelines are:

1. Be in 8th through 12th grade.
2. Be a resident of the San Luis Valley.
3. Submit a short essay, 300-500 words. The topics of essay should address your performing arts background and interests, your goals, and how you would use your scholarship money.
4. Two letters of recommendation from a teacher, mentor or other. No parents please.
5. Cover page must include your name, address, name of your school, grade, and a parent or guardian's signature. Please advise us if you are being home-schooled.

Essay quality is important.

Applicants may be interviewed.

A written follow-up report will be required.

Awarded applicants will be notified by June 15, 2013.

Purchase request detailing use of the funds will be required.

Parent or guardian's signature is required.

One submission per person/per year please!

The deadline to apply is Friday, May 3. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. For questions call 719-256-4533 or e-mail us at crestfest@crestfest.org. Mail application to Crestone Performances Inc. PO Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131.

Notice to performing artists

The 15th Annual Crestone Music Festival is now accepting entries from local Saguache County performing artists for this year's festival. Local means 50% of the group must live or have a home in Saguache County. All local artists must fill out a local artists submission form. Applications are available online at crestfest.org, at our office, by phone at 256-4533, or at the Crestone Post Office. If your entry is musical, the demo should have at least two songs on it. If your entry is dance then you should submit a video and/or music with a description. If your act is poetry or comedy a demo tape or document is fine. Anything else, we are interested so please submit what it takes to get the point across. While we appreciate the artist's desire to put on the best show possible, your submission is budgeted based on the application information we receive. It is your responsibility to provide wages for additional artists/musicians added after applying. All entries must be postmarked by May 10, 2013. It is recommended that some of you combine your talents, as there will be more applicants than openings. Send application to:

CMF LOCAL 2013, P.O. Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131 or drop it by the office at the first house in the Baca, upstairs in the Professional Building, Suite 204.

Crestone Performances regional acts

Friday



Sweet Radish —Folk Grass

Sweet Radish plays down to earth, good, ol' timey, foot-stompin Folk Grass! This diverse group of musicians makes for a unique performance that is sure to entertain everyone. Singer-songwriters Abe Rosenberg & Morgan Valesquez lead this group with their compelling and sometimes humorous lyrics, robust vocals and sweet harmonies. Abe plays guitar, mandolin, and banjo. Morgan plays washtub base, fiddle and flute. They are joined by Marcus Newell on percussion. For this special performance, they have invited nationally renowned fiddler Gordon Burt to join them! It's a performance not to miss!

Hit & Run Bluegrass —Bluegrass

Hit & Run Bluegrass formed in late 2001 with the mutual desire to play authentic-yet-modern bluegrass. Called the "most exciting bluegrass act in Colorado" (*Westword Magazine*) they have been able to harness a style of bluegrass that has both young kids and older folks lining up in the streets for their shows, each and every time they play. They are the only band to ever win first place in the Festival Band Contest at both the Telluride Bluegrass Festival and Rockygrass!

Saturday

Sandy Wells —Country

Singer Songwriter Sandy Wells is from a small town in southern Oregon. Her roots run deep in early Pop Country and Southern Rock. With music that raises a strong emotion yet keeps your foot tapping, she's got something to say. Sandy released her first album in March of 2012 with ten songs written and arranged by Sandy. She is currently playing and singing throughout Colorado and sur-

rounding areas, building a dedicated fan base of people who love her strong lyrics and powerful voice.

Chimney Choir —Good question!

Although steeped in American and World folk music, Chimney Choir is not afraid to experiment! They embrace psychedelic synthesizers and found percussion (including a Samsonite suitcase, ladder, and a typewriter). More than just your average band, they delve into performance art. The trio is a true collaboration as members change instruments, blend their voices in harmony, and share lead vocal and songwriting. Probably the hardest act to pigeon hole we've ever had . . . have fun!



Shel —Original songbirds

Four sisters who make up the folk-pop group Shel are breaking the "girl band" mold. They look different. They sound different. And they're seen in a different light. These four, young, classically trained musicians have an eclectic sound that's both sophisticated and lighthearted. From their fetching, unpredictable songs to their whimsical, hand-made top hats, they are a vocal group with outstanding instrumental capabilities and an instrumental group with a thrilling vocal attack. Four sisters, raised in an atmosphere of creative freedom and diligent study, they've honed their musical skills surgically sharp and blended their personalities and visions into a unified whole.



Shimei Kaminari Taiko —Taiko drums

Let the thunder roar! It's an honor and a joy to have Crestone Kaminari Taiko at our festival. They are our most popular school performers over the last eleven years. They always give an amazing command performance that you literally can't miss.



Atomga —Afrobeat

Returning favorite! Besides great singing, there is a pile of instruments played including a full percussion section and a very cool horn section that includes a bass trombone. This band uses authentic, Nigerian Afrobeat as its foundation, then branches out into styles including funk, jazz and world beat utilizing inspirations of each of the 11 musicians in this eclectic project. Providing all the elements of an authentic, deep grooving, booty-shaking, afro-beat dance party, Atomga will leave you exhausted from dancing, but still wanting more.



Futaba —Funk rock

Futaba is a fun party band with serious chops and consummate musicianship. They're an all-star group rooted in funk grooves, rich harmonies, sweet horn licks and jam influences; this band is a collection of exceptional musicians with all the soul and drive to get you up and groovin'!

Sunday

Logo Ligi —Ghanaian drum & dance

The name of the group comes from the Ghanaian language of Ga and translates as "to tickle or excite." Logo Ligi consists of musicians and dancers who have studied Ghanaian music for many years. The troupe is dedicated to celebrating and teaching the style and spirit of traditional Ghanaian performance art. Music is used in African communities for ritual ceremonies like weddings and births, as well as for the everyday celebration of life and social engagements. In sharing Ghanaian culture, they hope to inspire through the use of contagious rhythms, joyous songs, and exhilarating dances.

Savor

—Cuban street dance

Savor is the product of several years of hard work and homage to a long, vibrant Cuban heritage of great music and culture. The music they perform includes Cuban and Afro-Cuban sounds and rhythms based on the original Cuban "Son", which is the grandfather of the modern salsa rhythms. The music is performed in an informal acoustic and street-like manner, making it raw and infectious danceable. In addition, Savor's repertoire includes many other Latin American and Spanish songs for the eclectic and Latin-hungry taste. They invite those curious about Cuba and Cuba's music to come out and party like they do on the streets of Habana Vieja! (Old Havana)



Nokuthula —Zimbabwean marimba

A big hit from last year! Nokuthula (pronounced "No-Koo-Too-La") means "Mother of Peace" in the Ndebele language of Zimbabwe. They play contemporary and traditional music from Zimbabwe, South Africa and beyond. The band's roots are in Zimbabwean style marimba and mbira, but their music is also influenced by jazz, blues, Latin, Afro-Cuban, Haitian, and other music of the world. The band's music is joyous, energetic and upbeat with driving rhythms and mesmerizing vocals.

Red Bandana —Teen indie rock

This act is a participant in our Youth Enrichment Program. Red Bandana is a 4-piece, all original female rock band from Salida. They have been together for three and a half years and are ages thirteen & fourteen. They feature a bass, guitar, keyboards and drums, beautiful vocals & harmonies and they perform all original music. Every school we've been to has been like a Beatles concert! We hope you too enjoy this young talent.

Attention vendors: Sign up now

The 15th Annual Crestone Music Festival wants local vendors. If you have arts and crafts, food, information or something else, please apply. Applications are available online at crestfest.org, at our office, by phone at 256-4533 or at the Crestone Post Office. Vendor spaces are limited so please apply!
Deadline is: May 11!

Magic in the Artisans Gallery & Park

Anniversary celebration, Art in the Park starts

The magic started nine years ago and continues with an anniversary celebration, a new artist, Art In The Park and the 2nd annual Fairy and Dragon Festival.

Ninth anniversary gratitude celebration

The gallery has been around and creating magic for nine years now. It is such a joy for the artists to create in and be inspired by this supportive, beautiful community. Many of you may not know that it all started when Nancy and Kim Malville built the beautiful building which houses the gallery and allowed the public to use the land

to the east as the Artisans Park. Due to their foresight and generosity the artists and this community have had a home for the creative spirit in us all. We are immensely grateful. In celebration of its ninth year in this location, the gallery artists will host a show and reception on Saturday, May 25 from 2 to 4pm, which will feature new art, live music by local group CB Jazz and refreshments. All are invited to celebrate this center of creative expression and gratitude to our patrons Nancy and Kim Malville.

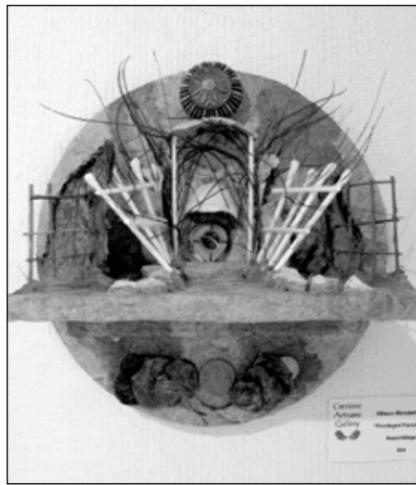
New artist, Allison Wonderland

The gallery welcomes new installation artist Allison Wonderland with her beautifully imaginative, earthy handmade works of art. Allison creates pure magic with her sculptures, wall hangings and ornaments. Many start with Allison's custom, handmade paper, which she makes from a huge variety of natural materials. The paper is magical in and of itself, but Allison doesn't stop there; she sculpts beautiful and enchanting scenes from the paper and some found objects. Her pieces are wonderful journeys of imagination on which Allison graciously guides us. Come to the gallery and take a journey with Allison.

Art In The Park season kickoff

Saturday, May 11 kicks off the 2013 season of Art In The Park hosted by the gallery and open to all local artists. It will be a day of creative convergence with the artists displaying and demonstrating their art in Little Pearl and Artisans Parks, the 2nd Annual Fairy and Dragon Festival happening throughout the parks, and the Crestone Community Market kicking off its 2013 season on Silver Street. This will be a day to converge with our community.

"Art is an expression of the magic we are." —Unknown



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9th Anniversary Show & Reception

Sat., May 25th, 2-4pm

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Last year's Fairy Fest & Parade was so much fun!

Dragon & Fairie Fest & Parade May 11

The 2nd annual Dragon and Fairie Fest and Parade in downtown Crestone will take place on Saturday May 11 from noon-5 pm. This year's theme is "Growing Magic", in conjunction with the Saturday Market on Silver Ave and "Art in the Park" at Artisans Park. The free festivities from noon-4pm include: fair tents with dress up, face paint, art station, community booths at Little Pearl Park; and a "Fairie Village" with a story/singalong circle and makings for fairie houses at the town green.

The parade will begin at 4pm on Silver Ave. With storytelling and live music, we'll wake up the Big Dragon and the new Dragon Babies (giant puppets that all are encouraged to help animate). A lively blessing for all local babies, new

parents and midwives will kick off the parade. All are welcome to join in the parade! Everyone is invited to put on bright colors, wings and tails; bring out shakers and streamers; decorate strollers and bikes, and express our growing magic together! The parade will conclude with a musical celebration and potluck feast outside the Community Building on Cottonwood Ave. Please bring food to share.

Tables outside the community building will be ready for contributions by noon. The Secret Garden will have a fire and DJ dance music beginning at 7pm. To volunteer or for more info please contact Allison at littlestustyworksgirl@yahoo.com or 508-237-8915.

Crestone Saturday Market opens May 11

The Crestone Saturday Market will kickoff its 2013 season on Saturday, May 11, from 9:30am to 4pm on Silver Avenue between Cottonwood and Alder joining in with the Dragon and Fairie Fest and Artisan's Gallery events.

All local community members are welcome to set up a booth, and are encouraged to have an emphasis on offering locally produced goods and services. "Yard Sale" booths are also encouraged because re-used is kinder than new; consider the market a place to have

your pre-Free Box sale. Service and community booths are also encouraged to facilitate your group's and your services to connect with community members.

Contact the Bliss Cafe for booth information, 719-256-6400. The market is coordinated by Scot Swordy, with Patrick Moore's assistance.

Absolutely *no unleashed dogs* at the market or in Little Pearl and Artisans Park during market. We love your dogs so please help them have an enjoyable time when you bring them out. The Leash is Peace.

Community attendance at market encourages vendors to set up booths, which encourages community attendance, which encourages . . . see the point? This is not just about commerce, it's about community. Come and enjoy!

Geek: (n) A carnival performer who publicly bites off the head of a live animal, as a chicken, as a sensational spectacle.

~Webster Illustrated Contemporary Dictionary

SATURDAY MARKET DAY

Crestone Saturday Farmers Market

Every Saturday @ 10:00am in downtown Crestone

Featuring:

plant starts, jewelry, baked goods, farm eggs, energetic healers, sock monkeys, fresh milk, delicious hot food and local live music!

Enjoy Crestone's Local Charm...COME HUNGRY - 256-6400

Crestone Baca Watershed Council presents 2nd Annual Water Fest May 4

by Lori Nagel and Glider

The 2nd Annual Crestone Water Fest is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, from 10am to 3pm at the Elephant Cloud Studio and Crestone Town Park. Come soak in an educational program on local riparian and streamway restoration, experience a community watersnake dance, and cheer the kids on at the miniature boat race.

This is a great opportunity for local residents to inform themselves about how we can all work together to maintain healthy streamway forests. Riparian areas act like a sponge to slow water and they store groundwater that is then released gradually, which also provides our water supply and cooler temperatures.

There is a crucial need for community involvement, both politically and in the field. Both the Crestone Master Plan and the Baca Grande Property Owners' Association (POA) covenants provide the basis for ecological preservation. The task ahead for our community is the actual framework for maintaining and accomplishing these goals. The Crestone Baca Watershed Council can provide a focus for the collaboration of individuals from the following entities: Town of Crestone, POA Board of Directors, or representative; Baca Grande Water and Sanitation; Spiritual

Alliance; Crestone/Baca Sub-Area Planning; conservation groups; Saguache County officials; Crestone Creative Council; Restoration Nursery; residents-at-large; etc.

This watershed council will become a force for positive change in our community.

Activities for this year's Water Fest include:

- Field trip along the creek
- Brown bag lunch in the park
- Watersnake and other dances
- Miniature boat race for the kids
- Important presentations and graphs in the Elephant Cloud Studio
- A forum on local water issues
- Riparian restoration team field days
- Music in the park
- Beautiful artwork from local artists

Come on out and enjoy the festivities! See the schedule below. If you are unable to attend, and would still like to be a part of this necessary and growing effort, please contact Cindy Santi at cindyissanti@gmail.com or 208-290-3916. The next team work day will be at 10am on Tuesday, May 7, at Baca Grant Way and South Crestone Creek.

Crestone 2nd Annual



WATER FEST

CELEBRATION!

Saturday, May 4th

Locations

Elephant Cloud Studio
10-11:30 - Opening and Teach In

Crestone Old Town Park
11:30 - Creek Walk
12:00 - Lunch
12:45 - Song by Charity and Rain Dance
1:00 - Kids Boat Race
1:30 - Community Water Snake Dance by Wonder Bob
2:30 - Music with Tedd Brumm, Boone and Ratha, and others

Graphic Design by Lori Nagel - www.sunflowerstudios.us.com

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The Kolor Run is a living, moving work of art. Now coming to Crestone!

Crestone Kolor Run fun happens May 25

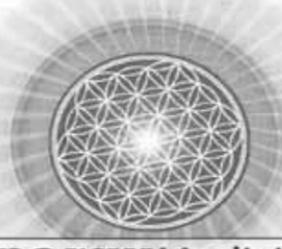
The Crestone Kolor Run is a feel-good, happy, colorful, 5K, run/walk event. It is a living, moving work of art. Kolor Runners of all shapes and sizes happily go from wearing pristine white to being covered in brilliant colors. At each kilometer, a color station will send clouds of colorful, non-toxic, powdered paint, fillings the air, covering the participants as they run

through, creating an ever-increasing spectrum of color and beauty. At the finish line, the kolor festival kicks off and the air is filled with millions of vivid color combinations. At this time, the runners will also participate with handfuls of paint thrown into the air. This Kolor Run will be magic.

The Crestone Kolor Run takes place Saturday, May 25. Registration begins at 9am in the Crestone Town Park. The race begins at 10am. Fees are \$10 for adults and \$5 for 18 and under. Remember to wear your white shirt, plus sun glasses and bandana for your face are recommended. A change of clothes for the drive home would be a good idea, too.

For everyone who is excited to watch and participate in the actual art, baggies of paint will be for sale at each color stations. \$1 per bag.

This will mark the first year for The Crestone Kolor Run. It is a fundraiser event for our local youth. This year's proceeds will sponsor Forrest McNulty in a 2-week trip down the Green River. Volunteers are needed and donations welcome. Call Ruby at 719-256-5461.



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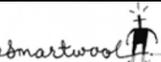
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ValleyRadioFM.Com is a San Luis Valley-based online radio station designed for residents of the San Luis Valley and anyone around the world in an SLV state of mind. ValleyRadioFM.Com is live, interactive radio that offers the ease of listening uninterrupted while driving via blue tooth and smart phones. ValleyRadioFM.com doesn't rely on sketchy broadcast signals that fade in and out. Stay up to date on local news, community events, public service announcements, road information, local civic meetings and issues important to local residents.

ValleyRadioFM.Com is operated by internet-savvy radio professionals who understand the importance of servicing the local business and local service club community. Your issues are our issues and we'll help get the word out for southern Colorado and northern New Mexico while playing a great variety of modern

country and modern Latin music. ValleyRadioFM.Com is community-minded, employing local residents, while reaching the world audience available through the internet.

ValleyRadioFM.Com Business Manager Ron Dempsey says "We are bringing on veteran Salida News Director Jim Wagoner to help cover local news, weather, and road conditions in the San Luis Valley and Upper Arkansas Valley."

Enjoy live, local broadcasts of music festivals and events, special local, live remote broadcasts for local businesses, festivals, and special events like an upcoming fundraiser at the Ute Theatre in Saguache this May. "We even have the ability to do live videocasts of weddings for family members who can't make it for that special day," says owner-operator Deano Maes. "This is especially helpful for family members serving overseas."

www.valleyradiofm.com: make it your homepage today!

SLV Symphony spring concert at Adams State May 4

The San Luis Valley Symphony will present its Spring Classics Concert at 7pm Saturday, May 4, in Richardson Hall Auditorium on the Adams State University campus.

Under the direction of Dr. William Lipke, the program will feature popular selections including Ludwig van Beethoven's dramatic Egmont Overture, Maurice

Ravel's colorful "Fairy Garden" and "Conversations of Beauty and the Beast," featuring Chelsea Oden on clarinet and Rose Stroback on contrabassoon.

Concerto competition winners Kate Newmyer and Mikaela Morgan will be featured in Benedetto Marcello's beautiful Oboe Concerto and Beethoven's profound Romance No. 2. The program will conclude with lighter audience favorites by Johannes Brahms, three of the most popular Hungarian Dances.

The SLV Symphony is composed of former and current professional orchestra members, Adams State faculty members and students, and community members.

Tickets will be available in the Music Department Office and at the door. For more information call the music office at 719-587-7621 or email rrice@adams.edu. Admission is \$5 adults, \$1 children, and free to AS&F and Friends of Music.

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The Hewlett Fire hits the Cache La Poudre River, 2012. All houses in the area were saved. photo by Daniel Johnson

FireWise Program news: Assessments & mitigation help still available

Although there is no new money coming into the Saguache County FireWise Program, the county commissioners voted unanimously to roll over money left from last year to be used this year. On a limited basis, career wildland firefighter Daniel S. Johnson will continue to offer free assessments of private homes to identify wildfire hazards.

Anyone interested in having an assessment on their property is urged to watch a YouTube video made by Johnson to share strategies and terminology. To access this video online, go to Saguachecounty.net and click the link.

If a home needs thinning, Johnson will work with the homeowner to increase the survivability of all structures. Using his own equipment, Johnson will remove the slash created from the thinning to the Baca Grande mitigation pit. Anyone unable to work on their own homes due to illness, injury, age or other hardship can have the work done for them at no cost.

The first educational effort for this year will be a training day for realtors and insurance agents to teach them what firefighters look at when doing mitigation. This should aid in getting these professionals on the same page as far as knowing when a house has been properly mitigated against fire hazards. This training, cosponsored by the Colorado State Forest Service, will take place from 10-noon on May 3, at the conference room behind the Hungry Farmer Restaurant in Alamosa. Anyone in these fields who wishes to attend can call Maggie at Dell's Insurance at 719-589-3606 ext. 115.

Later in the season, Johnson will create a video titled *Evacuation From Wildfire*. He can be reached for assessment information at 719-480-9764.

CodeRed Emergency Notification System test

The CodeRed Emergency Notification System will be tested in the San Luis Valley in May. San Luis Valley E911 and the Alamosa Regional Communication Center are working together to test the new CodeRed System. Residents who own landlines in the San Luis Valley may expect test calls beginning at 9:00 am on May 2nd.

The CodeRed Emergency Notification System is designed to quickly provide important information to local residents regarding critical incidents. Because the CodeRed Emergency system is designed to call landlines within the community, those residents and businesses currently without a landline telephone must register their contact information to be on the emergency notification list. The CodeRed registration web site SLVE911.org is available to register your contact information and preferences. Please note that residents who have previously registered their phone numbers must re-register under the new CodeRed Emergency Notification System to update their contact information.

Free Wildfire Mitigation Renewed for 2013



- For homes in wildfire-sensitive areas of Saguache County
- Hazard assessments
- Mitigation plans
- Hands-on work with homeowners

Call Daniel S. Johnson 719 480-9764 from Firewise and Saguache County

HAPS

Clay Art Center Mother's Day Sale! 10% off everything May 10 & 11

Bowl your mom over with great gifts at the Clay Art Center in Downtown Crestone. They will be holding a Mother's Day sale on Friday May 10 and Saturday May 11 from 10 to 5 pm. Mugs, bowls, tea sets, art pieces, pottery jars, sponge monsters and more! Great locally made art with local prices.

Stop in and see our new work. If you ever want to get your hands in clay, talk to Lynn about classes. Return your hands to the earth, feed your soul, and make cool stuff!

This Mother's Day, remember your Mom with pottery! (— sponge monsters?)

Creekside Kitchen

Bishop's Bread for Mother's Day

by Daleth McCoy

I love Mother's Day. It's some sort of signaling of spring and the soon-to-follow summer. It's Sunday, and even though not everyone receives the attention they might like or deserve—the truth is that there are a lot of mothers out there getting flowers, cards, and a little extra showing of love and appreciation. This totally works for me!

Bishop's Bread is one of my husband's family recipes that dates back to the 1800s (although I'm +sure it's had some "perfecting" since then!) It's easy, delicious, and a recipe that the kids can easily help make. It's perfect with fruit or yogurt and simple to serve; plus it's kinda sweet—like mom!

Bishop's Bread

Make sour milk and set aside:

- 1 cup milk
 - 2 tablespoons vinegar
- Sift these together:
- 3 cups flour
 - 1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon
 - 2 teaspoons baking powder
 - ½ teaspoon baking soda
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - 9 tablespoons shortening or cooking oil
 - 1 cup sour milk (previously made)
 - 1 cup brown sugar
 - 2 eggs

Spread mixture in 9x13 pan

Topping

Mix these and sprinkle on top before baking:

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons melted butter or coconut oil
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons flour

Cook uncovered at 350° until a toothpick comes out clean, approximately 30-40 minutes. After cooking, sometimes I cover loosely with foil and let it sit until cool. This allows some moisture to be reabsorbed. However, it's also delicious right out of the oven.

I love my many mothers; thank you Anne-Marie, Marilyn, Kizzen and Janet.



Everyone's gearin' up for the Easter Egg Hunt in Town Park on Easter morning.

photo by Lori Nagel

Elemental Deva Council meeting

Elemental Deva Council meeting at the Sacred Space on Saturday May 25 from 3-5pm.

Bring a healthy snack to share and your own drink, plate and utensils. All are welcome. There is no cost. 480-0010 for more information.

Special spring workshops at Shakti Sharanam

In addition to regularly scheduled classes, Annie will be offering Restorative Yoga 3-5pm on Sunday May 19 and Sunday June 30.

There will be a Yogic Cooking workshop on Saturday June 1, 3-8pm. No experience is required, but please do pre-register. All sliding scale. For details, see www.shaktisharanam.com or call 719-256-5668.

Crestone mothers' group

A group for women with young children is forming, to meet on Thursdays 5-6pm, starting May 2, at the new YES building (the old CCS elementary building).

There will be a children's group available in an adjoining room.

This will be an ongoing group providing support, parenting and relationship skills. Call Therese at 588-3640 for more info.

Award winners

Congratulations to Bill Burch and Tina Miani of Recycle-Creede, who collect recyclables in front of the Secret Garden in Crestone every third Saturday. They have been named Colorado Association for Recycling's "Volunteers of the Year". The presentation of their award will be on May 20. Good work!

Kai Beetch Design

- ~ Blinds
- ~ Shades
- ~ Drapes
- ~ Repairs

Crestone 256-4498



"I know there's gotta be an egg around here somewhere..." —with Naiya & Serena
photo by Lori Nagel

Mimosa your Mom

Treat Mom right. The Yak N Cracker Cafe is offering a special Mother's Day Brunch and a free mimosa for moms on Sunday, May 12. Reservations not needed. Enjoy the view and the food!

NHN Annual Yard Sale coming Saturday, May 25

Mark your calendars! It's spring in Crestone and time for cleaning out those things you no longer want and taking them to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Annual Yard Sale. You might even find a treasure to take home with you when you come.

You can find the sale on the patio at Curt's Old Country Store from 8am to 3pm.

All donations will be happily accepted there by your friendly NHN board members and volunteers.

Don't miss this opportunity to make your discards someone else's treasure and benefit the community through your donations and purchases.



Heather D'Alessio swings in the Easter sunshine with her baby, Toby.

photo by Lori Nagel

Accounting seminar for small business owners

There will be an accounting seminar for small business owners Thursday evenings, May 9, 16, 23 & 30, 6-7:30pm, at Elephant Cloud Studio, 393 West Golden, Crestone.

- Learn how basic accounting is applied in your business
- Learn how to translate your daily operations into financial statements
- Each week builds on the week before, you must be able to attend all 4 sessions

The cost is \$60 per person; Pre-register to Donna Wehe at 719-589-3682 or donna@slv-sbdc.com by May 7.

The San Luis Valley SBDC is partially funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The support given by the U.S. Small Business Administration through such funding does not constitute and express or implied endorsement of any of the cosponsors' or participants' opinions, products or services. Taught by David Walker, accountant and former California CPA.

Welcome Manami!

Rahula
COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Vicki Matthews 719/256-5020

Happy Mother's Day to the most loving and amazing mother who gave us the gift of life.

Your sons,
Brendan & Noah

Look in the TV room closet!

Community Events—May 2013

visit us online at www.crestoneeagle.com // NOW UPDATED DAILY ONLINE!!!

Monthly Events

There is a \$5 charge per calendar listing for for-profit classes/events, with a discount for display advertisers. For more information contact us at 719-256-4956. To list your event, (print or online) please submit via our website: <http://crestoneeagle.com/calendar> (preferred)

~or~ e-mail to: calendar@crestoneeagle.com ~or~ submit in writing to PO Box 101, Crestone CO 81131 by the 22nd of the month. To list calendar items online (between print issues), please fill out the form at www.crestoneeagle.com/calendar.

Friday, May 3

- CCS Arts Gala – Crestone Charter School 12:00 am
- Deadline for Crestone Music Festival T-shirt design – Crestone Performances Inc. All Day free crestfest.org 719-256-4533
- Deadline to apply for scholarship from CPI & Aventa – Crestone Performances Inc. All Day free crestfest.org 719-256-4533
- Youth Scholarship Application Deadline – Crestone Performances Inc. All Day crestfest.org 719-256-4533
- Fire Mitigation Training for Realtors & Insurance Agents – Hungry Farmer conference room 10:00 am-12:00 pm free 719-589-3606 x 115

Saturday, May 4

- Second Annual WaterFest – Elephant Cloud Studio 10:00 am
- Sangres Art Guild 2014 Calendar Winners Reception – 3rd St Gallery 4:00 pm-6:00 pm www.sangresartguild.org 719-783-0886
- Plan BE, Yak N Cracker Cafe 6-8:30pm FREE www.chokureiranch.com 719 256 4700

Monday, May 6

- Zumba Toning – Birch St. Studio 9:15-10:15am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040

Tuesday, May 7

- Deadline to register for Accounting Seminar for Small Business Owners – Elephant Cloud (Jillian's) Studio All Day \$60 719-589-3682
- Tri-County senior (60+) van round trip to Salida—Reservations required – All Day \$10 719-256-4320
- Team Work Day – Baca Grant Way & S. Crestone Crk. 10:00 am 208-290-3916
- Discussion about growth & sale of marijuana in Saguache County – Saguache County Building 11:00 am

Thursday, May 9

- New-moon Fire Ceremony Followed by a meal – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 am-11:00 am www.babajashram.org 719 256-4108
- BGPOA Board of Directors Working Session – Baca Grande POA office 5:00 pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Friday, May 10

- Deadline for Crestone Music Festival local performers' applications – Baca Professional Building All Day crestfest.org 719-256-4533
- Soul Retrieval in Yungdrung Bön Tradition, CC Conference Ctr. 2-6pm by donation 719-588-1888

Saturday, May 11

- Deadline for Crestone Music Festival vendors' applications, crestfest.org 719-256-4533
- Bön Medicine Buddha Teachings, CC Conference Ctr. 9am-6pm \$135. 719-588-1888
- First Day of Crestone Saturday Market – Downtown Crestone 9:30 am-4:00 pm 719-256-6400
- Inspired Wellness & Abundance, Elephant Cloud (Jillian's) Studio 10-11:30 am 719-937-7801
- Dragon and Fairie Fest and Parade – Downtown Crestone noon-5:00 pm 508-237-8915
- Native Music Jam, Yak N Cracker Cafe 6-8:30pm FREE www.chokureiranch.com 719 256 4700

Sunday, May 12

- Mother's Day – All Day

Tuesday, May 14

- Rising Appalachia at Secret Garden – The Secret Garden 8:00 pm \$7

Wednesday, May 15

- Crestone Fruit Tree Project order deadline – 5:00 pm Cost depends on order 719-256-4956

Thursday, May 16

- Chilean Night - LINK Fundraiser – Crestone Charter School 6:00 pm-9:00 pm \$10 719.256.4907

Friday, May 17

- Presentation on Hemp Cultivation – Moffat School Cafeteria 5:30 pm

Saturday, May 18

- Monthly recycling pickup – Crestone Secret Garden parking lot 10:00 am-2:00 pm
- Shumei 11th Anniversary Celebration, 4:00 pm free shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284
- Eric Karlstrom Banjo Playin n Singin, Yak N Cracker Cafe 6-8:30pm FREE www.chokureiranch.com 719 256 4700

Sunday, May 19

- Shumei 11th Anniversary Celebration 10:00 am shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284
- Restorative Yoga, Special Workshop, Shakti Sharanam 3-5pm sliding \$20-40 www.shaktisharanam.com 719 256 5668

Tuesday, May 21

- Tri-County senior (60+) round trip van to Alamosa-Reservation required – All Day \$10 256-4320

Thursday, May 23

- Baca Grande Board of Directors Business Meeting 7pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Friday, May 24

- Full-moon Fire Ceremony followed by a Meal – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 am-11:00 am www.babajashram.org 719-256-4108

Saturday, May 25

- Crestone Kolor Run – Crestone Town Park 9:00 am \$10 adults, \$5 18 & under 719-256-5461
- Moffat School graduation ceremony – Moffat School gym 1:00 pm
- 9th Anniversary Show and Reception – Crestone Artisans Gallery 2:00 pm-4:00 pm 719-256-5280
- Elemental Deva Council Meeting – Sacred Space 3:00 pm-5:00 pm 719 256-5439
- Kindred Folk Music, Yak N Cracker Cafe 6-8:30pm FREE www.chokureiranch.com 719 256 4700

Sunday, May 26

- Saguache County Museum's 55th Annual Opening – Saguache County Museum 719-256-4272

Monday, May 27

- Memorial Day – All Day

Saturday, June 1

- Yogic Cooking Workshop, Shakti Sharanam 3-8pm sliding \$40-60 www.shaktisharanam.com 256-5668

Tuesday, June 11

- Crestone End of Life Project Open Meeting, 33 Sunset Overlook 7-9pm crestoneendoflifeproject.org 256.4247

Saturday, June 15

- Horse Shoeing and Handling Clinic, 10:00 am-2:00 pm www.earthknack.com 256 4909

Sunday, June 16

- Beginner Black Smithing with Dean Smith – 10am-4pm www.earthknack.com 256 4909

Sunday, June 30

- Restorative Yoga, Special Workshop, Shakti Sharanam 3-5pm sliding \$20-40 www.shaktisharanam.com 719 256 5668

Daily/Weekly Events

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

Daily

- Morning Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 7-8am, 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.org
- Sampai & Jyorei, Shumei Sanctuary, please be seated by 7:50am and 5:50pm, 256-5284
- Tours, gallery and Jyorei, Shumei, 9am-5pm, 256-5284
- Evening Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 6pm, 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.org

Sunday

- Mass at Nada Carmelite Hermitage 9:00 am 719-256-4778
- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm 719 937 7769
- Studies in the Kena Upanishad Sri Aurobindo Learning Center 10:30 am-10:30 pm sriurobindo.org 256-6100

Monday

- Zumba Toning Birch street studio 9:15 am-10:15 am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040

Tuesday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting, marijuana users welcome Baca Library back door 7:30 pm-8:30 pm crestonena@gmail.com 970-309-0710
- Senior (over age 60) Day at CYP Thrift Store CYP Thrift Store 11:00 am-6:00 pm
- CCC Artists Days Bliss Cafe 4:00 pm-5:00 pm Free 7194805925
- BGFDF Trainings Baca Fire House 5:30 pm-7:30 pm Free 7194805925
- Crestone Kaminari Taiko beginner rehearsal Food Service, Shumei 6:30 pm 256-5990, 256-5285

Wednesday

- CoDependents Anonymous Meeting Crestone Town Hall 7-8pm www.coda.org 7203522078
- Feldenkrais ATM (Awareness Through Movement) lessons (from prerecorded lessons). 5:30 pm-6:30 pm 7192564480

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

- Zumba Fitness Birch street studio 9:15 am-10:15 am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040
- Communion across Spiritual Boundaries Dharma Ocean 6:00 pm-7:30 pm free

Thursday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5pm-6:45pm donation 719-256-5668
- Rumi Study Circle. All welcome. 3:45 pm-6:00 pm nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290

Friday

- Zumba Sentao Birch street studio 9:15 am-10:15 am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040

Saturday

- Crestone Saturday Open-air Market, starting May 11, 9:30am-4pm, 256-6400

Bears are emerging from their dens; be Bear Aware this summer

Black bears have emerged from their winter dens and it's time for Colorado residents to take precautions to help keep bears wild.

Because of continuing drought conditions, Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials are cautioning residents that bear activity in towns and residential areas may be high again this year. Human-bear conflicts are a fact of life in Colorado, but with some simple actions residents of bear country can help to significantly reduce those conflicts.

The biggest issue in conflict situations is the availability of human sources of food—garbage, pet food, livestock food, compost piles, bird feeders, chicken pens, etc. Bears have a phenomenal sense of smell and can pick up odors of food sources from miles away.

"Bears receive a big calorie reward if they get into something like pet food, or bird seed or leftover pizza," explained Patt Dorsey, southwest regional manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. "Once they get a taste they quickly become habituated to human food and conflicts start. When that happens, things usually don't go well for the bear."

Once black bears have discovered a food source they may defend it and can become dangerous. Those types of situations can be dangerous and it is undesirable to have wild, unpredictable animals in close proximity to people.

"Some bears can be relocated.

But bears deemed dangerous must be destroyed. We put down problem bears because we have to, not because we want to," Dorsey said.

From the Front Range to the mountains to the Western Slope, Colorado offers bears good natural habitat. Bears will go to the areas with the best food availability, and it's best that they find their food in the wild. If food sources in town are limited, bears will likely spend more time in wild lands.

Colorado residents play a major role in keeping bears wild, explained Renzo DelPiccolo, area wildlife manager in Montrose.

"The public can help us by being conscientious and not leaving any types of food available to bears," DelPiccolo said. "Without the public's diligence in reducing human sources of food, we have limited success in avoiding and reducing conflicts."

For more information, go to the Living with Wildlife section on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website: wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/LivingWithWildlife/Pages/Living-With.aspx.

If you know of someone in your neighborhood or town who is intentionally feeding wildlife, please call the nearest Colorado Parks and Wildlife office to make a report.

If you would like a wildlife officer to come to your neighborhood or homeowners' association to talk about bears or other wildlife issues, contact your local Parks and Wildlife office in Monte Vista at 1-719-587-6900.



Above: Topic Tables were set up at the Crestone Baca Village potluck on 4/14, to inspire lots of productive conversation amongst the members.

Left: Barbara Hoepfner and Kelly Hart at the Crestone Baca Village potluck on 4/14. These two have been the major players in this CB Village operation, which is a local time bank where members can help others to gain credit for future help for themselves when they need it

—hour for hour, and many skills represented! Go to www.cbvillage.net or call 480-8757 to join for free.





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(Available for private parties after 5pm)

Featuring Gourmet:
Pizzas * Lunch Burritos
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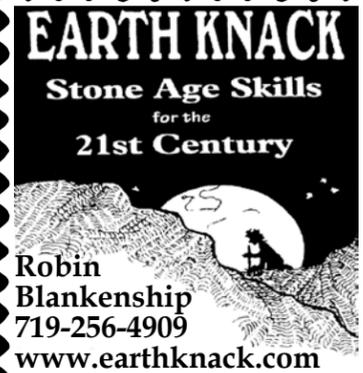
\$2.99 + .25 per topping

Coming Soon!
Pizza Delivery Service
(within Crestone/Baca)
Pizza
Hot & BBQ Wings
Caesar Salad
Harvest Salad
Breadsticks
Beverages

Watch for the
Crestone Coffee Company
located at Shambala
Fresh roasted
organic coffee
Different coffee daily!

Check the Farm Table and Shambala Facebook pages for live music!





Earth Knack
Stone Age Skills
for the
21st Century

Robin Blankenship
719-256-4909
www.earthknack.com
PO 508 Crestone, CO 81131

June 20-23

23rd Annual Earth Knack Family Gathering

Thursday thru Sunday \$265
(kids: 8-15yrs \$175 / 4-7yrs \$95 / 3 and under free)

Spend time in the outdoors learning fun and useful skills! Earth Knack staff and guest instructors will offer top quality instruction in a variety of outdoor living skills, pioneer and homesteading skills, ancestral weaponry including bow and arrow and atlatl, astronomy and navigation, over the fire cooking, plant and animal fiber felting and weaving, and medicinal and edible plants. Dinners around the fire are provided which include wild gathered and home grown ingredients. Woodsy campsites along Cottonwood Creek round out this great learning experience. Participants have use of an outdoor solar shower house and a well equipped outdoor kitchen to prepare their own breakfast and lunch. Dinners, all class instruction and camping fees included. Daily rates available.
To register: www.earthknack.com or 719 256 4909

Also in June!

June 15th Horse Shoeing and Handling Clinic with Rick Williams
Saturday 10-2pm at the
Crestone Curve Cooperative Garden Corral \$15
Guest appearance by our own local wild cowboy Michael Dyas.
Bring your lunch to the garden. Watermelon and lemonade served.

June 16th Beginner Blacksmithing with nationally known instructor "Papa" Dean Smith. Sunday 10-4 A great Father's Day gift! Maximum 5 students: \$135 (includes camping and dinner)

Shumei International Institute—The next ten years

by Matthew Crowley

The Shumei International Institute will celebrate its 11th anniversary on May 18 and 19 this year. There was a lot of attention worldwide around the year “2012” with the end of the Mayan calendar and predictions ranging from the end times to the beginning of a new era. Yet here we find ourselves back in the spring winds of 2013 in our high alpine desert home. Shumei celebrated its first decade in Crestone with our 2012 anniversary last year. During that process all of us here recognized that this was as much a beginning of the next ten years as a marking of the end of the first.

In many Asian cultures anniversaries can be the premier cel-

ebrations throughout the year as is the case for Shumei. At this time of year, generally the 3rd weekend in May, we celebrate the Grand Opening of the Crestone Center in 2002. For us this is as much a celebration of the entire community of Crestone as it is for our presence in it. To that end we invite all of you, as well as Shumei friends and members from the U.S. and abroad. Crestone is the third of three sacred sites, the only one outside of Japan and represents the element of Earth for Shumei.

For 10 years Ms. Hiroko Koyama travelled to Crestone and led our Grand Opening and anniversary sampai. In another sign of the dawning of this new era, Ms. Koyama's son, Sensei Tamao Koyama

will be coming to lead our anniversary sampai this year. The central event for us at Shumei each year is the anniversary sampai on Sunday morning during which Sensei Tamao Koyama will lead us in chanting, share jyorei and deliver a keynote address.

The 11th anniversary program begins Saturday afternoon, May 18 at 4pm with the always-popular Taiko concert. The concert will take place, rain or shine, wind or calm, either in the outdoor amphitheater or under the big white tent in the upper parking area. Following the taiko concert the traditional special sampai for world peace that has been held each year will take place in the sanctuary, led by sensei Tamao Koyama.

The Sunday, May 19, program has also changed with the anniversary sampai beginning one hour earlier at precisely 10am. We expect the sanctuary will be completely full, with additional overflow seating set up in a tent outside, so we urge guests to arrive at least a half hour early. Following the sampai and keynote address, there will be a special art exhibition with light snacks and refreshments served. In another significant change, instead of the luncheon that has been traditionally served, we have planned a gala dinner party instead.

The dinner party will take place at Dharma Ocean's beautiful shrine room starting at 5pm. Our friends at the Desert Sage restaurant will be catering a beautiful buffet including wild caught salm-



Chrysanthemum and ancient vase from the Miho Museum collection displayed in a traditional Japanese Tokonoma.

photo by Shumei Staff Photographer



Guests prepare for the anniversary Sampai in Shumei's Crestone sanctuary.

photo by Shumei Staff Photographer

on, stuffed organic chicken breast, soup, pasta, salad and more. We always strive to showcase as many Natural Agriculture ingredients and virtually all others are organic. There will be a live band, which after a quieter dinner set will kick it up a notch as we swing dance the sundown! The Gypsy swing band from Denver is headed up by Katie Glassman and includes members of the popular CMF band Impromptu. Wonder Bob and his dance partner have graciously agreed to be in attendance and offer “impromptu” swing dance pointers for those (myself included) who may not be

Shumei International Institute Anniversary Celebration

We invite you to join us as we begin our ‘next ten years’!

Saturday May 18th 2013

4:00pm

Come experience the power of Taiko at the Shumei Amphitheater

Guided Garden Tour

6:00pm

Sampai prayer for world peace at Shumei Sanctuary

Sunday May 19th 2013

9:30 am

10am Anniversary Sampai at the Shumei Center

11:30am

Art Exhibition in the Shumei Gallery

Garden Tour

5:00pm

An elegant night of delicious food from our friends at the Desert Sage live music and dancing with “Snapshot” a new gypsy swing band from the members of Impromptu in the Dharma Ocean-shrine room

Tickets for Dinner are \$30, cash bar, advanced tickets required by May 10th, please call 256-5284

Note: There is no public luncheon on Sunday this year. All events at the Shumei Center are free, the Sunday dinner party at Dharma Ocean requires an advance ticket purchase.

Shumei International Institute, 3000 East Dream Way Road, P.O. Box 998, Crestone, CO 81131, 719-256-5284, www.shumeicrestone.org

Shumei

continued from page 18

familiar or adept at swing dancing. The dinner party requires an advance reservation no later than May 10 and is \$30 per person for a celebratory evening of dinner, music and dance.

Please note there are a number of significant changes in this year's anniversary schedule. The ad in this month's Eagle lists the complete schedule. Some people may miss the traditional interfaith day event that had taken place on Saturday before Shumei's anniversary over the past ten years.

diverse collection of religious and spiritual communities that have already begun to arise. For those of us who will miss the annual interfaith day event, I'd like to highlight a couple of examples of new gatherings that are already arising and encourage all of us to come out and support these events. One is the Wednesday night "Communion Across Spiritual Boundaries" event that Reggie Ray and Dharma Ocean have begun as well as the "Camino de Crestone: Interfaith Pilgrimage". You can find information about these and other events right here in The Crestone Eagle or



Guests enjoy the traditional Shumei Taiko concert. It will take place this year on Saturday, May 18, at 4pm. photo by Shumei Staff Photographer

sary over the past ten years. It was with mixed feelings that we choose to drop this from this year's schedule. We are deeply grateful to all of the people and centers that participated in, and supported this event for our first ten years. Although this has always been a deeply rewarding event for our international guests to get a taste of the diversity of Crestone, it has become clear over the past couple of years that attendance from the local community had been declining.

We felt that the time was right to let this go, and instead support different forms of gatherings involving our incredibly rich and

by simply "Googling" them.

All of the events on Saturday and Sunday are free and require no RSVP to attend. Only the Sunday night dinner party requires an advance RSVP and ticket purchase. Contact Monika Standing or Hiromi Suzuki at 719-256-5284 to reserve a seat for the dinner party. Shumei is grateful and honored to be a part of this extraordinary and beautiful community and we thank you for all of the ways we have been welcomed over our 11 years here. We hope many of you will come out and join us for one or all of our upcoming anniversary events.

Everything you ever wanted to know about hemp but were afraid to ask 'Hemp'luck & presentation May 17

by Caren Kershner

Along with the passage of Amendment 64, which regulates recreational marijuana, came an unexpected bonus for the state of Colorado. Farmers in our state now have the option of growing industrial hemp. But just what does that mean—isn't hemp a close relative of marijuana (both plants of the genus *cannabis sativa* L)? Yes, but with some significant differences. This month local residents will have a chance to learn more about this useful cousin of marijuana from some of the movers and shakers in the hemp industry.

Hemp Cleans is an organization that was formed for the purpose of initiating legislation to allow for the study of hemp cultivation as a means of remediating toxic soils. They have cooperated closely with Senator Gail Schwartz in crafting industrial hemp regulations pursuant to Amendment 64. They have traveled throughout the state speaking with farmers and other interested parties about the opportunities hemp provides for agriculture, industry and the environment. Now they are coming to speak with our community.

Jason Lauve, Lynda Parker, and Erik Hunter will be visiting the north end of the San Luis Valley on the evening of Friday, May 17 in the Moffat School Cafeteria. They will offer a wealth of information based on their combined experience, addressing legalities and agricultural requirements, as well as hemp products and markets in the US.

We will welcome them beginning with a hempluck (in lieu of a "pot"luck) dinner, in order to give local participants an opportunity to meet the speakers before the scheduled presentation. Please bring a dish to share—paper plates, cups and utensils will be provided. Doors will open at 5pm with dinner to follow from 5:30-6:30pm. The presentation will start promptly at 6:30pm. A question and answer session will follow. We are asking for a \$5 donation to cover the travel costs of the presenters (who are volunteering their time) and the rental cost of the facilities. If you can donate more, it would be appreciated, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. All are welcome, especially those who wish to learn more about this remarkable plant or wish to become involved in growing hemp locally (detailed information will be available).

A second presentation will be scheduled the morning of Saturday, May 18 in the south end of the valley. The venue for this presentation had not been confirmed at the time this article was published.

SMART BORROWING

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Who We Are

Tilly Reed: Working for humanity, coming home

by Gussie Fauntleroy

Here's some hard math: Journalists in the small West African country of Liberia earn about \$60 a month. A bag of rice costs \$40. Someone offers a reporter \$10 to print certain "facts" in a story, or to not print the story at all. This is the kind of impossible calculation Crestone resident Tilly Reed and her staff have been trying to counterbalance for the past three years through a USAID-funded program aimed at giving people voice through strengthening Liberia's media and civil society. The equation is even more complex and difficult when such factors as 14 years of devastating civil war, the world's second-highest level of poverty and an endemic, society-wide culture of corruption are added in.

Since 2010 Tilly has been headquartered in Liberia's capitol of Monrovia on the Atlantic coast, working with the international

as the Slovak Republic, Nepal, Bulgaria, Afghanistan and Liberia. Her development efforts over the years have been mainly through IREX, Counterpart International and the Peace Corps. But even earlier, when she worked in the corporate world in the United States, the indomitable, friendly woman who grew up untamed and rootless in Spanish-speaking countries has always extended an empathetic hand to people faced with less equality and greater challenges in life.

An un-American childhood

The daughter of an American mining engineer, Tilly moved often with her brother and parents among mining camps in Mexico, Guatemala and Peru. She grew up bilingual, independent and mainly homeschooled. When she was 12 her parents sent her to El Paso, Texas to an all-girls finishing school. The experience was a serious shock to a tomboy who was also academi-



Tilly (right) with Liberian Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee and IREX program coordinator Dara Lipton.

find a job. After college it was time for the Peace Corps in rural Slovakia and then on to Nepal for three years, first on a personal trek and retreat—by then she was a student of Tibetan Buddhism—and later in a part-time job managing a recreational facility for the US Mission in Kathmandu. With plenty of time on her hands, she began visiting Tibetan monasteries and nunneries. Soon she was raising funds privately through friends back home and helping women in an isolated Tibetan village improve schools, learn basic first aid and set up cultural exchange guest stays. "It was so amazing to just help them see what they wanted and then facilitating the process of how to get it," she recalls.

Upping the challenge

With Counterpart International in formerly communist Bulgaria from 2001 to 2005, Tilly was involved in such projects as helping establish local community funds to support development priorities identified by the communities. Although the program was successful and Bulgaria was beautiful, she expressed interest in a more challenging position—and got it, in Afghanistan. Based in Kabul and charged with promoting Afghan civil society and improving the position of women, she quickly realized that giving too much attention to women was counterproductive, since it left Afghan men feeling threatened and marginalized.

Instead, Tilly and her staff focused on "gender and development," working to help men understand the benefits, for everyone, of women's participation in decision-making. She watched women on her staff exhibit tremendous courage, gain confidence and blossom.

Likewise, the attitude of Afghan male staff members toward women completely changed. After four years, however, conditions in Kabul and around the country began to deteriorate. She and her staff were no longer safe. She was tired and ready to come home for a rest.



Liberia's future—kids at Mama Tomah's School.

Liberia and back

Home, by then, was a cozy house built into the foothills outside Crestone, where Tilly had settled on the suggestion of her teacher, Tsoknyi Rinpoche, who is associated with Pundarika Foundation. Now she's back after three years in Liberia. That assignment—in a country colonized beginning in the 1820s by the deportation of thousands of freed slaves from the United States—was one of the most interesting, and most difficult, of her career. She'll miss her Liberian colleagues, she says, but will remain available to consult with them on programs into which she has poured heart and soul.

"It takes commitment," Tilly says of her life's work. "It's not a nine to five job; it's 24/7. It takes a love of humanity and wanting things to be better in the world. I feel so blessed to have had these opportunities." Then she spreads her arms, a gesture that takes in her home, her dogs, the mountains, valley and community. "I found my roots! I really feel like now I have a home."



Tilly (fifth from left, middle row) with staff and partners of the Liberia Civil Society and Media Leadership Program.

non-profit organization IREX (International Research & Exchanges Board). As chief of party for a program she developed and led, her work there has focused on mentoring, educating and equipping members of Liberia's media and civil society, with special emphasis on strengthening the participation and voices of women. Some strides have been made, although enormous challenges remain for those who will continue the program.

As for Tilly, who turns 66 in July, it's time to come home—at least for a while. April marked her retirement after decades of service to communities, women, and those working toward self-directed, self-sustaining economic and democratic improvement in such places

cally ahead of her classmates and bored. Kicked out at 14 for smoking in the men's room, she was sent to an El Paso public school, where she was even more, as she says with a smile, "ill behaved."

Yet growing up outside the United States among many nationalities gave Tilly an unusually broad perspective, especially on issues of social justice and economic opportunity. Later, as manager of a series of five-star hotels, she saw inequality close up. "It got to be eating away at me that we charged \$500 a night for a room and we paid the maid \$2 to clean it," she says. So she began hiring people with disabilities or who were socially marginalized—three-quarters of the housekeeping and kitchen staff she hired at the Gunter Hotel in San Antonio were deaf.

Helping others help themselves

After years in hotel management, Tilly went back to school at age 42. She earned a BA, summa cum laude, in Spanish and Spanish education from the University of Texas at Brownsville. While there she developed a program to help displaced homemakers earn a GED, ideally enroll in the university and

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Time to honor (the) Mother

by Cynthia Greb

A long, long time ago, I was a “good Christian girl” who never would have imagined herself in a Hindu ashram. Come to think of it, I wouldn’t even have known what an ashram was. And now, a few decades later and newly transplanted to Crestone, I find myself visiting the Haidaikhandi Ashram regularly.

What initially attracted me were the fire ceremonies, because I am a nature-oriented kind of gal and I love anything having to do with Earth, Water, Air, or Fire. But what really captured my interest was this: their temple is dedicated to the Divine Mother.

This is why I keep going back. How often in this culture do we find a place which honors the Divine Mother? There are countless churches, synagogues, and mosques in which a Father God is honored, but one has to search quite hard to find a place which honors the Mother.

We do, of course, honor our mothers on the second Sunday in May. We hustle to buy the cards or flowers that Hallmark has convinced us we need to send to prove our love. But it wasn’t always this way. Thousands of years ago, both mothers and the Mother were widely revered—and not on just one day of the year.

Spring was a logical time to honor the Great Mother. Things green and grow and blossom. Animals give birth. With such fecundity in evidence, how could our ancestors help but think of a Mother God? They saw women giving birth; wouldn’t it make sense that the Creator who birthed the world into being would be female? Certainly our Earth was female—giving us bountiful food to eat, just like any good mother. However, eventually this reverence for the Great Mother was supplanted by a God who would tolerate no others. His believers destroyed temples to the Goddess, smashed her statues, and razed her sacred groves.

There are still vestiges of Goddess worship on the planet. For instance, the Goddess is among the pantheon of deities honored in the East. Kali and the warrior goddess Durga are widely worshipped in India, as is Tara, Lakshmi and Sarasvati. Quan Yin is hugely popular in China. In the West, we have Mary, of course. (The Goddess in her many different guises was so widely worshipped at one time that the Church felt the need to make Mary the mother of God. Not quite deified perhaps, but pretty darn close.) In Mexico millions honor the Virgin of Guadalupe, and Pachamama is honored in South America. In Africa, Yemaya and Oshun, as well as others female divinities are revered. Finally Brigid is extremely beloved in Ireland (although officially “demoted” from Goddess to saint.) However, many other goddesses, or aspects of the Great Goddess, were “lost” over time. We hear about them in myths, but generally, we no longer worship or even recognize a Mother God. Generally speaking, the majority of the world recognizes only one male God.

I wonder if we would achieve more balance on the planet if we remembered the wisdom of our ancestors. What if we paid homage to the Mother, or at the very least respected her in the guise of the planet which nourishes and provides for us, in spite of our perpetual abuse?

Perhaps this Mother’s Day, as we sign that card to our mothers, we could for just a moment, stop and consider how widely revered these “bringers of life” once were. And we could remember that the Earth herself is a Mother who deserves our honor and respect. And perhaps we could even entertain the idea that divinity has both a male and female face.

For more writing by Cynthia Greb visit her Blessings Abound blog at <http://blog.beliefnet.com/blessingsabound>



Crestone Success Team members, beaming health and growing abundance! Left to right: Cindy Reinhardt, Dr. Moira M. Forsythe, Lanelle Lovelace, Bill Dobson, Baraka Burrill, David Burrill, Dorje Root, Don Root, not shown Stephen Futral (lsh).

Is our wireless world destroying the health of our children?—How concerns of a new grandmother jump-started a movement in the San Luis Valley

by Cindy Reinhardt

A 2010 *GQ* article asked “Ever worry that that gadget you spend hours holding next to your head might be damaging your brain?” The article presented evidence that our dependence on wireless devices warrants attention as a growing health concern, including multiple reports of cell phone use being linked to “brain aging, brain damage, early onset Alzheimer’s, senility, DNA damage . . .”. Studies have shown that children are affected by electromagnetic radiation even more than adults.

Increases in a number of diseases seems to parallel the growth in cell phones, towers and our wi-fi world. In Sweden, the 1997 explosion of wireless use coincided with a decline in overall health, measured by an increase in the number of workers on sick leave and a doubling in sales of antidepressant drugs in the same period. Coincidence?

Electromagnetic fields (EMFs) are ever-present and increasing as our reliance on cell phones, cordless phones and wireless devices grows. There is a growing body of evidence that links EMF exposure not only to specific brain damage and cognitive issues, but also to immune system dysfunction, high blood pressure, skin damage, reproductive issues, changes in the central nervous system, cardiovascular system, and more. Many health professionals are calling the effects of EMFs one of the biggest health challenges of the 21st century.

Upon learning that a first grandchild was on the way, local resident Dr. Moira Forsythe, ND,

sought solutions for this important health issue. A result of that search has been the development of a vibrant growing business team born right along with a healthy grandson.

Forsythe connected with GIA Wellness, a California company that offers products that provide layers of protection against EMFs. As she and her family experienced the difference in their lives, she realized that she needed to share this information with others. In sharing, there was also an opportunity to make a positive difference in the prosperity of our community. Thus, GIA’s Crestone Success Team was born.

In seven short months, several local team members including Dr. Forsythe, Cindy Reinhardt, Dorje Root, and Annata Black have achieved awards and company milestones, increasing community health and abundance in the process.

Technologies such as EMF mitigating pendants, cell phone guards and universal guards for computers and wireless devices, as well as a patented system for realigning water have transformed the lives of several local residents. Health benefits experienced by those utilizing these technologies include better hydration, better sleep, energy, and focus, less anxiety and numerous other benefits.

The Crestone Success Team is committed to continuing educational outreach, empowering others, and bringing greater health and abundance to our community. As we continue to expand our use of wireless technologies and swim in the electronic soup of our modern world, it is important for us to do so wisely and safely. After all, we are energetic bioelectric creatures ourselves and protecting the health of our children, our elders and ourselves is vital to the flourishing of our community and the world.

Come join us to learn more about inspired abundance on Saturday May 11, 10-11:30am at the Birch Street/Elephant Cloud Studio.

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Creating Abundance from Home
for Our Community!



Over 30 children were honored on the Sunday of Spring Navratri at the Haidakhandi Universal Ashram. photo by Ramloti.

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram News

by Ramloti

Spring Navratri has been the big celebration for April and despite an assortment of weather, it was magnificent. As usual, the children's day was one of the sweetest moments.

Our new-moon fire ceremony this month is on Thursday, May 9 and the full-moon fire ceremony is on Friday, May 24. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati is at 7am with evening aarati at 6pm. Each morning at 6:30am there is a paduka puja (washing of Shri Babaji's sandals) in His kutir (just to the west of the temple), followed by chandan.

Here is a heads up for summer planning. This year our children's program will be from Tuesday, July 30 through Friday, August 2. The program runs from 10am until 1pm. A parent or guardian is required to be on the premise at all times.

This makes it convenient for folks to take the amazing workshop, which will be running at the same time, from Sofia Diaz. This year the theme is "Stillness." Here is what Sofia wrote about the workshop. "The Mother is Maha Shakti, the power and the motion of all appearances but She is also the penetrative stillness of all-pervading Light. This year, in order to move the Light of our bodies as conscious devotion, we will begin with stillness. We will

especially be listening to Her unqualified Fullness, which does have a sound and is a pressure of silence that soothes the soul and unites us with Nature effortlessly." The suggested donation for this workshop is \$108 with some partial scholarships available. Please call the Ashram at 719-256-4108 with any questions or to reserve a space. You may also visit Sofia's website at Sofiyoga.com for more information on her.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is open every day from 10am until 5pm. We invite you to come in and if you mention that you are an Eagle reader, we will happily give you a 10% discount on your purchases, excluding sale items. We are continually receiving new supplies in the shop and we deeply appreciate your support. You can view most of our Shop inventory on the website at <http://mahalakshishop.wazala.com/> in its inviting new format.

Please visit our website at www.babajiashram.org to find out more about the Ashram and its schedule. 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. Please note that this is the only telephone number for the Ashram now as we have let go of our toll-free number and our dedicated Shop number.

The Sri Aurobindo Learning Center

Mahasaraswati

"I am charity with the kindly hands that bless,

I am silence mid the noisy tramp of life;

I am Knowledge poring on her cosmic map.

In the anomalies of the human heart

Where Good and Evil are close bedfellows

And Light is by Darkness dogged at every step,

Where his largest knowledge is an ignorance,

I am the Power that labours towards the best

And works for God and looks up towards the heights.

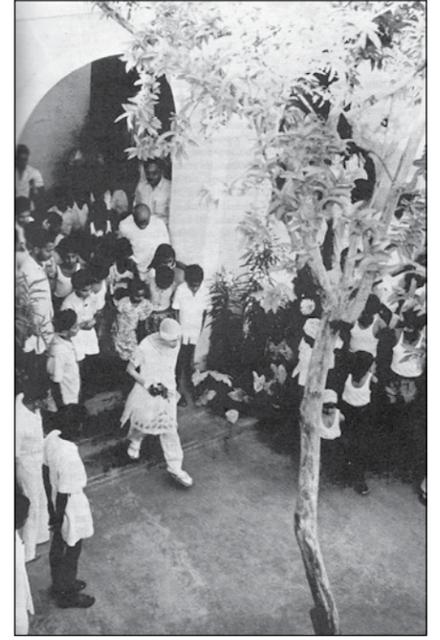
I make even sin and error stepping-stones

And all experience a long march towards Light.

—Sri Aurobindo, Savitri

In honor of Navaratri and our teacher's birthday, excerpts from *The Mother* by Sri Aurobindo describe the four great Personalities of the Divine Mother. Last month, Mahalakshmi led in the fragrances of the Powers of the Divine Mother. **

"Mahasaraswati is the Mother's Power of Work and her spirit of perfection and order. The youngest of the Four, she is the most skillful in executive faculty and the nearest to physical Nature. Maheshwari lays down the large lines of the world-forces, Mahakali drives their energy and impetus, Mahalakshmi discovers their rhythms and measures, but Mahasaraswati presides over their detail of organization and execution, relation of parts and effective combination of forces and unfailing exactitude of result and fulfillment. The science and craft and technique of things are Mahasaraswati's province. Always she holds in her nature and can give to those whom she has chosen the intimate and precise knowl-



edge, the subtlety and patience, the accuracy of intuitive mind and conscious hand and discerning eye of the perfect worker. This Power is the strong, the tireless, the careful and efficient builder, organizer, administrator, technician, artisan and classifier of the worlds.

"When her work is finished, nothing has been forgotten, no part has been misplaced or omitted . . . Nothing short of a perfect perfection satisfies her and she is ready to face an eternity of toil if that is needed for the fullness of her creation. Therefore of all the Mother's powers she is the most long-suffering with man and his thousand imperfections.

"Kind, smiling, close and helpful, not easily turned away or discouraged, her hand sustains our every step on condition that we are single in our will and straightforward and sincere.

"All the work of the other Powers leans on her for its completeness; for she assures the material foundation, elaborates the stuff of detail and erects and rivets the armour of the structure."

** Navaratri, a festival of nine nights in Hinduism, is dedicated to Goddess Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati. It is also known as Chaitra Navratras or Spring Navratri.

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Field to fork: Bringing the local food movement alive *Cho Ku Rei and Yak & Cracker Cafe*

by *Cristina Cabeza-Kinney*

Within the last century, massive food (and quasi-food) production and consumption has almost erased our deep relationship to the land and the profound process of cultivating food. The widespread disconnection of not knowing where our food comes from is a reality that Cho Ku Rei's Farm Store and Yak & Cracker Cafe is transforming. By locally growing the vast amount of their 100% organic and non-GMO foods, they are illuminating what a healthy food cycle looks like.

And tastes like! The cafe is now offering a new healthy family-focused menu, more affordable prices, and larger portions. By popular demand, the cafe now serves yak burgers and yakghetti. Their daily vegetarian soup is made in-house entirely from scratch. Always looking to their immediate bio-region, the cafe serves up local goat cheese from Salida. And there is a kids' menu, too! With twin mini yak burgers and baked potatoes, the kids are sure to enjoy this local connection to their food.



Luscious tomatoes growing in Cho Ku Rei's greenhouse.

ate bio-region, the cafe serves up local goat cheese from Salida. And there is a kids' menu, too! With twin mini yak burgers and baked potatoes, the kids are sure to enjoy this local connection to their food.

Cho Ku Rei is now offering lunch to the Crestone Charter School students. Twice a week, the team at the cafe joyfully make the kids' lunches and deliver them hot and fresh. I know my kids love it because they beg for it every week! Through this positive service to the community, the team's passion for healthy food is becoming seriously contagious.

When was the last time you had a brunch made for you that was directly from the farm with free range eggs, grass-fed meat, and all organic veggies? This truly is a meal that helps you feel good when you eat it and you know

where it comes from. Now open on Sundays for brunch 8am-1pm, The Yak & Cracker Cafe also serves up gluten-free pancakes with organic maple syrup.

At the Farm Store, rainbow eggs, yak steaks, yak jerky, and pork are available for purchase as well as an assortment of ranch produce: rainbow carrots, kale, chard, tomatoes, mixed greens, garlic, fresh and dried herbs, with more to come as the warm season is beginning anew.

	<p>Alycia Chambers CPM, RM Holistic Midwifery Care 719-256-5572 alycia1320@fairpoint.net www.blessedbemidwifery.com</p>	
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Scott Schwartz, Abby Schwartz, and Steve Storm give a truly outstanding performance of acoustic Grateful Dead music at the Yak N Cracker Café on April 6. photo by Lori Nagel

And of course the baking! Their dessert-maker extraordinaire, Alma Carel, has a passion for yumminess and wholeness, from her pies to her honey chocolate hearts, including gluten-free options. She is quickly becoming a Crestone asset.

Also new is a beer and wine license and music every Saturday night. This past season, the cafe hosted CB Jazz, Steve Storm, Alycia Chambers, Eric Karlstrom, and Jah Kings. As the weather warms up, they plan on bringing the good times to the lawn with various outdoor entertainment. If you are interested in sharing your music, poetry, etc., contact Charity Love at 256-4700.

Now, coming into their third year, Yak N Cracker is seeing all their hard work come to fruition. With a stellar staff and a streamlined kitchen, they are excited to be the change from field to fork.

Visit the website www.chokureiranch.com or check them out on Facebook Chokurei Farm Store and Yak & Cracker Cafe for daily specials and events. EBT accepted and Wi-Fi available.



A yak in springtime. photo by Lori Nagel

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- A "credit" transaction with your Debit Card is called signature-based because most often you are asked to sign your receipt. However, sometimes receipts are not always issued on purchases of \$25 or less. You may be asked to show identification.
- A "credit" transaction with your Debit Card means you receive added protection. With Visa's Zero Liability and Fraud Protection program shop at no risk – your liability for unauthorized transactions is \$0.
- A "credit" transaction with your Debit Card is no-fee for the cardholder.

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L to R: Earl LeRoy, Angie LeRoy, and Jeff Collins are 3 of the 4 founders of the Community Lunch Assistance Project (CLAP for the Lord!). Not pictured: Aviella Shomayr. photo by Lori Nagel

There really is such thing as a free lunch! CLAP at the Sangre de Cristo Trading Post in Moffat

by Lori Nagel

The Sangre de Cristo Trading Post, a bulk food & organic grocery store, is now serving free lunch (donations accepted!) as an outreach of the Free Spirit Christian Church in Moffat. Lunch is served every Monday through Friday from 11-3, and dinner is served on Sunday, starting around 5pm, after the 3pm church service. The trading post is located at 909 Lincoln, which is 1 block past mile marker 106 on CO Hwy 17 (brown buildings, green roofs).

The Community Lunch Assistance Project (CLAP for the Lord) was born in the last week of January this year. The Sangre de Cristo Trading Post was facing difficult times and was literally about 3 or 4 days from closing its doors for good. They had begun setting up their back room as an eating establishment, but they couldn't settle on what type of cuisine to serve.



Crowd enjoys a free lunch.

photo by Lori Nagel

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Joyce Meyer Article

Sponsored by the Free Spirit Christian Church
 Corner of Hwy 17 and Moffat Way
 Everyone is Welcomed – Please join us:

Sunday Services	3:00 pm
Bible Study Wednesdays	7:00 pm
Prayer Services Mon & Fri	10:00 am
Food Bank Tuesdays	2-4 pm
Prayer Breakfast at Earl LeRoy's house	
Every second Saturday of the month at	8 am

* Please feel free to call Earl LeRoy at 256-4277 or Tim Brenner at 588-1857 if you have any questions.

Deli? Buffet? Nothing felt right. And then Earl LeRoy, store manager, was driving to Alamosa one Friday night, when he heard the voice of the Lord, clear as day, "Feed my people and don't charge them anything—take donations. I will bless the Trading Post. Do not close it."

The following Monday, they served chili and cornbread to 20 hungry mouths. Now, over 3 months later, they average 40-50 meals per day, with as many as 65 during the 4-hour period. Some people donate money when they eat, and CLAP for the Lord also gets food donations from various contributors in Moffat and neighboring towns, which is how they're able to make this work. It is completely a not-for-profit outreach.

CLAP for the Lord is about more than just nourishing the body—it's uplifting to the spirit as well. Great food and great conversation has really created a great new feeling of community in Moffat. The food is healthy, too—no fried foods! Every day, there's fresh salad, 1 or 2 choices for hot entrees, beverages, and even fresh desserts! Jeff Collins is a certified chef and feels grateful to be able to use his abilities to give back. "This is God's gift, and I'm using it for Him." Earl added, "It's all about showing His love—we're just the instruments."

Jeff posted on the wall in the dining area this message: "Feed the people the food of the Lord. Replenish their souls with love, understanding, and hope. Give freely to those who are hungry and thirsty. Give abundant rest to the weary. Give love where none is due. Ask only what is needed. Thank Him, who is providing All That Is."

On tax day they had at least 45 people come through, and the leftover scraps of food could fit into a coffee cup, which speaks volumes about the yummy-ness! Some people go there to eat every day and there are new faces at every meal, too. It's been a saving grace for so many who have no other way to eat healthy food (or sometimes *any* food) on a regular basis. Everyone chips in when they can, and some even wash their own and others' dishes. It was stressed to me over and over that people really have a lot of fun when they eat there, and everyone's always welcome.

The main players in this divine operation have been Earl LeRoy and his wife Angie, Jeff Collins, and Aviella Shomayr. Many thanks for all they've done for the Moffat community! If you'd like to make a tax deductible donation to this worthy cause, please send it to: Free Spirit Christian Church, PO Box 402, Moffat, CO 81143, and write "Food Kitchen" on the check.

Moving Up Higher Making good habits



by Joyce Meyer

I have read that as much as 40% of everything we do is performed purely out of habit. A habit is something we do without even thinking. It's a behavior that is developed through frequent repetition. First we form habits . . . and then they form us. We are what we repeatedly do!

That's why it is so important to focus on establishing healthy habits. *Bad* habits are detrimental and keep us from enjoying all that God has for us. However, *good* habits add joy, peace and power to our lives.

Now, I'm not going to tell you that it's easy. If we're going to make a good habit and break a bad habit, there's going to be some effort involved. We will go through a time of trial. *But we don't have to go through it alone.*

It's very important to understand from the beginning that we need God's help to succeed. The number one mistake people make in trying to live the Christian life is that we try to change ourselves. We forget the God factor!

Jesus said that when He went away, He would send us the Holy Spirit to help us. The Amplified Bible refers to Him as "the Standby." I love that. God is always standing by in case we get ourselves into trouble and need a little help. He is our Partner—our Strength and Support—as we begin to establish good habits in our lives and break the bad ones.

Where we start and where we finish

I used to have a habit of getting upset every time I didn't get my way. It was an automatic response—and

I lived that way for many years until I finally decided to stop.

Today, I want to encourage you to make some decisions of your own. Think about the person you are right now and the person you want to become, and then jot down a few habits that can help you get there.

Remember, one good choice is another step closer to your goal.

Don't even think about your bad habits. Instead, put all of your focus and concentration on making good ones. Because when we think about all the bad habits we've got to try and undo, it zaps all of our strength. If we're going to make progress, we need to learn to focus on the positive!

If you make a quality decision to act, it will change your life. But you can't wait to *feel* like it. By God's grace, just set your mind to do it!

Taking that first step

Some habits in our lives can seem overwhelming and *impossible* to change—especially if we have lived with them for a long time. But God will meet us where we are. When we are willing to take that first step, He honors our faith and gives us the grace to make the changes that we desire.

Things may not turn around overnight, but if you are diligent and determined to never give up, you will eventually succeed . . . because together, one day at a time, you and God can do anything.

Nealson Colorado book award finalist

Former SLV resident and author Christina Nealson is excited to announce that her book, *Drive Me Wild: A Western Odyssey*, has been selected finalist for the 2013 Colorado Book Award. Nealson describes her story as a travel book for the soul—a tale of revelation and response to un-lived dreams. Upon shedding 95% of her possessions, Nealson pointed her travel life to the back roads of the west, from British Columbia to the tip of the Baja, where her five year journey evolved into odyssey. Nealson's life as writer, her marriage and the very essence of the wild—her own and the planet's—are the questions at the heart of this page turner.

Christina Nealson is author of four books and photographer for four others. Her classic, *Living on the Spine: A Woman's Life in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains*, de-

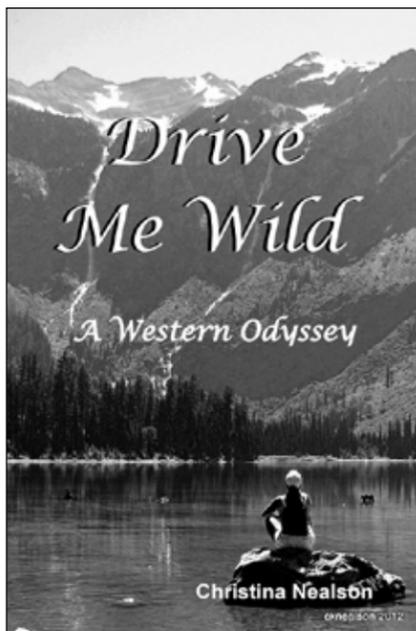


Christina Nealson.

picts her solo life of solitude in the Sangres. She has followed assignments to Africa, Central America and across the back roads of the U.S. West, Canada and Mexico. Her articles have appeared most recently in *High Country News* and *Arizona Wildlife Views*. As the author of traditional and indie published books, she is elated that her indie book, *Drive Me Wild: A Western Odyssey*, has been named a finalist for the Colorado Book Award.

She will return to Colorado in May, offering her multi-media presentation, *Wild Encounters: The Sacred and the Profane*, an enthralling presentation and reading that includes her images of the wild. She also offers an indie publishing class. Nealson will be reading at the Book Haven in Salida Thursday, June 6. Food, wine and music at 6:30, reading begins at 7 pm.

Visit her at www.christina-nealson.com. Her books are available through local bookstores or on Amazon in paper or ebook.



2013 Colorado Book Award finalist: *Drive Me Wild: A Western Odyssey*.

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish

1/ Last Run: In this espionage thriller Armand Assante recounts the cold war days because of his top secret work with defectors. Now he's called to protect one of these ex-KGBers on the run from Russian Mafia and CIA.

2/ Kidnapped (series): A well developed series (13 episodes) about how the lives of a millionaire couple deal with the kidnapping of their teenage son. They use a variety of investigators to find their son and protect their deeply guarded secrets.

3/ Lie to Me (series): In this fantastic series I was left wanting more after 48 episodes. It is based somewhat on the career of psychologist Paul Ekman who via his research discovered that micro-muscular movements and body language are universal, across all cultures. Tim Roth stars and commands his team towards knowing when someone is lying for FBI, CIA, and any other organization or individual. I love how they will freeze a facial expression and then show other famous people (known to lie) with that same expression.

4/ Warehouse 13 (series): I enjoyed these 38 episodes for several reasons as they had an element of the supernatural about them. Secret Service agents are assigned to a warehouse in the bowels of a mountainside in South Dakota where objects like the Lost Ark are stored. Some disappear and some new ones are found in various situations in the world.

5/ Heroes (series): This series with 79 episodes was a surprising "can't put down" type of series. I was skeptical at first as it "draws on American comic book tradition" . . . but it quickly went way beyond that in well acted drama and sci-fi. A group of ordinary people discover extraordinary abilities and are confronted with how they use them in the world.

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'Sponsor a Month' for CCC Youth!

by Lisa Bodey,
Youth Programs Coordinator

The Crestone Creative Council (CCC) is excited to announce that we have moved into the Crestone Community Building in an effort to expand our outreach and programming for teens and young adults. This building is commonly known as "The Old Schoolhouse" and is a 135-year-old historic landmark in the community, so we are honored that the Town of Crestone is allowing us the opportunity to utilize the south room. Our intention is to set up a comfortable space that can serve different functions, including: council meetings, art creation, music, office/school tasks and community gatherings. We will also be cleaning and re-organizing the kitchen to offer a much better stocked and cooking-friendly kitchen for other renters.

Our youth group is taking on the responsibility of covering utilities as well as committing to 10 hours of community service each month in exchange for the space. **We would like to challenge individuals and businesses to take an active role in supporting CCC by sponsoring a month for youth.** We are asking for a \$100 minimum donation to sponsor one month in the next calendar year from June 2013-May 2014. This will allow CCC to pay for utilities and keep basic cleaning, toiletry, kitchen and first-aid items in stock. We are very grateful for our anonymous donor who is sponsoring our first month of May.

To get our creative juices flowing and to kick off the new space, we are hosting **Artist Gatherings** every Tuesday from 4-5:30pm in April & May. This includes any type of art or craft such as sewing, knitting, jewelry making, croch-

ing, making cards, recycled art and much more! Bring a project you are working on, start a new one or come hang out and get inspired.

Council meetings are held every other Thursday (May 9 & 23) from 5-6:30pm to discuss current projects, review new proposals, plan events and to meet new people. After each meeting, we will be hosting a **Fire Spinning/Dancing** practice from 6:30-8pm. Please bring fire toys, LED toys, hula hoops, hacky sacks, crystal stix and other fun items to get us moving and playing. We will use this time to prepare for performances at upcoming festivals and events. Youth who plan to spin with fire will be given additional safety information and will require parental approval.

The Crestone Creative Council is a Town of Crestone youth program for 13-24 year olds which focuses on job creation, artistic expression, community service and special events to instill a sense of purpose and positive self-identity for participants. Adults are included on an invite-only basis, so please let us know if you have an interest in attending. If you have questions or would like a copy of our youth newsletter sent to you, please call 719-480-5925 or email bodeycrestone@gmail.com.

Crestone Creative Council

Youth program for 13-24 year olds

Youth Work Force
Artist Gatherings
Council Meetings
Events & Festivals

Come check us out in our new location at the Community Building!

719.480.5925
bodeycrestone@gmail.com



Jasper has control of the situation.

The Baca Grande Stables offers 2013 Summer Children's Riding Program

by Joanna and Eli Dokson

The Baca Grande Stables' Summer Children's Riding Program for children ages 6 to 15 will begin the week of June 17. Please note that there will be two sessions in June, two sessions in July, and one session in August. Session 1 will be June 17-21; Session 2, June 24-28; Session 3, July 15-19; Session 4, July 22-26; Session 5, August 5-9. Each session is five days for 2 1/2 hours, from 8:30 to 11am. Lessons include riding 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 \$125 per week-long session.

As in years past, the Baca Grande POA will 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 \$125 per weekly session will be reduced to \$80 per student.

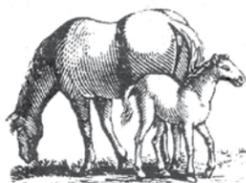
Summer is a busy time at the Baca Grande Stables. Private and group lessons are available for be-

ginners through intermediates. We teach both English and Western riding. Our philosophy is based on discovering and establishing a loving, safe and knowledgeable partnership with horses. Body awareness, boundary setting, effective communication with honest intention and self confidence are all enhanced by equine sports.

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, inquire about horse boarding or arrange to pick up free manure for your garden, please call 256-4756 or e-mail us at info@baca-grandestables.com.

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Moffat/Mountain Valley students claim art show awards

by **Andy McKim**

The Southern Peaks League Art Show was held April 17 and 18 at Sangre de Cristo Schools. The Moffat and Mountain Valley School secondary students are excelling in the arts and have the awards to show for it. Congratulations to the following students for your artistic contributions.

Mountain Valley:

Kelsey Hammel, 3rd place

David Hammel, 2nd place

Brianna Long, 2nd place & Honorable Mention

Alice Cross, 1st & 3rd places & Honorable Mention

Erica Ortega, 3rd place & Honorable Mention

Destiny Patrick, Honorable Mention

Marian Glenn Shipley, 1st place

Moffat: (pictured is Penny McNulty's artwork)

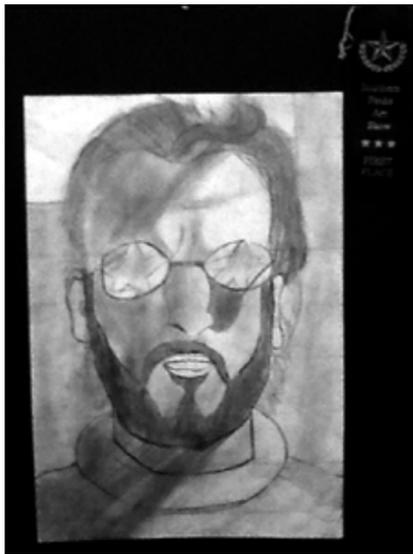
8th grade, Drew "Penny" McNulty: 1st place for pencil drawing

12th grade, Shaulin Rinaldis: 3rd place for watercolor painting

9th grade, Stohry Rinaldis: Honorable Mention for altered book & 3rd place for colored pencil drawing

Graduation

The graduation ceremony for Moffat School's Class of 2013 will be held at the Moffat School gymnasium on Saturday, May 25 at 1pm.



8th grader Drew "Penny" McNulty won 1st place for her pencil drawing in the the Southern Peaks League Art Show.

10th grade, Kristian Harrell: Honorable Mention for cardboard sculpture

10th grade, Marquis Baker: Honorable Mention for ceramic box & 3rd place for coil-built pot

10th grade, Ellyon Williamson: 3rd place for op art

9th grade, Gallian Roberts: Honorable Mention for colored pencil drawing



Welding project bike rack created by Teacher/Mentor Will Shellabarger, Joedeelee Rigdon, Tony Chavez, Nick Quintana, Brandon Garcia and Justin Wilson

Moffat Book Fair a great success!

by **Patte Smith**

The Moffat School's Book Fair was a great success, thanks to the phenomenal support of our many parents and guardians, the Moffat School staff and the community as a whole! In addition to book sales, money that was donated to the school through the "All for Books Program" will be used to purchase additional books for the library. Because of your support, our school raised \$156! In addition, the Scholastic Book Fair will match all monetary donations with a donation of up to one million books that will be distributed amongst two national non-profit organizations dedicated to helping children, families, and teachers acquire books and educational resources. The two national foundations are the "Kids In Need Foundation" and the "Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc."

Your simple act of kindness, through your donations, brought more knowledge, more adventure, more humor, more mystery, and more imagination into the lives of young people everywhere!

Book fairs have always been about family time and reading. The more children read, the better they get, and the better they get, the more they'll enjoy reading for years to come.

As we all know, reading is vital to every child's success, and raising kids as "readers," means getting them hooked while they're young. Giving kids access to good books, and providing kids the opportunity to pick out their own book, will only motivate them more and strengthen their love of reading, which in turn will lead to more books being read!



The Moffat pre-school students went to the Colorado Gators and Reptile Park on March 20 to visit their zoophonics pal Allie Alligator. Shown above is the morning preschool class.

photo by Krissy Russell Hedstrom

Welding projects

by **Will Shellabarger**

Years spent in high school can be used as a time for students to learn new skills or enhance skills they already have. At Moffat, we offer our students welding and wood elective courses to help them explore new industrial skills. As a teacher/mentor, I provide my students with a variety of projects to introduce them to the basics of welding as well as give them the opportunity to give back to the school by way of creating items that the school has a need for. Our most recent welding projects include welding the frame for the kiln hood and the much needed bicycle rack.

Moffat Middle School student speeches

by **Misty Monreal**

The 6th and 7th grade writing class learned quite a bit from their peers this past week. Students gave informative and persuasive speeches to their classmates. Isaih Wellman-Wheeler came dressed in his motorcycle gear, explaining the need for safety gear when riding. Holly Fuller explained what was necessary to set up and maintain a healthy fish tank. Students learned about the history of unicycles from Max Zapel-Ewy, parkour from Mikey Richardson and skateboarding from Therran Hawk, various types of advertising from Soul Connolly, about staying off of drugs from Alyssa Chavez and Hank Wallace, and we watched a claymation video created by Felix Roberts who spoke about what was involved in the art of claymation. One of the final presentations involved Kyle Roof explaining the various types of Estes rockets and then demonstrating for his classmates, Ms. Monreal and Mr. Banghart what was involved in launching one. Despite the parachute not opening, the rocket made a "safe" landing on the opposite side of the school from where it was launched. All the speeches given by the 6th and 7th grade classes showed creativity and definitely showed that the best way to learn is to teach others.



Rocket launching.

Students attend diversity conference

by **Amber Johnson**

Moffat High School juniors and seniors once again attended the Mountain Valley Diversity Conference on April 8. Together with students from Mountain Valley, Center, and Del Norte they had the opportunity to listen to the key note speaker who was a gang member who turned his life around and ultimately graduated with his Master's degree from Harvard University. They also were able to experience profes-

sional BMX bikers and attended various break-out sessions covering topics such as relationships, fish and wildlife opportunities, and an informational presentation about Abraham Lincoln. To end the day, the students listened to live, inspirational music. All of the attending students had a great experience and we hope that the students can carry on what they learned at the conference that will positively impact our school and community.

CCS spring arts celebration

by **Lyndsay Duebber**

It has been a great year for the arts at CCS. We have invited in many local artists to work in each classroom, teaching students artistic skills like stained glass making, oil painting, weaving, and much more. As you walk around the school in the afternoon each classroom is filled with children engaged in the creative process.

We are in the last year of receiving a grant from Colorado Creative Industries, and because of their funding our faculty have received valuable training for integrating art into academics. Our grant from CCI has also allowed us to develop lasting relationships with local artists and organizations, and to invest in quality equipment that will last

for many years.

To celebrate and support the arts culture at CCS we are throwing an Arts Gala on Friday May 3, from 6:30-8:30 at the Charter School. There will be a variety of local artists showing their work, as well as a fun community art project to participate in with all of your family and friends. We welcome the community of Crestone and Moffat to come and be a part of our local arts culture. There will be baked goods and the opportunity to buy individual art work produced by the children to raise money for our art budget. Come one and all to participate and express your support of our youth and the arts!



Cast photo from the CCS Middle School Romeo & Juliet production on April 13. photo by Lori Nagel

Romeo and Juliet

by **Kathryn Brady**

Middle School students were inspired by reading Romeo and Juliet and then attending a live production of the play in Denver to produce their own class version of the great tragedy. This is one of the joys and challenges of our Charter School—projects and learning driven by student passion and interest. Teacher Daya Scheide stepped up to the opportunity as first-time director, and led the group through to a fiercely beautiful final performance.



Juliet's parents and nurse mourn her loss, as they believe she has really passed, rather than sleeping deeply. L to R: Daya Scheide, Alexis Brewer, Ashlee Jernigan, and Ella Jepsen. photo by Lori Nagel

Roslea performing ballet as the character Rosalyn in Romeo and Juliet on April 13. Rio Kane as Romeo admires her dancing. photo by Lori Nagel



LINK students in Pomaire, Chile learned Raku and other pottery techniques. photo by Carolina Sartain

LINK in Chile

LINK students spent a memorable two weeks traveling the breadth of the country of Chile. The trip was coordinated by their Spanish teacher and Chilean native, Carolina Sartain. From the botanical gardens and home of great poet, Pablo Neruda, to the clay-making town of Pomaire, students were immersed in the sites, sounds, and natural environs of Chile. Here the group is working with a pottery maker in Pomaire, where they learned about ancient and modern techniques of clay-making.



Tatjana Meyerowitz and primary art

Professional artist and CCS parent, Tatjana Meyerowitz, worked with Primary Class students this month on visual art lessons. Tatjana also donated a beautiful public work of art to our school hallway this year as a "housewarming" gift. Crestone Charter School succeeds because of the talent of its teachers, but thrives because of the generosity of its volunteer community.

Andrea Moore, artist-activist comes to CCS



Sponsored in part by a grant from Colorado Creative Industries, CCS students and staff were treated to two days of workshop sessions with Denver-based theatre specialist, Andrea Moore. Moore works around the country, using art to build empathy between individuals and within the borderlines of communities where cultures collide. Here she is using a simple balance activity to demonstrate, "It can be challenging to balance on your own one foot, but with even one finger of support from your neighbor, the whole thing gets easier."

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The Washington Beat

Anatomy of a bombing



by David Nicholas

As often as it happens, mass attacks on people, by either guns or bombs, are still shocking experiences. While the Boston Marathon bombing's death toll was light by comparison to the only other event like this carried out on American soil, 911, the attack was designed to keep living memory, and the pain inflicted, a lifelong experience. The act of domestic terrorism is about maiming and inflicting pain and suffering.

There were two reasons for thinking that it was a sociopathic act by one or two persons: one day later no one had taken responsibility for the attack. Also, there were no suspects after authorities questioned three or four people at hospitals. The agent in charge, Special Agent Richard DesRi-geurs, stated that "Someone knows who did this and we want you to come forward." If this was alQaeda it would be clear by this stage.

AlQaeda would have taken responsibility within hours, but the only response was alQaeda in Pakistan saying it wasn't they. Take that as you will, but the reason I thought it wasn't an act by foreign terrorists was that Islamist attacks are about killing infidels, rather than maiming victims.

A grisly distinction, I grant you, but the bombs were at ground level, and the bombs' contents were ball bearings, BB pellets, and nails, designed to seriously maim victims rather than kill them. In Iraq and Europe, alQaeda uses Cemtex, plastic explosive. It's lighter and less cumbersome to carry and use for roadside IEDs or suicide bombers.

I would also rule out US right wing domestic militia groups. Why Boston and why the marathon? Generally, militias have issues with the federal government, not people, and they're about control and government encroachment on rights and freedoms.

On Monday, April 22, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, when he regained consciousness, was charged in Federal Court from his hospital bedside with using weapons of mass destruction, which carries the death penalty. He was also charged with one count of malicious destruction of property by means of deadly explosives, a life term.

At time of writing, three more suspects were arrested just before Mr. Tzarmaev surrendered in New Bedford, a nearby neighborhood, bringing the total that can be held for this terrorist attack accountable to four. So far. The good thing is we will not be going to war over it. Not like last time. Prayers for those who lost loved ones and to those whose injuries will remain with them for life.

The other stuff: a) Immigration reform

Talk shows on Sunday, April 14, had Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) fronting the Senate's "Gang of 8" proposed immigration reform. The strategy was that the proposed immigration reforms would be far reaching but have something in them to please liberals and conservatives alike (over those things they dislike), and would be served well if the Florida Senator was out front

supporting the proposals.

The Senator is a Tea Party conservative of Cuban-American heritage. If he supported it, the thinking went, it might help conservative GOP members in the US House of Representatives to overcome reservations on the so-called "path to citizenship" clauses.

Watching his performance on both NBC's MeetThePress and ABC's ThisWeek, yes, he gave support to the bill in its broadest terms, but his heart wasn't in it, and he looked like he would rather be elsewhere. For a possible 2016 presidential candidate, a little more oomph wouldn't have hurt, but such as it was he went on the record. In so doing, he is tackling the knotty problem, widely recognized by many Republican conservatives, that without broad Hispanic support the GOP has little chance of ever regaining the White House.

Doing this chore, Mr. Rubio reserved the right to support and vote for amendments even if they change the tenor of the bill. On the positive side it, it gives the House Gang of 8 added impetus to bring a bill to the House floor for a vote. That said the details follow.

The bill is titled "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Act of 2013" per the Politic website. First vetting was Friday April 19 in a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The pathway to citizenship provisions (and likely subject to change) are:

- 1) Immigrants would pay a \$2,000 fine, pass a background check, have a job, and wait 10 years before applying for a green card.
- 2) Then, 3 years after that, they could apply to become US Citizens. Total: 13 years from start to finish.

They really want you to formally apply through the front door before

you come, which is much shorter. Okay.

There's more. Now, the bill would treat differently certain young people brought to the US illegally at a young age. It also applies to agricultural workers who would be granted expedited access to seek green cards after 5 years.

Now controversial provisions include: undocumented immigrants who arrived prior to December 31, 2011 are eligible for a provisional legal status, provided they pay \$500 fine per adult and all assessed taxes. They would be ineligible if they have been convicted of a felony, aggravated felony, 3 or more misdemeanors, an offense under foreign law or have unlawfully voted.

Thus undocumented workers who were deported for non-criminal reasons would be able to apply, if they are the spouse or a parent of a child who is a citizen or lawful permanent resident; or they arrived during childhood and are eligible for the Dream Act. The Dream Act deals with President Obama's pledge to fast track citizenship to children of undocumented workers born in the US.

Further, provisional status must be renewed after 6 years if the immigrant maintains a clean legal record and pays another \$500.

Immigrants in provisional status would not be eligible for any means-tested legal benefits.

Also immigrants would be able to apply for permanent resident status after 10 years if they maintained a continuous physical presence in the US, paid all taxes owing during that period, worked in the US regularly, demonstrated knowledge of civics and English and paid a \$1,000 penalty. BUT they must wait until all people currently waiting for family and employment green cards are cleared through the system.

Now all this hinges on the government achieving a series of border-security benchmarks, which I will deal with next month. But that gives you some idea of the Gang of 8's thinking.

How do you like them apples? The bill is scheduled for two hearings before it comes to the Senate floor for final debate and a vote. There may be more hearings, depending on public reaction. Votes in the panel are expected in May if all goes as planned; given how controversial legislation like this has been in the past, that will be unlikely.

b) Gun control bill fails to pass

On April 17 the Senate defeated a bipartisan bill that would have expanded background checks, closing

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the loophole for sales at gun shows and on the internet, but excluded private sales and gifts. The vote was 54-46, a majority vote in favor, but short of the 60 votes needed to prevent a filibuster.

Four Democrats voted against the bill while only four Republicans crossed the floor to vote for it. Had the four Democrats voted with their party, the bill would have passed.

An hour later, President Obama appeared in the Rose Garden surrounded by members of the Newtown families and former Representative Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ), the Congresswoman shot in the head in 2010. The President blamed the gun lobby that "willfully lied" and senators who "caved to the pressure" for defeat of the effort.

It was a telling moment when Newtown parent Mark Barden made remarks introducing the President expressing his disappointment of the Senate vote. He was in the gallery as the Republican Senators voted against, with heads bowed so as not to look up at the families of the slain children. Mr. Barden said he was returning home "disappointed but not defeated."

It has been a quick lesson in lobbying, having parents and relatives of the 20 children and teachers help the President push to pass the bill. By all accounts, they are mastering the skills and it will serve them well. There is nothing like defeat to deepen and steel resolve to carry on the fight.

"This effort is not over," President Obama said. "I'm making it clear to the American people: we can still bring about meaningful changes for gun violence as long as the American people don't give up on them."

"Ninety percent of Democrats in the Senate just voted for (background checks)," the President said. "But it's not going to happen because 90% of Republicans in the Senate just voted against that idea. A majority of Senators voted 'yes' to protecting more of our citizens with smarter background checks. But by this continuing distortion of Senate rules, a minority was able to block it from moving forward."

However, Mr. Obama said, the next step was largely in the hands of people outside of Washington. "Those who care deeply about preventing more and more gun violence will have to be as passionate and as organized and as vocal as those who blocked these common sense steps to keep our kids safe," he said.

In summing up, the President said, "All in all it has been a shameful day in Washington." Truer words were

never spoken.

c) Sequester update

The \$85bn in budget cuts mandated under the Sequester order are beginning to take effect. It's not grabbing headlines because of other news, but cuts in education and military spending are a matter of concern depending on where you live. More to report in May, when it the effects become more widespread, i.e. Social Security and Medicaid benefits.

Venezuela—Maduro wins

Hugo Chavez' chosen successor won the presidential election April 14, beating out center right candidate Henrique Capriles. The margin of victory was less than 2%, 51.8 to 49.1.

As expected, Mr. Capriles denounced the result, citing 3,200 electoral violations and demanded a recount. During his victory speech President Maduro agreed, but later reneged. He left it to the Venezuelan election authority to explain that election machines made it impossible. A day later the election authority formerly signed off on the election and President Maduro has a six-year term to serve.

After the Chavez election 14 years ago the center right parties unleashed continuous rioting. It was important to see how the army would react this time to a vote that technically split the electorate.

Mr. Maduro didn't get the expected 11% margin that the late President Chavez garnered last November. In fact, the polls were beginning show that Mr. Capriles was gaining. If the campaign had continued another two weeks, the result might have been in his favor.

Part of the reason is that President Maduro, while a "Chavinista" is more an ideological Marxist whereas the late president was more a Marxist of popular convenience. During the campaign, Mr. Maduro tended to fall into Marxist rhetoric in his speeches, which I suspect was a turnoff for many voters.

Venezuela is not by nature a Marxist nation, leftist-leaning certainly, but leftist-leaning does not a Marxist make. Chavez looking after the workers and raising up the vast poverty-stricken populace garnered him a fanatical devotion. Mr. Maduro is not that kind of guy, but he will be a good president if given half a chance and actually gets to serve a full six years. Will he?

It all depends on the army and which way it goes. The late president came up through the army ranks so his connection with the military garnered their allegiance. Mr. Maduro

doesn't have that and in these early days of his presidency, pundits will look for signs of how they will move.

Initially the army has opted to support President Maduro and used tear gas to put down the rioting Capriles demonstrators. They will police the ban he announced on further demonstrations for the time being. But if this becomes a habit, the military may move to serve its own interests and to all that implies.

Needless to say, this is not an auspicious beginning for Mr. Maduro, but time will tell.

War noise on the 38th parallel

Most of April was spent weighing the war noise across the 38th parallel on the Korean Peninsula as the young master Kim Jong Un was showing his resolve to "his" Korean military elite, which are running things with an iron fist. The Young Master is not the Dear Leader in their eyes, at least not yet. So on the 101st birth of his granddad Kim Il-Soong on April 15, the original Dear Leader, there were celebrations and much ado about nothing, much of which has happened before without result.

While South Korea and Japan have professed jitters at the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's noise, US Secretary of State John Kerry has been mumbling that rather than a military response we should talk more, which is what we will all end up doing.

It was known with his education in Switzerland that the young master favored things western and this may include reforms, but I think the last year has been a learning curve in DPRK reality. This military elite who have invested in decades of cold war rhetoric and believing in the Communist ethic as espoused by Dear Leader Kim is not something of which one divests oneself easily.

If it's any consolation, the official pictures of Kim Jong Un show him looking pensive, reflecting uncertainty with trepidation about his position in the hierarchy and that it looks to me like he's going through the motions. However, the DPRK military are watching the young master morphing into a leader they want and he's not going to be allowed to deviate from the party line. At some point if he doesn't look like he's going to fit the mold, they will dump him for someone more like them.

If he has a popular power base it would be different, but he doesn't have one that is obvious to the eye and he doesn't come across as party-savvy. So doing what he is told appears to be the

order of the day, and until he's in the job for some years to come, his position is tenuous at best. So we will see how it plays out.

Syria—Western meddling

Now in its third year, fight by opposition forces (which go by several titles and affiliations) are no closer to defeating the forces of Bashar al-Assad than they when they started out. Meddling by European powers—the United Kingdom, France and Germany in particular—has made the blood flow and refugees (now numbering in the millions of Syrians) fleeing to get out of the line of fire.

There's a festering righteousness among the arrogant European countries that see it as their right to interfere with military force in the internal affairs of another country when it suits them. In Africa, in countries such as Mali and the Central African Republic, French forces were "invited" to invade in an attempt to drive out Islamic forces. French forces of 2,500 came for a two-week "intervention" (or so promised French President Francois Hollande). They've had to extend the tour twice, until November/December.

Because the French are generally incompetent militarily at the best of times, Mali proved to be well above their ability for military preparedness. After getting bogged down in the Saharan sand they've had to have British supply support and US-supplied air-refueling for French jets.

So in Syria's case the western meddling is in supplying arms to opposition forces. France and Germany are supplying arms to all the groups they agree with but which are generally incompetent fighting as a single force. Islamic alQaeda-aligned forces, armed with captured Syrian army weaponry, are succeeding in damaging the country's infrastructure and military installations.

The pressure on us to get involved in this folly has been building. In early April, we have decided to supply intelligence to opposition groups, which would be drone photos and maybe recorded conversations. In the scheme of things Syrian, it's the minimum and what the opposition could do with this information remains to be seen. The damage inflicted on the Syrian regime has been through car bombs and IEDs, which is alQaeda's modus operandi.

Meanwhile President Assad is ensconced securely in Damascus and is living up to his promise to fight to the death. His Allawite clans and Coptic Christians are still with him.

And the Beat goes on.

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Fracked

continued from page 1

gas also hold small pockets of water that is released in the fracking process; this water is often brackish or downright saline and is either treated and reused or disposed of in special wells licensed for the purpose.

During the week of April 8 when the news of imminent fracking got out, Christine Canaly, director of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council (SLVEC) advised the RGCC to file a preliminary injunction to prevent the frack, but that action might have provoked a countersuit and was not taken. Also, as a statement from RGCC on April 11 makes clear, the “County only has jurisdiction over above-ground issues and the State of Colorado has jurisdiction over ‘down hole’ or below-ground” operations.

Some 410,000 gallons (about 1.2 acre-feet) of water were purchased by the well operators from the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District (SLVWCD), whose manager, Mike Gibson, explained that the district routinely sells water for one-time commercial or industrial uses such as dust mitigation during highway construction. The SLVWCD has water in storage for these purposes as a service to the Rio Grande basin, so the sale had no effect on irrigators nor on the flow in the Rio Grande.

Fracking fluid consists most-

ly of water, with sand and chemicals, some food-grade, added; the list of chemicals used should eventually be available at www.FracFocus.com.

Charles Spielman, a geologist with oil and gas background, told Ms. Canaly that the recent well treatment was probably a “test frac” and that the well may not actually produce, despite FLE’s record of 100% productivity from numerous wells in Oklahoma. Mr. Spielman also opined that the well, near the abandoned Jynifer well, is not in the area most likely to be productive. It turns out he was correct in his opinion as it was learned on April 27 that the well did not produce and was plugged.

At present the COGCC has approved only one other exploration well in Rio Grande County, the Dan A. Hughes well near San Francisco creek. It is on Bureau of Land Management property and so will have to meet National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements as well as those of RGC. The COGCC regularly inspects well sites, both during drilling and production. Inspections prior to the recent frac noted no violations, but on April 15, after the fracking, “unsatisfactory” cleanup was noted, but no actual violation.

It remains to be seen what will now happen at the privately-owned, and therefore exempt from NEPA, First Liberty site northwest of Del Norte. The response to a request for an update from Peterson Energy, identified as owner

in COGCC records, was that “The owner of the well wishes to release no information at this time.”

Locally, awareness of what challenges fracking might bring to an area perennially short of water is rapidly growing. A petition is being circulated in opposition to any gas or oil drilling in the valley and the SLVEC will be holding public participation events together with a group from Del Norte, Families for the Valley’s Future. Several videos such as *Gasland*, *Fracknation*, and *TruthLand* examine the risks of oil and gas extraction methods and can be found online, along with *The Life of an Onshore Well: Finding and Producing Tight or Shale Gas & Oil* (www.shell.us/about/shell/shell-businesses/onshore.html) and the COGCC website’s hot topics and FAQ. Anyone concerned about fracking should read the March 2013 *National*

Geographic article on *The New Oil Landscape* in North Dakota where a rural agricultural community has seen devastating changes due to split estate development with horizontal wells and fracking. Check these resources out—the frac at First Liberty is a done deed, but the valley public will soon have opportunities for input on the Dan A. Hughes application.

There is no information at this time if First Liberty Energy plans to drill or frack any future wells in the San Luis Valley. The issue of fracking in the San Luis Valley is still unresolved.

Any further updates will be posted on *The Crestone Eagle* website: www.crestoneeagle.com

Bea Ferrigno writes on water and related issues in the San Luis Valley. She can be reached at wrd-wyz@gmail.com

Steady as ye go.

Sometimes, antiquated terms remind us of forever-true common sense. This one basically means, “Go slow and pay attention; the rocky bottom is all too nigh”. Today, we have to make that plural. We are now faced with many rocky bottoms, and none of them have anything to do with navigating shallow waters. We have financial, ecological and ethical challenges all about. The most dangerous threats, however, arise from our own personal emotional discomforts.

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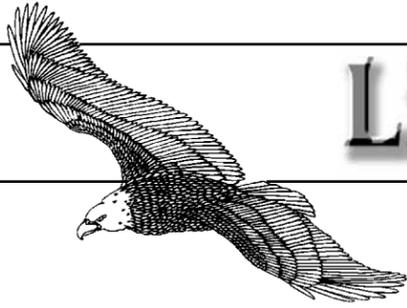
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Living on the Earth

Camino de Crestone: The start of an inter-faith pilgrimage

While several of the many spiritual centers at the foot of the sacred Sangres de Cristo Mountains in the Crestone/Baca area have been in place for more than 25 years, 2013 is the inaugural year for the Camino de Crestone. The great pilgrimages of the earth—in India, Japan, Spain and England—are now joined by the world's first full inter-faith pilgrimage here in our tiny international village.

Amid gorgeous country, Crestone now can invite people from every state and all over the world to experience a full range of authentic "paths of return"—the great traditions aspiring to their original inspiration here in the San Luis Valley.

History will be made on June 1, when the inaugural group of pilgrims begins seven remarkable

clarifying and richly thorough experiences.

How did this possibility come about? Last October, William and Brahma Howell walked the Camino de Santiago, a 1000-year old pilgrimage in northern Spain. At the end of their *gran aventura*, the notion—"like a seed," William says—was planted within them to organize a "Camino de Crestone."

"Most everyone we tell feels the Camino to be an 'idea whose time has definitely come,'" William notes; "Many people wonder why such an idea hasn't happened before." The Camino de Crestone will bring high-intentioned visitors to our community, sharing with them the essence of why Crestone is unlike any other town on the planet, renewing our spiritual centers (which will want to present the best of themselves to these pilgrim groups) and, without trying to do so, creating ambassadors for peace.

William adds: "The spirituo-religious impulse is the deepest urge in the human breast—to belong to the largest, dearest and most intimate context one is capable of imagining. To the extent that such a hope is authentically enlivened in someone is the extent to which s/he is at peace. Individuals participating in the Camino de Crestone will automatically be 'peace ambassadors,' simply by having walked the Camino. The balance they'll carry in this inmost arena of fulfillment is valuable and equally rare. It's a significant, albeit quiet, contribution to world harmony."

The need for inter-faith pilgrimage is timely to the point of urgency, according to William. "When we realize how time seems to be speeding up, that events on the world stage are escalating in drama, and that most wars have been waged over religious conflicts, then we can see how vital is the motion towards inter-religious harmony." The Howells believe our human family deeply needs more than just inter-religious tolerance, but inter-religious respect—"and even inter-religious admiration."

Potential pilgrims needn't define themselves as religious or even particularly spiritual to walk the Camino de Crestone's carefully mapped route, nor do they need to be experienced hikers. These seven days of mini-intensives are designed to be a grand opportunity



The labyrinth at "I Am Harmony" encourages pilgrims to walk the path.

that is life-affirming, an education unlike any other. The Camino de Crestone is dedicated to the uniqueness and universality of the participants and all the participating traditions.

The Camino de Crestone will provide our community with a new flow of funds, with each pilgrim registering at www.caminodecrestone.com. The tuition is \$800, payable online and covering all meals, lodgings and programs. It's an invitingly reasonable

fee that will be spread among participating spiritual centers, food providers, presenters and artists, as well as creating at least one new job: the Camino de Crestone administrator. Of course, anyone can walk the Camino anytime, the audio-tour portion can be rented at the White Eagle. But, the Camino's presentational and overnight aspects will be possible only for registered pilgrims. The Howells are hoping that three or four scholarships will be available for the Camino's inaugural year.

It is also hoped that other "participative tours" might be organized to feature such

distinctive aspects of the Crestone/Baca community as sacred art, sustainable building, gardens & grow domes, healing arts or wilderness experiences. We hope those who have completed the



Enjoy quiet and beauty high on the hillside at the Shumei Center. photo by Bill Elzey

Camino de Crestone pilgrimage will want to stay awhile to enjoy other offerings that our one-of-a-kind village might share.

Readers of *The Crestone Eagle* are invited to tell friends and affiliates about this opportunity and to encourage them to visit www.caminodecrestone.com for details and registration. Calls are also welcome at 937-7697, Sanctuary House, non-profit sponsor of the Camino de Crestone.

Buen Camino, everyone!



Stupa on the Camino de Crestone

days of walking, covering just 42 kilometers (26 miles) in all. Along the way they will take part in meditations, sacred dance, yoga of the voice, labyrinths, a sweat lodge, a shamanic journey and much more. These week-long pilgrimage walks will start and end at the White Eagle ("Gateway to Crestone") every Saturday from June through September. MP3-player audio-tours, offering recorded presentations along the route, will be available at the White Eagle, where participants begin the pilgrimage.

The Camino de Crestone is offered in the spirit of religious unity and diversity. Pilgrims, walking in groups of 7 to 14, will visit 15 different centers, with an array of educational, non-dogmatic,



The Nada Hermitage will be a stop on the Camino de Crestone pilgrimage route.



Astrologically Speaking

. . . with Ananur

(mountain time zone calculated)

May 1 Mars is still opposite Saturn. This aspect has been with us since the last eclipse, which took place on April 25. We will feel the shift when this aspect is complete, tomorrow. It has been a time of frustration and tension due to releasing old collective shameful patterns which have held us back from the future. All over the globe people are taking a stand for women's rights to be safe and protected from age-old violence. Today Mercury enters into Taurus and remains in this earthy sign until May 15. Take your time, think carefully before making decisions. Don't let anyone hustle you into a quick decision that you might regret. The Sun in Taurus is in a positive aspect with Pluto in Capricorn until midnight. This aspect has been with us since April 29. This aspect helps to strengthen you from the inside out. You can overcome anything with this energy!

May 1-June 6 once again Uranus and Pluto are exactly in a difficult aspect to each other. This has been with us on and off since June 2012 which is associated with "Arab Spring" and the uprisings where there are dictators. During this phase there will be more uprisings and discontent where there is inequality, whether it's in the home or in a country people are demanding equality and justice.

May 1-3 Mercury is nicely aspecting Neptune which increases psychic sensitivity and creative ideas for writing lyrics, plays, poetry, etc. Your mind is free flowing if you take the time out to listen within.

May 2 Mercury is in an awkward aspect with Jupiter until tonight. Your mind is quickened and you're apt to try to do too much and get scattered and disoriented.

May 3-4 Mars is in a favorable aspect with Uranus finding you strong and active physically.

May 3-5 frustration again;

this time it's Mercury opposite Saturn which usually stirs up negative thoughts and worry. It's amazing that all the worry taking place is happening during the same time span that Mars is in a fantastic aspect with Pluto, which can help you to overcome any obstacle or doubt you might be dancing with. You understand clearly why it's in your benefit to wait before launching your great idea or even speaking about it. Meanwhile you've got plenty of energy to help others overcome their negative thought patterns.

May 5 Venus is awkwardly aspecting Uranus which finds you drawn to someone who is odd in some way but attractive because of their lifestyle and how they view life.

May 5-6 Mercury is nicely aspecting Uranus which increases intuition and brings about lightening fast ideas and insights.

May 5-7 Mercury is conjunct Mars, always an indicator of being brutally blunt. It just comes out that way unless you are aware of what you say and how you say it. Your nervous system & metabolism are sped up.

May 9 Venus enters into Gemini which is a friendly social time when you probably have lots of different projects going on which involve others. A solar eclipse will take place today at 6:25pm with the Sun, Moon, Mars and Mercury all close together in Taurus and all close to the south node also in Taurus. It's the close proximity of the lunar south node and north node which make it an eclipse. We're seeing old past life collective patterns fall away due to our courage to face facts about the "American dream." It's a fantasy. We're not all going to be wealthy this time around. Learning to live and trust what this life is all about for you and knowing that you are learning and growing in your capacity to love, forgive and

find creative ways to make it, is what will ultimately save you from despair and other hopeless emotions which are the downfall of a peaceful life. We're all in for a major adjustment in our approach to life. What can you bring to life rather than what can life give you? As they say, "happiness is an inside job."

May 11-13 Venus awkwardly aspects Neptune, which stirs up the old idealistic longing for peace and harmony. Unfortunately it brings with it disappointment. Peace begins within and will spread from there.

May 14 Venus is now awkwardly aspecting Saturn signifying concern with finances. Your plan just fell through and you're feeling bummed out. Don't worry too much, because this will change, too.

May 15 Mercury enters Gemini offering ideas that you hadn't thought of previously. Mercury remains here until May 31.

May 16 is a rugged day with the Sun awkwardly aspecting both Uranus and Pluto. Conflicts due to defensive ego reactions get spun out of control quickly. It may take time to resolve these issues.

May 16-21 Jupiter is in an awkward aspect with Saturn causing havoc with the economy again.

May 18-20 Mercury is nicely aspecting Uranus encouraging you to think for yourself and allow your intuitive intelligence to guide you.

May 20 the Sun enters Gemini at 3:10pm and remains in this curious, witty air sign until June 21.

May 22-24 Mercury and Venus are conjunct in Gemini, stimulating your creativity.

May 24 there's a lunar eclipse (Full Moon) taking place with the Moon in Sagittarius and the Sun in Gemini at 10:25pm. Anyone with planets at 18° of Gemini or Sagittarius would feel this energy most personally. Teach what you know by example or find a way to teach a class or a seminar and share what is most important to

you.

You have more to say than you realize. For the rest of us this eclipse could be tumultuous, with Uranus and Pluto still in a harsh aspect. Using your creativity to find ways to bring about healing will nourish you. Saturn and Neptune are in a healing aspect. Let's concentrate on that. There are 4 planets now in Gemini which tells me that a shift into a new perspective on life will help with the harshness of the world's events.

May 24-26 watch out for those who would intentionally deceive you. The Sun is in a challenging aspect with Neptune. You're vulnerable and easily manipulated now, especially if you are a Pisces.

May 25-27 Mercury and Jupiter are conjunct in Gemini offering humor with a profound punch of truth for those who are attuned.

May 26-28 Venus is conjunct Jupiter in Gemini offering the possibility of a new romance sparking your life. Anyone who was born February 12-14, June 14-16, October 16-18, of any year will benefit financially as well as feeling appreciated. Romance is in the air.

May 31 Mercury enters Cancer and stays until August 8. Pay attention to your dreams. They are offerings from your subconscious in order to clear out old emotions from the past. Mars will be entering into Gemini today and stays here until July 13. Now is the time when multi-tasking is a breeze. Make sure to get down time to truly relax.

May 31-June 2 the Sun is in a positive aspect with Uranus making certain that you find ways to express your individuality.

May 31-June 22 Saturn is nicely aspecting Neptune in Pisces which helps you to express your healing talents. There is a need for it. Develop it or trust that you have it, and allow love to guide you.

Ananur Forma lived in Crestone from 1996- 2003. Ananur can be reached at 207-594-2565 in Rockland Maine on the rocky ocean coast. www.AstrologyWithAnanur.com

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A triple planet spectacular this month

May 10: An annular Eclipse will occur in Australia

May 11 and 12: At dusk a beautiful thin crescent moon will lie below Jupiter on May 11 and will move to the upper left of Jupiter on May 12. Venus starts to appear in the evening sky, close to the horizon, below and to the right of Jupiter.

May 17: Look for Regulus, the brightest star of Leo, just above the first quarter moon.

May 19: Elusive Mercury begins to appear, and soon after sunset it should be visible in a line with Venus and Jupiter. Binoculars will help this first glimpse. It will become increasingly easy to spot.

May 21: The moon is close to Spica, the brightest star of Virgo. The next day it moves close to Saturn.

May 24 to May 29: The month ends with an amazing triple conjunction of Jupiter, Venus, and Mercury. This trio will appear low in the bright twilight, but because all three planets are bright, it is easily visible. About 45 minutes after sunset look to the northwest. Venus is the brightest of the trio while Mercury is the faintest. They will come closest together on May 26. On May 31 the three planets form a straight line with Jupiter on the bottom. This will be the end of the show, as Jupiter falls off the end of the world and will sink to invisibility below the horizon at dusk in June.

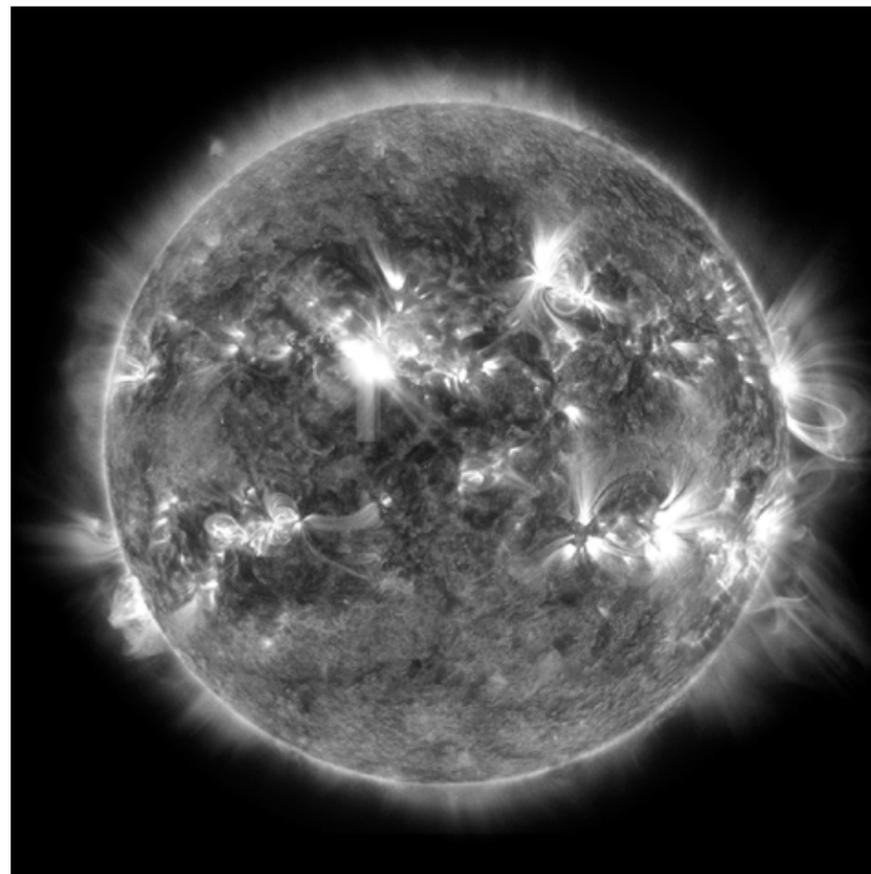
The magnificent solar flare of April

April 11 provided the biggest solar flare so far in 2013, accompanied by a coronal mass ejection (CME) headed toward planet Earth. The flare, which erupted near the center of the sun, was in the middle of areas of unusually intense and tangled magnetic fields. Loops and arcs of hot gas trace the magnetic field lines. A massive cloud of electron and proton particles reached the earth a few days later. Because this cloud contained tangled magnetic fields torn off the sun, the outer reaches of the earth's magnetic field was mangled in the process. Flying like stretched and snapping rubber bands, the earth's

magnetic field accelerated those charged particles into the earth's poles where they produced spectacular auroral displays.

Two promising places to live, 1,200 light-years from Earth

The spacecraft, named for the 17th-century astronomer Johannes Kepler, was launched on 7 March 2009. The Kepler observatory was designed to survey a portion of our region of the Milky Way galaxy to locate any Earth-size planets in or near the habitable zone and to determine how many of the hundreds of billion stars in our galaxy have planets. A photometer continually monitors the brightness of over 145,000 stars. This data is transmitted to Earth and then analyzed to detect periodic dimming caused by extrasolar planets that cross in front of their host star. It is pleas-



Solar flare of April 11: A tangled web.

NASA photo

ing to note that the major contractor for the Kepler mission is Ball Aerospace in Boulder. In fact, the space craft is operated out of Boulder, Colorado, by the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics



Another world far, far away: artist's depiction of newly discovered planet.

NASA photo

(LASP). Together, LASP and Ball Aerospace control the spacecraft from a mission operations center located on the campus of the University of Colorado, where undergraduate students, supervised by senior scientists, are engaged in the operations.

their star at distances of 37 million and 65 million miles, about as far apart as Mercury and Venus in our solar system, circling their star with similar periods of 267 and 122 days. We have perhaps three planets in our habitable zone, Venus, Earth and Mars. Mars once had water and would still be habitable today if it were more massive and had enough gravity to hang onto its original atmosphere. Venus undoubtedly had great oceans like the Earth, but they have evaporated because of its own version of global warming.

Kepler 62's newfound worlds are not quite small enough to be exact replicas of Earth, but the results have strengthened the already strong conviction among astronomers that the galaxy is littered with billions of Earth-size planets. According to a study by Caltech astronomers published in January 2013, the Milky Way Galaxy contains at least one planet per star, resulting in 100-400 billion exoplanets.

This brings us to the famous Fermi Paradox, which is close to the hearts of many Crestonians: why haven't we been visited, let alone colonized, by an older and much wiser planetary civilization? In 1950, while working at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Enrico Fermi had a casual conversation over lunch with colleagues Emil Konopinski, Edward Teller, and Herb York. They discussed a recent spate of UFO reports and a cartoon facetiously blaming the disappearance of trashcans upon marauding aliens. Moving beyond that, Fermi posed the paradox that given the likelihood of many planets in the Milky Way, why there isn't any substantial and provable evidence of visits by aliens? One participant in the discussion recalls that Fermi then made a series of rapid calculations, probably on his placemat. Fermi was known for his ability to make good quick estimates from first principles and minimal data, such as on December 2, 1942 when the reactor at the University of Chicago went critical in the world's first controlled nuclear reaction. He concluded that Earth should have been visited long ago and many times over. If our galaxy contains hundreds of millions of planets, why, indeed, are the heavens so silent?

The initial planned lifetime was 3.5 years, but because it has been so successful, the space craft mission has been extended to 2016. As of January 2013, there were a total of 2,740 candidate exoplanets. Considering that there are some 100 billion other galaxies in our observable universe, that's a lot of planets similar to the earth. But they all may not be capable of sustaining life, let alone conscious life.

Two good candidates were discovered last month, which orbit a star in the constellation of Lyra, 1,200 light-years away. They are the two outermost of five planets circling a yellowish star slightly smaller and dimmer than our Sun, known as Kepler 62. The planets, roughly 40% and 60% larger than Earth, lie in the so-called Goldilocks zone of "just right conditions" and are presumably balls of rock, perhaps covered by oceans with humid, cloudy skies. They circle

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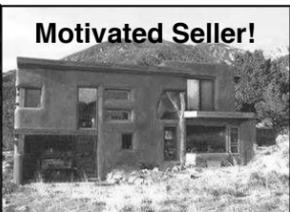
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COMMUNITY INFORMATION FROM
THE BACA GRANDE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Winds raising red flags *Are you prepared for wildfire season?*

by Lisa Bodey, BGFV
Public Education officer

Red flags are being raised due to spring winds along the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. The National Weather Service (NWS) issues Red Flag Warnings & Fire Weather Watches to alert land management agencies about the onset of critical weather and fuel moisture conditions that could lead to rapid or dramatic increases in wildfire activity. This could be due to low relative humidity, dry fuels, strong winds or a combination of these factors. In our case, the continuously gnawing winds and 50mph + gusts are drying out our fuel sources and creating the potential for uncontrolled wildfire.

The Baca POA fire mitigation crew was busy this winter and spring preparing for the start of our wildfire season. Our first priority was clearing major intersections and selected roads of trees, limbs and brush that were limiting the sight corridors for motorists and removing dead overhanging branches that posed a safety hazard. The next project involved removing excessive amounts of dead cottonwood trees from the Baca Stables in an effort to reduce the potential of injury to horses and equestrians and to reduce the fuel load. Due to past years of drought, many trees have died, fallen and created a tangled mess which reduces available pasture and riding trails. Trees were bucked up into firewood and hauled out for distribution to the community. Wood that has begun the process of decaying is left to provide the soil with nutrients and habitat for animals, birds and insects.

Our next priority area was treating the areas surrounding selected creeks. Because fire travels in the opposite direction of water, our creeks act as natural chutes for wildfires to run out of control. If you've taken a stroll along any of our creeks, you will notice that many areas are inaccessible due to the congestion of dead trees and overgrowth. This makes it more difficult for a diversity of plant and tree life to emerge, including the much needed roots, grasses and berries that are food sources for many animals. In addition, the congestion acts like a potential fuse from the flats to the highlands. Our most recent mitigation activity is along our evacuation routes, which include Camino Baca Grande, Camino Real, Wagon Wheel and Spanish Creek Trail. We are removing dead grasses, tumbleweeds and chamisa (rabbit brush) that surround utility boxes, road signs, culverts and other property markers in an effort to reduce the fuel load along these roads. This is also the first step in establishing a collaborative mowing operation between Saguache County and the POA. The intent is to decrease the potential of a wildfire starting on the roadside, and to increase the chance of safe evacuation in the event of a significant fire.

Ember zones

A Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is any area where man-made improvements are built close to, or within, natural terrain and flammable vegetation, and where high potential for wildland fire exists. By choosing to live in a WUI, we have all accepted a personal responsibility to inform and educate ourselves about the potential risks of living in this type of environment and to prepare ourselves and our loved ones for the event of an evacuation. If you live within one mile of a natural area, you live in the Ember Zone. Homes in the Ember Zone are at risk from wind-driven embers from a wildfire. Recent fires across the nation have resulted in entire neighborhoods being destroyed by fires started by embers, not the wildfire itself. Last summer during the Waldo Canyon Fire, almost 29,000 people were evacuated from the Colorado Springs area and 347 homes were destroyed. The organization Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) has published an excellent report and video called "Lessons from the Waldo Canyon



Mitigation crew members from the POA, Town of Crestone and E3-KFM enjoy a bonfire lunch at the stables while discussing wildfire season plans. photo by Jim Vanderpool

Fire," that can be accessed at www.fireadapted.org.

Evacuation info

In the event of an evacuation, the emergency managers will implement this system and you will be notified by an automated telephone call. To enroll in the reverse 911 system, please visit www.saguachecounty.net and click on the link titled "Receive Emergency Alerts for the San Luis Valley" under Disaster Preparedness. You can then enter your address and land line or cell phone for delivery of emergency notifications.

The fire houses also have a siren system which will alert you to an evacuation. Single blasts or multiple blasts are messages to the firefighters and a continuous blast of the fire siren (over 5 minutes) means that you should evacuate to the Moffat School. The American Red Cross will be on hand to help check people in, offer shelter and provide up-to-date emergency information.

In the case of an evacuation, you should also know a preplanned escape route which is a way to reach a fire safe zone. Whatever your plan may be, please understand that the dynamic nature of wildland fire may inhibit your planned route. Have a backup plan, follow the directions and instructions of the emergency personnel and may the force be with

you. If it is safe to do so, exit the Baca Grande to get to County Road T by going north on Camino Baca Grande. In the event that Camino Baca Grande is blocked, get downhill and out of the trees heading towards Spanish Creek Trail. This road has been improved for emergency use and connects to Road T on the north end. Folks in the town of Crestone should be prepared to take T Road to the Moffat School or to head west through the gate just off of Galena where the road turns north to the cemetery. If you are unable to reach any of these evacuation routes, get to the least-vegetated place you can find or an area that has already been burned over.

Grab & go!

Another way to prepare yourself in advance is to create an Emergency Evacuation Kit that will supply your own food, water, medications and other personal items for at least 72 hours. Senator Mark Udall lists some excellent resources and links in his recent article "Be Prepared for Wildfire". Please visit www.ready.gov/build-a-kit to see list of recommended items for your Emergency Evacuation Kit.

In the month of April, the BGVFD completed annual physicals, wildland fire pack tests and hosted an all-day wildland fire refresher course.

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Attendees will have an opportunity to vote for directors, hear interesting presentations and win door prizes. Prizes include an iPad, iPods, bill credits, half beef and half a pig. Additionally, a special drawing of three \$76 bill credits will be held for digital *Newsboy* subscribers (need not be present to win). Dinner will not be served; members who choose to dine out prior to the meeting and who present a receipt for their meal at registration will be reimbursed \$25 per voting membership. Please RSVP after you receive your packet in the mail by calling customer service.

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Rescue, rehabilitate, release at the Santa Fe Raptor Center

by *Galaxy Earth Dancer, PhD*

It's morning and sunlight streams through the east window. Just outside, a Golden Eagle sings his majestic morning song. Opening my eyes and ears, I hear more numerous bird calls nearby. Next to my couch-bed, cramped into Lori Paras' small rented house in Santa Fe, New Mexico, a large dome tent sits nestled between the piano, an old wardrobe, and the couch. Inside the tent are seven Mississippi Kites (hawks), all softly chirping. It is January, and these small raptors should be somewhere in the warm, humid climate of Argentina. So, why are they here in this small room tweeting away in a tent next to where I'm sleeping?

Lori Paras began working with birds in 1999 as a volunteer at the Wildlife Center in Española. Her life changed forever the day she was asked to hold a Golden Eagle while an employee tended to its care. As the eagle was handed to her, his heart pounding wildly with excitement, Paras felt her own heart hammering



Great Horned Owl.

in her chest, and for just a moment, their two heartbeats synchronized. It was then that she unmistakably knew her life's calling.

In 2004 Paras took her passion for wild raptors and created a non-profit organization: The Santa Fe Raptor Center. In those first years Paras was armed with only a phone number and a few portable animal cages. Living in a corner of a garage partitioned off with fabrics, she took in injured birds. And business was not slow at first. Paras found herself fielding up to 15 calls a week. People found birds hit by cars, electrocuted on power lines, and accidentally shot by hunters. Many circumstances can become life-threatening for a wild raptor: young ones lose their parents to predators, some birds lose their flock while migrating, and bad luck can lead to a broken wing or mangled talon.

Deftly juggling the lives of two teenagers, part time work, and her fledgling non-profit, Paras often had to carry the birds along wherever she went. As her friend, if I was lucky, I might get a peek at a colorful Kestrel, a Raven, or a tiny Flamulated Owl.

In January I volunteered my time at Paras' place helping to care for seventeen raptors. A selfish move on part—how often do any of us get to be that close to a wild animal, particularly a wild flying animal? Paras' busy days include raising and lower-

ing heavy drapes around the 15'x30' cages to protect from the bitter cold. One morning she noticed the Peregrine Falcon flying too low, indicating a possible infection. I held the falcon while Paras deftly drew blood from a tiny vein in the leg. Falcons have notoriously sharp, strong beaks, and this one wanted a bite!

Feeding is a big part of the daily duties, and mealtime included 23 mice, 6 rats, 3 quail, and 4 chicks that had thawed overnight. I had a special fondness for the Great Horned Owls, who hissed and clicked their beaks when I got near, puffing out their feathers to appear large and fierce.

We also had to tend to the raptors' feet, as cage life compounded by freezing temperatures causes them to become dry, cracked, and possibly infected. I got to hold each bird while Paras carefully applied salve and bandages. I also held a Screech Owl while she fed it bits of mouse. Because of head trauma, it was reluctant to eat on its own (but it eventually did!).

Another favorite moment for me was getting to know Wolfy the Harris Hawk, a permanent resident. As is characteristic of these hawks, Wolfy chatted up a storm whenever I



Screech Owl.

came near, and we had several lovely conversations. Night time meant shuttling the Turkey Vulture into a cage with a heat lamp. The cold creates precarious conditions for birds who have strayed from a warmer environment or missed their migration, like the Kites in the living room tent. Though it may seem a little strange, business is growing, and Paras is determined to save as many raptors as possible. Her valuable spare time is spent writing reports for Fish and Wildlife (who controls her licensure) and writing grants to keep the center funded.

When the board of directors informed her in December that, after nine years, the center could no longer maintain itself, Paras refused to despair. The money was almost gone, not because of failure, but rather for the best of reasons: success and growth. The Center was now feeding more than double the amount of birds through the winter months than ever (summer is even busier). By October, Paras was feeding 21 birds, requiring 32 rats, mice, and quail each day. That adds up to a hefty food bill. Facing possible shutdown, Paras looked around at the eighteen wild birds depending on her for survival, and said, "No way am I giving up now!"

Through donations, the center remains active, but there is an ongoing need for funds to pay for food, X-



Galaxy Earth Dancer with Wolfy the Harris Hawk.

rays, lab tests, surgeries, cages, and supplies. Volunteers transport birds and help clean cages, and Paras is currently hosting an intern who flew in from Denmark. But as the human world continues to encroach upon



James Dean the Golden Eagle.

wild nature, the need for better facilities grows. Paras envisions a large parcel of land where longer fly cages can be housed (the birds need time and space to develop strong fly muscles before being released), and food can be raised and stored (rather than shipping frozen food at a high cost). Additional space is needed for cleaning cages, sanitizing laundry, and for the medical care that Paras gives.

Paras is amazing skilled and passionate with wild animals (she has worked with bears and mountain lions, too). Hers is truly a work of the

heart. When one of the Kites came close to death during the bitter cold in December, Paras snuggled it in her winter coat next to her own warm body, and sang to it gently for hours. That little hawk lived against great odds.

The endgame of all this is release. Each year, Paras releases about 48 raptors and 120 songbirds back into the wild. A few years ago, I witnessed the release of a rehabilitated Osprey at Heron Lake in New Mexico. That is the moment that makes all the bird poop and late nights worth it. That is the moment when your heart soars with the bird, the moment of returning to the wild. James Dean, the somewhat famous Golden Eagle, will be released this April near Ghost Ranch New Mexico, with at least one famous actor attending!

To read the wonderful tale of James Dean, the Golden Eagle who was electrocuted and should never have flown again, see the Albuquerque Journal article here: abqjournal.com/main/2012/12/23/north/where-eagles-fly-again.html.

If you'd like to meet Lori and Wolfy yourself, go here to watch a lovely interview with Lori Paras and Wolfy the Harris Hawk on "Report from Santa Fe" with Lorene Mills: reportfromsantafe.com/episodes/view/35/lori-paras-amp-wolfy.

As with any non-profit organization, the Santa Fe Raptor Center is always in need of support. For more information, and to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit www.santaferaptorcenter.org



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As the Worm Turns

Growing squash for seed

by Leigh Mills

One year, I planted seeds from an acorn squash someone had grown and given me. I nurtured the seedlings and cared for the plants all season, anticipating an abundant harvest. As the fruits grew, I observed



Here's what those first saved squash looked like. All kinds of shapes and sizes. None looked like acorn squash, the vegetable where I got the seed. Gardening is a learning experience!



This little pumpkin grew in the Saguache Community Garden 2011 squash patch. Since there were several types of squash grown very close together, the plants cross-pollinated and any saved seed would not be a pure variety.

strange things. Their shape didn't seem acorn-like and they took forever to turn green. After the harvest, I opened one up and was surprised by its sponge-like interior. It was only then I asked the friend where she grew the squash. "In my community garden plot," was the reply. "Next to other squash?" my second question. "Oh yeah, several kinds," she said. Into the compost went the inedible fruit. Since then, I have learned more about growing squash and saving their seeds.

Squash is a favorite food, with hundreds of nutritious varieties spanning cultures and time. Many gardeners save squash seed, but how many really know how? Here are some tips for the coming season so you can save your squash seed and have it be true for many following years.

The class, or genus, of squash is cucurbita. There are 6 types of squash species: maxima, mixta, moschata, pepo, ficifolia, and foetidissima. Maxima species include lots of the pumpkin varieties, banana squashes, buttercup, Hubbards, marrow and Turban. Mixta includes most cusha, wild Seroria squash and silver seeded gourds. Moschata has the butternuts plus about 100 more kinds of squash. Pepo seems to be the largest group and has the acorns, small pumpkins, cocozelle, crooknecks, some big pumpkins, scallop squash, vege marrow, zucchini and the small,



This is sweet dumpling squash, a member of the Curcubita Pepo family, the largest squash family.

decorative, striped and warted gourds. The ficifolia species is small and the plants need a very long season to mature. The Chilacayote or fig-leaved and Malabar gourds are ficifolia types. The last species is the foetidissima and includes the calabazilla or buffalo gourd. This last type is grown for the oil from its seeds.

The main thing to remember when growing and saving squash for seed is that squash will easily cross-pollinate between members of the same species. The easiest way to save squash seed is to grow one type of squash in each species; otherwise, you will need to hand pollinate or practice other isolation methods. If you are using "fresh" seed from a company, check to see if they mention the type of species on the package. If you're not sure of the species, you can always look up the information on the internet or in your local library. When getting squash seed from other sources, make sure they have been grown out pure. Always ask the seed giver what kind of squash it is and where they grew their seed.

There isn't enough room in this article to describe hand pollinating or other isolation techniques. I rely on my *Seed to Seed* book written by Susan Ashworth for my seed research, and most of this article's information came from that book. It lists all the squash names in each species and gives detailed instructions for hand pollinating; which they say is easy, even for beginners.

I advise any gardener who wishes to start saving seed to learn

The Infinite Bee gardening blog

Leigh Mills would like to thank the monthly readers of "As the Worm Turns" for all the wonderful compliments she has been receiving on her writing.

During the past year, she has been able to be in her garden and mind full time, taking pictures and keeping a journal of her gardening and awakening experiences. Inspired by your support and with the help of Mark Talbot of Xplore Design, she has started a blog.

The Infinite Bee is a gardening blog, from seed to seed and mind to heart. Join Leigh as she chronicles the growth of her garden and mind from season to season. The topics are spontaneous and are inspired by the cycles of the garden and growth of her mind. Leigh will be sharing her experiences from building garden beds, planting seeds, nurturing plants through their growth, harvesting, food preservation, honeybee benefits, seed saving, observation and awareness.

Other features of The Infinite Bee gardening blog are past "As the Worm Turns" articles Leigh's written, lots of color photos, and an opportunity to contact, comment, question, and leave suggestions. Leigh is eager to hear from you and encourages you to visit TheInfiniteBee.com.

how. Read books, experiment, practice, and enjoy the immense satisfaction you can receive from saving your own seeds, no matter how difficult it may seem.



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SOLD! <p>62 E. Horsetooth Trail - \$399,950 Single OR dual (2000sf, 2bd/2ba & 1550sf, 2bd/1ba) living space, 10' ceilings, fine finishes, courtyard on 3.21 acres.</p>		SOLD! <p>1230C N Indian Bend - \$375,000 1950sf 3BD/2BA; 3.69 acres; 1450sf garage/workshop/studio w. full bath, landscaped Courtyard with trees.</p>		Under Contract <p>3615C Splendid Terrace - \$239,000 This spacious & bright 1938sf, 3bd/2.5ba, southwestern style home sits on 1.79acres. Guest house w/full bath + kitchenette.</p>		Under Contract <p>233CR Sweetgrass OL - \$219,000 This strawbale 1792sf 2bd/1ba home plus loft built in 1995 on 2.24 acres close to town with lovely fenced garden area. Radiant floor heat + woodstove. New Listings!</p>		Under Contract <p>3435C W. Graceful Ct - \$184,999 Private 3bd/2ba, 1872sf 2-story newer frame home on 1.467 acres in CH2 w/ wood floors, wood stove, good views, & 436sf wrap-deck.</p>		New Listings <p>2721 Happy Hollow Way - \$149,000 This ~1000sf, 1-1/2 story, 2bd/1ba cottage has a beautiful front rock exterior. Amazing views in quiet neighborhood close to retreat centers.</p>		<p>358 Birch Road - \$289,000 Off grid home with 3bd/2ba, office, 2nd living room, modern efficient kitchen & elegant bathrooms-an inspired renovation. Natural light, expansive & unobstructed views.</p>	
New Listings <p>1234 Laredo Trail - \$265,000 This strawbale 1831sf 3bd/2ba home has detached studio on 1.86 acres with magnificent views. Fine finishes, diamond plastered walls, open floorplan. Master suite with soak tub.</p>		<p>1738C Willow Creek - Way \$239,000 New Paul Koppapa strawbale eco-friendly home high in Chalet 1. 2bd/2ba, 1532sf on .91 acres. Strong passive solar. Solar radiant floor heat & domestic hot water. Energy efficient.</p>		<p>764 Indian Hill OL - \$232,000 This sunny 3 bedroom 2 bath ~1800+ sq. ft. home. 2 living areas- with magnificent views from interior & deck. Detached 576 sq.ft garage & studio. Open plan & energy efficient.</p>		<p>4114C Cordial Way - \$217,000 2171sf 3bd/2ba w/loft and extra room up on 1.021 acres of wooded lot. Decks and 2 car garage. Rastra walls. Spacious open floor plan. Adjacent lot available.</p>		<p>2664 Happy Hollow - \$215,000 This spacious 2356sf home On 1.041 acres with 4bd/2ba, 2 separate dining areas + gardens, carport & workshop! Large windows-sunshine & awesome views. Passive solar & woodstove.</p>		<p>3713 Enchanted Way - \$195,000 Beautiful Southwest style 1460sf 2bd/1.75 ba. Feat: jetted tub & shower in m-bath, aspen ceilings, radiant floor heat, wood burning stove, terrace & pond. Adj. lot incl.</p>		<p>1740C Willow Creek Way - \$185,000 This 1 1/2 story home located on 1.32 acres has 3bd/2ba with a downstairs studio. In addition it has a glassed-in sunroom with magnificent views. Wood floors downstairs.</p>	
New Listings <p>3736 Jubilant Way - \$149,000 Lovely 3bd/1ba home on 1.152 acres, protected views. Large loft master bedroom. Tongue & groove aspen ceilings, honeycomb window coverings, wood stove, garden & shed</p>		<p>151 Moonlight Way - \$119,000 Greenbelt/creek setting. 3bd/2ba 1456sf home w/2 car garage. Open floor plan, large deck, close to paved roads.</p>		Bank Owned <p>3486C Graceful Way - \$179,900 3000+sf, 5bd/2.75ba home w. separate studio apartment, sun-room, radiant floor heat, oversized garage, courtyard/garden, an AMAZING \$83/sf!</p>		Off-Grid - New Price <p>364 E Birch Trail - \$89,900 Was \$115,000 1207sf + Greenhouse on 10+ acres (Lots 362-365). Horse property, strawbale, solar off-grid.</p>		Baca Meadows <p>Townhouse 6, - \$199,000 Renovated & furnished 3bd/3ba 1622sf single-level townhouse w. granite tile counters, pantry, arch & walled courtyard.</p>		<p>Townhouse 9 - \$159,000 2-story 2bd/2ba 1480sf corner townhouse with mountain views. Wrap around patio and balcony. Peaceful & relaxing. Immaculate condition.</p>		Town of Crestone <p>345 S. Cedar, Crestone - \$189,000 1434sf 3bd/2ba Cottage Neighborhoods. Downtown Crestone, walk to the grocery stores, Post Office, bank, shopping, restaurants & new school.</p>	
Town of Crestone <p>370 South Alder - \$187,500 Flexible space with 5 BD/2BA or two separate units. 1950sf. Part of Cottage Neighborhoods downtown Crestone.</p>		<p>375 S. Cedar - \$149,000 Charming 2-story home filled with light, 1100sf, 2bd/1ba Conveniently located in downtown Crestone. Easy walk to stores, restaurants, bank, post office and Charter School.</p>		<p>573C Cottonwood Creek Tr \$324,000 CUSTOM OFF-GRID STRAWBALE 1855sf 2bd/1.75 on 8.59acres. Garage 808sf. Fine finishes. Open floorplan. Views. Exquisite!</p>		<p>1381 Saddlerock Trail - \$165,000 Cute 1100sf 2bd/1ba strawbale home. Solar hot water, radiant heat bamboo floors, sunroom, views, courtyard.</p>		<p>786C Panorama Way - \$459,000 This Lee Mitchell custom 3bd/2ba/ SR/library/balconies ~2400sf home with fabulous gardens sits on 2.14 acres w 2-car garage/studio.</p>		<p>1234C Brookview NOW - \$459,000 Lee Mitchell custom home. 2400sf 3BD/2.5BA/Office/attached 2 car garage, balconies. Magnificent Views.</p>		<p>1342 Badger Rd - NOW \$325,000 2bd/1.75ba/office/screen porch/ 864sf 2-car garage. SW-style home on 13.5 acres. Backs to creek/trees, 2 stalls/paddocks/pastures. Expansive views.</p>	
<p>1540C Willow Creek Way \$315,000 This classic farmhouse has 3bd/ 2.5ba, large deck w/hot tub, 2 screen porches, hardwood floors, large studio w/bath & kitchenette.</p>		<p>4262C Serene Way - \$299,900 Immaculate 2500sf 3-level home on .98ac, 5bd/2.75ba. Walkout basement includes den/yoga room, radiant floor heat, bricked patio.</p>		<p>733C N. Rendezvous OL - \$295,000 This 1972sf 2bd/1.75ba/large studio/office Southwestern style strawbale home is located on 1.14 acres at end of secluded cul-de-sac. Adjacent lots avail.</p>		<p>1202 Hilltop Way - \$295,000 Lee Mitchell custom-built, 3bd/2ba home on 3-Chalet 1 lots. Fine finishes, radiant floor heat & framed views. Close to Yeshe Rangsal Retreat.</p>		<p>22 Alpine Way - \$295,000 CUSTOM 3bd/2.5ba/2 car garage 2232sf home close to town. Screened porch & wrap deck. Gracious Living with exceptional views!</p>		<p>1647C Willow Creek Way - \$269,000 Brand New Terrapin Construction. 1780sf 3bd/2ba home on 1.98 acres with 2 decks + flagstone patio/walkways. Backs to Greenbelt. Views.</p>		<p>1216C Chaparral Way - \$259,000 Immaculate 3bd/2.5ba custom home built by Keith Teahen on 1.132acres. Beautiful master suite w/ elegant master bath. Located on quiet street.</p>	
<p>451C Chaparral - \$239,000 1543-sf 2BD/1BA w/ sunroom, great room, patios, high balcony with views on 4 lots.</p>		<p>3869C Jubilant Terrace - \$235,000 10 sided two story home on 2.08 acres on greenbelt w. creek. Private cul-de-sac. 360° views/large deck. Possible Owner Financing</p>		<p>4511C Ridgecrest Way - \$225,000 Straw bale home 1.59 acres Backs to greenbelt and national park. 2 adjacent building lots available.</p>		<p>2676C Happy Hollow Wy - \$215,000 Great value on this 2bd/2ba/office home on .927 acre w/sustainable systems, grow dome, yurt, orchards & watering systems. Very nice.</p>		<p>2681C Happy Hollow Wy \$179,000 Custom 2000sf home on 1.427 acres. 3bd/1.75ba/study or 4th bd w/separate entrance. Flexible open floor plan. Hot tub, gardens, carport.</p>		<p>1573C Kings Hill OL - \$169,000 Bright 3bd/2ba renovated 1480sf 1 1/2 level home with large south-facing windows & view deck on .84 acres. Easy access, paved roads.</p>		<p>3485 E. Graceful Ct - \$159,000 Open floor plan - 2bd/1.75 ba w/lrg eastern deck Oversized kitchen, ETS heater, wood stove. Spacious ma bdrm/ba w/long soak tub. Views.</p>	

In Search of Economic Reality

Recreating the Land of Opportunity, or else?

by Ed Lyell

What is the common cause of our failed public schools, costly and ineffective health care system, underfunded pensions, ineffective Congress, and loss of hope for the future? It is a financial services-dominated type of US capitalism that exploits the majority for the gain of the 1%. Adam Smith created what we call capitalism to provide tradesman an escape from the tyranny of only working for their wealthy land owners—a form of slavery or serfdom. America had its 1776 revolution to escape from the tyranny of having the benefit of their work going to the wealthy British owners protected by the aristocracy of England. France had their revolution in 1789 to free themselves from the oppression by the 1% French aristocracy. In 1917 Russians threw out and killed their oppressive royal family leaders. The recent Arab Spring was not about religion but income and wealth disparity and the sense of hopelessness by the majority. All these events had one thing in common: the exploitation of the majority by the wealthy and powerful 1%.

Is America again at this point? For over two hundred years we had a healthy form of capitalism in which workers increased their wages and lifestyle from hard and smart work. Since the 1970s all profit from increased productivity goes only to the capitalist, not the worker, (See Professor Wolff's *Capitalism hits the fan* for details). From 1913 to the 1980s taxing the wealthiest provided a necessary investment in the common goods needed for long term success for all. Roads, bridges, education and other forms of infrastructure investment were provided by a tax structure that took over 50% of the income and wealth from the top one percent. We were the most widely educated, innovative, and middle class wealthy in the world. Democracy worked as the majority all voted and Congress listened.

Growing up in the 1950's I had the opportunity to get beyond my parents elementary school education and obtain a good education, right through a PhD. Taxpayers subsidized my schooling with the grand bargain that I would be more successful than my parents and given a progressive tax system would pay the taxpayers back over my working lifetime.

Those opportunities are now gone. Our roads, bridges and physical infrastructure are failing. Civil engineers estimate that we need to invest over two trillion dollars to fix them, (www.asce.org/PPLContent.aspx?id=2147484137). Our human capital investments are now the sole responsibility of students, not taxpayers or employers. My grandchildren have to pay for their own university education. Of course the wealthy can pay the high cost of tuition, and often can make it tax deductible. Meanwhile the middle class is saddled with high interest student loans. The one percent have more wealth and power than any time in world history. America's ninety nine percent have forty years of frozen real dollar wages; less education from a poor performing public school system; less health care from an overly expensive for profit health care system; less opportunity for university educations; and now have their long term pensions at risk from the failure of the pension funds who were duped into buying risky Wall Street derivatives.

Governors and multi-millionaire CEO's are telling workers that they must either pay more into the pension funds or accept less benefits. Yet the only reason that these funds are insufficient is that the investment banks defrauded them while making themselves billions of dollars. No new banking regulations are fixing this, no CEO's have lost their jobs and money, let alone gone to jail and they pay few if any taxes.

There is but one cause of all of

these failures, an unregulated Wall Street whose leaders also control the Federal Reserve, US Treasury, oversight committees in Congress and the White House. The movie *Inside Job* documents these problems quite well. We have cut taxes on the wealthy while increasing taxes on the middle class. The EPI think tank has just published an excellent set of tax changes that will rebuild America for the middle class; www.epi.org/publication/options-exist-raising-revenue-smart-progressive.

The excessive insider profits of Wall Street schemes often end up in global tax havens as documented by a recent report from the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. Almost 40 trillion dollars are parked in these hidden banks avoiding taxes and productive usage around the world, (<http://bit.ly/10bfBcn>). Quoting them: "A study by James S. Henry, former chief economist at McKinsey & Company, estimates that wealthy individuals have \$21 trillion to \$32 trillion in private financial wealth tucked away in offshore havens—roughly equivalent to the size of the U.S. and Japanese economies combined". What if that money had kept being taxed and invested in physical and human capital infrastructure for all?

The 1% wealthy Americans alone have broken our economic and political system and ruined hope and opportunity for the success of the majority. The super rich are expanding their control over America's media including Robert Murdoch and the multi-billionaire conservative Koch Brothers (<http://nyti.ms/Zm85ky>).

Americans need to wake up and make big changes in multiple ways. Yet the majority are being manipulated by the major media who focus our attention on fears of terrorism or lifestyles of the celebrities. Instead of reporting on how to improve our exploitative industries we are lulled into a culture

of mediocrity. It can be difficult to get people to change. I have only seen one group of humans that cry out for change, and they are babies with wet diapers and even they need outside help to fix things.

America needs a climate of dramatic, disruptive innovation and change. We first need to change our attitude from frustration, excuses and powerlessness, to a can do, must do, focus on fixing all that we know can be fixed, and doing it. Remove the status quo forces that overprotect casino-like and exploitative Wall Street products and practices. Create charter schools, magnet schools, on-line academies, and 24/7 learning communities for all ages and subjects. Implement a European-style single payer health care system. Today's failed education system, poor health care, defrauded pensions, loss of university access, along with frozen wages, all have one common cause; a failed form of capitalism. Return to a balanced form of capitalism, since even socialism is better than the status quo. We know how to fix these problems, and they must be fixed since we have recreated the income and wealth conditions that have led to armed revolutions throughout history.



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There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root

Poleo Mint (*Mentha arvensis*)



Poleo Mint is the only mint native to Colorado. In May, this mint, also known as Brook mint, is just starting to come up along the local creeks. It may be a little tricky to find, being fairly non-descript at this time, but I feel the thrill of discovery every time I locate it. You might locate it by smell, when walking through it.



Poleo Mint.

Finding this little mint requires some familiarity with the mint family. They all have square stems, pairs of opposite leaves, and most, but not all, have a strong scent. By gently rubbing the leaf, you'll notice that the smell is stronger than Peppermint or Spearmint. It's a definite strong minty smell with a hint of Pennyroyal. The leaf is ever so slightly fuzzy, and rounded at the tip. The stem is soft, unlike many other mints, and branches later on in the season. Poleo Mint flowers in late summer, with pinkish purplish flowers emerging from the axils of the leaves.

Since Poleo Mint is actually a native, harvest with care. Take only a small percentage of any stand so that it can replenish itself. Never

pull the plant up by the roots. And since it's a mint, if you pinch off the top of the plant it will continue to branch and grow. To grow this mint in your garden, take a cutting and root it before planting. It likes to be near water or to have its feet wet.

Brook Mint can be used in cooking—it makes a fabulous sun tea, can be used in salads, in cakes, as a seasoning, and in sauces and jellies. Medicinally it has been used as an infusion (medicinal herbal tea) for digestive issues such as indigestion and gas, or colic. Use 1 tablespoon to a cup of boiling water and let steep 5 minutes. Mints have a dispersing energy, and so it can also be useful for migraines, menstrual cramps (especially when the bleeding is light), and tension. And, especially useful in our area in non-drought times—Poleo Mint repels mosquitoes. Rub the leaves on the skin to keep them away.

As always, make sure the area you are harvesting in has not been sprayed with pesticides, and hopefully is not in the path of marking dogs. Remember to offer tobacco or corn meal (or a few hairs off your head in a pinch) before harvesting so that your exchange with the plant is equitable.

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

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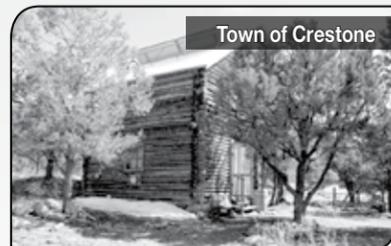
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Town of Crestone

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505C Arrowhead Wy \$149,000. Representing the Buyer. Sold!
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Chalet Two

Lot 3344: Views! \$2,300 **REDUCED**
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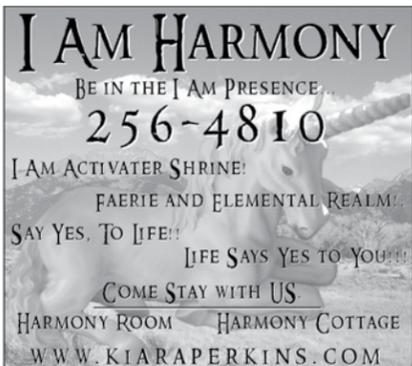
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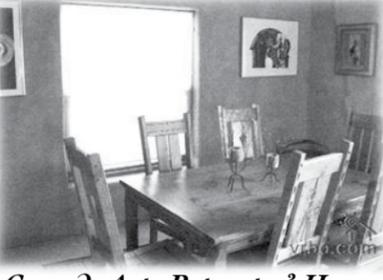
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DISPATCH from the edge

by Peter Anderson

I used to live in a Wyoming town known for its consistently high winds. On the rare occasion when the wind quit blowing, everyone fell down. Spring is our high wind season here in the valley—maybe not quite as constant and harsh as in Laramie where my neighbors used to measure wind velocity with an anvil on a length of chain—but significant nonetheless. I've witnessed brown clouds of Dust Bowl proportions carrying newly plowed soils from Hooper and points west to the foot of the Sangres.

Some years ago, the Saguache County Commissioners, pressured by farmers in the central part of the valley, agreed to erect a series of sand resistant fences to prevent the easterly migration of agricultural properties. Crestone realtors, eager to bolster their inventories, and the directors of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association, eager to generate fees from additional lots, teamed up with the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council and filed a successful lawsuit, claiming that the prevailing winds came from beyond the county line and therefore the commissioners did not have jurisdiction. While I had sympathies for both sides of the argument, I was selfishly glad that the court ruled against the county commissioners. I know of a nearby canyon where a heap of seed caps formerly worn by

valley farmers are deposited annually. Occasionally, a Stetson turns up. Whenever I am running low on hats, I know where to find them.

History buffs may remember an effort on the part of the Crestone-Moffat Business Association, some years ago, to generate tourism by way of our seasonal winds. A windwagon regatta was staged out on T Road, featuring an assortment of four-wheeled sailing vessels. The winds were strong and crowds of onlookers lined our county road for miles. There were raffles and side bets. Some say competition between the Crestone and Moffat land yacht clubs was so severe it may have resulted in sabotage. Whatever the case, a haywagon belonging to a crew from Moffat, rigged up with a massive spinnaker sail, was unable to navigate the first of the infamous "S" turns on T Road. They ran through a fence, across a pasture, and into a herd of herefords causing an unfortunate stampede. An elderly onlooker from Colorado Springs sprained an ankle while running away from the crazed bovines and the event was never held again because of liability concerns.

More recently, on the day before Easter, a formidable dustdevil gathered up thirty-five free-range and wholly organic laying hens and delivered them to the front lawn of a nearby church. Since an Easter

potluck had been planned, church folk saw it as divine providence. When the rightful owner of the poultry came by to reclaim his property, he was reminded of the passage in Revelations Chapter 2 wherein God condemns those who "eat food sacrificed to idols and practice fornication." Furthermore, the preacher said, God promised to make war against said heathens "with the sword of [his] mouth," clearly a reference to the wind, and deliver "hidden manna," clearly a reference to the chickens, to his obedient followers.

The other day, the wind was getting on my nerves. I went down the Bliss Café for a beer and made the mistake of complaining about the weather to a self-appointed sage. "Dude, there's no need for negativity," he said. "It's all good." I reminded him that the wind messed with people's allergies. That the wind carried pesticides. That we were all downwinders in one way or another and we were lucky it wasn't worse. "I just believe that we create our own reality," he said.

"Ok," I said. And I went home to give it a try.

Baca Grande Library News



by Suzanne McGregor

The Friends of the Library Bake Sale on April 15 was a huge success! We would like to thank everyone who provided baked goods, transported supplies, manned the table, made the signs, bought the goodies and put donations in the jar. This was a beginning step to the goal of a new library in town, and the support of the community was overwhelming. Please consider joining this group and adding to the momentum—just ask at the library for more information.

With the arrival of spring, thoughts are turning to the garden. The library has a big collection of high altitude gardening books and information on garden structures (greenhouses and cold frames), permaculture, zenscaping and design techniques. We also have *Zone 4* magazine, specifically focused on our geographical area.

We also have many books that have information and activities on involving young people in experiencing nature. You will see how important this is by reading the book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv. One of our favorite authors is Sharon Lovejoy—come check out *Toad Cottages & Shooting Stars: Grandma's Bag of Tricks; Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots: Gardening Together With Children; and Sunflower Houses: Inspiration from the Garden.*

"The children and nature movement is fueled by this fundamental idea: the child in nature is an endangered species, and the health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable."

—Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*

Please note that the library will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27.

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

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Loren Howard
CEO San Luis Valley REC

Why are special interests in Denver collaborating with primarily urban legislators to ram through legislation to tell us how to live in rural Colorado? Senate Bill 13-252 imposes draconian renewable energy mandates on Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, SLVREC's power provider. These mandates will raise SLVREC's electric rates.

The bill is sponsored by Senate President John Morse (D-Colorado Springs), Senator Gail Schwartz (D-Snowmass), Speaker of the House Mark Ferrandino (D-Denver) and Representative Crisanta Duran (D-Denver). The bill was introduced April 3 and had its first committee hearing April 8, only five days later. In contrast, SB 13-001, a much less controversial bill on tax credits for working families, was introduced January 9 and had its first hearing April 3, three months later.

This gave the electric co-ops no time to review the bill or to thoroughly understand all of its affects and costs for members. Keep in mind, electric cooperatives supported a bill in 2007 to impose a 10 percent renewable energy standard on

ourselves. This bill was not imposed lightly—cooperatives worked with legislators, the Governor's office, renewable advocates and environmentalists to craft workable legislation with goals we all agreed on.

SB 13-252 is being rushed through the legislative process without the benefit of an open and honest dialogue. Instead of being referred to the Senate Energy Committee, which has some familiarity with energy issues and electric cooperatives, it was sent to the Senate State Affairs Committee. This committee was handpicked by Senator Morse to approve controversial bills at his direction.

SB 13-252 directs Tri-State to generate 25 percent of the electricity it sells in Colorado from defined renewable resources. It adds two new sources to the approved list, methane captured from coal mines, and electricity generated from landfill waste using a process known as pyrolysis. While it is a good idea to utilize these new technologies, neither of those new resources have a significant availability in Colorado at this time. The bill also requires cooperatives to achieve at least 1 percent of their retail sales from expensive distributed generation.

Defenders of the bill claim that rural consumers shouldn't be concerned about higher electricity costs because there is a rate cap to

Help Defeat Senate Bill 13-252

protect them. However, President Morse couldn't accurately explain how the cap works in the hearing and later amended the bill to clarify that it would actually compound over the six years the cooperatives have to comply. In fact, even he acknowledged the increase will be well over the 2 percent he stated at the beginning of the hearing.

Given the very short time frame it had, Tri-State ran the requirements of the bill through some standard industry models to estimate rate impacts. It estimates the bill will cost rural consumers \$8,000 per meter on average. How do they arrive at this figure? Tri-State will have to buy or build new renewable resources. They will also have to retire existing coal plants early—plants that still have years of useful life. Why? Because at this point Tri-State has more than enough generation resources to meet its member's demands. Tri-State will be paying twice for the same amount of generation. But wait, it gets better. Because renewable resources are intermittent, meaning they only produce when the wind blows or the sun shines, Tri-State will have to purchase or build additional gas generation to back up the new renewables. So, in effect Tri-State will be paying three times for the same amount of electric capacity.

Under the bill, Tri-State must pass these costs to

only their Colorado member systems, because the bill prevents the expenses from being divided among all 44 of Tri-State's member owners, which includes cooperatives in New Mexico, Wyoming and Nebraska. Tri-State estimates the total cost of SB 13-252 to be between \$2.9 billion and \$4 billion (with a B).

All of this was done without consulting with the rural cooperatives that have to implement this mandate or the rural consumers required to pay for it. Why not consult with our consumers and directors? One member of senate leadership recently told NPR that she had more important things to do than consider the needs of rural special interests.

As a co-op director from the Eastern plains said during the hearing, "no bill should be passed without a thorough understanding of its consequences to all parties involved." Both the substance of SB 13-252 and the questionable "back-room-deal" manner in which it was introduced are reasons enough to oppose it.

Please, contact your representatives to voice your concerns about SB 13-252 today!

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Houses & Property for Sale

House for Sale – Chalet I

For sale by owner, 2 BR, 2 BA home in chalet I near park with attached two car garage, \$140,000, call 71-588-3243 for details.

Stupa House for Sale

5 Bed 3 bath Eagle view next to mountain, 2.5 acres 2700 sq feet Owner financing, realtors welcome 345k, 719-256-5439

Baca Homes

1)35A + 2 victorian homes 2)strawbale 2bd/2b Spanish Creek green home 3) new custom built Cottonwood Creek green home 2-3bd/1&1/2b. soularquest@fairpoint.net// 719-256-4645.

Commercial Property at the front door of Baca Grande

For Sale by Owner, Camino Baca Grande Professional Center – Income producing. Serious inquiries only. (719)256-5798, (719)480-9929 or (808)255-4046.

GREAT LOTS FOR SALE

GREAT LOTS FOR SALE. Chalet II, lot 2212, Spanish Creek Frontage! Tap paid, WS, \$13,900. Chalet I, lot 574, greenbelt, spectacular views, WS, \$10,000. Lot 528, Panorama & Moonlight, WS, \$3000. OBO. Call 256-5015.

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3 PRIMO VIEW LOTS IN CHALET 1

Lots 459/460/461, 1/2 acre each w/ separate tap fees paid. Beautiful quiet neighborhood. #461 \$15,000/#459 & 460 \$25,000/all 3 lots \$35,000. lynele@gmail.com or 303-785-8995

An acre and a half. Make an offer

Three 1/2 acre lots. Baca chalet 2. Tap fees paid taxes and poa fees up to date. Yes, it will cost to bring water to lot, but these lots can be a steal for someone with future plans... Call us and make a LOW reasonable offer to consider... 7074590725...

Lots for Sale – Priced to SELL

Priced to sell: Grant, 2.62 acres, lot 78, Laurel Road, \$2,500. Chalet II, lot 3268, No. Carefree Way, power and utilities available, \$2,000. Call 662-549-2276

Priced to sell!

Lot #873 Baca Grants. Incredible views of Sangre de Cristos, Sand Dunes and Mt. Blanca. 3.38 acres. All taxes & dues current. \$5000. woodmandesign@fairpoint.net; 719-937-3767.

“Crestone Sphere”

Amazing place/ business venture
1190 Beaver rd the sphere. 2800 sq/ft nice lot views Final status outside approved. Inside unfinished unframed. No cracks or movement in 10 years, very solid and well built. All Pella doors and windows. Would make an amazing healing spiritual center. Search future spaces for videos and history of this unique and successful design. 719 352 9065 keith

Houses for Rent

Great Deal ~ Home in Chalet I for Rent

Comfortable home in Chalet I – 3BR/2 full BA for rent: \$650/mo + utilities. 12-month lease & references required. Includes woodstove to supplement hot water baseboard heat; w&d, d/w. Available May 2013. 719-256-5356

Stupa House for Rent

Stupa House 5BD 3BA home Chalet II, near upper stupa & Vajra Vidya next to the mountain. ELF efficient heaters. Can be rented fully furnished/\$1290 or unfurnished/\$1190. Lease 719-256-5439.

Retreat Home, Great Views

Art-filled 3BD retreat \$700 week. Fully furnished, in the Baca, Chalets I. Great views, quiet, great for long term stays! 719-580-0379. Monthly rates available. Available for home swapping.

Exceptional 2 BR 2 Bath Home in Grants

2 BR 2 Full Baths Rental – Grants, W/D, Dishwasher, H2O Filter, Year lease preferred/\$800/month/References, Available June 1, Pics: thelongandshortofrenting.com, 719-256-4585

Beautiful Bright Cabin for Rent

Beautiful, Bright & Sunny Cabin for rent beginning May 1st in Chalet II. 2/bed 1/bath + office. Wood Stove, Electric Baseboard Heat. Month to Month Lease. First & Last Months Rent, Plus Deposit. Pets Negotiable. \$700 a month + Electricity. 480-1718

Beautiful Home For Rent

Beautiful Home for Rent. 1 BD + Office/2nd BD, 2 BA. Radiant floor heat w/ETS + wood stove. Hard wood floors, stunning views, covered balcony. Private & quiet location near Cottonwood Creek. No smoking, pets negotiable. \$775/month + utilities, deposit. Unfurnished or partially furnished. Call 588-8727. Available May 1st.

3 Bedroom House for Rent

3 BR, 2 BA, 1600 square foot home w/ storage shed. Wood stove, ETS unit, EBB backup. W/D, D/W. \$700/month plus utilities. First/last/deposit. 1 year lease. Pet negotiable. www.crestonegenie.com photos. 719-937-7786/7796

Fairy House for Rent

Amazingly high vibrational house with terrific valley & mountain views. Cosy, Comfy, Quiet. Ideal for retreats or family get aways. Rest & rejuvenate in this amazing space. Nightly, B&B, Longer-term, 719-256-5768 enchantedforestcrestone.net/annekellycrestone@yahoo.com

Take your Pick!

Beautiful complex: 2 BR, 2BA energy efficient strawbale house and separate studio apartment. Fire pit, gardens. Can be rented separately or together. House \$750, apartment \$450, \$1200 for both plus utilities. 1 year lease. Pet negotiable. First/last/deposit. www.crestonegenie.com photos. 719-937-7786/7796

Spacious Rental with Great Amenities

Lovely, quiet, thoughtfully furnished strawbale home. Retreatant & family friendly, large loft w/ 1 King + 2 twins, sleeps 4 + 1.r. futon couch/bed, sundeck views, WiFi, TV, stereo. Nightly, weekly. 719-256-4498. kaibeetch@gmail.com, www.beetchhouse.com

Restful Home

Adobe home, 1 acre, Large loft bedroom, on the corner of Badger and Moonlight. \$650 plus utilities. ETS heat, wood burning stove, all beautiful. 650 380 8815

Apartments/Rooms/Misc. for Rent

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For Rent

Fully furnished 1-2 bedroom 2nd story apartment in Chalet I. Wheelchair accessible. Available May-Oct. \$50/night, \$250/week, \$800/month. Utilities included. Call 256-4809.

Great Rental Opportunity!

25 min N of Crestone, 10 min to hot springs. Semi-furnished, rustic suite: 2 small rooms w/ mudroom, full camp stove, old fridge, wood burning stove. Shared Bathroom facilities in bldg. next door. \$300/mo includes firewood. Move in mid-May Contact: info@earthart.org or 719 588-7828

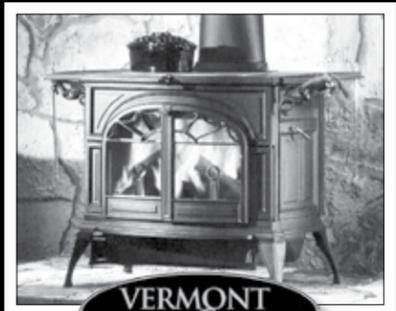
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Quiet studio for rent

Large, separate 650sf studio in the Grants on quiet 2-acre property next to seasonal stream & cottonwoods. Full kitchen with custom tile. Furnished, but can remove a few things if needed. Very sweet space. Best for one, two negotiable. Washer. \$550 a month, includes water, elec & trash. Heat (propane) not included. Asking first, last & deposit. Prefer no pets, negotiable. Pls call 719-937-7931 or email sandother1@gmail.com

House Rental Wanted

House to House

Woman needs living situation for long term. One bedroom house or house share. Master Gardener, etc., non smoker, non drinker, clean, good cook and cleaner. Can do house sitting, work exchange.

Looking for a Responsible Tenant?

Mature, nature-loving responsible woman desiring long term single dwelling in wooded Crestone; moving from IL end of Aug. References. Thanks! Dianne 708-572-7789.

Services

Looking for a Healthcare Practitioner?

Looking for a health care practitioner in Crestone? Massage therapists, herbalists, energy healers, doulas, and more. Also lodging, hot springs, gift certificates. www.crestonehealers.com.

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Free honeybee removal in the northern SLV. Give us a call; if they are honeybees and accessible, we'll take them away. Sorry, no wasp, yellow jacket or other sort of insect removal — we're just in it for the bees. Please call Janet at 719-937-3767 or email woodmandesign@fairpoint.net.

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Craig Electric for all your electrical needs. Prompt, reliable, generous rates. Contact Steve at 256-5951, sdossenback@gmail.com

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Computer Service/Repairs—22 years Computer Technician with full shop in the Baca. Windows, VIRUS fixes and prevention, networking. Call Dennis 256-4110

Licensed Real Estate Appraisal

Licensed Real Estate Appraiser with 25 years experience, many years experience in Crestone. Don Root. 937-7796 or 720-244-1097. donald.root@yahoo.com.

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Colormax House Painting—many local references including Curt's Store and the Crestone Credit Union. Large color swatches for easy color selection. 30 years experience. Repairs. Excellent craftsmanship. Neat, fast & perfect. Chris Argenta 256-5243.

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Recycle-Creede Recycling Services

Recycle-Creede provides drop-off recycling services in Crestone the 3rd Saturday of every month in The Laughing Buddha parking lot. We take almost everything! For more details call 303-503-9975; visit us on Facebook and at www.creede.org.

Affordable Renewable Energy

Offset the cost of your utility bills with Solar Electric or with Solar Heating and Domestic systems. Efficient, cost effective, reliable and professional service. Call Talmath with New Gen Energy at (719) 588-8276 or visit us online: newgenenergy.com

Shamanic Energy Work

Shamanic Energy Work including balancing, illuminations, and soul retrievals, call Joyce for an appointment at 719-588-3243

Help Wanted

Great Opportunity For Carpenter

Homeowner looking for carpentry help. Mostly interior work. Possible 30-40 hrs/wk. Experience preferred but all considered. Pay DOE. Ryan cyber.cyclist@yahoo.com 206-706-3226

Misc. Wanted

WANTED:

Straw Bales – New or Old

Straw bales: New & golden or old & moldin', our garden needs 'em. Please call Janet at 4230 or stop by the Crestone Eagle office.

Misc. for Sale

Cookbook Benefits Valley Food Banks

Recycled Recipes from the Newsboy, a cookbook featuring favorite Valley recipes can be purchased at 3625 US Highway 160 W, 2 miles west of Monte Vista. \$10 each. For every cookbook sold, \$5 will be donated to Valley Food Banks. Call 719-852-3538 or 800-332-7634

Misc. For Sale

Never used 2011 hot tub \$3500 OBO. Direct vent LP heater \$400. 25 stoves and chimney in stock. Green house covering by Solexx. Service work by David Lindsey 256-4400. Call Nathan at Shangrilah Stove 256-4768.

FOR SALE: GYM EQUIPMENT

Lat machine – \$150 (new \$375), Seated Row machine – \$175 (new \$400), Bench, leg press/curl, bicep curl combo machine – \$110 (new \$250), Leg extension/curl – \$195 (new \$450), & more. 256-4370

Used books

USED BOOKS – CARDS AND JEWELRY BY CARMIN Sangre de Cristo Inn. Off central hallway next to the pottery shop. Open Wed – Sat 11-3. Also buy or trade books. Info 256-4511.

A Piece of Crestone

Send a chunk of Crestone to your loved ones! A small Crestone Conglomerate rock, complete with explanatory reprint from The Crestone Eagle, attractively packaged in a 3"x3" box for only \$5. All sales benefit Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Available at His & Hers Hairstyling and The Crestone Eagle

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Community Service

CB Village – Local Help, Give & Receive

CB Village is a local time bank where you can help others and gain credit for future help when you need it. Go to www.cbvillage.net or call 480-8757 to join for free.

Need Food? Crestone Food Bank is now Open

Crestone Food Bank is now open in the Crestone Town Center, SW corner of Galena & Alder. Open Wednesdays from 1-3pm, and as needed. Call Denise 256-4644.

Emotional and Spiritual Counseling

Change your life for free. "Change your mind/change your reality/expand consciousness through grace." Alice Blaszk provides free emotional and spiritual counseling to local residents. Privacy maintained. Phone Alice at 256-5670 for appointment; will resume May 7th.

Need a Caregiver?

I can help you find a local caregiver for you or a loved one. I have several names and numbers of individuals with a variety of skills and experience. (I am also looking for more trained caregivers/CNA) For in-home assistance, elderly care, ongoing illness, etc. call Kris at 719-256-4786; LM—Please speak clearly, I'll return your call.

Need Food? Emergency Food Supply-

Need Food? The Moffat Food Bank will provide an emergency supply of food for 3 days to anyone in need. Open 2-4 Tuesdays. Call for information at 256-4226.

Events

What's Happening in Crestone?

Look in the Eagle's print calendar (located in the centerfold of the first section) for northern Saguache County events as of the first of this month, or for the very latest, go online to: www.crestoneeagle.com/calendar.

Developing love and compassion and reducing anger and spite is a universal activity which requires no faith in any religion whatsoever. —Dalai Lama

Free

FREE STUFF!

Two 8-ft rolls of 6'x1" bamboo fencing; 50-ft roll of 6' farmtek sunblocker shad/privacy netting; heavy wing-back recliner chair. 256-5657

Free Manure

Free horse manure. Call the Baca Grande Stables to arrange pick up. 256-4756.

Designing the Earth Anew Together:

We have to first together decide what the ideal world should be, before we can together start creating it! www.ModelEarth.Org

Life is a bridge. Cross over it, but build no house on it. —Indian proverb

Vehicles for Sale

Fuel Efficient Car for Sale!

2003 VW Jetta sedan, \$3800, 113,000 miles, very good condition, 35 mpg, over 400 miles/tank, good rubber, handles nicely, doesn't burn oil, Kelly and Zana Hart, 719-256-6033.

Dream Wagon

Elderly couple reluctantly relinquishing 4WD Ford F-250 XLT with Hallmark pop-top camper after years of happy travels. Bought new in '91, truck 94,000 M, camper refurbished. V. good condition and maintenance. Features sperm whale hood ornament. Great value at \$5950. 719-256-4808

1996 Hyundai for Sale

96 Hyundai 4DR, 89000 mi. \$1500 obo. 719-588-6961



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Town of Crestone State of the Treasury for 2012

GENERAL FUND: Cash on hand 12/31/12 \$212,421.31, Accounts Receivable \$489.98

REVENUES \$313,066.30: Property Tax \$6058.59, Specific Ownership Tax \$560.02, Sales Tax \$139,709.88, Cigarette Tax \$522.46, Business Licenses \$1585, Liquor Licenses \$647.50, Building Permits \$365, Variance Permits \$186.94, Wastewater System Permits \$225, Motor Vehicle Fees \$1096.50, Highway Users Tax \$11,320.90, Community Building grant \$6000, Fire Mitigation grants \$23,527.50, Crestone Botanical Garden grant \$1074.61, Crestone Town Center grants \$45,406.50, Cemetery \$3600, Community Building rentals \$1312, Crestone Town Center Rentals \$14,807, Severance tax \$363.06, Copies, faxes, map sales \$379.55, Interest \$1213.87, Court fines \$445, Donations \$5262.48, Reimb. payroll from other funds \$19,487.60, Charter School relocation \$501.51, Museum sales & donations \$530.52, Youth Work Force \$16,329.20, Crestone Creative Council: Grants \$6784.79, Fundraising \$3763.32.

EXPENDITURES \$292,364.53: Advertising \$500, Attorney Fees \$12,000, Bank fees \$39, Building supplies \$2035.41, Books \$378.55, Cemetery improvements \$4749.65, Community Building \$7074.28, Crestone Botanical Garden \$1074.61, Crestone Creative Council \$5848.10, Crestone Town Center \$70,308.78, County Treasurer fees \$121.90, 2011 Audit \$1170, Election expense \$579.02, Office supply/electronics \$5058.43, Festivals \$1007.76, Fire Mitigation \$23,527.50, Fixtures \$1063.25, Grounds maintenance \$1245.12, Insurance \$5235.85, Municipal Court \$100, Museum \$509, Postage \$485.20, Dues & Training \$976.50, Re-roof Old Town Hall \$2420, Mileage \$951.71, Recording & Publication \$688.24, Road engineering \$3137.50, Road maintenance \$14,976.37, Utilities \$9601.20, Youth Work Force \$14,878.23, Payroll \$92,674.67, Payroll taxes \$7948.70.

SEWER FUND: Cash on hand 12/31/12 \$53,425.95, Accounts Receivable \$365.83

REVENUES \$25,881.94: Tap fees \$1,200, Service fees \$24,212.06, Finance charges \$116.22, Interest \$353.66, Inspection fees \$80.

EXPENDITURES \$20,468.74: 2011 Audit \$180, Reimburse General Fund payroll \$3257.90, Office supplies \$350.99, Rent \$498, Treatment \$5871.70, Inspections/repairs \$60, Loan payments \$10,215.77, Utilities locate \$34.38.

WATER FUND: Cash on hand 12/31/12 \$36,624.01, Accounts Receivable \$2854.85

REVENUES \$44,395.44: Tap fees \$18,000, Service fees \$14,194.90, Fire protection fees \$8316.33, Finance charges \$149.04, Inspection, misc. \$300, Construction grant \$2738.19, Well usage \$540, Interest \$156.98.

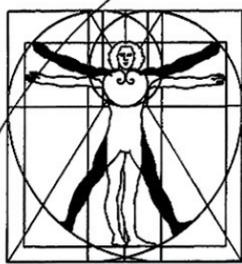
EXPENDITURES \$38,714.92: 2011 audit \$450, Dues & training \$145, Loan payment \$10,998.70, Mileage \$531.75, Office supplies \$153.91, Postage & shipping \$143.57, Reimburse GF payroll \$15,098.61, Supplies \$889.90, Tap installation \$5281.97, Testing \$2598.98, Electricity \$2312, Equipment Use \$95, Utilities locate \$15.53.

CONSERVATION TRUST FUND : Cash on hand 12/31/2012 \$480.07

REVENUES \$3445.84: State Lottery \$1441.37, Interest \$4.47.

EXPENDITURES: \$3800: \$1800 Park Maintenance, Tree Replacement \$2000.

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Ask the Weatherman
by Keno
Is it true that Crestone and the rest of Colorado see 300 plus days of sunshine each year, and that our state sees more sunshine in a year than most other states see?

Although Colorado doesn't make the top 10 list for states with most days of sunshine in a year's time, we do see more sunshine days here than most folks living in other states experience.

As far as Crestone and the rest of Colorado seeing 300 days of sunshine each year, it would only be true if you stretch things.



Apple Blossoms in spring.

photo by Daleth McCoy

found that if they counted every day when the sun came out for at least one hour, then the average was around 300 days of sunshine each year (and where the Colorado Chamber of Commerce came up with that number). But

ered a clear day, while if the sky cover was 80% or more, it is considered a cloudy day. Anything in between counts as a partly cloudy day. So based on this definition, in an average year for Denver, there were actually only 115 clear (or truly sunny) days, with 130 partly cloudy days, and 120 cloudy days, in the days/years that study covered. For the record, the sunniest city in America, Yuma, Arizona, only sees 242 days of sunshine a year going by these criteria, and also falls short of this magic 300-sunny-days-a-year mark.

Of course, some areas of Colorado do see more sunshine than Denver. No such study has ever been done in the greater Crestone area, but since the town of Crestone is in the foothills, it sees a lot more partly cloudy days than sunny days, and nowhere near the 300 plus days of sunshine some might think. But out in the middle of the San Luis Valley, where the mountains are much farther away and clouds don't build up as much, is where Colorado's sunniest city is located, that being Alamosa, with 148 days a year of sunshine.

So overall, one could say that for most of the state, making a claim that Colorado sees 300 plus days of sunshine each year, is very much misleading.

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

Crestone-Baca Weather Report
by Keno
March 21 to April 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid Precip: 0.77"
Snow: 10.1"
Measurable precipitation fell on 10 days.
Measurable snow fell on 10 days.
A trace of snow fell on 4 days.
No rain, thunderstorms, or hail occurred.

Total precipitation year to date

Since Jan. 1: 2.23"
Total snow to date
Since Jan 1: 27.8"
Snow season (7/1-6/30): 48.9"

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 64.4°F on April 5
Low temp: 1.7°F on March 24
Avg. high: 51.6°F
Avg. low: 24.2°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 60°: 10
Number of days with the high temperature at or below 32°: 3
Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: 27
Number of days with the low temperature at or below 10°: 2

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 5.0 mph
Highest gust: 54 mph on April 16
Main direction: Out of the east

Weather summary:

Temperatures were near normal, with precipitation slightly below normal. There were 6 record lows set, including a reading of 1.7° on March 24, breaking the date's old record, which was 7°.

The entire area experienced a dust/sand storm on April 16 which produced the highest wind gust ever recorded at the Crestone/Baca station at 54 mph. Alamosa saw a gust of 62 mph on the same day.

Outlook for May:

May averages .96" of precipitation, placing it right in the middle as the 6th driest, or if you prefer, the sixth wettest month of the year. The average snow for the month is 2", but where in the past we saw some good snows in May, that hasn't been the case in years. In fact, we haven't seen a full inch of snow fall in any one of the past 11 years, which in turn has brought down the monthly snowfall average for May a full inch since the year 2000. It was also in the year 2000 when a record snowfall of 15.0" fell in the entire month. The most precipitation for May took place in 1993 when 2.18" fell.

Temperature-wise, we can expect a high and low of 62° and 31° in the first week of May, with readings warming up to 72° and 39° in the last week of the month. The highest temperature for May was 96° on May 31, 2002, and the lowest reading was 13° on May 2, 2011.

The 30-day outlook for May from the National Weather Service is calling for very much above average temperatures, along with average precipitation.

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