

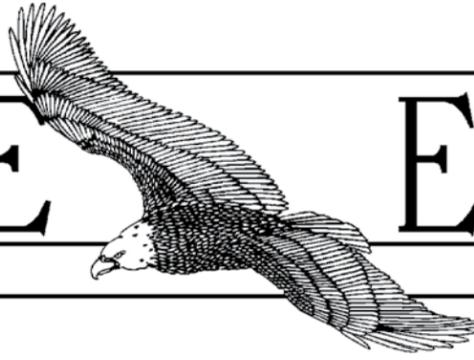
The CRESTONE EAGLE

Crestone, Colorado Volume 25, Number 5

May, 2014 \$1

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Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Thistle. The broadtail is Colorado's most common hummingbird species, migrating into the state by May and staying until late August or September. They are attracted to brightly colored flowers, where they find nectar and insects. photo by Wendy Shattil & Bob Rozinski www.dancingpelican.com

To see this photo and more in color, visit our website at www.crestoneeagle.com

Colo. 'ground zero' in national debate on fracking

by Lisa Cyriacks

An intensifying battle is brewing nationally over how to balance public demands for a pristine environment and health versus ramped-up production of fossil fuels. Front Range residents have proposed 17 state ballot measures to bolster local control over drilling, short of a statewide ban.

Last November voters in four Colorado towns approved moratoriums on natural gas and oil exploration and hydraulic fracturing

(fracking). In Boulder, question 2H placing a five-year moratorium passed with 76.8% voting to approve. Voters in Lafayette approved banning new oil and gas wells with no end date, 57.8% to 42.1%. Fifty-five percent of voters in Fort Collins voted to approve a five-year moratorium on fracking and waste products from natural gas and oil and drilling.

Broomfield, CO, is currently in court over controversial election results that initially reported the

five-year ban failed by 13 votes. In a recount, the measure passed by 20 votes. In February 2014 a judge upheld the ban, stating that the razor thin outcome was due to a close election, not flaws in the election.

Oil and gas operations in Colorado have grown controversial as drilling rigs have moved closer to communities north of Denver in the last few years.

A ban on the use of fracking by oil and natural gas drillers, approved in 2012 by Longmont vot-

ers, has been challenged in court by Colorado Oil and Gas Association and Colorado's Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Earlier in 2013, Gov. John Hickenlooper vowed to continue to take legal action against cities and counties in the state that enact fracking bans. At the time, Hickenlooper said the bottom line for the state was that "someone paid money to buy mineral rights . . . and you can't harvest mineral rights without doing hydraulic fracturing, which I think we've demonstrated again and

continued on page 32

Colorado 2014 political season off to full swing as candidates prepare for June primaries

by Lisa Cyriacks

Both the Democratic and Republican parties rallied at state assemblies on April 12, and nominated candidates for top seats like US Senator and governor. Primary elections for both parties are June 24.

Democrats from across the state gathered for speeches by the party's top ticket candidates—incumbent U.S. Senator Mark Udall and Governor John Hickenlooper—at the 2014 Democratic Party As-

sembly. Flood recovery was a rallying point as the 1,200 more or less Colorado Democrats from around the state gathered to officially renominate Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Mark Udall.

Governor Hickenlooper said that, in the past three years, Colorado has jumped from No. 40 to No. 4 in the nation in terms of economic growth. Hickenlooper said after his speech that flood recovery was a positive topic on which Democrats

could easily harmonize.

In a speech that touched on equal pay, Medicare, Social Security, immigration, the government shutdown in October, minimum wage, federal surveillance and optimism, not once did Senator Mark Udall mention health care reform, a topic his opponent, Republican Cory Gardner, is taking aim at in a bid to capture the Senate seat.

After his speech, Udall said *continued on page 32*

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



Thank you

Dear everyone,

Thank you to all who attended Lionnell's memorial. You helped make it a truly special and meaningful occasion. Thank you all for the cards, phone calls, e-mails, flowers, food, prayers, hugs, well wishes and your continued love and support. My heartfelt thanks to the EMTs and first responders who came to my aid so quickly the night of Lionnell's passing. We are lucky to have women and men of such high caliber and dedication in our community. We are grateful to be part of the Crestone, Baca and Moffat communities.

With love and gratitude,
Loretta and Nicole Covert

Thanks POA

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the Baca Grande POA for once again supporting the youth of our community through their offering of partial scholarships for the Baca Grande Stables Summer Children's Riding Program (see related article). The POA has underwritten this program for many years, thereby making it possible for children to participate in this fun and valuable experience who might otherwise not be able to attend. On behalf of our local kids and families, thank you.

Joanna and Eli Dokson
Baca Grande Stables

Matthews for BGWS

Dear Editor,

I urge voters for the two-year seat on the BGW&S District Board of Directors to keep Vicki Matthews on the board. She has been "in the room" for the past 6 years and has led the charge to bring the district's affairs into proper and legal order. The other candidate has been a no show during that time. Would you hire a chauffeur who didn't show the least interest in understanding how your newly rebuilt (and expensive!) car operated?

Sincerely,
Michael Scully

Thanks for supporting our Moffat Scholastic Book Fair

Dear residents,

Because of your help, our school had our best book fair! This money was used to buy books for our library and it puts books in the hands of our most needy kids!

The All for Books money we collected also helps readers beyond our school and community. Scholastic Book Fairs matches monetary donations with a donation of up to one million books to two national non-profit organizations dedicated to helping children, families, and teachers acquire books and edu-

cational resources—Kids In Need Foundation and Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc.

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

The more children read, the better they get, and the better they get, the more they'll enjoy reading and keep at it. Thank you for your support of our Moffat Scholastic Book Fair!

Michelle Hashbarger
for the Moffat School

Clay Art closing downtown studio

Dear Editor,

It has been a pleasure having the Clay Art Pottery Studio downtown since 2009. It is time to move on and focus on my own work. I plan to take the summer off and close the studio downtown and move into my home studio in the fall.

Hearing all the laughter and seeing the creative juices flowing has been fun. I am thankful for the support of the community for keeping Clay Art alive for all this time.

Some of my first students are now graduating from the Charter School this year. The Charter School's mentorship program allowed our high school students to have experience in a professional pottery studio. They learned to let go and create amazing works, both functional and non-functional. Over the years I also worked with home school students, after school students and all those who walked in the door and professed to have no talent and walked out with beautiful works in clay. It has been a pleasure.

Thanks also to all the adult and student studio members who came in on their own time and used the studio as their own and kept it clean! So, I am not leaving Crestone, just moving my studio to the Baca and taking a break to get my creativity moving again. Wait until you see some of my new work I have planned!

Clay Art will be having a big gallery sale Thursday May 8, Friday May 9, Saturday May 10 from 10am to 5pm.

Everything must go at fantastic prices, 50% off marked prices. It is a good time for future gifts and maybe something for your self. Please stop by and see what we have. I don't want to pack it up. I want someone to enjoy what has been made.

Thanks,
Lynn Drake

A small town with a big heart

Dear Editor,

When you travel you would usually want to go somewhere where there is a big resort or many things to do, but what if you go somewhere where it is not about the place, but the people that are with you. This past week I traveled to that kind of place with my school. Crestone, Colorado is definitely a small town, but within that town there are so many people and things

that are hidden inside it. This experience has not only taught me, but has changed different perspectives I have as a person. The people, cultures, and the whole life of Crestone have transformed me into a whole and complete human being.

We attended the Healing Arts Center (The Dojo) for a Kundalini yoga class. The word Kundalini comes from an ancient technology based on an understanding of the ecology of the human being. The yoga is designed to heal, breathe, sound, and posture. For me personally the yoga made me feel at peace. When we arrived at the Dojo, Sue Beck Retuta who was our yoga teacher, greeted us. The practice was combined with different poses, chants, meditations, and breathing exercises. My favorite part of the class was at the when we meditated on our backs and listened to the sound of the gong. In particular I love the gong because it overwhelms me with peace and enlightenment in life. It sends me into a trance of peace and serenity. I also felt like the gong symbolized the beginning of our adventure. Sue is peaceful and very nice. Dan is her husband, and they own the center and Dan also teaches martial arts.

Going to Crestone was an experience that I will never forget. When I first arrived I was not sure of what to expect from the week. All I could see were trees and sand, but what I have learned through the week are countless experiences and memories. Through the week I have met new people, learned about different cultures, and have explored a place with so many lessons. I have not only learned about a different type of yoga, but also realized how much Kundalini yoga affects me in a positive way. Through the nature, the vibe Crestone gives off, and the people that are so genuine. I have learned more about people, and myself while just living and breathing. I will carry this memory with me forever and even though it is a small town, there are so many people that can affect you and at the same time teach you something new and powerful with light.

Olivia Dolemba,
Aspen High School
Experiential Education Student

Call for seniors' survey

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the many ideas and inputs we have received from everyone who has already responded to the Living Wisdom Seniors' Survey. If you have not submitted yours yet, please be sure to do so.

Your participation not only greatly assists efforts at visioning and planning, but also ripples out into our community a sense of caring and the message that Crestone is a place of vitality that is devoted to quality of life.

You are still invited to fill out the survey (available at the Mart and the Desert Sage. They will soon be in the foyer of the Nada Chapel, and by request at other locations.) . . . and drop it by the ERA offices of Vivia Lawson in the Sangre de Cristo Inn building.

All your voices are requested, please, if you've spent 55 or more years on our planet. Give us your thoughts, so together we can grow

Editor's Notes

The next door

Dear Eagle readers: All our life's wheels keep turning, from one phase to another. This winter I celebrated the *Eagle's* 25th year—a completion.. It is time now for me to sell *The Crestone Eagle* newspaper business—complete this chapter in my life and open the next door.

So, I'm calling in the right person or persons to take the *Eagle* into its future life. Someone who sees the importance of a community-oriented independent newspaper. Someone who loves the mountains, valley and the people, who sees the richness of what is here and wants to enhance it and be a key part of it.

The *Eagle* has grown greatly over the years, from a 12-page paper up to 60 + pages. We went from putting out the paper in a spare bedroom to a beautiful building with great staff and a host of wonderful contributing writers. Our website keeps expanding with a wealth of content and many visitors from all over. The *Eagle's* potential, like Saguache County, continues to grow with new people, new ventures, new visions and challenges to be met. We're looking for a steward and a business visionary—and someone with juice!

My friends have asked me "what will you do?". Retiring sounds good. Home & garden, taking out the Casita camper to go exploring sounds marvelous. Doing my own writing is certainly on the list.

It has been hard to think of letting go of something that has been so deeply rewarding—and so much fun. But, it is time for fresh new energy. The wheels turn. Doors open. Opportunities present themselves.

If you are the person who wants to fly this *Eagle*, or know that person, please contact Vivia Lawson who is our sales broker and see the ad on page B-11. Contact her for all inquires.

In the meantime, enjoy some very fine and informative articles in this month's *Eagle*.

From the top of the Rockies,
Kizzen

and support each other.

Barbara Hoepfner
William Howell
Vivia Lawson
Burt Wadman

117 POA members make requests of Baca POA board

Two well-attended community meetings were held in February after the majority on the board of directors did not adequately answer the fire-related questions put to them by POA members at the board's February 13 meeting. This letter, signed by 117 POA members (see below), is the result of those meetings. It was presented to the board prior to their meeting of March 13 but board president Bob Garnett abruptly adjourned that meeting just before the issue came up on the agenda. When it did come up on the agenda at the next regularly scheduled meeting the board majority neither discussed the issues with the members nor were willing to schedule a special meeting to do so. To date the board has yet to engage personally with these members to address the concerns brought up in this letter.

Instead, at its April 24 meeting the board issued a written response saying that it would not be willing to meet with members to address the points in their letter unless the members can provide detailed evidence and documentation supporting every request the members put to the board in their letter to justify why the board should do so.

—submitted by Susannah Ortego

Letter to the POA Board

Dated March 13, 2014

To Baca Grande POA Board of Directors:

In response to a growing number of interrelated concerns, but with a focus on fire safety, the Baca Grande POA community members held two community meetings in February, on the 17th, and the 24th, for the purpose of hearing community concerns and formulating the following requests:

Fire protection concerns

Whereas: Property owners recognize that we live in an area of extreme fire danger. The Colorado Wildland Urban Interface Hazard Assessment Map indicates the Crestone/Baca as the area of highest risk in Saguache County, and equal to the area near South Fork that was involved in a large wildfire in 2013. Baca Grande residents are concerned about the loss of experienced fire fighters to the POA Fire Department and the lack of expertise among current Baca fire department volunteers.

Whereas: Residents recognize that other issues exist with a private POA Fire Department, including issues of governmental immunity, insurance, liability for homeowners and fire fighters, and mutual aid agreements with other public fire districts.

Members Request: The POA Board of Directors to seriously explore, in GOOD FAITH and in collaboration with the POA resident

community, options for collaborating in the use of emergency equipment. As challenges exist with a private fire department, the POA Board of Directors should earnestly research and work toward the leasing and/or other legal means of providing the POA fire station, trucks, and personnel equipment to Crestone Fire Protection District, upon condition of passage of a mill levy to support the District.

Members Request: The POA Board of Directors to establish a Conflict Resolution Process between former Baca Fire Department staff and volunteers, and POA staff and directors to identify issues that resulted in a high number of resignations.

Members Request: The POA Board and staff to take action steps to resolve these issues with staff, board, and current and former volunteers.

Communication issues

Whereas: There continues to be a seriously inadequate response, written or verbal, to members' questions and concerns, in meetings or out of meetings. This indicates a board that lacks the type of communication that builds positive relations with the membership.

Whereas: The POA Board of Directors has given insufficient reasoning for its lack of response to membership inquiries and questions.

Members Request: When the membership presents the Board with written questions, we expect to receive a thoughtful and clear response in writing within a reasonable period of time. In most cases, a reasonable time would be two weeks to one month.

Members Request: During POA Board meetings, when members request time on the agenda to present concerns and questions, that time should be offered in good faith and in a timely manner. Board members should indicate support for the safety and wellbeing of the community by Actively Listening and Responding to member concerns.

Membership accountability

Whereas: The community perceives three levels of community investment, with the highest level being residence owners who also live here, secondly residence owners who rent to community members and thirdly, those who own undeveloped land. This is also validated by the state property tax valuation.

Whereas: Members who own homes and live here are most likely to be impacted the most heavily by wildfire and other natural and man-made disasters.

Whereas: The POA Property Owners who are more significantly committed to the community by full-time residence should be given greater consideration when there is physical risk to their homes and personal safety.

Members request: The POA Board of Directors to form, support and empower a taskforce of residential property owners to fully investigate a variable dues structure that will recognize varying levels of community investment. Long-term planning should include a governing documents change to give weighted voting to local homeowners.

Members request: That dues assessments be sufficient, and fund-

ing priorities set, to provide for a fire department that has adequate resources and reserves to fund and staff a National Response to a fire, as needed in an emergency.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Signed by 117 Baca Grande POA members

Editor's Note: The Crestone Eagle was given the list of the signers, but it was too many names to publish here. We have posted it on the Eagle website: crestoneeagle.com/letter-to-poa-board-3-13-2014

POA Board Response

Presented at the April 24 POA board meeting: Board response to the March 13, 2014 letter from the members concerning list of member requests

The POA Board is willing to have a meeting to discuss the member requests. Before such a meeting can be scheduled the Board requires the following information to be submitted in writing to ensure such a meeting would be productive and to provide the Board sufficient time to review the information and prepare properly researched responses.

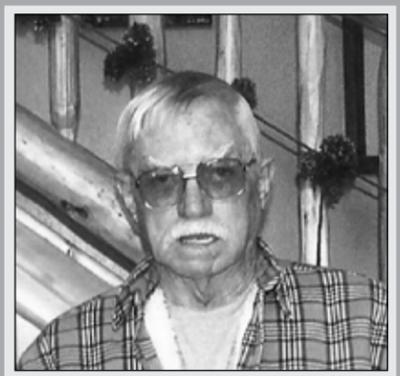
1. For each request, please provide a detailed presentation about why there is a need for the request and what you specifically are asking the Board to do to achieve the request.

2. For each request, please provide a detailed presentation of any evidence, laws, etc., to support each member request that would require such supporting information.

3. For each request please provide a clear plan and any necessary documents you feel would be needed to achieve each request, taking into account all the laws and rules that must be followed by the Board, and taking into account Board member/association liabilities concerns.

We await your written response.

POA Board of Directors



James Thomas (Tom)

Dunman

April 26, 1941-April 10, 2014

Tom was born in Houston, TX and passed away in his home in Moffat, CO. He was 72 years old. Tom was preceded in death by his father, Cecil James Dunman. He is survived by his mother Vivian Naomi Dunman, and one sister Jan Annette Harrell and her husband Randy; three children, one daughter, Kimberly Ann Jacob, and husband Kile. He had two sons, James Thomas Dunman II, and Bryan Andrew Dunman; two nephews, Everett Troy Harrell, wife Nicky and Travis Lynn Harrell, wife Connie; eight grandchildren and six great nieces and nephews.

Tom attended Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown, TX where he won the Texas State Diving championship in 1959. He then moved to Austin, TX where he attended the University of Texas, majoring in Chemical Engineering. He was a very talented artist and was an avid rock hound. In 1988 he moved to Colorado where he could live a more simple life. He loved the mountains, rock hunting, fishing, and most of all the wonderful friends he had here. He found peace here in Colorado and he will be greatly missed.

Services will be held at 1pm on May 22 at the Crestone Baptist Church by friend and Pastor Dennis Ertle.



Crestone End of Life Project
Promoting informed end-of-life choices and supporting their fulfillment
Call 719.937.7697 or 719.937.7802 for information/materials
www.crestone-end-of-life.org • email: ceolp.info@gmail.com

**Let nothing disturb you, let nothing dismay you,
All things pass away, The Spirit alone is changeless.
- Saint Theresa of Avila**

Attend our meeting **Tuesday, May 13th** at 7pm, at the Topping house, 33 Sunset Overlook
(first left behind Century 21 office). Call 256.4247 for information/directions.

SUNDAYS AT SIX
FREE CONCERTS IN COLE PARK, ALAMOSA

JUNE 29 - THE WENDY WOO BAND (ROCK/POP)
JULY 13 - LOCAL NIGHT FEAT. REVEREND AND THE BLUES PUSHERS (BLUES) AND SWEET RADISH (FOLK)
JULY 20 - POTCHEEN (CELTIC ROCK)
JULY 27 - REBECCA FRAZIER AND THE HIT AND RUN (BLUEGRASS)
AUG 10 - JAKA (AFRO POP/FUNK)
AUG 17 - INDIAN NICKEL (ROCK)
AUG 24 - SLV BIG BAND

Shepard murder case reopened

by Mary Lowers

The valley was horrified in September 2008 when the dismembered burning remains of a woman, later identified as Brenda Kay Shepard, were found in a barrel on the west side of Saguache County. Despite many hours of investigation by the Saguache County Sheriff's Department this gruesome crime remained a unsolved. The recent arrest of Daniel Bessey, 41 of Oklahoma by Rio Grande County Sheriffs for the January 14 murders of John Salazar, 54 and Sarah Beasley, 29 of Monte Visita may have turned up connections between Bessey and the Shepard homicide.

At the time Shepard's body was discovered she and Bessey were living together. According to Sa-

guache County Sheriff Mike Norris, Bessey "was a person of interest in 2008 and interviewed then. Other leads were perused at the time."

When it was discovered Sarah Beasley, murdered in January, had been Bessey's significant other and had a child with him, Saguache County law enforcement became interested in a possible connection with their 2008 cold-case. Norris said, "The latest information makes us interested in perusing more information to find out if there were any correlations between the unsolved cases." Beasley's murder and the Shepard cold-case both involve women in a relationship with Bessey which, according to the sheriff, makes "him a viable person of interest in the Saguache County case."

Controlled burns happen on Baca Nat'l Wildlife Refuge—are you registered to be notified of an emergency?

On Friday, April 18 area residents noticed smoke from a large fire far out on the Baca National Wildlife Refuge. This was part of a previously announced plan to do a series of controlled burns on the refuge, weather permitting. However, the Colorado State Patrol, Saguache County Sheriff's office and area fire departments received numerous calls either reporting or inquiring about the fire. Many people received an automated phone notification of the fire so knew what was happening, while many others did not. If you did not receive the automated call notifying you of the burn, that means your phone num-

ber is not part of the emergency notification system. This notification system is a way of informing people of a wide variety of situations or emergencies—fire, weather, flood, etc. that could affect them. to register go to slve911.org or call 719-589-5807. You can leave a message with your telephone numbers and someone will call you back. You should register *all* your phone numbers and can also sign up for email or text alerts. This will allow you to not only be informed of any emergency, but will free up the telephones of our emergency dispatch and response centers.

Saguache County Crime Report

by Mary Lowers

A Baca couple were victims of a home robbery in mid-April. Saguache County Sheriff's Department is investigating the crime. A white lock box was taken with irreplaceable personal papers. Any information about this crime or regarding the whereabouts of the lock box would be appreciated. Citizens can call the sheriff at 719-655-2525 with information.

In other crime news, a fugitive from justice hiding out on the Baca was apprehended with no struggle by Saguache County deputies. The man was returned to NM to await prosecution.

Clinton Dwayne Jett, 33 of Moffat was formally charged with two counts of second degree arson, a charge of second degree criminal trespass and a charge of driving under the influence. Jett was supposedly the mastermind behind the series of arson fires set randomly from Moffat to Villa Grove last month. His accomplice, Brandon Michael Arndt, 21 of Moffat, was charged with two counts as accessory to the crime and two felony misdemeanor counts.

A Baca man was summoned to appear in county court on charges of third degree assault and bodily injury. A thirty-year-old Moffat man was charged with third degree assault, felony criminal trespass, and menacing. He's being held in Saguache on \$5000 bail.

A homeless man sits in jail in Saguache for first degree criminal trespass.

A Center woman apprehended in Saguache was arrested for failure to appear and contempt of court. Her bail is \$25,155.

A man from Center sits in jail with no bail on charges of introducing contraband and possession of a contraband substance.

In jail on \$10,000 bail, a young Center man faces charges of driving under the influence of drugs, excessive alcohol content, open container, driving with a revoked license, driving with no lights and failure to drive in a lane.

Held on \$5000 bail, a Center man is charged with four counts of domestic violence, third degree assault, false imprisonment and reckless endangerment.

Speeders continue to provide revenue for the county and given how fast some of these folks were going it's good to slow them down for public safety. There were tickets given out about equally on and around Hwy 285 and Hwy 17 in the county.

Daniel B. Flemming, D.C.
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PHOTO BY JENNIFER ESPERANZA

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Saguache County News

by *Matie Belle Lakish*
Free Dump Day

After a years absence, and a little late for Earth Day, free dump day returns! Billed as Spring Cleaning Dump Day, May 17 will be free dump day this year. This is the time to get rid of all that debris that has collected over the last two years: old appliances (freon excepted), broken furniture, leftover construction materials, that mattress with the hole in the middle that the dog loves, and all that other stuff that's been lying around. Randy Arredondo will see that a truck will be parked by the kiosk for residents to put their debris in, or haul it yourself to the landfill. No normal household garbage, tires or commercial trash will be accepted. Landfill hours are 8am to 3pm. If May 17 is a high wind day that requires the landfill to close, the following Saturday, May 24, will be free.

The Saguache County Landfill has been a topic of concern for that last two years, as the county was faced with building a new cell in which to put trash. Because of new Colorado Public Health Department regulations, two monitoring wells had to be drilled to monitor impacts on groundwater, and an expensive liner and clay layer had to be installed before the new cell could be constructed. All of this activity caused the cancelation of the 2013 free dump day.

Residents may be asked to help fund the county landfill with a sales tax. Without a new source of revenue for the landfill, the county may have to close it. If that happens, the most likely scenario would be a transfer station run by a private individual or business, which would have a use fee attached. A small sales tax would solve the problem and also fund a better recycling program. The idea is still at the discussion stage, but look for more information later in the year.

Public Works Department

Commissioners have asked Randy Arredondo, Road and Bridge Supervisor, to write up a possible plan for a Public Works Department. Arredondo already handles roads and bridges and manages the landfill. He is also doing work on the newly acquired county airport east of Center. A Public Works designation might add more tasks to his department, and allow him to appoint other staff to supervise some of the projects. Many counties in Colorado now have public works departments.

Tax questions

A few local taxpayers have contacted the county about changing their property tax evaluations. As a result of the settlement between the county and local taxpayers, which was described in last month's *Crestone Eagle*, other taxpayers are asking for similar relief. Ben Gibbons, county attorney, described the process that property owners should follow. Property owners may retain an expert on property values, or

they may tell the county what they think their property is worth. They would then file for an abatement with the County Assessor. If that is denied, further appeals would go first to the Board of Equalization (Commissioners). The owner may then appeal to the State Board of Assessment Appeals, a Department of Local Affairs entity. It is too late to appeal the original "evaluation". A new assessment will be done next year, as assessments occur every two years.

Broadband

The county is getting closer to a decision on how to upgrade internet service for county offices and the Town of Saguache. They have met with Crestone Telecom representatives Ralph Abrams and Cheryl Rowe, as well as with Doug Kissler from Eagle Net and Monroe Johnson from CenturyLink.

Saguache currently receives phone and internet services from CenturyLink. Both residents and the county departments complain that Saguache's internet service is poor. Johnson, of CenturyLink, said that the problem is the access to their Pearl Street distribution center in Denver. As Johnson described it, the "pipeline" goes from Denver to La Junta, and then to Saguache County. With new technologies and people watching movies and YouTube videos, the pipeline from Denver to La Junta is overloaded. CenturyLink is working on expanding service through that line, and they are 30 to 60 days from solving the problem. He said that the T1 line the county is now using in the treasurer's office is not adequate for the job, and that the county should invest in additional lines. Each T1 line serves 4 computers and costs about \$5000. He also noted that Crestone Telecom has to receive service through the same pipeline, and they then broadcast it out to users.

Eagle Net, described in a previous article, has put in a fiber optic line to Saguache to serve schools, but depends on a private partner, Affiniti, to distribute the service to individual users, such as the county. Affiniti would charge extra to install and connect the needed wires to the actual buildings. Since there are several county buildings, this could be expensive.

Cheryl Rowe noted that Crestone Telecom has contracted to buy the bandwidth from Affiniti at a bulk price, and can then broadcast it through their planned satellite broadcast service to county offices as well as other internet subscribers. They hope to install a tower on the hill above Saguache where another tower is currently located. They would need to contract with the property owner and apply for a County Conditional Use Permit to put up the needed tower. All of these steps may take some time. However, the county is encouraging Crestone Telecom to move forward with these steps, as Saguache County cannot commit to buying power until all steps have been followed. At that time, the county can make a decision and enter into a contract with a provider. So far, Crestone Telecom has offered the best price for the needed services.

Annex discussion

As mentioned in last month's article, commissioners have partnered with the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for a planning grant to expand the county's infrastructure in the form of some kind of annex to the courthouse. They are working with a group of graduate students from University of Colorado-Denver, Colorado Center for Community Development, who are under the direction of Jeffrey Wood, who is the University Technical Supervisor and a professor in the Architectural Office. The students, Holly Paris, Amanda Tharp and Nathan Pepper are Masters candidates who will be working on this project over the next 15 months.

The group came with drawings of three tentative scenarios for the placement of an annex, and received considerable feedback from commissioners and county staff on the needs of the various departments. Overcrowding is the greatest issue in the current courthouse, but other logistical issues are important to different departments. All agreed that they would like to see an elevator installed, as well. After considerable discussion, a general consensus seemed to be reached. The offices of County Clerk and Recorder and County Treasurer would likely be moved to the new annex, the annex would be attached to the courthouse rather than being accessed through an outside covered walkway, and solar and alternative energy would be key components of the design. A sizable meeting room suitable for larger public functions would also be included. Storage for county records will be planned into the design, as that is a serious issue for all offices at the present time. A real challenge for the designers will be to preserve the look and feel of the old courthouse while integrating the up-to-date technologies and building designs that are needed. This is made especially challenging by the varying entry levels of the current courthouse. Randy Arredondo suggested the team visit the Summit County Courthouse in Breckenridge, which is the same design as Saguache County's. They have added to their courthouse and installed an elevator, and could offer some valuable reference points.

Wood said he is optimistic that a DOLA grant might be available to pay for a significant portion of the construction, as well as the planning piece that is now being done. It is unclear at this time how the grant would work, and how a required match would be acquired. However, Christy Culp from DOLA, who visited Saguache County a few weeks ago, offered several suggestions for proceeding.

Public lands

Commissioner Jason Anderson has prepared this month's "Eye on the County". "Like many counties in the rural west, the majority of Saguache County is comprised of public lands. As a result, state and federal legislation can have a significant impact on our county, and the Commissioners spend a great deal of time working with these issues. Some of these efforts are very local, such as scheduling time for our Forest Service, BLM, and Parks and Wildlife managers to discuss their issues during Commissioners meetings.

"Other efforts are made on a

larger scale. Saguache County, as well as most counties in Colorado, works on state and federal issues through Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI), a coalition that represents county interests at the state level, and through the National Association of Counties (NACO), for federal legislation. Each year, the member counties elect steering committee members to represent the State of Colorado at the NACO conferences and to work on federal legislation. This year, the San Luis Valley is fortunate to have three of its commissioners elected to the eight-person Public Lands Traveling Committee, including myself. The following is an update on the issues that are being discussed at this time.

"Perhaps the most pressing subject that counties throughout the west are concerned with is permanent authorization of the PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) program that supplies funding to counties with public lands within their borders. Many counties in western states are between 50% and 96% public lands (Saguache is right around 76%), and without PILT funds it would be difficult for some counties to provide their basic services. PILT was funded for 2014 through the Farm Bill. However future funding remains uncertain.

"Another issue that has been widely discussed is how the Endangered Species Act is administered. At this time, here in Saguache County, we have two species that are of issue. Protecting Gunnison Sage grouse has been an ongoing effort, and a decision will soon be made as to how it will be designated. The Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout is also scheduled to be reviewed. At the Federal level, there is a proposed NACO resolution asking that decisions on endangered species be made in a transparent manner using the best possible science, while strengthening local participation and considering impacts on local economies when decisions are made on species management.

"With federal lands' budgets getting tighter, and fire suppression taking up a larger share of that budget, another issue being reviewed is how to manage our public lands in a manner that is both ecologically and financially sustainable. A good example of how this affects us here in Saguache County is the hundreds of acres of beetle-killed trees. Besides being a fire hazard, our dead timber is a useable product that could provide employment opportunities for residents of our County. How we work with the public land managers to achieve this is the question. The issue has been addressed, in some part, through Forestry provisions of the Farm Bill, and it's also addressed in the "Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act" (HR 1526) that passed the House of Representatives in September and awaits consideration in the Senate.

"As County Commissioners throughout the west and the nation are finding, our federal lands are difficult to manage because there are so many user demands to consider. Extraction industries, grazing, recreation, preservation and environmental concerns, to name a few, must be taken into account when considering policy. However, I believe it is worth doing for Saguache County, as it seems clear that our vast wild lands are in some part the reason we

POA April 10 meeting: Interesting but inconclusive

by Earl W. Sutherland

The Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) held its regular semi-monthly board of directors meeting on April 10. Twenty-three persons attended the meeting of the (still only) four directors.

At the last board meeting, March 27, it seemed that a special meeting would be soon scheduled to accommodate the discussion of issues emanating from fire-related topics (see attachment to the board minutes of March 27 on the POA website). However, it wasn't scheduled, nor was mention of the topic on this night's agenda, for which reasons Director Lakish asked that it be scheduled. Director McDonald said, "We have to end this ambiguity" and added that such a meeting should require that the members present highly specific plans for the solution of the matters. He doesn't feel that solving these hard problems, which he described as beyond the abilities of previous boards, should be assigned to the present board.

A lengthy and important presentation followed from the Committee for Natural Surroundings' Glyder (Tom Tucker) and Noah Baen. They presented a strategy to improve our riparian and wetlands areas by increasing and redirecting the flow of non-consumptive (unused, just pass-

ing through) water. In-stream flow is regulated by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, which already has limited rights to the water in our streams. However, these rights have not been robustly asserted with the senior holder of most water flowing through the Baca, which is the US Fish and Wildlife Service. A letter, constituting a Memorandum of Understanding, was submitted to the board, which looked favorably upon it, but wanted to examine it more before approving. The letter would encourage the three principals to work together to allow more water to flow through the Baca without being consumed, then into the adjacent Wildlife Refuge, all regulated by the Water Conservation Board. Glyder also described impressive efforts being undertaken in Willow Creek, co-operating with Trout Unlimited. The speakers expressed the need to use a GPS device from time to time and Martin Macaulay offered that the Water and Sanitation District may be able to help with that.

The placement of a metal statue of a buffalo was approved for a site on Camino Baca Grande, near the road to the Desert Sage Restaurant. Some issues of safety and maintenance will be further addressed by those working on the project, Sage Godfrey, Denise Peine,

and Peter Taylor. Also, placement of a directional sign for the cremation site of the Crestone End of Life Project was approved as presented by Stephanie Gaines.

While many POA employees are entitled to 401(k) plans contributed to by the POA, only two have signed up. An audience member, Judy Gilbert, suggested the need for better informational/educational efforts because this is an important benefit that most employees are "leaving on the table". Director Garnett observed that the employees should recognize that this actually raises their level of compensation. Alternative administrators of 401(k)s and other types of retirement programs may be better than the present one and will be investigated further.

The leasing contract with the Baca Grande Stables stipulates that the POA will pay one third of their specialized insurance, which amounts to \$1186 this year. Somehow this amount was omitted from the budget and the POA manager requested authorization to reimburse the stable lessee for this amount. Director Garnett, evidently doubting that Manager Ecklund's report from our insurance broker was complete, wondered if we weren't paying for double coverage through a more general policy held by the association. More investigation is to be undertaken.

A statement prepared by Director McDonald meant to summa-

rize the results of the court-ordered mediation ending a lawsuit brought by McDonald and others against former board members and Director Lakish (see *Crestone Eagle*, March, 2014) was read aloud by Director Lakish. Director McDonald's summary had not been evaluated or approved by General Counsel Schwiesow. Director Fuller, also a plaintiff in the lawsuit, failed to speak in support of the statement, which ended up being tabled.

Director McDonald also requested the board to direct Counsel Schwiesow to investigate Director Lakish for conflict of interest. Director McDonald, who recently became a volunteer firefighter himself (as did Director Fuller), contended that the fact that two of Lakish's sons were volunteer firefighters constituted a conflict of interest. He did not indicate that he thought it was a conflict of interest for himself or Director Fuller. Moreover, McDonald pointed out that Director Lakish is a known supporter of the Crestone Fire Protection District (CrESD), further disqualifying her, in his opinion. It should be mentioned in contrast that Director McDonald has been a major participant in the activities of the Baca Grande Citizens Action Committee (BGCAN), which stridently opposes CrESD. "Conflict of Interest" is usually meant to entail a financial aspect, which is not clearly evident here. The matter was tabled.

Special meeting of POA board April 14

by Earl W. Sutherland

The Board of Directors of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) held a special meeting on April 14. Nearly twenty people were in the audience for the two agenda items.

Director Garnett reported that there has come to be a need for a Finance Committee to participate in a forensic audit. A forensic audit differs from the usual in its greater depth and independence of the sourcing of its information, not relying merely on the reports of the audited entity. Such an audit may be indicated when certain "red flags" are spotted, and they apparently were in the POA's case. This will take place in the next several months. The role of the finance committee was not specified, but it seems definite that one is required for this special audit. Three members were appointed to the committee: Director and Treasurer Bob Garnett, Lisa Cyriacks, and Alison McClure. Director Garnett alleges that last year some \$425,000 went missing and that some \$310,000 was required to be drawn upon to meet the year's bills. Details were lacking, but that's partly why the special audit is being undertaken.

The second item on the agenda was the "Board Statement Regarding Lawsuit". This matter, which involved the court-mandated mediated agreement settling a lawsuit alleging the illegality of the POA election of 2012 (see *Crestone Eagle*, March 2014, p.11), had been tabled at the regular board meeting of April 11 in part because Director McDonald's summary had not been evaluated or approved by the

General Counsel. Evidently that review was performed by Counsel Schwiesow over the weekend and resulted in him making two changes. One was the elimination of Board President Garnett's name from the summary. Garnett had mentioned that he wasn't really an active participant in the mediation, although

April 24 POA meeting lengthy; board appointment made

by Earl W. Sutherland

The Board of Directors of the Property Owners Association (POA) held its regular semi-monthly meeting on April 24. The public part of the meeting ran from 5:15 to 9pm, in front an audience of up to 26.

Minutes of previous meetings were questioned, but were approved with only minor corrections. The executive session minutes of April 3 had to do with a potential lawsuit by former Baca Fire Chief Ben Brack. The minutes of April 10 were questioned by Director Lakish as to whether it was decided to direct General Counsel Schwiesow to investigate her for conflict of interest. Director Garnett told Lakish that she can go ask Counsel Schwiesow herself whether she has a conflict of interest. There was little clarity or resolution of this matter. The minutes of the April 14 special meeting were modified concerning an occurrence in the members forum when the board was queried about the nomination of someone to replace the retired Russell Schreiber, and member Sugandha Brooks volunteered for the brief appointment (until this fall's elections). Director Fuller did nominate her and he was seconded by Director Lakish, but later the

his initials appear on every page in the same location as that of the plaintiffs. Garnett is identified on the Signature Page as representing the POA, as such, the only representative of the POA membership as defendants. The second change was to eliminate the section referring to the Crestone Fire Protection District, a subject nowhere to be found in the agreement itself. There was no change to the remarks on in-

demnification and liability to which Director Lakish objected as inaccurate and misleading. Lakish had prepared a brief note she wished appended to McDonald's summary of the agreement, a sort of dissenting opinion, but this was refused by the other board members. Director McDonald's summary will be submitted to *The Crestone Eagle* and distributed to those POA members whose e-mail addresses are known.

whole process was voided because it hadn't been on the agenda. **Fire** Acting Chief Johnson said that training sessions continue twice weekly with steady improvement in the new recruits. The Baca Grande Fire Department answered seven calls in March. Ominously, Johnson reported there had been 15 arsonist fires during the month (not in the Baca).

Ambulance Emergency Services Director Pam Gripp expressed concern for the shortage of qualified staff, which she characterized as not only nationwide in scope, but especially severe in rural areas.

Maintenance: The chief topic was repairs to the lower level of the clubhouse at the golf course. Differing opinions on the gravity of the situation were offered by Charles Summers (chair of the Environmental and Architectural Committee (EAC) and a former building inspector) and Kyle Grote, who leases the structure and is seeking to expand its community function. Bids from two companies were received, each for a less and a more extensive repair. The less extensive approach was favored by Mr. Summers and the lower of the two bids was accepted, by a vote of two to one, with

one abstention. Director McDonald tried to console Mr. Grote with his belief that the area would be much better than Grote expected and that in the future, when such work could actually be set in the budget, the needed, more extensive updating of the entire structure could be undertaken. Several audience members spoke warmly on behalf of Mr. Grote and their belief in his vision for developing the site, seeking thereby to increase the board's support for his project.

Administration Community Manager Ecklund was advised by Hammersmith Management that they must be the ones to send out late payment notices (Although former Manager Alison McClure reported that the POA itself sent out the notices in 2012). The cost of sending out these notices is more than the return; for instance, Manager Ecklund estimated a cost of \$22,000 if they were sent out now and with a predicted return of \$18,000. On the other hand, the POA-originating notices of owing small balances yields a positive return. Considerably fewer notices need be sent if the mailing is delayed until July rather

continued on page 7

POA news

continued from page 6

than at the end of April. The late fee notices did not seem to be concluded. Answering a member's question, current uncollected fees are at about \$1.5 million total compared with this year's budget of about \$1.3 million.

Environmental and Architectural Committee Chairman Summers proposed Dennis Isselman to replace the recently resigned Steve Elliott and it was approved.

Baca National Wildlife Refuge Ron Garcia, Manager of the Baca National Wildlife Refuge, is trying to effect an exchange of roads between the Refuge and Saguache County. County Commissioner Jason Anderson acknowledged that there have been favorable discussions at the county level for this. The POA comes into the picture because one of the roads is the one representing the continuation of Spanish Creek Trail leaving the Grants and running to the T Road. It is the important alternate emergency egress from the Baca, which holds an easement on the road, as does the Baca Water and Sanitation Special District. If the exchange goes through (the other road, owned by the county, is in the refuge near the old air strip across from the White Eagle), the county intends to bring the road used by the POA up to its standards, which includes widening it as well as resurfacing. This appears to be a winning arrangement for all. There will be a stakeholders meeting on June 10 (other details of this not yet available).

In addition, Mr. Garcia and Jim Swanson, Water Commissioner for Districts 25, 26, and 27, spoke to their desire to ditch a portion of Spanish Creek. They report that at the point where the creek approaches Camino del Rey (near the Heatherbrae intersection) in the Grants, the stream has "silted up" causing lateral spread of water and thereby diminishing the flow to the refuge. Such "silted up" could constitute an "illegal diversion" and the perpetrators subject to a fine of \$400 daily until corrected. The POA could be construed as the perpetrators as the streamside is part of the community's greenbelt. This possible fine definitely caught the attention of the directors, and the board seemed eager to let the refuge solve the problem. However, Noah Baen of the Committee for Natural Surroundings felt that an assessment of threats to the ecosystem from the Baca's point of view should take place first and a

site visit is supposed to be arranged within the week and would include Garcia, Swanson, and perhaps a representative of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Some reference was made to the possible concerns of owners of adjacent property.

Mr. Garcia and Mr. Swanson also offered that they felt there were currently many illegal diversions in the Baca, although no specifics were mentioned. Commissioner Swanson warned that he may soon need to start levying the \$400-per-day fines.

Board appointment Following no discussion and no stated certainty that she was a member in good standing, Janie Thomas was named to fill the directorship resigned by Mr. Schreiber. The candidate of the last board meeting, Sugandha Brooks, was not mentioned.

Finance Committee This committee, formed to aid forensic auditor Dennis Crown of Del Norte in a planned investigation of the POA's finances, was revised by adding Janie Thomas and removing Alison McClure. A forensic auditor must be either a Certified Fraud Examiner or a Certified Public Accountant, usually with additional training in criminal work. Forensic audits are performed when fraud of some kind is suspected. Director Garnett has hinted at large amounts of money which have gone missing, but there has been no clear indication from this tight-lipped board why this extra expense is being imposed on the POA.

"Response from Letter to Members" (sic) Director Fuller had composed a guide which he presented to the board for the first time at this meeting which sought to direct members about how to address certain concerns of theirs to the board. A letter signed by 117 members (see attachment to POA minutes of 3/27/2014) sought dialog with the board concerning fire management issues, communication between the board and members, and the question of whether to weigh more heavily the desires of residents and homeowners over those who merely own vacant land. The directives, read aloud by Director Lakish, which will be sent to the signatories of the members' letter, are clear but seem to be instructions for a legal brief rather than an invitation to dialog. Fuller's letter calls for a detailed presentation of the background of each request and what is expected from the board; the legal bases supporting each request; a plan and documentation supporting each request.

The meeting then dissolved to an executive session.



A sure sign that spring is finally here! Lotsa mamas hangin' out with their babies this spring! This one of these cows and calves was taken on March 22, just west of Crestone on Road T.
photo by Lori Nagel

Saguache County 2014 election news

by Carla Gomez, Saguache County Clerk & Recorder

The 2014 election year is well under way in Saguache County, as it is in other parts of the country. In the office, we have been preparing for the primary and general elections since the close of last November's election. This year, in addition to state offices, we have a full slate of county offices up for election. These include County Commissioner District 3, Treasurer, Assessor, Clerk & Recorder, Sheriff, and Coroner. As of this date, only the Treasurer and Coroner offices are not contested. The Primary Election is scheduled for June 24 and the General Election is scheduled for November 4. More information will be provided on a regular basis as the year goes on.

In preparation for these election activities and in keeping with our commitment to transparency and voter participation, our need for election judges is crucial. Electors were asked at their respective precinct caucuses and assemblies to sign up to be an election judge. Many names were submitted and we will be contacting those voters.

However, we are in need of several more interested citizens who would like to be a part of this group to see firsthand how the election process works and what it takes to conduct an election. This is also a great opportunity to see what happens to your voted ballot. We need people to assist with signature verifying, ballot envelope opening, ballot counting, and the post-election audit. We need an equal number of Democrats and Republicans and would like Unaffiliated voters as well. If you can commit some of your time to this precious right we have as Americans, please notify your party chairperson, Democrat: Lynne Thompson at 754-9163. Republican: Richard Drake at 256-4215. If you are an unaffiliated voter, contact our office in Saguache at 719-655-2512. Please consider participating in this fundamental right we have.

If you have any questions, please contact us or if you need to update your voter information, or register to vote or declare a party for the primary, you can visit www.govotecolorado.com as well.

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POA board public statement on law suit settlement

by the BGPOA Board of Directors

The Baca Grande Property Owners' Association, Nigel Fuller, Diane Dunlap, Janie Thomas, Bruce McDonald, Russell Schreiber, Treat Suomi, William Folk, and Mattie Belle Lakish, reached a settlement in the lawsuit filed against the POA and four Board members in their official and personal capacities concerning the validity of the 2012 Board election and personal liability for actions of board members.

The issues raised by the Plaintiffs about the improperly conducted 2012 election were addressed and recognized as significant and legitimate and were resolved by negotiation and agreement. The agreement provides clarification on the election procedures for not just POA Board elections but for all future elections. Those procedures will ensure compliance with all legal requirements, including the requirement that ONLY secret ballots are to be used. The days of using proxy forms as ballots is ended for all time.

It was also agreed that it was in the best interests of everyone to waive the issues of personal liability of Board members for a number of reasons one of the most significant being the fact that the transfer of POA emergency services assets to the Crestone Emergency Services District for virtually no consideration never actually occurred.

In addition, the Settlement Order requires all future POA Board members to fully comply with POA Bylaws concerning indemnification should they find themselves a party to a lawsuit. It was determined that while the Director Liability Insurance policy does provide for a director to make a claim, a claim on the insurance policy is an entirely different issue from indemnification. Indemnification, where damages are otherwise covered by insurance, is related to upfront legal fees and expenses paid by the POA and personal liability consequences should a Board member be found liable. Since the POA must carry Director Liability Insurance indemnification only involves the upfront payment of the insurance deductible.

The Settlement Order establishes that all Board members who find themselves in a lawsuit must submit a signed, written affirmation to repay any advancement of legal fees and expenses (the insurance deductible) should they not prevail in the lawsuit (POA Bylaws, Article 13, Section 13.5). Should a Board member be found to be liable a board member would be required to reimburse the POA for the insurance deductible (at the present time \$20,000) and could be required to reimburse the insurance company as well.

All parties agreed that Stipulated Agreement is in the best interest of everyone in the Baca and sur-

rounding community. While many believe the lawsuit was unnecessary, everyone should remember that it is the right of every POA member to take such an action if the Board fails to uphold POA Bylaws and State laws. While the lawsuit certainly took a toll on everyone the Board believes the outcome at least established a few much-needed boundaries and guidelines for moving into the future.

Inaccuracies in last months Eagle reporting on the settlement agreement

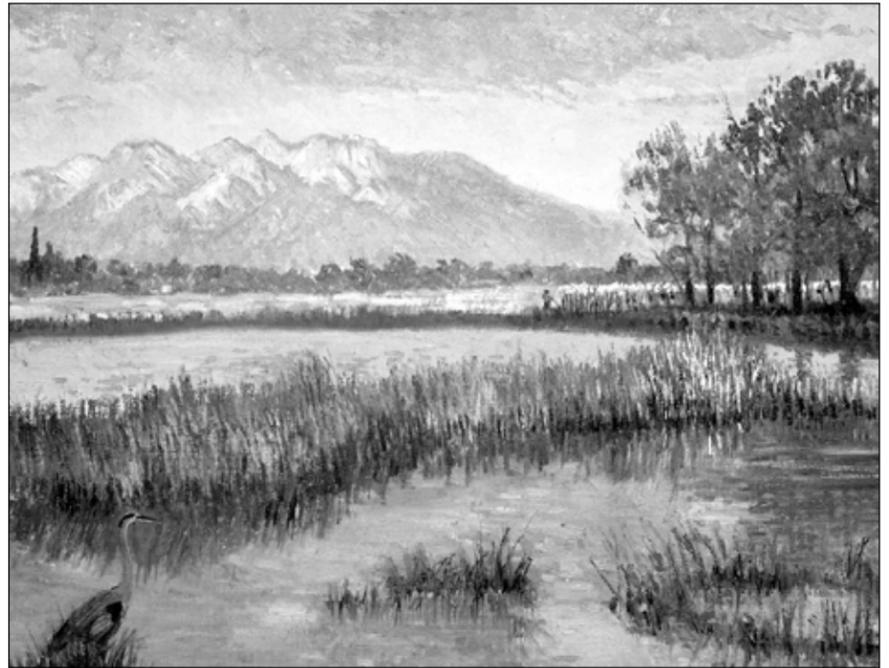
Earl Sutherland inaccurately stated that the action to join the POA as a Plaintiff by President Robert Garnett, "proved untenable and the court soon found the POA membership must instead be listed as a defendant for what some saw as obvious legal reasons."

The court "did not" find President Garnett's action untenable. The Court's order for the POA to be joined as a defendant occurred on November 18, 2013, long before President Garnett's action. The court initially ordered that the POA must be joined as a defendant (arbitrarily) in order for the case to proceed stating that it could not fashion a final remedy without the POA being a party to the action. In the same order the court ruled that it was up to the POA Board to decide whether or not the POA would remain as a defendant or realign as a plaintiff.

There was never any formal motion submitted by POA counsel to realign the POA as a plaintiff because POA counsel Erich Schwiesow took the position that doing so was premature and advised it shouldn't be done until all efforts at mediation had failed. Since the Plaintiffs never made any claims against the POA or the Board as a whole except regarding the 2012 election it was not in the best interest of the POA or the Board to defend an election that everyone agrees was not done properly so for obvious legal reasons it would have been more appropriate for the POA to have been aligned as a Plaintiff.

Finally, Sutherland inaccurately states that because the case was dismissed with prejudice this means, 'no part of the cases can be litigated again.' The case being dismissed with prejudice means "the Plaintiffs" cannot make the same claims against the same defendants again. It does not mean that other members can't bring the same claims against the defendants or that future Board members can't become parties to a lawsuit involving the same claims.

(Editor's note: The above statement and opinion was submitted to The Crestone Eagle by the POA board which approved it in a 3-to-1 vote. To read the settlement court documents, visit the Eagle website crestoneeagle.com/poa-lawsuit-settlement)



'Polston Pond' painting by David Montgomery contributed to the RGHLP project stands as the symbol for the land.

The Rio Grande Healthy Living Park closer to becoming reality

Rio Grande Healthy Living Park (RGHLP) Legacy Donors have challenged the community that they will match every individual or organizational gift of \$10,000 or more, up to \$50,000. Following a February 21, 2014 mediation settlement, in Alamosa the former Polston Elementary land in dispute must be purchased from the current owner for \$900,000 by June 27, 2014. Campaign Chairs Bill Brinton and Kristina Steinberg, along with a movement of active community members and local organizations, are progressing towards the purchase of the land for the RGHLP. "This property can become a unique public park. If you contribute now, the Rio Grande Healthy Living Park will be well underway by Earth Day, 2015," says Brinton.

This innovative multi-use "park" designed to expand skills and knowledge of local food production will, among other features, include:

- a working farm for education and research, with opportunities for individuals, families and children to grow their own food
- a year-round local food market supplied by greenhouses which could also provide fresh food to area schools
- botanical gardens and a horticultural area
- a commercial kitchen that will provide economic opportunities for local food makers and caterers
- live events (concerts, parties, weddings, gatherings)
- walking trails for exercise, wildlife viewing and connecting our communities on the east and west banks of the Rio Grande by way of a pedestrian bridge over the river, and
- an attractive entrance to Alamosa that celebrates our agricultural heritage.

The San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition is acting as the umbrella 501(c) 3 organization, and

assisting the RGHLP with raising funds to purchase the land, as well as for future development. Once fully realized the park will be self-sustained through a combination of revenue-generating ventures within the park and programmatic grants. To date, the RGHLP project has raised over \$135,000 in donations and pledges. In addition, the RGHLP will be receiving assistance via a loan to cover a portion of the purchase price.

For more information

The RGHLP will be hosting an informational meeting on Monday, May 12 at 5:30pm in the Elephant Cloud Studio.

Additional information on the Rio Grande Healthy Living Park, park development plan, and fundraising information can be found at www.healthylivingpark.org.

Press contact

Julie Mordecai will be serving as Acting Director for the Rio Grande Healthy Living Park. Email director@healthylivingpark.org or call 719-580-0379.

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by Deputy Clerk
Gretchen Nelson

Free branch & brush pick-up May 20

On Tuesday, May 20, fire mitigation workers will collect dead wood, scrap wood, branches, dead weeds and brush that town residents have lying around on their properties. Please gather it into a pile (or piles) accessible at the road and 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.

Election results

The town conducted a municipal election on April 1 to fill four trustee positions. Diane Bairstow, John Grotenhuis, Lonny Roth and Mark Talbot were elected to serve four-year terms.

Alder St. bridge project

There has been an unanticipated delay on the Alder St. bridge replacement project. The project, scheduled to begin in late April, is expected to start in mid-May.

Little Pearl Park

The town has been receiving many complaints about dog poo and smoking in Little Pearl Park. These problems make the park unattractive, uninviting and unsafe

for our children, community members and visitors. Town Ordinance No. 2013-010 states "No person shall appear with any dog upon the public ways, within public places or upon the property of another, absent that person's consent, without failing to immediately remove any excrement deposited by such dog in such place(s)". The Town Code Enforcement Officer will be issuing citations for violations on these matters. Please contribute to providing an attractive and safe environment in our parks.

Retirement party potluck for our Jack-of-all-Trades'

A retirement party will be held at the Crestone Community Building (old schoolhouse) on May 31 at 3pm to celebrate Jim Hollmer's contributions. Not only has he provided extensive services for many years to the town, he has helped out loads of community members over the years. Bring a potluck dish, your best "Hollmer" stories and enjoy the fun. The town will be providing burgers, hot dogs and beverages for the potluck and any donations towards the cost of these purchases will be gratefully accepted.

Resolution #009-2014 adopted

This resolution provided clarification to the Town of Crestone *Personnel Handbook*.



Crestone Town Trustees Lonny Roth, Adam Kinney and Mark Talbot, along with help from Town Deputy Clerk Gretchen Nelson and Molly Roth, spent much of Earth Day cleaning up Little Pearl Park on Silver Street in Crestone. They cleaned the spring-fed stream and park of litter, picked up way too many cigarette butts and piles of dog poop (come on folks!), replaced the broken foot bridge and made the whole park look so much nicer! Thank you all for sprucing up our sweet little park.

Vote! May 6 for your Baca Water & Sanitation District board members

by Cindy Reinhardt,
Director BGWSD

Tuesday, May 6 is election day for the Baca Grande Water & Sanitation District, and the Board of Directors encourages all members to vote.

There are three open positions, two four-year terms and one two-year term. Current Board President Vicki Matthews and Stephen Smilack are running for the two-year term, the only contested seat. Martin Macaulay, Vice President, and Michael Scully, Assistant Secretary, are unopposed for the two four-year term positions.

Instructions for voting by mail are included in the ballot package. Locals can drop off their ballots in person at the district office until 7pm on May 6. If you are an eligible elector (registered and qualified to vote in the district) but did not receive a ballot, you may pick one up at the district's office. Many thanks to the many citizens who volunteered to serve as election officials.

For a summary of the April 18 board of directors meeting, visit the district's website, www.bacawater.com.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE
COMMUNITY WIDE CELEBRATION
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**MAY 20TH, 2014
11:00 AM
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Community meeting to give final input on design of the new K-12 building
May 1st - 5:00-6:00 PM
Moffat K-12 School

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Crestone Music Festival is excited to announce this year's regional acts! — August 1, 2 & 3

We are excited to announce some of our regional acts for 2014. Not all regional slots are filled, but check out the cool acts we have so far.

First off, we are bringing back the most talked about band from 2013, SHEL. Sisters Sarah, Hannah, Eva and Liza were born within five years of each other and are the

by Southwest, Nashville's Music City Roots, Lilith Fair and numerous other distinguished festivals. Come see and hear what the buzz is about Saturday afternoon.

Next we have the Blue Canyon Boys. Every once in a while a band comes along that stands out amongst the crowded fields of the bluegrass



From Naropa, Intuit.

band. Raised and home-schooled by a professional songwriter father and an artist mother, they dove into music at a young age. From their fetching, unpredictable songs to their whimsical, handmade top hats, SHEL makes a profound impression. They have achieved many benchmarks that point to a full and fruitful career ahead. They've played public radio's Etown, Echoes, South

world. The Blue Canyon Boys are one of those bands. Winners of the 2008 Telluride Bluegrass festival band contest, the Blue Canyon Boys have gone on to perform across the country and were selected to represent the United States and bluegrass music at the 14th annual Rainforest World Music Festival in Sarawak, Malaysia on the island of Borneo. Blending incredible brother-duet-style vocals



The award winning Blue Canyon Boys.

and hard-driving instrumental proficiency, this energetic band has created an infectious brew of hard-driving Colorado bluegrass. Don't miss them Friday evening.

For salsa we have Conjunto Colores. Conjunto Colores is one of the most enduring salsa bands in Denver. They are extremely hot and polished. They are one of the few bands that specializes in "Salsa Dura" (Hard Salsa) which emphasizes strong percussion and horns with vocals. The band performs regularly at top salsa clubs in the US and abroad. Conjunto Colores has opened for such bands as the Tito Puente Orquesta, Sonora Poncena, Bob James, Willie Colon, and Ruben Blades, just to name a few. They had the honor of playing for

former Mayor Wellington E. Webb at Red Rocks Jazz Festival, sharing the stage with the great Arturo Sandoval. We haven't had a salsa band in several years and this band may make us wonder why. They play Sunday evening.

For a new twist, we have Intuit. This is a band consisting of Naropa Institute students and graduates. They draw on different influences for an eclectic sound, but the core of the Boulder band's music is pretty simple and straightforward. "We're just really into the environmental movement and want our songs to inspire love for the earth." They have a Boulder blend of world beat, jazz, blues, hip hop and, most prominently, reggae. A unique feature of the band is the rock 'n' roll cello that is



Conjunto Colores is a salsa machine.

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Contact:

Ad Sales - Leigh Mills: crestoneeagleads@gmail.com 719.655.2011
Ad Design - Dee Rudoff: ads@crestoneeagle.com 719.256.4956

Performing artists: deadline May 10

Local Saguache County performing artists have until May 10 to submit their applications to perform at the 16th Annual Crestone Music Festival. Local means 50% of the group must live, rent, or have a home in Saguache County. One of the purposes of the festival is to provide a venue where local performers get an opportunity to learn about and experience performing for a larger audience

through a larger sound system. It also provides a great reason to get-it-together. An application must be filled out; they are available at Crestone Mercantile, Elephant Cloud or at our office at 120 West Silver, Suite 104. For more information, please call 719-256-4533. Send applications to: CMF Local, P.O. Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131. Entry must be postmarked by Saturday, May 10, 2014.



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Rachael and the Ruckus are gonna' funk us.

both bowed and plucked. That combined with drums, percussion, bass, electric guitar and all original music, makes for a very unusual and exciting sound and feel. So come hear and feel for yourself Saturday afternoon.

We always want to get funky at the fest and Rachael and the Ruckus will deliver the goods! This is a funk 'n' blues, rock 'n' soul band from Boulder. The six-piece band is tight and talented and Rachel simply kills it on vocals. Rachel and the Ruckus was voted #1 on the Reverb Nation pop charts for Boulder, CO as well as recently receiving the "Gold Song A&R Award" from Beat 100 for the song "Leave Your Light On." The *Yellow Scene* magazine says, "Celebrate the Ruckus. Exciting up-and-coming Boulder band, Rachel and the Ruckus, is a soul-soaked energetic funk blues/rock force." The Ruckus starts Saturday evening.

Described by *San Francisco Weekly* as a "collision of Django Reinhardt and David Grisman," Taarka is an acoustic supergroup presenting masterfully deep Americana and Gypsy jazz string band music! Together for 12 years, they have produced seven CDs and have performed with members of the Grateful Dead, Phish, String Cheese Incident, Yonder Mountain String Band, Darol Anger, Danny Barnes, Taj Mahal, Widespread Panic, The Samples and more. "They infuse rousing and exciting tunes with breakneck Zappa-esque breakdowns and insurmountable gusto. Regardless of your particular musical tastes, Taarka is a band that simply must be witnessed."

Check-out the June *Eagle* for more regional acts and the local act reviews. You can buy tickets with the Early Bird discount at crestfest.org or call 719-256-4533 for more info.

Scholarship applicants: CMF deadline May 10!

CPI and Aventa Credit Union are offering scholarships to Saguache County students and guess what, the deadline is May 10! The scholarship furthers student education in the performing arts. This includes music, theater, voice, dance, and other. Scholarship must be used for performing arts costs and expenses for instruments, lessons, camps, workshops, etc. Application guidelines are available online at crestfest.org, at Crestone Mercantile, Elephant Cloud or at our office at 120 West Silver, Suite 104. Each school has been sent the application guidelines.

Guidelines are:

1. Be in 8th through 12th grade.
2. Be a resident of the San Luis Valley
3. Submit a short, typed, essay of 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 be typed and 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, 2014.

Purchase request detailing use of the funds will be required.

Parent or guardian's signature is required.

One submission per person, per year.

The deadline to apply is Saturday, May 10, 2014. 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. P. O. Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131.

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Discount tickets go on sale through May 31

It's Early Bird time! Save 20% off gate prices for the 16th Annual Crestone Music Festival August 1, 2 & 3. This special offer ends May 31. The festival is a three-day, two-stage event held at Challenger Golf Club in Crestone Colorado. It features over 25 multi-genre, multi-cultural acts. We have camping, a kids' zone, contests, arts & crafts, fine cuisine and Colorado libations.

Friday's headliner is the eclectic Paper Bird. Their unique sound is a combination of energetic rhythms intertwined with effortless musicianship and flowing harmonies. They were featured on NPR's "All Things Considered" and were voted into the Top 10 Best Underground Bands by the *Denver Post* three years in a row, as well as being 5280's Top of the Town "Top Local Band." Paper Bird was featured by *The New York Times* in a story about up-and-coming Denver bands.

Saturday features blues artist Ruthie Foster. Ruthie burns it up with a combustible blend of soul, blues, rock, folk and gospel. Her list of achievements includes 2012 and 2009 Grammy nominations for "Best Contemporary Blues Album." She won "Best Female Vocalist" in 2007,

2008 and 2013 at the Austin Music Awards. She won the 2010 and 2013 Living Blues Music Award Critics' Poll for "Female Blues Artist of the Year." She won the Koko Taylor award as Best Contemporary and Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year. Ruthie's latest CD was nominated for a Grammy in 2013 for "Best Traditional Blues" album.

Sunday's headliner is Grammy-winning Charles Neville, from the Neville Brothers, with Grammy-nominated kora master Youssoupha Sidibe and the Mystic Rhythms. Youssoupha attended the Senegalese Conservatory of Music where he developed virtuosity as an innovative kora player combining elements of western, reggae, and African music. Charles adds his jazzy style and expertise, and together they create something new, different and exotic.

Other regional acts booked at this time are Telluride band contest winners The Blue Canyon Boys, funk fun from Rachael and the Ruckus and hard salsa maestros Conjunto Colores. Others include SHEL, Taarka, Intuit and Beth Quist.

Order tickets at www.crestfest.org, or by phone at 719-256-4599 or toll free at 855-85music (855-856-8742).

Vendors: CMF deadline May 10

Area Vendors have until May 10 to apply to vend at the 16th Annual Crestone Music Festival. If you have arts and crafts, food, information or something else, please apply. One of the purposes of the festival is to provide a venue were area artists, healers, cooks and all the other, can strut their stuff and make some dough. Applications are available online at crestfest.org, at Crestone Mercantile, Elephant Cloud or at our office at 120 West Silver, Suite 104. For more information, please call 719-256-4533. Send applications to: CMF Local, P.O. Box 6, Crestone, CO 81131. Entry must be postmarked by Saturday, May 10, 2014.

T-shirt design wanted

T-shirt designs are now being accepted for the 16th Annual Crestone Music Festival. We pay \$200 for the accepted entry plus one weekend pass to this year's festival. We also feature you in *The Crestone Eagle* and the festival program. The design is usually used for the program cover and does not have to be fully completed for us to review it. The general idea and look will be enough to start with but we need to start with it in early May. Please contact us and let us know you want to submit a design. Please call 719-256-4533, email crestfest@crestfest.org or drop by our office at 120 W. Silver, Suite 104.



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The CCC poses for a group "C" photo at their local headquarters, the old schoolhouse, at one of their Thursday meetings. photo by Lori Nagel

CCC youth fundraiser—Sacred World Dances & Tribal DJ Dance May 31

by Lisa Bodey

The Crestone Creative Council (CCC) will host a fundraiser called "Sacred World Dances & Tribal DJ Dance" on Saturday, May 31, which will include a dance performance from 7-9pm at the Crestone Charter School and a Tribal DJ dance event from 9pm-1am at Cloud Station. The purpose of the fundraiser is to raise money for scholarships for youth 13-24 years of age to attend CCC programs and camps.

The majority of CCC programs are offered for free but there are times when it is necessary to charge a materials or instructors fee. In particular, we would like to raise funds for two new camps that will be offered this summer. The first is a CCC Wilderness Adventure which will be a 6-day co-ed backpacking trip for teens led by Nico Kladis and myself into the Sangre de Cristo mountains. The second camp will be a collaboration with Prana Camp to offer a 6-day overnight teen girls' camp called GAIA (Girls Activation Initiation Alliance). This camp will be led by Lyndsay Duebber and myself and both camps are calls to lead youth into the wilderness for healing, rites of passage and deep inner work.

We are honored to present the



Prajwal Vajracharya

following line-up for our fundraiser:

Prajwal Vajracharya will be the headlining act for the dance performance piece. He began his training in Charya Nritya at eight years old, and is now the premier teacher, practitioner, and performer of the tradition and is a veteran of several world tours with beginning and advanced students around the globe. He founded Dance Mandal: Foundation for Sacred Buddhist Arts of Nepal to preserve and expand this rare art form and its related traditions.

Crestone Tribal Bellydance Project will perform, and Katie Getchell will grace us with a special Indian classical temple dance called Odissi. Based on archaeological evidence, Odissi is the oldest surviving dance form of India. In addition, the young girls' bellydance troupe will perform, and the new teen bellydance troupe that has been working with Lyndsay will offer their debut performance!

Signe Ramstrom will be performing one of her beautiful traditional dance pieces for us. She is the founder of the Sacred Arts Club which is dedicated to preserving ancient arts in new times. She studied classical Indian Kathak Dance with Pt. Chitresh Das and performed with his company, simultaneously studying with Jamila Salimpour, the Mother of the Tribal Style and performing with her Troupe Bal Anat. Signe's passion for movement & dance honors the body as a temple while preserving ancient tradition for 42 years.

Watching all of this amazing and beautiful dance will certainly awaken some kundalini energy so we have invited two of Colorado's premier tribal DJ's to perform at Cloud Station for our evening portion of the fundraiser. Androcell is the enveloping, electronic dub-infused music project of music producer and artist, Tyler Smith. Having a deep passion for fusing a multitude of music styles, instruments, and cultures, Tyler continues with his studio-as-instrument approach in creating emotional and immersive sound productions.

We are also excited to present Meta Myth which is an emerging project forged here in the San Luis Valley. Meta Myth is a collaboration between electronic music engineer Avery Runner and worldly percussionist Jopa. Together they are creating funky electro-tribal grooves for the dance floor. They are currently working out their first full-length album in Aumlab Studios, while refining live performances into a new folklore legend.

Tickets will be \$20 for both events, \$15 at door for dance performance or \$10 at door for DJ event. Tickets will be \$5 for youth 7-18 and free for 6 & under. Your donation could change the life of a teen in Crestone by giving them an opportunity they would not otherwise have. If you can not attend the event, but would like to make a donation, please send to: Town of Crestone- CCC fundraiser, PO Box 64, Crestone, CO 81131. All donations are tax-deductible.

For more information about this event or other CCC programs, please contact Lisa Bodey at 719-480-5925 or bodeycrestone@gmail.com.

Alternative Radio host David Barsamian will speak at Adams State May 1

The first program manager at KRZA, Alamosa's public radio station, and current host of Alternative Radio, David Barsamian is the final presenter of the Adams State University Title V Hilos Culturales lecture series, "Lifeways of the San Luis Valley." His lecture, "The San Luis Valley in a World Context," begins at 7pm Thursday, May 1, in Carson Auditorium, located in the Student Union Building. The event is free and open to the public.

One of America's most tireless and wide-ranging investigative journalists, Barsamian has altered the independent media landscape, both with his weekly radio show Alternative Radio, in its 28th year, and his books with Noam Chomsky, Egbal Ahmad, Howard Zinn, Tariq Ali, Richard Wolff, Arundhati Roy and Edward Said. His latest book of interviews with Noam Chomsky is *Power Systems: Conversations on Global Democratic Uprisings and the New Challenges to U.S. Empire*. His best-selling books with Chomsky have been translated into many languages. He lectures on world affairs, imperialism, the state of journalism, censorship, the economic crisis and global rebellions.

He is winner of the Media Education Award, the ACLU's Upton Sinclair Award for independent journalism, and the Cultural Freedom Fellowship from the Lannan Foundation. The Institute for Alternative Journalism named him one of its Top Ten Media Heroes. Barsamian was deported from India in 2011 due to his work on Kashmir and other revolts. He is still not allowed to travel to the world's largest democracy. Alternative Radio airs on KRZA, 88.7FM on Fridays from 1-2pm.

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**Town of Crestone
Crestone Creative Council
Youth Fundraiser**

Saturday, May 31

Sacred World Dances
7-9pm \$15 ticket
Crestone Charter School

Tribal DJ Dance
9pm-1am \$10 ticket
Cloud Station

\$20 for both events
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This early bird already caught his breakfast at the Saguache County Museum. Don't miss the Museum's pancake & sausage breakfast 8-11am, Saturday, May 24, in Otto Mears Park, Saguache.



Saguache County Museum Co-Chairman Lynn Sutherland and volunteer Sarah Simmeth cleanup the yard for the Grand Opening, Saturday, May 24. photos courtesy Trish Gilbert

Saguache County Museum opening celebration is Saturday, May 24

Race, parade, food & booths—join the fun!

You are cordially invited to the 56th Grand Opening of the Saguache County Museum on Saturday, May 24. Don't miss the new exhibits or the refurbished Indian Room! The museum will be open 9am-4pm. Admission is \$5 for adults, and \$1 for children 12 and younger. The museum usually has their grand opening on Sunday of Memorial Day weekend; this year, however, it will be on Saturday, May 24.

Come hungry and enjoy a delicious pancake & sausage breakfast in Otto Mears Park 8-11am. This is the museum's fundraiser. The Saguache County Museum is run by

volunteers and is not supported by tax dollars.

The "Run, Walk, Crawl" races begin at 8am in Otto Mears Park. Sign up begins at 7am. For more information contact Ellen Cox at 655-2544.

At 10am attend the flag dedication ceremony in the museum yard.

The theme of this year's parade is "Senior Veterans Remembered". To participate in the parade, call Terry Gillette at 515-480-1636. The American Legion is hosting this year's parade. Line up for the parade begins at 10am at Mountain Valley School.

Visit the food and craft vendors in Otto Mears Park all day. To sign up for a booth, contact Jeannie Ewing at 719-480-2920. The kitchen in the community building is available for a food vendor.

Attend the garden party at the Hazard House in the afternoon. The garden party will feature historical vignettes, treats and drinks, and Elaine Woodard will host tours.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 24 and have fun in Saguache!

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Crestone Artisans Gallery celebrates 10 years on May 24

by Robert Adler

It's always good to be a part of our gallery. This month there are a lot of good things happening.

Of course, we all know that May brings Mother's Day, this year on May 11. We are looking forward to presenting our community with an extraordinary collection of wonderful art in all of the various forms you can imagine, as well as an equally large variety of prices.

Following Mother's Day, our gallery will undergo a physical transformation, closing on May, 18, 19, and 20. Some parts may

look the same, and other parts will change. Those changes will be decided during that three-day span. We will re-open on the 21st.

The big event of May, however, will be the celebration of the 10th anniversary of our gallery. We invite you to celebrate with us May 24, from 2-5pm, enjoying the wonderful musical presence of CB Jazz, our very talented belly dancers, plus some refreshments.

We are looking forward to a wonderful "new year" serving our community as well as visitors to our unique Sangre village.

Crestone Museum to reopen May 24

The Crestone Historical Museum, located in the Town Center Building on the SW corner of Alder Street and Galena Avenue, will reopen on Saturday, May 24 (Memorial Day weekend), with new displays and gift shop items relating to historic Crestone and the Baca Ranch. The museum will be open every Saturday and Sunday from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend (and probably beyond). In anticipation of the museum's 2014 season, we will be holding the annual organizational meeting for volunteers on Wednesday, May 7, at 4-5 pm in the conference room of the Town Center Building. All persons interested in the history of Crestone and in the summer role of the museum as Crestone's informal "Visitor Center" should attend.

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'Radio Daze' premieres May 10 & 11

Company of Players meets Prairie Home Companion

by Robin Blankenship

The Company of Players explores new territory with an expanded cast in its current production, *Radio Daze*, to play on Saturday evening, May 10, 6pm, and Sunday Matinee, May 11, 2pm, (Mother's Day) in Rainbow Hall at the Crestone Charter School.

Radio Daze is Crestone's answer to Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion* and will feature music, satire, poetry, interviews with outstanding (?) personalities, and fun galore. Proceeds, after expenses, benefit youth in community theatre and the school.

Findly West will DJ radio station K Stone, KSTN 420 on your dial! Two guest personalities from Moffat join the company for this production. Virginia Drake, Director of Saguache Community Theatre, will revive her "Ethel Louise Peabody" persona, micro-managing the station proceedings with a beehive hairdo, southern attitude and cat-eye glasses. Peggy Godfrey, a cowboy poet and 25-year Moffat rancher, will upgrade the level of performance with her cowboy poetry.

Music is provided by Dean Lloyd, Barry Monroe, Dennis Newhaus, and that crazy rocker, Tedd Brumm. Other members of the cast, providing humor, satire and high level (?) intellectual fare include the Deli Lama, Bovine Divine of Mo Fat, Crestone's Legal Alien, the cagey "Buffalero" of Del Norte, Mister Kevin Off, Edgar the Dog, (still running for POA), Teanna and Kyle Grote, Marv Mattis, Kelly Hosner Delamour, Growler the Yak, whose antics are the center of high controversy, Robin Blankenship, Michael Hayes, Jodi Price, the mysterious Mister Crestoner, Bon Dellegar, Ammi Kohn, and David Harper.

A special addition to the cast are the following youth performers: Rosalie Anderson, Ryker Poor, Olivia Benavidez, Ayla Tieder, Soraya and Elijah Grote, Bear Kane, and other dancers. Special thanks to high school students Jedi Roman, for design of publicity flyers and Jake Smith, for lights and sound management in cooperation with Tom Desain.

Come join the fun, and do more than clap. Audience participation is an important part of this production. You might be the lucky door prize winner, or perhaps you will need to call into the alien abduction addiction hotline!

Folks who pre-purchase Sunday tickets or buy tickets at the door Saturday evening, will receive a 10% discount on Mother's Day Brunch at either the Yak and Cracker or Desert Sage when they show their ticket! Call Robin Blankenship at 256-4909 to pre-purchase Sunday tickets, if you want to take advantage of the Mother's Day Brunch discount. Adults \$5, kids \$2; donations appreciated. No one turned away.

SLV Symphony Spring Concert is May 3

The San Luis Valley Symphony will present its Spring Classics Concert at 7pm Saturday, May 3, in Leon Memorial Hall on the Adams State University campus.

Under the direction of Dr. William Lipke, the program will feature popular selections including Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Overture to the Magic Flute and Aaron Copland's Shaker Variations from Appalachian Spring. Baroque favorites by Johann Sebastian Bach will include the Adagio and Sinfonia from the Easter Oratorio, the Brandenburg Concerto No. 6, and the Piano Concerto in F Minor, with Lipke at the keyboard. The program will conclude with lighter audience favorites by Antonin Dvorak, two of his most popular Slavonic Dances.

The SLV Symphony is composed of former and current professional orchestra members, ASU 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/free to AS&F and Friends of Music.

Six Ways to Santiago

to be shown mid-May

Come one, come all to a free showing of the latest film about the Camino de Santiago.

Six Ways to Santiago, which sold out in Boulder for its three showings in late March, will be offered at the Crestone Charter School on the evening of May 16, Friday, at 7pm.

If you've ever wondered about the Camino de Santiago, the 1000-year-old pilgrimage route across northern Spain, this is your best visual chance to vicariously participate. And to ask questions.

William and Brahmie Howell, who walked this famous pilgrimage route in 2012, will, among others of our community who have walked the Camino de Santiago, will be glad to respond to all your inquiries—after you've watched the film, which has gotten excellent reviews.

Six Ways to Santiago has made

its way to our international village because the director and producer of the film, Lydia Smith, happens to be Elisabeth DesMarais' cousin. Elisabeth, a relatively new Crestone resident, was a "pilgrim-producer" of the film. On a special Camino in the fall of 2011, a year after the film was shot, she helped publicize *Six Ways to Santiago*, as well as raise funds to afford the complex editing of what had begun as 400 hours of raw footage.

Knowing something of the process of making the film, Elisabeth will happily do her best to respond to your questions. It is with her amicable participation that there will be no charge for this showing of *Six Ways to Santiago*.

The Camino de Crestone is honored to sponsor this educational visual adventure.

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Woodworker Edward Wohl to be Shumei's featured artist for June

Art Opening at the Shumei Gallery for woodworker Edward Wohl. Edward Wohl's functional and beautiful woodworks will be on display in the Shumei Gallery for the month of June with a presentation on Sunday, June 1. Edward says, "I make things of wood that I'd like to have myself: functional pieces that are quiet, peaceful, and a pleasure to touch and look at. My approach emphasizes select materials, structural integrity and utility. I like to let the wood do the work, to coax nature to imitate art." Wohl is the owner of Edward S. Wohl Woodworking & Design of Ridgeway, Wis., a shop specializing in limited-edition pieces including cedar-lined blanket chests, stools, benches and coffee tables. Refreshments follow the artists' presentation. Call 256-5284 for more information or visit www.shumeicrestone.org.

Company of Players Presents

Radio Daze ~ KSTN 420

Satire, Comedy, Music, and Local News (!?)

Including guest performers:

Virginia Drake a/k/a Ethel Louise Peabody, Station Manager
and Peggy Godfrey, Cowboy Poet



Saturday, May 10th ~ 6pm
Sunday, May 11th ~ 2pm
(Mother's Day)



Crestone Charter School

Adults \$7 • Children \$2

Benefit for Crestone Charter School

10% off Mother's Day Brunch at the
Yak N Cracker and the Desert Sage
for Radio Daze ticket holders.
Reservations suggested.

Call 256-4909 for Radio Daze Tickets

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HAPS



Leaf Swordy, Crestone Charter School student., accepted at top U.S. university

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, (RPI) in Troy, NY has offered Charter School LINK High School student Leaf Irizarry-Swordy a spot in its freshman class of 2015.

Founded in 1824, RPI is a science-oriented private research university ranked #41 out of the 4,495 four-year higher education programs in the U.S., placing it in the top 1% of the country.

Congratulations to Leaf, who is planning to pursue a career in astrophysics, and the Charter School as the only school Leaf attended K-12. Special thanks to Crestone resident Michael Manthes, a former RPI graduate, who is one of the LINK mentors that guided this achievement.

Wildfire community service day May 3

On May 3, from 10am to 1pm, the Colorado State Forest Service and South Fork Fire Protection District will host a Wildfire Preparedness Day at 28 Silverthread Lane in South Fork, at the visitor center. Please ring work gloves, rake and loppers. Lunch and drinks are provided. Call 587-0915 for more information.

New Tribal Bellydance session begins in May

The Crestone Tribal Bellydance Project is happy to announce a new series in American Tribal Style Bellydance, suitable for beginners with no previous experience or dancers wishing to refresh their skills. This 8-week class will begin on May 13 and introduce the fundamentals of Tribal Style form, posture, movement vocabulary and group improvisation. Please visit www.crestonetribal.com for a complete updated schedule and to register, and to learn more about our Foundations Class, Children's Class and special workshops and events.

Saguache County Tourism Council meeting May 14

The Saguache County Tourism Council will meet on Wednesday, May 14 from 6-8pm at the Yak N Cracker Café located just east of Crestone. All are welcome. Please join us if you have interest in tourism-related topics in Saguache County!

Crestone-Baca Watershed Council May events

The Crestone-Baca Watershed Council monthly Field Day for May will include a survey of sections of the Spanish Creek watershed and riparian zones and a discussion of suitable restoration strategies and methods. We will meet at Spanish Creek where it crosses Wagon Wheel Road, Thursday May 15 at 1pm. Bring a notebook, snack, water and a camera.

Waterfest this year will join forces with the Dragon and Fairy Fest in Little Pearl Park, 11am-3pm, Saturday, May 10. The theme of this 3rd annual Waterfest is "Thinking like a Watershed". There will be fun, facts and hands-on learning for all ages. Come be part of creating an interactive model watershed and join in the Water Snake Dance at 2pm to honor and celebrate the gifts we receive from the waters.

For more information email crestonebacawatershedcouncil@gmail.com or call 719-256-4182. Reach us during the field activities at 917-392-6962.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors annual yard sale June 7

This year's sale will be held in front of Elephant Cloud on June 7, 8:30am to 3pm

All proceeds will go to replenish the Neighbors Helping Neighbors General Fund.

Please bring all donations to Elephant Cloud by 8:30am.

The Crestone Curve Cooperative Garden once again welcomes your compost!

The familiar bright yellow compost sign will soon be up near the red garden gate on the east side of the road coming into town. This season we will not only continue our thermophilic nitrogen carbon layering system to create glorious soil, but will also have a bio-digester system on site! This exciting "green waste" technology, being pioneered locally by Nick Chambers and Living Arts System, will be available for observation and education to the entire community.

Currently the cooperative functions as a partnership between land owners Larry and Sandy Arnt, the Crestone Charter School, Earth Knack School, Chokurei Ranch, and Chokecherry Farms/Living Arts Systems, as well as dedicated community members like Nels and Amanda Pearson and others. This local food production opportunity is available to all. Call Robin Blankenship at 256-4909 if you would like to participate on any level.



Birth announcement

On April 4, 2014 at 11:02pm Josh and Deana Wilfong welcomed Moxie Madeline into the world peacefully at home. Weighing 7lbs 12 oz and at 21.5 inches long, Moxie is snuggled and loved by big sister Piper. Delighting her paternal Grandparents Scott and Eileen Wilfong, Leslie Kane and David Brooks and maternal Grandparents Sally and Mark Merritt,

A big thank you to Alycia Chambers for her incredible care during this transition and to all the numerous friends and family who supported this little girl's entry into our community.

'Non-Dual' teacher to offer satsang on May 4

On May 4 from 1:30-3pm at Crestone Charter School (upstairs in the LINK wing), one of America's premiere non-dual teachers will be offering satsang, a spiritual talk on "Seven Concentric Circles of Spiritual Development."

Matt Flickstein has been a teacher of Insight Meditation for nearly 40 years. He mentors other teachers of meditation, as well as hundreds of meditation students.

Matt is here in Crestone because his dedication to the excellence of teaching inspired him to create a vision of outstanding teachership. Therefore he has brought 15 meditation teachers to Crestone to meet, every morning from May 5 through May 10, clear teachers who have extensive experience in the teaching of meditation and the art of Realization.

Here is a most admirable model: Teachers of meditation—wanting to be adept in imparting strong yet delicate teachings on the in-the-moment details of the inner journey—meeting with other teachers to gain greater wisdom, dexterity and confidence. Yes, here is an inspired and authentic modality for teacher training.

You're invited to sit with Matt—to listen and to inquire. There is no charge and all are welcome.

Saguache County Landfill clean-up day

The Saguache County Commissioners will be hosting a free residential clean-up day for Saguache County residents on Saturday, May 17, from 8am to 3pm.

Items accepted on the clean-up day will be everything except household trash, tires and hazardous materials. An example of acceptable items would include construction debris free from asbestos and yard waste. Commercial haulers will be charged the normal fee. For questions please contact the Saguache County Road and Bridge Department at 719-655-2554.


Congratulations
Railarae
Lilly
on your
high school graduation!
Much love,
~ All your
Crestone Family


Rylei
McCoy
 You've graduated
 high school!

 That's one step
 closer to world
 domination.

 We're behind
 you on your next
 adventure.
 Love,
 M,E,T,E,M,S, & G

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Mon. - Sat. 8 am - 7 pm * Sun. 8 am - 6 pm
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Community Calendar—May 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monthly Events

Tuesday, April 29

- BGPOA Nominating Committee meeting – BGPOA Meeting Room 9:00 am-10:30 am bacapoa.org 719-256-4171
- New-moon Fire Ceremony Followed by a meal – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10:00 am-12:00 pm www.babajashram.org 719-256-4108

Thursday, May 1

- Council Meetings, Hang-outs, and Movie Night – Crestone Community Building (Old Schoolhouse) 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 480-5925
- David Barsamian on "The San Luis Valley in a World Context" – Carson Auditorium, Adams State U. 7:00 pm Free

Friday, May 2

- Ashram's Annual Online Auction Fundraiser – All Day biddingforgood.com/babajashram 719-256-4108

Saturday, May 3

- Recycling pickup – Secret Garden parking lot 10:00 am-2:00 pm By donation
- Wildfire community service day – South Fork Visitors' Center 10:00 am-1:00 pm 587-0915
- Stimulus, GMO Labeling Concert, Yak 'N' Cracker Cafe 6-9pm www.chokureiranch.com 256-4700
- SLV Symphony Spring Concert, Leon Memorial Hall, ASU 7pm 719-587-7621

Sunday, May 4

- Dorje Trolo practice – White Jewel Mountain 10:00 am-12:00 pm no charge 719-256-5773
- Sunday Bible School and Service – Crestone Baptist Church 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- 'Non-Dual' satsang – Crestone Charter School 1:30 pm-3:00 pm
- Eucharist – Little Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church 2:00 pm

Monday, May 5

- Town of Crestone Planning Commission Regular Meeting – Crestone Town Center 6-8pm

Wednesday, May 7

- Museum volunteer meeting – Crestone Town Center 4:00 pm-5:00 pm 256-5227
- Moffat Senior Project oral presentations – Moffat School 5:00 pm-8:00 pm

Thursday, May 8

- Clay Art closing sale – Clay Art 10am-5pm
- Council Meetings, Hang-outs, and Movie Night, Old Schoolhouse 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 480-5925
- Sufi Dhikr All Welcome – 4:00 pm-6:00 pm free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 256-4290
- BGPOA Board of Directors meeting, BGPOA Meeting Room 5-8pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Friday, May 9

- Modern Day Bodhisattva Training, All Day unboundpages.com/mdb-training-crestone 588-2003

Saturday, May 10

- Dragon and Fairie Fest and Parade – Downtown Crestone 11:00 am-5:00 pm free 508 237 8915
- "Radio Daze", Crestone Charter School 6pm Adults \$7, Children \$2, no one turned away 588-2064
- Mrcus Venus Flyer & the Mother Ship, Yak 'N' Cracker, 6-9pm www.chokureiranch.com 256 4700

Sunday, May 11

- Mothers' Day – All Day
- Dorje Trolo practice – White Jewel Mountain 10:00 am-12:00 pm no charge 719-256-5773
- Mothers Day Luncheon – Crestone Baptist Church 12:00 pm-1:00 pm
- "Radio Daze", Crestone Charter School 2pm Adults \$7, Children \$2, no one turned away 588-2064

Monday, May 12

- Town of Crestone Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – Crestone Town Center 1:30-6:30 pm
- RG Healthy Living Park info meeting – Birch St. Studio 5:30 pm 719-580-0379

Tuesday, May 13

- Crestone End of Life Project Open Meeting – The Topping House 7:00 pm-9:00 pm 719.256.4247

Wednesday, May 14

- Full-moon Fire Ceremony & Meal – Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am babajashram.org 256-4108
- Veteran's Benefits Information – Y.E.S. Building 10:00 am-4:00 pm free 719-655-2680
- Full Moon – All Day
- Saguache County Tourism Council – Yak N Cracker Cafe 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Thursday, May 15

- C-B Watershed Council Field Day, Spanish Crk & Wagon Wheel Rd 1-3pm free 917-392-6962
- Council Meetings, Hang-outs, & Movie Night, Old Schoolhouse, 4-8pm 480-5925
- CrESD/Crestone Fire Protection District – Crestone Town Hall 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Friday, May 16

- Six Ways to Santiago, Crestone Charter School 7pm

Saturday, May 17

- Free Saguache dump day – Saguache County Landfill 8:00 am-3:00 pm 719-655-2554
- 12th Ann. & Interfaith Day, Shumei Int'l Institute 1:30-7pm Free shumeicrestone.org 256-5284
- River Bottom Blues – Yak 'N' Cracker Cafe 6-9pm www.chokureiranch.com 719-256-4700
- Beth Quist & Friends at Cloud Station 7-11pm elephantcloudmarket.com 719-496-0966

Sunday, May 18

- Dorje Trolo practice – White Jewel Mountain 10:00 am-12:00 pm no charge 719-256-5773
- 12th Ann. & Interfaith Day, Shumei, 10:30am-4pm Free shumeicrestone.org 256-5284

Wednesday, May 21

- Baca Grande E&AC – BGPOA Hall 4:00 pm-7:00 pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Thursday, May 22

- Crestone Solar School 4-day workshop – All Day www.crestonesolarschool.com 719-256-4656
- Council Meetings, Hang-outs, and Movie Night, Old Schoolhouse 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 480-5925
- Rumi Circle – 4:00 pm-6:00 pm free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 256
- BGPOA Board of Directors meeting, BGPOA Meeting Room 5-8pm bacapoa.org 719-256-4171

Friday, May 23

- Meteor shower – 11:30 pm

Saturday, May 24

- Saguache County Museum opening, All Day
- Crestone Museum opening, 10am-4pm, museumtrail.org/Crestone.asp 256-5227
- Artisans Gallery 10th Anniversary Celebration, 2-5pm
- Nick Z, GMO Labeling Concert, Yak 'N' Cracker Cafe 6-9pm www.chokureiranch.com 256-4700

Sunday, May 25

- Dorje Trolo practice – White Jewel Mountain 10:00 am-12:00 pm no charge 719-256-5773

Monday, May 26

- Memorial Day – All Day

Wednesday, May 28

- New-moon Fire Ceremony & meal, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am babajashram.org 256-4108
- New Moon – 12:45 pm

Thursday, May 29

- Council Meetings, Hang-outs, and Movie Night, Old Schoolhouse 4:00 pm-8:00 pm 480-5925

Saturday, May 31

- Yak 'N' Cracker 3yr Birthday...Free organic cake! – noon-9pm 719 256 4700
- Retirement party for Jim Holmer – Community Building 3:00 pm Potluck
- CCC Youth Fundraiser: Sacred World Dances – Crestone Charter School 7-9pm \$5-15 480-5925
- Tribal DJ Dance- Androcell & Meta Myth – Cloud Station 9:00 pm-1:00 am \$5-10 719-480-5925

Sunday, June 1

- Dorje Trolo practice – White Jewel Mountain 10am-noon no charge 719-256-5773
- Woodworker Edward Wohl – Shumei Gallery 3-5pm Free www.shumeicrestone.org 256-5284

Daily/Weekly Events

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

Daily

- Morning Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 7am, 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, www.babajashram.org

Sunday

- Sunday Bible School and Service Crestone Baptist Church 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Monday

- DanZen with Diane Elephant Cloud (Jillian's) Studio 10:45 am-11:45 am \$7.00 719-256-5912

- Belly Dance Fusion, Crestone Community Building (Old Schoolhouse) 4-6pm 480-5925

Tuesday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Awakening Artists Crestone Community Building (Old Schoolhouse) 4:00 pm-7:00 pm 480-5925

Wednesday

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30-10am By donation shaktisharanam.com 256-5668
- Zumba Fitness Birch street studio 9:00 am-10:00 am www.angela108.zumba.com 719-256-4040
- Potluck and Bible Study Crestone Baptist Church 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Thursday

- DanZen with Diane Elephant Cloud (Jillian's) Studio 10:45 am-11:45 am \$7.00 719-256-5912
- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45 pm By donation 719-256-5668
- Free psychic readings Ghost Horse Gift Gallery All Day First 15 minutes free 719-256-5609

Friday

- Zumba Fitness - abs & glutes! Birch street studio 9-10am www.angela108.zumba.com 256-4040
- Gentle Flow Yoga Elephant Cloud Studio 11:00 am-12:00 pm 719-256-4796
- Ladies Day, Crestone Baptist Church 11am-3pm

Saturday

- Lakota Song Classes The Singing Stone 3-5pm www.thesingingstone.com 719-256-5307

Easter Egg Hunt & Community Potluck



Robin Blankenship explains the Easter Egg Hunt rules to everyone at her annual Community Potluck. *all photos by Lori Nagel*



Easter Egg Hunt is over—now it's time to see what we got!



Claire Koppana shares some laughs with Kalomo & Tiffany Johnson, and their baby, Shea.



Jacob Pesqueira strummin' away on the banjo and producing some really amazing sounds.



John Michael, Serena, and Vesper pose for a photo op.



Allison Wonderland enchants the crowd with storytelling at Dragon & Fairie Festival 2013.

3rd Annual Dragon & Fairie Fest & parade on Saturday May 10

This is a free event for all ages. We ask the elders and those who often enjoy solitude to consider coming out and sharing fellowship with kids and their families, singles and young adults. There will be space to sit quietly; as well as places to frolic and roll in revelry. You're welcome to bring your own lawn chairs and picnic blankets.

This year's theme is "Courage". Here is an enchanted invitation to gather with community, in the downtown commons, and to celebrate the life we share together. This takes courage. Courage to lay down our conflicts for a day and play. Courage to let loose, be silly, dress up, dance; hang for awhile in the Dragon's Lair lounge or lay full out on the green grass ground. Courage to release our worried tensions, open our hearts and contribute to growing a contagious joy all around.

Last year the Big Dragon had six wee baby dragons, blessed by Queen Mab, Queen of the Fairies. This year these dragons are coming of age. They will need both the fairies' and your help to have the courage to meet the challenges of growing up. They may need to face battles from within to transform into brave beings that can dance the dance of cooperative co-creation. If the townsfolk join in and offer their commitments to peace and cooperation, then maybe just maybe, love may prevail and magic abound!

The fest will have lots of activities including building fairie houses, arts and crafts, dress up, sing along and stories, dedication for the CCC Dragon Mural, CCC's info and activity booth, and The Watershed Council's Waterfest. Any individual or organization is welcome to set up an info booth or activities. This is an opportunity to share who we are and the amazing stuff we do.

The fest will be in conjunction with the Saturday Market on Sil-

ver Ave.; the time has come to sell your wares, crafts and magical treats in the middle of town, out in the streets.

The fest will be from 11am until the parade at 3:30pm, on Silver Ave. rain or shine. The parade begins with the annual Baby Blessing; and a theatrical performance with large puppets, dancers and drummers. All are encouraged to join in, express exuberance and help make this parade a fun time for all. Let's let the dragons and fairies that live at the very top of Crestone Peak know how very much we love and respect them, our sisters and brothers, and the great gift of life we share.

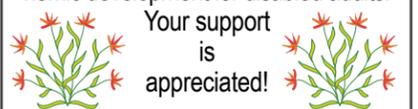
The parade will culminate at the Community Bldg. with music, a bonfire and a potluck feast. Please bring potluck to share. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with potluck please contact Lisa Bodey, bodeycrestone@gmail.com or 719-480-5925. The CCC will be hosting final prep decorating at the Community Bldg. Tues May 6 from 4-7pm, for all ages. For any other info or to volunteer please contact Allison Wonderland at 508-237-8915 or littlerustyworksgirl@yahoo.com .

Crestone Botanical Garden

Happy Spring! Crestone Botanic Garden will reopen on May 1st. Store hours are Monday – Saturday, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Shop with us for bedding plants and flowers, house plants, soil and plant food.

New this year: a variety of herb starts. Donations of plants, containers, etc. are welcome. This project is sponsored by the Town of Crestone and supported by a Saguache County grant to promote economic development for disabled adults.

Your support is appreciated!



Shumei International Institute's 12th anniversary, to be held May 17-18

by Matthew Crowley

The Shumei International Institute will celebrate its 12th anniversary on May 17 and 18 this year. In many Asian cultures anniversaries can be the premier celebrations of the year as is the case for Shumei. At this time of year, generally the 3rd weekend in May, we celebrate the grand opening in 2002 of the Shumei International Institute in Crestone. For Shumei 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 lead our Grand Opening and anniversary

sampai. In a sign of the dawning of this new era, Ms. Koyama's son, Sensei Tamao Koyama, is now joining us from Japan to lead our anniversary sampai each year. The central event for us at Shumei each year is the anniversary sampai on Sunday morning during which Sensei Tamao Koyama leads us in chanting, shares jyorei and delivers a keynote address.

This year Shumei has decided to refocus our attention on one of the primary reasons for building the Crestone Center—Crestone's unique and diverse interfaith community. To this end we have an all-new format, theme and venue for the traditional interfaith event that has been a part of most of Shumei's previous anniversary weekend celebrations. See the accompanying article "Crestone Spirit" for more information on that.

The 12th anniversary program will begin with the interfaith event on Saturday May 17 at 1:30pm. We suggest people arrive a half hour early to get a seat in the sanctuary. Overflow seating with video monitors will be available in the tent outside the sanctuary. The popular taiko concert will take place, rain or shine, wind or calm, either in the outdoor amphitheater or under the big white tent in the upper park-



Friends and neighbors join intentions and voices in the sanctuary during Shumei's 10th anniversary sampai ceremony.

ing area starting at 4pm. Immediately following the taiko concert the traditional special sampai for world peace that has been held each year will take place back in the sanctuary, lead by Sensei Tamao Koyama.

The Sunday program begins with the 12th anniversary sampai beginning with a testimonial and introduction precisely at 10:30am. The sanctuary is generally completely full, with additional overflow seating set up in a tent outside, so once again we urge guests to arrive at least a half hour early. Following the sampai and keynote address, we will serve a free buffet luncheon as a way of expressing our gratitude to the community. Following lunch there will be a special art exhibition and tours of our Natu-



Guests arriving for the always-popular taiko concert.

ral Agriculture garden.

All of the events on Saturday and Sunday are free and require no RSVP to attend. 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 12 years here. We hope many of you will come out and join us for one or all of our upcoming anniversary events.



Members from Shumei's Los Angeles Makoto Taiko performance group will once again be performing at this year's 12th anniversary. Pictured here are Akemi Imai and Koji Nakamura with Crestone's own Helena Wright.

Shumei International Institute Anniversary Celebration Crestone Spirit - An Interfaith Symphony

Saturday May 17th 2014

1:30pm

Many of Crestone's spiritual groups to share "teaching stories" from their traditions in the Shumei Sanctuary

4pm

Come experience the power of Taiko at the Shumei Amphitheater

6pm

Sampai prayer for world peace at Shumei Sanctuary

Sunday May 18th 2014

10:30am

Anniversary Sampai at the Shumei Sanctuary

12:45am

A delicious and healthy community lunch provided by the Shumei Staff

Garden Open 1 to 3pm

2 - 4pm

Art Exhibition in the Shumei Gallery

We suggest people arrive at least 30 minutes early for events for best seating.

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

Crestone spirit: An interfaith symphony

by Matthew Crowley

One of the primary reasons that Shumei accepted Hanne Strong's invitation to have a presence in Crestone was diversity of religious and spiritual traditions here. We have always recognized that not every center's mission here is one of collaboration and interfaith activities. Crestone is an ideal location for retreat and introspection and we know and have profound respect for the fact that many people come here not to interact but rather to "go in".

Since Shumei's first anniversary, we have invited people from our neighboring centers to come and share in our celebration. Many of you will remember gathering in the outdoor amphitheater and hearing talks and sometimes songs from many groups in the community. Then for a few years we hosted a similar event at Dharma Ocean's

beautiful shrine room. After taking a year off last year we think we have struck on a theme, venue and format that will prove to be meaningful and entertaining.

The new theme that arose through thoughtful conversations with our friends and neighbors and one which has been very resonant with everyone it has been shared with is for participants to share "a teaching story" from their tradition. In combination with the new theme, for the first time in 12 years the interfaith event will take place on the stage, before the scroll of light that Shumei's sanctuary is built around. We hope that this will further elevate the event, both literally and figuratively.

When Shumei approached our neighbors with this new theme we asked people to consider enacting or otherwise dramatizing their story. The result is we now have 10



Participants in Shumei's 2012 Interfaith Event.

groups including Shumei who will enact their teaching stories. The groups participating this year are the Bahai community, Carmelite Nada Hermitage, Chamma Ling, Dharma Ocean/Blazing Mountain Retreat Center, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, Mangala Shri Bhuti, Nur Ashki as Jerahi, Sufi Circle, Shumei, Singing Stone and Vajra Vidya. Spirit willing long time Crestone resident and dear friends of Shumei Lorain and David Fox-Davis will join us from their new home in Denver to deliver an opening invocation on behalf of the First Peoples who recognized this land as sacred long before the first sanctuary or stupa was built here.

Because the presentations are somewhat longer and more involved we cannot accommodate every one of the 30 or more spiritual and religious communities who

have a presence in the Crestone area this year. We are optimistic that if this new theme and format is successful that it can be continued in future years and everyone who would like to participate will have opportunity.

I have it on good authority that we may have guest appearances ranging from Crestone's beloved "Bluebird of Happiness" to Hanuman and Jalal a-din Rumi. We believe this shall prove to be a lively and beautiful way of exploring the Spirit of Crestone through both the unity and diversity of our unique community.

This will be the opening event for our weekend long anniversary celebration and will begin promptly at 1:30pm on Saturday May 17 in Shumei's sanctuary. We generally have a full house and recommend people arrive at least 30 minutes early for sanctuary seating.



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Students of the MDB Training Program. L-R: local residents Suzy Greanias & Nicholas Carter, Boulder resident Polly Banerjee-Gallagher & Boston resident Katie Keach

Modern Day Bodhisattva (MDB) Training offered May 9 and 10

by Nicholas Carter

What is the role of compassion, loving kindness, sympathetic joy, and equanimity in our lives? While we aspire to these ideals of human conduct, they may often seem out of reach, fleeting, or just hard to practice when the going gets tough. But we know, deep down, that they provide us with strength and happiness and a feeling of warmth and care toward our fellow sentient beings. The Modern Day Bodhisattva (MDB) Training was created to offer a clear route toward developing these four attitudes or qualities. The first of four courses is being offered May 9 and 10 here in Crestone, at Crestone Art Co-operative Studio, 758 Camino Baca Grande.

The MDB Training has two components: guidance through simple contemplations that stimulate our hearts and minds to give rise to compassion, kindness and so forth. And the viewpoint that supports our inclination to be kind and compassionate, in other words, the compelling reasons why we can view others with love and care, even—if not especially—when they challenge us.

Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche, founder of Mangala Shri Bhuti (one

of the Buddhist communities in Crestone with retreat land granted by the Manitou Foundation, where currently we are constructing the Sangdo Palri Temple of Wisdom and Compassion), coined the term “modern day bodhisattva” as a way of expressing the possibility that even in the midst of a busy modern life we can cultivate and deeply value a selfless and altruistic attitude. The instruction offered by the MDB Training gives us simple tools to reacquaint ourselves with our own potential for altruism and to practice it throughout our day.

“We are born with a natural inclination to serve, not only ourselves and those we love, but humanity as a whole. Yet we are often unclear about how to fulfill these deeply interconnected wishes. MDB Training shows us how to apply the wisdom of altruism to our own time and culture. This education can bring about profound transformation, increasing our capacity to be of benefit to ourselves and others.”
—Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche

For more information, please visit: unbouncepages.com/mdb-training-crestone.

Judith Goettert opens homeopathy practice in Moffat

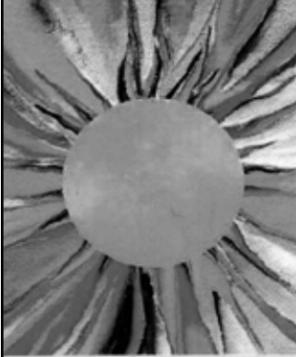
Judith Goettert, DO, DipHom moved to the Crestone area after living in New Zealand for 8 years. While in New Zealand she worked as a homeopath in an herbal dispensary, and received on-the-job training in herbal medicine as well as running a walk-in clinic. From time spent in Colorado, she realized that she wanted to be back in the Rocky Mountains, and decided to make this area her home.



Judith Goettert of Helios Homeopathy.

Judy was trained in allopathic medicine at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, gaining her Doctor of Osteopathy degree in 1984. The four years after her internship were spent practicing general medicine on the Tohono O’odham Indian Reservation, only leaving there so that she could pursue training in obstetrics and gynecology. She finished her residency in ob/gyn at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in 1993. While practicing as an obstetrician-gynecologist she was frustrated with her inability to help her patients with chronic problems and turned to homeopathy for answers. She trained for two years with Paul Herscu, ND at the New England School of Homeopathy and later moved to New Zealand to further her education at the Bay of Plenty College of Homeopathy, earning the four-year degree there.

Judy is very interested in the applications of homeopathy to treat people, animals, plants and the environment since the health of organisms is so profoundly affected by environmental conditions. She would like to make good health affordable, and so, for the month of May, is offering a 50% discount off initial consultations. She can be reached at 719-496-6662 or at helioshomeopathy@gmail.com.



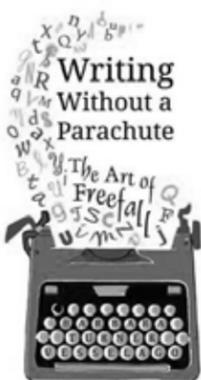
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Crestone Peak: What's your vision?

by Sandia Belgrade

Crestone Peak Community Alliance is alive and well and eager to be of service. We are a non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire people in the Crestone-Baca community who have ideas for commercial, artistic or ecological enterprises. Our goal is to mobilize resources to encourage and support these endeavors by working in partnership with leaders in the nonprofit, business, and government sectors to address projects which strengthen individuals and our community.

Over 20 years ago we began as Crestone Peak Community Housing focused on housing development, construction, and management. It helped several people get a home and arranged financing. As it transitioned to serve more diverse needs of the community, it was greatly helped by Safiya Balekian who also was founder and co-director of YES! (Your Empowerment Solutions). When Safiya passed away, we as a group wanted to acknowledge her contributions, and inspired by her we decided to reorganize and continue.

At this time, the Peak would like to champion some of the creative ideas that people have expressed but need support to get off

the ground. There are many people with cooking and baking skills that need a community kitchen. Pet Partners is working to improve the lives of pets. Residents with auto repair skills are needing tools and a place to work. There are people with health care expertise which we very much need, removed as we are from health facilities. There are many ideas, but no money in a community needing work and revenue to survive.

What is our role?

Using our non-profit status we offer the expertise to make projects happen. We can help people write their grants and find what grants are available. We can show people how to develop a business plan, a necessary component to obtain financial backing. We will facilitate projects by locating money (we have none of our own), and making resources available by matching individual skills with appropriate organizations.

In short, we're dedicated to supporting people with worthwhile ideas or products who have an entrepreneurial spirit and a passion to see them through, and who with a boost from us can make it a reality. What do you envision? Tell us your story. Contact us at: sandiabeat@gmail.com or etjohnsonlaw@aol.com



Crestone postmaster Linda Eggleston

Crestone welcomes Linda Eggleston as the new postmaster

by Mary Lowers

Linda Eggleston, Crestone's new postmaster, has a twenty-seven-year career at the US Postal Service under her belt. This gives Linda a good tool box for taking on our little post office which she told me, "does more business than the Del Norte or Center post offices." An increase in international mail is another unique feature of the Crestone PO. As we know with no on-street delivery, our post office is a busy, busy hub of commercial and social activity. After a visit with Linda I can tell she's excited about and up to this task.

A Colorado girl, one of her forebearers walked across the San Luis Valley with a handcart during his journey west. Her family has roots in Blanca. Linda remembers as a child, riding her horse around the Howard Post Office bareback in an attempt to tease the postmaster. He didn't take the bait but, Linda says, "I remember thinking I will be a postmaster one day." And that's what happened. She spent happy years as the postmaster in Nathrop. Working off and on out of the Salida Post Office Linda was a supervisor there in 2013.

When that post office downsized, Linda found herself looking for a job. Our post office was the best choice for her. "I wanted something close to home," said Linda who is married to a Salida area rancher and has two grown daughters and

"3.75 grandchildren." Linda loves basketball and is a retired official of the sport. She might be convinced to join a quick b-ball game at the park.

She finds herself very happy to be here. She lives here during the week and as a runner enjoys the beauty we have. "Every morning as I step out the door I do a 360 and feel like I left paradise for paradise." She likes the challenges of the job and living "in a small town that's also international." Linda enjoys interacting with the customers and told me "the kids here are beautiful."

She's not making any big changes. The post office hours will remain the same. There are a few procedures that the post office must legally follow that were falling through the crack in Crestone. For example, the requirement of two forms of ID for box renewal is a law that we must follow not a rule individual postal officials can choose to implement. Linda's working to smooth out these kinks. "I believe in the post office as a vital community network." Linda sees that written correspondence has not lost its place, in our web-based culture. She sees the expressions of joy with the tactile effects and expressions on customers' faces when they receive handwritten letters and cards. When you have business at the post office, introduce yourself to Linda. It feels like she will be here awhile.

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PHOTO BY RUSS BURTON

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

Visit our online auction!

by Ramloti

April was a great month with the completion of a blissful and harmonious Spring Navratri and many visitors from around the world.

We are excited to announce that the Ashram Annual On-line Auction Fundraiser will begin on Friday, May 2 at 11:08am. It will close on Sunday (Mother's Day) at 8:08pm. We have over 130 items on the auction, many of them from our local friends in Crestone. You can get a great massage, structural integration session, naturopathic consult, beautiful jewelry, a great meal, yoga classes, your computer or home repaired, Crestone Music Festival tickets, exercise classes, or someplace to send your overflow houseguest to sleep, all in Crestone. Going a little further there are passes to three hot springs, dental care and safe teeth whitening, a tattoo, Ayurvedic dining, and a hair treatment in a "green" salon. For the exotic there are trips to one of the world's most famous healing retreat spas in Thailand, a week for two in Treasure Island, FL, a stay at our Babaji Ashram in Holland or a surf lesson in San Diego, CA! There are several on-line services too (like digital subscriptions to this newspaper) and much more.

Just go to www.biddingforgood.com/babajiaashram to view all of the great items and sign up to begin the bidding on May 2. This is such a fun and economical way to support the Ashram. We derive much of its annual budget from the proceeds of this auction, so thank you in advance for your support and please spread the word. If you would still like to donate an item just call us at 719-256-4108.

Our full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Wednesday, May 14 and the new-moon fire ceremony



Ramloti displaying some of the 130 items on this year's ashram on-line auction running from May 2-May 11 at www.biddingforgood.com/babajiaashram

is on Wednesday, May 28. 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.

Since I just arrived home from India last month and we also received a huge shipment of stoles and scarves, The Maha Lakshmi Shop is filled to the brim with wonderful items. It 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 non-sale purchases. We will also continue our 50% off sale on gently used suits, saris, blouses, and pants. We deeply appreciate your support. Our shop website has been updated and you may view many items on-line at mahalakshmiashram.org.

Please visit our website at www.babajiaashram.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.

Sri Aurobindo Learning Center Hinduism, Buddhism, & Christianity

In the course *The Philosophy of Religion*, by Rod Hemsell, which will be the basis of a series of presentations and workshops this summer at SALC, reference is made to Raimundo Pannikar, who many will know or have read. He was a professor of philosophy at the University of California and at Banaras Hindu University for many years, and he was also a Catholic priest. At the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago in 1993 he jumped up on the podium for his talk and declared: "I am a Hindu. I am a Buddhist. I am a Christian." And he was.

In defining religion, Pannikar says, "Under the particular perspective that we may call religion, every human culture presents three elements: 1) a vision of man as he actually appears to be; 2) a certain more or less developed notion of the end or final station of man; and 3) the means of getting from the one to the other." Now is that a fair definition? Can we accept it for our purposes in pursuing the philosophy of religion?

A vision of man as he actually appears to be, which in Buddhism is called dukham, the condition of suffering, is something Sri Aurobindo's *Savitri* describes on almost every page, and on the opposite page "a more or less developed notion of man as he can possibly become", and in between an elaboration of the means of going from the former to the latter. *Savitri* is really about that.

And Pannikar tells us that this is essentially what all the great religious traditions have tried to teach. He goes into some detail about terms of the process in Buddhism and Christianity. For example, "This unfinished being is not to remain as he is but has to undergo a more or less radical transformation, in order to reach that state

which Buddhism calls nirvana and Christianity calls soteria." Soteria means redemption, liberation from ego and all the poisons (defined by both Buddhism and Christianity)—jealousy, anger, pride, desire. But then he makes an interesting distinction between those two. He says that in Buddhism nirvana, which is a universal ontological state of being, on the subjective side is sunyata, emptiness; and in Christianity soteria, which is a state of forgiveness, redemption and resurrection at the end, on the subjective side is pleroma, the undefinable fullness of the divine being. We know that in Buddhism nirvana is also often defined like that, the absolute emptiness which is bliss and contains the "sum of everything to be" as Sri Aurobindo says.

In Sri Aurobindo's teaching we find that he constantly puts the two movements together—the negation and the affirmation, sunyata and pleroma. The renunciation, which is a negation of the aspects of mind, life and body to which we are attached, and focusing on the emptiness, has as its result the opening of the liberated self to the pleroma, and the pouring in of the divine shakti. That is the "second liberation" which, as in the teaching of St. Augustine, can mean the transformation of the physical body.

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| <p>Ashram Annual On-Line Auction Fundraiser - Friday, May 2 through Sunday, May 11 (at 8pm MT). Go to www.biddingforgood.com/babajiaashram to view all the 135 items and to bid.</p> <p>10% off for our Crestone Eagle readers (except all sale items) please mention it at checkout</p> | <h2>Maha Lakshmi Shop</h2> <p>Perfumes, silk scarves, wool shawls, jewelry, saris, incense, candles, tapes, books, purses, bronze murtis, stone statuary, & other great gift items too.</p> <p>New Hours: 10am - 5pm Everyday Call: (719) 256-4108 Email: shop@BabajiaAshram.org www.BabajiaAshram.org</p> |
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Liza Marron, candidate for Saguache County Commissioner, District 3

“Everybody does better when Everybody does better” is a driving belief behind the lifelong work of longtime Saguache resident Liza Marron. Marron, who recently threw her hat into the ring to replace term-limited Linda Joseph as county commissioner, has experience in governance and finance as well as community organizing. Some of those experiences included connecting families to resources at Saguache County Department of Social Services or empowering youth at Center School District.

As a fundraiser Marron has brought over \$1.5 million into the SLV through LiveWell Colorado and is the founding director of the SLV Local Foods Coalition—working to create a sustainable local food system in the region. She is a longtime board member of ScSEED—Saguache County Sustainable Environment and Economic Development—and serves as president of the Mountain Valley School Board.

“One issue people care a lot about is their ability to afford to



County Commissioner candidate Liza Marron

live. Whether it is property taxes or water shortages that producers face, or the desire to earn a living wage, many folks struggle. If elected I will listen to the people for what to do, while using my experience as a strategic planner, grant-writer and fundraiser to better the opportunities here.”

Marron believes she brings a wealth of skills as well as gender diversity. “Jason and Kenny Anderson bring business, conservation, solar energy, planning commission, water and ranching know how. I bring public health, budgeting, economic development and community organizing experience and would be a good complement to the team.”

Tim Lavato, candidate for Saguache County Commissioner, District 3

Fellow Democrats and voters of Saguache County:

Let me introduce myself my name is Tim Lovato and I’m running for the office of County Commissioner in District 3.

I have been a lifelong resident of Saguache County and have been married to my wife Lori for 40 years and she teaches at Moffat, we have a ranch south of Saguache. I was a Water Commissioner for District 26 (Saguache Creek), for 25 years and Division 3 Well Commissioner (San Luis Valley) for 3.5 years until my retirement in 2003.

I am currently the representative for the Saguache Creek Water Users Association on the San Luis Valley Rules and Regs. Committee, since 2009. I am currently a member of the Saguache County Planning Commission and have been since 2009. I have been a board member on the Mountain Valley School Board from 2005 to 2008. I have served on the Saguache Town Board, Volunteer for the Saguache Fire Department and I have been a past member of the Saguache Ki-



County Commissioner candidate Tim Lavato

wanis. I have a well rounded background and experience to keep moving Saguache County forward while protecting our resources. We need to have local control in the issues that face Saguache County

We need to encourage education, commerce, recreation, tourism and support for our local small business, in conjunction with environmentally-conscious smart growth.

I know the issues and concerns of many residents in Saguache County by being involved in the county. I am running on my accomplishments and it will be an honor and a privilege to serve and represent the citizens of Saguache County.

Your best candidate for Saguache County Commissioner

Liza Marron



- BA/MA from ASU in Spanish Language & Community Counseling
- Successful Grantwriter/Community Organizer
- Experienced in business and finance
- Founding Director of San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition
- ScSEED Board Member 14 years
- President of Mountain Valley School Board 7 years
- Brought \$1.2 million in LiveWell Colorado funding to SLV
- Youth Mentoring at Center School District 8 years
- Saguache County DSS for 8 years

719-539-5606

MarronforSaguacheCommissioner@gmail.com

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Moving Up Higher Enjoying everyday life



by Joyce Meyer

The choice is yours

One of the greatest gifts the Lord has given us is the power to choose. In fact, every day, we are faced with hundreds of decision.

We decide whether or not to get out of bed, what we'll eat, what we'll do, what we will think about, and what we will say. We make decisions about everything from how we style our hair . . . to how we will react to more serious situations at work or at home.

While it may seem like many of our daily choices are not that significant, it's important to understand that they do matter.

In Deuteronomy 30:19, God says . . . I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live.

It's important to understand that every choice you make is a seed you sow, and those seeds produce fruit in your life—either for life or death. So if we want to have the life Jesus died to give us—an abundant life full of peace and joy—then we need to make wise choices.

Good choices lead to a good life

I think many times we can be good at focusing on life's "big" decisions only to be defeated by the small ones. The Song of Solomon 2:15 actually tells us that it's the "little foxes" that spoil the vine. Likewise, the many small decisions we make every day add up and greatly impact our lives

Let me give you an example. I make it a habit to go to bed at 9 o'clock every night so that I can be asleep by about 9:30. If I get to bed on time, then I'm able to get up on time and spend quality time with God before I have to go on with the rest of my day.

Now, some people might think,

Does your bedtime really matter that much?

Yes! Because if I decided to simply go to bed whenever I felt like it, I would sabotage my time with God—the very thing I need to grow as a Christian. After a few days, I would also end up feeling tired and worn out from staying up late and begin to wonder why everything seemed so difficult.

This seems so simple, yet I believe "little" things like this affect our lives more than we realize. Using wisdom in our choices means living deeper than what we want, what we think, and what we feel.

Wisdom always chooses to do now what it will be satisfied with later on.

Conversely, foolish choices are often made without any consideration of the consequences. I've actually seen the word foolishness defined as "without common sense."

Now here's the great news: If you have made foolish choices (and we've all done it) and you're not happy with the way things are right now, you can change. The greatest way to overcome a series of bad choices is to make a series of good ones.

The first step is for us to take responsibility for the wrong choices we've made. It's important to be honest with ourselves if we are ever going to change.

The next step is to make a determined decision to change . . . to begin making a series of wise choices for your future.

Whatever changes you need to make, I encourage you to go to God for help. Pray and ask Him to guide you and give you the strength to make wise choices.

Book Review: School Violence—Crisis and Opportunity by Marianna King

Research shows link between violent video games & mass shootings

The White House report resulting from the investigation into the Newtown massacre focuses on mental health issues and access to guns. The brief paragraph that discusses media violence and video game violence calls for more research.

The book *School Violence—Crisis and Opportunity* (www.schoolviolencebook.com) by Marianna King, describes the massive amount of research into television violence during the past 60 years, with over 1,000 studies demonstrating the causal relationship between television violence and aggressive and violent behavior. It is the first book that takes into account the recent research of neuroscientists who have been studying the effects of violent media and violent video games on the brain.

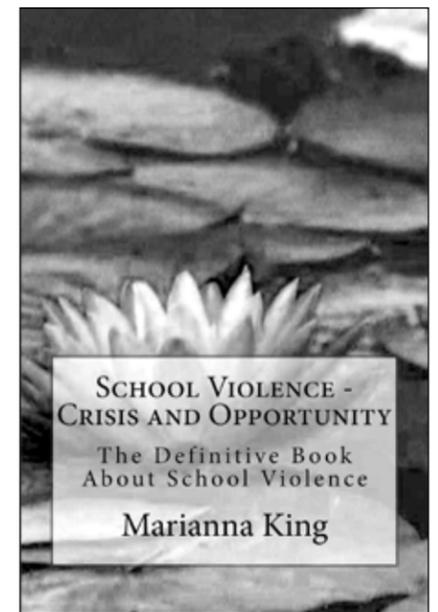
Violent video games, especially first-person shooter combat video games, have an especially powerful influence on behavior. Cumulative research findings about violent video games are so compelling that researchers now state with confidence that violent media and video games cause aggression.

Research reveals that rewarding violent game actions increases hostile emotions, aggressive thinking and aggressive behavior. In addition, punishing violent video game actions increases hostile emotion. In other words, aggressive thinking and actions result from behavior that video games reward and also behavior that video games punish.

Repeated exposure to video game violence can result in an aggressive personality and what researchers call a "hostile bias," a tendency to expect hostility and to react hostilely.

The book notes that, in addition to aggressive thinking and behavior, playing violent video games results in desensitization, a loss of empathy and compassion. The human brain is not accustomed to processing so much emotion-laden violent material. The brain responds by inhibiting and blocking the person's ability to feel empathy

during the video game and also in the long-term. In fact, a team of neuroscientist researchers has concluded that this process is so prevalent that violent video games are "systematic desensitization machines."



Only gang involvement presents more of a risk factor than violent video games for later aggressive and violent behavior.

The book establishes a clear link between heavy violent video game playing and rampage school shootings. The author also notes that violent video games are a key factor in the escalation of bullying.

The book concludes that the great majority of school violence prevention programs do not work because they do not take into account the synergistic and potent influence of violent electronic entertainment and games. In order to reduce and prevent violence it is necessary to include media literacy in school curricula. The book closes with the idea that it is necessary to rein in "these renegade violence industries."

Author Marianna King is a sociologist, does school violence prevention training and creates research-based school violence prevention programs. She lives in Monte Vista.

Joyce Meyer Article

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

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Who We Are

Naomi Lake: Untangling the threads

by Gussie Fauntleroy

It's appropriate that a wooden loom, kept in storage for Naomi Lake by a friend since 1978, was returned to her last fall. Naomi set it up in her healing room and slipped back into weaving as if she'd never stopped. In a sense, she has been weaving all these years—just not with physical threads. Instead she's been weaving together strands in the tapestry of vibrational medicine, developing ways of perceiving

for her parents, both physicians in a San Francisco Bay area hospital, she noticed colors in certain areas around patients. At first her parents were intrigued, but their interest soon turned to concern for Naomi's eyes. When she was 7 they scheduled exploratory eye surgery to determine what was wrong. The frightening prospect was enough to shut down Naomi's ability to see color/energy fields. A few years later she came across a book on chakras,



Naomi facilitating a shamanic journey in 2012, using the drum to assist participants in moving into an expanded state of awareness. In this state, access to the wisdom of the participants' "power animals" can bring answers to questions. photo by Jacob McKean

and aligning a person's vital energy field in the aim of helping the patient shift into a greater ongoing expression of wholeness and health.

Naomi's decades-long evolution as a healing facilitator has paralleled her personal spiritual path, with increasing awareness in one area allowing deeper understanding to unfold in other parts of her life. The principles at work in what she's been doing all these years have echoes in ancient wisdom traditions from around the world. They've also begun to find articulation in the leading edge concepts of quantum mechanics, which describes the unlimited potentiality of an underlying fabric of consciousness—the realm in which true healing ultimately occurs.

Seeing colors

Naomi's journey toward healing work began, it seems, when she was a baby in her crib. Among her earliest memories was seeing colors and shapes in the energy field around people, although she had no explanation at the time for what she saw. Adopted at birth, she now knows that in a primal, inarticulate way she was searching for her birth mother by looking for someone whose feeling/colors matched her own. Later, waiting after school

the ancient knowledge of focal points for the vital energy that flows in and around the body. With this understanding she found she could turn off or on her ability to perceive and affect this subtle vibrational field.

Also as a child, Naomi learned from the family's live-in housekeeper that the intuitive healing energy of her hands could help make a headache or other physical discomfort go away. When she left home at 16, she took with her the strong desire to learn more about healing, along with a comfortable familiarity with Western medicine and a nascent awareness of powerful alternatives to the conventional medical model. She briefly considered becoming a medical doctor, but life soon set her on another path.

Gathering the strands

Married young, Naomi lived for a few years with her husband and three sons on an old mining claim in the Sierra Nevada foothills of northern California. She learned about wild-crafted medicinal herbs from a Native American neighbor and used herbs and hands-on healing to treat family and friends. At 23, divorced and attending the University of California at Berkeley, she delved into the study of anthro-

pology, focusing on healing approaches among indigenous cultures in different parts of the world.

In 1978 Naomi moved to Provincetown, MA, where she met her husband, Jimmy Roderick. Over the next 17 year she developed a busy healing practice and traveled to Mexico City, England and around the United States, teaching health care professionals—including at Harvard Medical School and for the American Holistic Nurses Association—to incorporate chakra/energy work as a therapeutic tool. Gradually she learned other, related modalities, including naturopathy, massage, polarity therapy, and shamanic journey work. In 1995 while visiting a friend in Taos, she took a side trip to Crestone. She and Jimmy decided to spend a few months here—and stayed.

The multidimensional web

Naomi's interest in shamanism deepened and expanded in the 1990s during visits to the Amazonian jungle of Peru. There she studied with indigenous shamans whose healing and spiritual practices included use of the powerful visionary plant mixture ayahuasca.

"I was ready for the next step, and it was indeed another step," she says of the experience. "It expanded my capacity to see the vast interconnectedness we have with plants, animals, and the entire universe." Another important step was her introduction to computer-assisted technology known as quantum biofeedback, which allows the practitioner to more specifically identify, locate and "untangle" knots or kinks in the web of energy that constitutes a person's energy field. Other approaches, including Access Consciousness and Eric Pearl's The Reconnection system, became tools toward the same end.

Healing and paradox

After decades of refining her understanding and skills, Naomi has become aware of a challenging



Naomi Lake

paradox in her healing work. As she pinpoints specific areas where energy "untangling" needs to occur, patients can become attached to the idea of a certain named disease or a particular area of imbalance. The result can be a tightening up around the concept of an ailment, rather than an opening and expanding of awareness that balances the entire

energy field. "I know we can move to the place where we can transcend the material," Naomi says. "It's the identification with contextual reality that holds us back." This paradigm shift also means letting go of attachment to being fixed or healed by someone else, she notes. "The different modalities I work with can be a catalyst or a jump-start to enhance someone's capacity



Body Electric
courtesy of QuantumInfinity.com

to heal themselves, but it's really the individual who moves their own energy in order for healing to occur."

In the past few months, Naomi's response to this challenge has been to intentionally enter and inhabit a place of not knowing. It's been a quiet, regenerative pause to allow for the shedding of her own attachments to contextual reality—including her identity as a healer. "We get distracted by definitions of self, which are contractions that keep us from being in the field of unlimited possibilities," she reflects. "I do feel, believe and know that we all have the capacity to live from that place."

For more information on her work, you are invited to visit www.naomilake.com.

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The Baca Grande Stables offers 2014 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 16. Please note that there will be two sessions in June, two sessions in July, and one session in August. Session 1 will be June 16-20; Session 2, June 23-27; Session 3, July 7-11; Session 4, July 14-18; Session 5, August 4-8. Each session is five days for 2 1/2 hours, from 8:30 to 11am. Lessons include riding in the arena and on trails and general horsemanship—safety, grooming and tacking up. Class size is limited to 5 students per session, so sign up soon. The cost will be \$150 per week-long session.

As in years past, the Baca

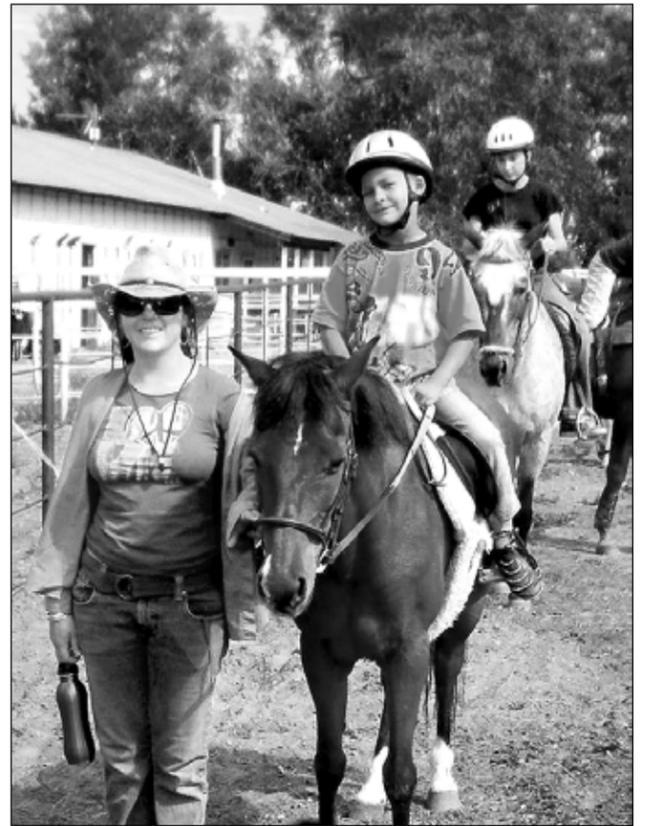
Grande POA will underwrite a portion of the summer children's riding program in order to reduce the cost of lessons for local residents who demonstrate financial need. With the POA subsidy, the full cost of \$150 per weekly session will be reduced to \$100 per student.

Summer is a busy time at the Baca Grande Stables. Private and group lessons are available for beginners through intermediates. We teach both English and Western riding. Our philosophy is based on discovering and establishing a loving, safe and knowledgeable partnership with horses. Body awareness, boundary setting, effective communication with honest intention and self confidence are all enhanced by equine sports.

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

Community members who believe in the value of this program for local youth and would like to underwrite a partial scholarship for families in financial need, can make a tax-deductible donation to the Atlanta 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



Getting ready to hit the trail at the Baca Grande Stables.

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

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(719) 256-6200 Joanna and Eli Dokson

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E3/KFM offers ElementsCamp for Kids this summer

by Peter May

Again this summer, E3/KFM will be offering the 2nd ElementsCamp for Kids. This camp is an educational program that works with the outer elements, and the inner elemental life forces, while engaging in environmental and ecological service projects, including stewardship and restoration activities. Lyndsay Duebber, Peter May, and Frederick Dunets, as well as guest instructors and presenters, will team up to host this camp. By fostering the camper's relationship with the natural world, the campers begin to realize their roles in the ecological web of life. This value creates a healthy foundation for the individual, which is then reflected to the greater planetary community.

ElementsCamp for Kids gives campers the chance to explore the elemental life forces in fun, safe, and educational ways. Highlights include elements & 5-sense games, leadership and team building initiatives, Adventures in Sound-play, centering exercises, intuition games, ecosystem awareness, junior alchemy, and backpacking skills. This is a 6-day overnight

camp, with an optional 3-day backpacking adventure in the Sangres.

The intention of this and other E3 KFM camps is to provide professional environmental and educational programs with a focus on personal and ecological stewardship. With this in mind, we hope to attract campers from around the nation, and make it affordable for local participants. Again this year, we will be accepting tax-deductible donations that will make it more possible for local kids to attend this fantastic ElementsCamp. We will also handle donations for GAIA Girls Activation Initiation Alliance: Girls 13-18, July 14-19, 2014.

We feel that it is really important to plant the seeds of awareness and balance, especially for this age group, and especially at this time. New for this year, will be the Elemental Avatar Training, the Keystone Stewardship Initiative, and Living in the Golden Ratio.

Nature is composed of elements and so are we. There is magic in Nature, and there is magic in us, provided that we learn how to recognize it. Learning this and coming to know this at a young age can help benefit us as well as our



Children enjoying themselves and a good meal at ElementsCamp while backpacking in the Sangres, 2013.

planet, in ways beyond the collective imagination.

E3/KFM Kundalini Fire Management, a nonprofit, began as a fire department. It has since expanded its original focus of providing fire management services to

the spiritual groups near Crestone, Colorado, to elemental experiential education, through its various programs and camps, and environmental stewardship and restoration projects. One of these programs is ElementsCamp for Kids.

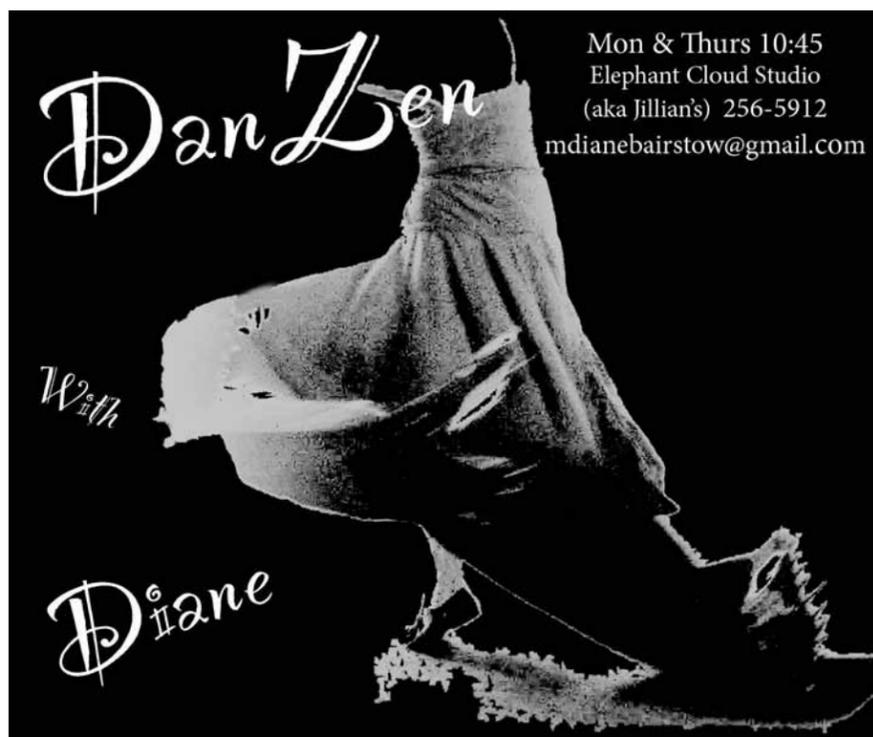
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Peter: 719-588-1888, or
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Junior Alchemy
Environmental Stewardship

Activities

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Living in the Golden Ratio
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Southern Peaks League Art Show recap

by **Andy McKim**

This year the SPL Art Show was hosted by Sangre De Cristo Schools. Next year the SPL Art Show will be held at Sargent Schools. The show was opened up after the judging for the community to view on April 10.

Many of our Moffat students had their art displayed and they did really well at this show, bringing home a total of 21 ribbons. Not too bad for only having 60 pieces in the show altogether.

The Southern Peaks League Art Show provides a chance for our young artists in the valley to showcase some of their best pieces of work. It is also a time for them to get out and see what the other students in the valley are doing as well. After taking my last hour art class to view the art at the show, my students are now ready to get into painting after seeing some of the magnificent paintings that students from area schools are producing.

Congratulations to the following students who placed at this year's art show:

Sculpture: 2nd place, Alyssa Ginger; Honorable Mentions, For-

rest McNulty and Elaine Wellman-Flick.

Mixed Media: 2nd place, Megan Gillespie; 3rd place, Elaine Wellman-Flick and Ellyon Williamson; Honorable Mention, Imanuel Baca.

Printmaking: 2nd place, Ellyon Williamson.

Color Pencil: Honorable Mentions, Jared Sheppard and Alyssa Chavez.

Stained Glass: 1st place, Hannah Sheppard; 2nd place, Kristian Tran-Harrell; 3rd place, Cassidy Crossett.

Ink: 1st place, Jared Sheppard.

Ceramics Handbuilt Middle School: 1st place, Phoenix Carter; Honorable Mention, Max Zapel-Ewy.

Ceramics Handbuilt High School: 2nd place, Megan Gillespie; Honorable Mention, Hannah Sheppard and Elaine Wellman-Flick.

Ceramic Wheel Thrown: 1st place, Forrest McNulty; 3rd place, Megan Gillespie.



From left to right: Jared Kubalak, Hannah Sheppard, Megan Gillespie, Zeven Garcia, and Anthony Chavez.

Moffat High School Senior Project time

by **Kaley VanArsdale**

It's Senior Project time! Moffat School has an amazing year-long program for seniors to get immersed in a career or interest of their choice. Each senior decides on a topic that they can develop and expand upon their prior knowledge. Students are responsible for a research paper and a physical product that ties to their topic. Once completed, seniors will be presenting their projects to a panel of judges made up of school board members and other community members. This year we have had two automotive projects and three awareness projects. Anthony Chavez worked on auto body restoration, while Zeven Garcia worked on rebuilding an engine. Hannah Sheppard hosted a weeklong mental health awareness campaign targeted at supporting teens with issues like bullying and depression. Jared Kubalak hosted a green energy awareness seminar to demonstrate his findings and remind students on how to be a part of the solution. Megan Gillespie brought insight into Native American culture to the elementary classes with her focus on oral tradition and trickster mythology. This year's Senior Project Oral presentations will be held Wednesday, May 7 at Moffat School from 5-8pm. Congratulations Moffat Class of 2014!

Prom King & Queen



photo by **Natasha McKim**

Moffat Senior Anthony Chavez and Moffat Senior Hannah Sheppard were chosen by the student body as King and Queen of the Shanghai Moon 2014 Prom. Congratulations Anthony and Hannah!

Moffat students study ancient Greek society



Guinevere, Maggie and Snizhana wait patiently for their turn to tell the audience who they chose to represent at this year's Greek Agora.
by **Andy McKim**

The latest edition of the traditional Ancient Greek Agora was a sight to behold. Students not only announced their god or goddess and their symbols during the celebration, but they also stated the contributions, such as: Plato's philosophy, the Theater, Mathematics, and Experiments in Science, Art, Architecture, Storytelling, Democracy, Our Medicine and Our Music. Thank you ancient Greeks!!

"Friends, Greeks and countrymen, Welcome to our agora, also known as our traditional ancient marketplace" announced, Zeus, master of ceremonies. It's that magical time again, April 17 at Moffat School where we celebrate what we have learned about the contributions of the ancient Greeks and pay tribute to their gods and goddesses.

Inspirational quotes

by **Wert Fleming**

In Brian Rhodes' class, we walk in and do the entrance procedure. We walk into class and write names on the board in boxes for school lunch, milk tally, and brought lunch. This takes attendance and lunch count.

Then we go to our desk and write an inspirational quote for the day. This is my favorite part of the entrance procedure. It's my favorite activity because the quotes make me feel cheerful inside. Here's a quote: "The best and most beautiful things

in the world cannot be seen nor even touched. They must be felt with the heart". I chose this quote because it makes me feel positive inside. I feel positive inside because I control what happens. Everyone in Mr. Rhodes' class chooses a quote that makes them feel confident, positive, excited, happy, reflects whatever emotions they are feeling at the time.

After we choose a quote, we read the quote and share why we chose that quote for the day. What quote would you choose today?



Mr. Rhodes' 4th/5th grade class gave their presentations in front of an audience of parents, teachers, elementary and secondary students. The students did an amazing job fielding questions from the audience and each of them were congratulated for a job well done, at the conclusion of the program.
photo by **Virginia Drake**

Brain break

by **Jacob Monreal**

Brain break is an unforgettable activity in Mr. Rhodes' class. Everyday we stay active and healthy in Mr. Rhodes' class. A fun activity for all kids is brain break. "Keep It Clean" is my all time number one brain break activity. The room and the kids are divided into two teams. Each team goes to one side of the room. We have plastic balls and Mr. Rhodes gives both of the teams the same amount of plastic balls. When he

says go, we throw the plastic balls to the other side and at the end the team with the least amount of plastic balls on their side wins. We have a brain break between every subject to help our brains change gears. What I adore about brain break is that I don't have to wait for recess to get out of a chair and be active. From my point of view, brain break gets me excited for the next subject. It makes me want to do the next subject. Brain break is a fun activity for all schools big or small.

CCS Middle School's California adventure

In April, the Crestone Charter School middle school students participated in an unforgettable learning adventure, taking a road trip through Joshua Tree National Park and all the way out to the west coast.

Students and teachers spent three days exploring and learning in the stunning natural beauty of Joshua Tree. Activities included hiking, camping, cave exploration, storytelling, and stargazing with our guide Nico Kladis. Students also enjoyed an afternoon of challenging rock climbing with Crestone local Scott Norris. And then, of course, there was singing around the campfire, cooking great food, and sleeping under the stars in one of our country's most beautiful and pristine wilderness areas. CCS students are committed to the principles of Leaving No Trace, and took care to leave all of our campsites even cleaner than the way we found them.

After Joshua Tree, we continued on to visit the beaches of southern California. Students camped on the beach at Mugu Point, just north of Los Angeles, and woke up to the rhythm of the crashing waves. This was the first time that many of our students had ever seen the ocean!

Students also had an opportunity to spend an afternoon exploring the tide pools at Leo Carillo State Beach with naturalist Burton Lang. Animal sightings included gray whales, dolphins, sea otters, and pelicans, as

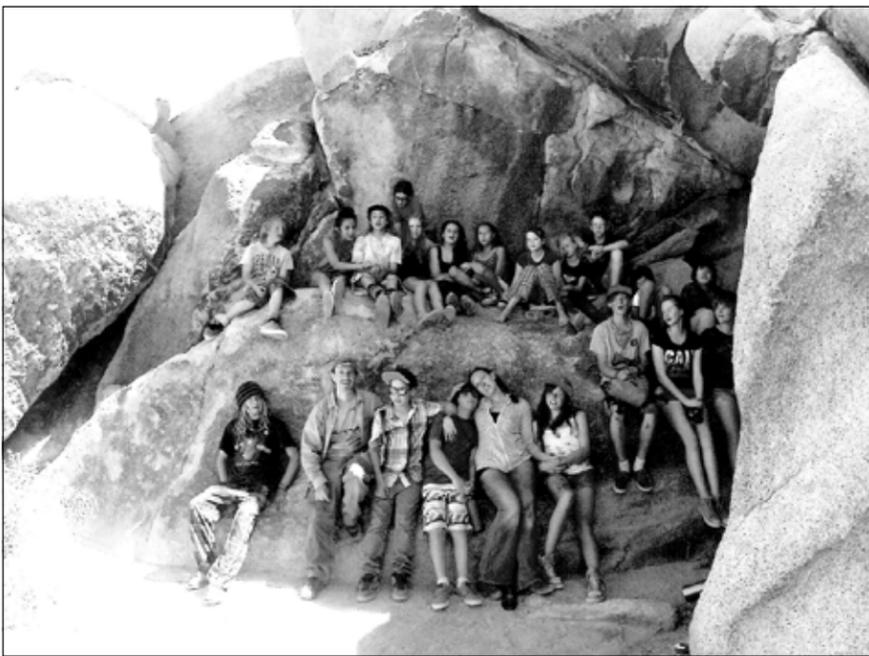


CCS middle school students camp at Joshua Tree National Park.

well as plenty of snails and sea anemones. Conspicuously absent from the tide pools were the sea stars, a species that very recently seems to have disappeared from the beaches. This distressing news gave us all a deeper understanding of the delicate balance of our natural environments, and the importance of working to preserve them.

To top off the adventure, the CCS middle school visited Venice Beach for a good dose of southern California culture. For many students, this may have been the highlight of the trip!

Immersive learning adventures like these are valuable to our kids on so many levels. For teachers, there's nothing better than seeing students working together, looking out for each other, facing challenges, solving problems, having fun, and growing up before our eyes. All of us came home with a greater appreciation for what it means to be part of a community and how to enjoy the beauty of our land in a responsible way. This is experiential learning at its best!



CCS middle school students camp at Joshua Tree National Park.

Moffat School news (cont'd)

Evaporation: Magic or science

by Ian Horn

Evaporation seems like magic! So water heats up, I get that, then turns into gas. Now that makes no sense! What is this? Water magic! Who invented evaporation? Magician David Blaine? It has to be magic! Just how the monkey does the water escape the pot? Magic! I thought this, but I would actually be wrong. Most people heard the scientific explanation: water molecules heat up, gain more energy, and turn into a gas. I'm a kid. To me, those are words. So kids, it's your lucky day, I've come up with an explanation every kid can understand. Ok, so there's a bunch of kids at a birth-

day party and they're all bouncing around in the bouncy castle. One kid is a candy fanatic, and he just ate 20 marshmallow-stuffed sugar daddies wrapped in laffy taffy, and it's drenched in three different types of energy drinks: Monster, Rockstar, and Burn. He has so much energy that he starts bouncing faster and harder in that bouncy castle until he jumps right out of it and floats away. Ha ha, that would be a show to watch. But just like the kid got enough energy and bounced away the molecules bounce off the walls and floor and escape the pot as gas. There you have it kids, evaporation finally explained *our* way.

A Company of Players interview with Ammi Kohn

From time to time, the Company of Players conducts interviews with new members or with members who have not yet been interviewed. Ammi Kohn, (AK), associated with the company since its inception, conducts this interview with himself. Ammi will retire from an active role in the company after *Radio Daze*, the production on May 10 and 11 at the Charter School.

AK: It's rather bizarre to interview yourself, maybe egocentric also?

AK: Hey, I'm entitled!

AK: Kinda fiesty, aren't you!

AK: Sometimes.

AK: Be serious, Ammi! Why an interview now, after so many interviews with other members of the company?

AK: I've been with the company for five years. Its time for a rest. I'm not sure if or when I'll return to the company. I've accomplished what I've wanted to do.

AK: What is that?

AK: To establish theatre in Crestone, to make it independent of any one person, to have a collective that would truly be representative of Crestone. I think that has happened. *Radio Daze* has had very little input from me and is evolving in its own Crestoney way. I've really curious to see what will come after *Radio Daze*.

AK: Any idea what might be the next production?

AK: No idea. Except for Findley West, who was gone for several years, there has been a complete turnover in people, a healthy sign that there is always some fresh blood, always some different dynamics, always some new ideas. And I hope and expect there will be again be new members and new ideas for the company. My suggestion for the next show might be doing several short one acts. Maybe using a local playwright. But of course, the company decides.

AK: What has been the most fun and the hardest during your five years with the company?

AK: Tremendous fun getting to know the local talent, seeing each new group come together in a different way to create productions that Crestone enjoys and appreciates. I love the people I've worked with. The hardest part has been logistic. Everyone is busy with their own life and schedule. Community theatre requires dedication and time. But it sure is worth it. Ask the players.

AK: Hey, Ammi, any last thoughts?

AK: A great thank you to Richard Collier, the other founder of the company, who bowed out of the last production. The company would not have grown without him. Thanks, Richard.



Sign up for Khan Academy

by Nicole Berry

Every student should use Khan Academy! It's really easy to get started, all you need is a Facebook or a Gmail account, and everyone has that. You log on and the rest of it will glide along, and Khan Academy will instruct you. Here's why I absolutely love to use Khan Academy. If I'm stuck on a math problem I can use a hint or watch a video that will show me step-by-step how to solve the problem. You don't have to wait for anyone to help you.

Everyone can work on Khan

Academy. It's your level of learning at your pace. Another cool thing that is you win energy points that can be used for avatar characters. Girls, you must have Marcimus. A pink little fat guy! He has droopy eyes. Boys, you would love Donald! He's a robot that's red and grey and has laser red eyes! He's really strong!

You can watch your progress which shows you how much math you've learned. You can win badges. Let your curiosity run wild and learn any kind of math you want. It's your learning your way!

Book recommendation: Bone

by Dakotah Richardson

I can't stop reading the book series "Bone". I'm staying up late reading the book *Crown of Horns*, which is the ninth book in the series. This book is written by Jeff Smith. It starts out where a girl named Thorn and a boy named Bone are locked in a cell. People that live in a small village locked them in the cell. The village was being attacked by big brown, green, and purple monsters. The monsters had horns, red eyes, long tongues, and sharp teeth. The village was also being attacked by big hairy men and there was a creepy person

with grey skin and you could see his bones because of how skinny he was.

The people in the cell didn't think that anyone would let them go. Thorn has long red hair and blue eyes. Bone is made out of bone and he has black eyes. He is a living skeleton. They get out of the cell, they fight the monsters, and they save the village, but the monsters might come back!

You'll have to read the book to see what happens. Read this book because it's exciting, surprising, and has a happy ending.

The Washington Beat

*Eight million & climbing;
Japan loses scientific
whaling argument*



by David Nicholas
ACA hits its mark & more

No one thought it would hit the target mark of 7 million folks signing up for Affordable Healthcare/Obamacare given Fox News Channel banging the anti-Obamacare drum, and Republicans bleating doom and gloom, yet it happened. The target of folks signing up at national or state exchanges was reached on March 31. The number was 7.041 million people. Figures released Thursday, April 17 had the number at eight million and counting.

President Obama made a point of coming to the White House press-room to announce the good news saying, "this thing is working." Of the eight million, the President noted that 35% of those signing up was 35 and under. He didn't say how many Under26ers had signed on the dotted line but that will come later. In his closing remarks, the President said, "The point is the repeal debate is and should be over. The Affordable Care Act is working. And I know the American people don't want us spending the next two and a half years refighting the settled political battles of the last five years. They sent us here to repair our economy, to rebuild our middle class, and to restore our founding promise of opportunity—not just for a few, but for all. And as President, that's exactly what I intend to keep doing as long as I'm in this office."

The news just made the hornets in the GOP mad, and all manner of hell broke loose on April 1. The usual noise was that the numbers were fudged, and who actually signed up and paid? The narrative just wasn't resounding with the public and it was dying down.

And then Kathleen Sibelius decided to call it quits on Friday, April 11, as Secretary of Health and Hu-

man Services and the crescendo started again. Essentially, why was she leaving after having overseen one of the most incredible failures in American politics? and so on and so forth. The notices in pro-GOP media sources were cruel, pretty much par for the course.

In her defense, talking to NBC's Andrea Mitchell on "Meet the Press", April 13, Ms. Sibelius said, "Could we have used more time and testing? You bet. I've said that from the start. But the site actually works. And the great thing is, there's a market behind the site that works even better. People have competitive choices and real information for the first time ever in this insurance market."

So it's May and as flawed as the rollout was, Affordable Healthcare is here and likely to stay. "Likely" as in if Democrats lose control of the Senate in the midterms and lose more seats on the House of Representatives as latest polls are predicting at the moment. I'm not convinced that's the scenario I'd buy—it's early yet—but that's the narrative you hear on the Sunday talk shows. So it goes.

The ACA signup numbers

Per ACASignups.net: The exchange for Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) as of April 15, 2014 was 8.03 million. The estimated total from all sources is between 14.4-23.5 million depending on the source you go by. The individual QHP range is 7.47-13.03 million. Medicaid/CHIP signups (different from exchange QHP signups): 5.23-7.29 million. Sub26ers (those under 26 who signed up to ACA exchanges) 1.60-3.10 million.

Colorado exceeded its quota of the original 7 million target. The original target was 72,000; as of April 15, 102,000 or 124% had signed up. By contrast New Mexico only made 48% of its target with 55,000 signups.

Winning one for the Flipper

It took almost 30 years but in the end Japan's notorious policy for killing whales under the guise of scientific research was outlawed and deemed a violation of international law. Japan whaling under this pernicious policy had been going on since yours truly worked for Greenpeace in DC in the late 1980s. The actual lawsuit brought by Australia and New Zealand at the International Court of Justice at The Hague in the Netherlands went for four years but the judgment was clear, handed down on Monday, April 1, 2014.

In the judgment, which is final, without appeal and binding on the parties, the court stated:

"(1) finds, unanimously, that it has jurisdiction to entertain the Application filed by Australia on 31 May 2010;

"(2) finds, by twelve votes to four, that the special permits granted by Japan in connection with JARPA II do not fall within the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 1, of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling;

"(3) finds, by twelve votes to four, that Japan, by granting special permits to kill, take and treat fin, humpback and Antarctic Minke whales in pursuance of JARPA II, has not acted in conformity with its obligations under paragraph 10 (e) of the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling;

"(4) finds, by twelve votes to four, that Japan has not acted in con-

formity with its obligations under paragraph 10 (d) of the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling in relation to the killing, taking and treating of fin whales in pursuance of JARPA II;

"(5) finds, by twelve votes to four, that Japan has not acted in conformity with its obligations under paragraph 7 (b) of the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling in relation to the killing, taking and treating of fin whales in the "Southern Ocean Sanctuary" in pursuance of JARPA II;

"(6) finds, by thirteen votes to three, that Japan has complied with its obligations under paragraph 30 of the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling with regard to JARPA II;

"(7) decides, by twelve votes to four, that Japan shall revoke any extant authorization, permit or license granted in relation to JARPA II, and refrain from granting any further permits in pursuance of that program."

While Japan might find a way around the law by leaving the International Whaling Commission (IWC) or just keep whaling in the northern Pacific, in the great southern ocean Japanese whaling is non grata.

In one sense the battle has long been fought by Greenpeace. In the mid-1980s it started its efforts, using its observer status to the IWC. It took ex-Greenpeacer Paul Watson's Sea Shepherd fleet doing battle with the Japanese whaling fleet in the southern ocean from sea-

son to season since 2006.

Sea Shepherds have been around since 1978, but it has a wide agenda, from seal slaughter to fishing nets, filming and documenting activities of sealers and giant fishing factory fleets. But the annual filming of serious and dangerous interaction with Japanese whalers has been electrifying, keeping the issue front and center for environmentally-concerned landlubbers. So much credit to the Sea Shepherds and Paul Watson.

Obama shelves Keystone XL Pipeline until 2015 (at least)

In a move that wasn't very surprising for this observer, the Obama administration has decided to shelve a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline for the umpteenth time. It's been six years since the administration was faced with a decision to go ahead with the project or not. The reason cited for extending the review was an on-going dispute in the Nebraska Supreme Court that could affect the project's route across the state. The decision was announced on Good Friday, ensuring the narrative wasn't going to get a lot of play over Easter weekend.

The decision didn't please those who see the project as employing at least 10,000 workers, nor corporations who see Canadian oil shale as a way for the United States to become more self-sufficient in oil. TransCanada, the builder of the pipeline, labeled the decision as "inexplicable" and scorn came from both sides of the aisle in Congress.

In case you have forgotten, the Keystone XL pipeline goes from the Hardesty terminal north of Calgary through Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska, linking up with existing pipeline in Steele City, NE. From there oil goes to Cushing, OK, where a new pipeline would be built to Houston and Port Arthur in Texas. A good portion of the pipeline will be underground.

Environmentalists and activists welcomed the administration's decision. The green folks, mainly Democratic voters, don't see Keystone as being in the nation's best interest.

Poll-wise, building the pipeline has 65% approval among voters, while 22% remain steadfastly opposed, but that 22% is part of the

Democratic base, essential for the mid-terms coming up in November.

Ukraine blues

The immediate cause of imperial wars is that people have painted themselves into corners because of stances they have taken and alliances they have made; they cannot back down because they would seem weak and/or lose face.

So in Ukraine, posturing between the US, the European Union, NATO and pro-West Ukrainians in Kiev on one hand, and Russia and the pro-Russian militia groups/former Ukrainian special forces holding positions in buildings and other facilities in eastern Ukraine cities on the other, we have a recipe for stupidity that could set in motion a conflagration that may go on for years.

When historians look back as to whom to blame for this mess, the merry troika of US Secretary of State John Kerry, UK Foreign Minister William Hague and RF (French) Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius get the gong while Russian President Vladimir Putin will get his share, but it's the former who will get the lion's share.

As I said last month, taking on Russia's President Putin in an area he regards as a Russian sphere of interest was pretty stupid when you are logistically at a disadvantage to carry out the threats you make. Then, the Troika egging on Ukrainian acting President Oleksandr Turchynov to stand his ground when he doesn't command the authority needed to carry out his decrees is digging a hole against a foe who would quite delight in burying him.

For his part, President Putin is playing hardball, despite the threat of sanctions by the west on his millionaire friends and their assets in Europe and elsewhere. Gazprom, the Russian supplier of natural gas to the Ukraine and many nations in the European Union, has upped its rates to the Ukraine by 40% beginning April 1 and requires prepayment before gas is supplied. While summer is coming to the Ukraine, gas supplies curtailed in three months because it can't pay the bill will paralyze the economy.

So despite the west holding forth on trying to make alternative arrangements to counter this move, it gets gnarly. For example, it takes a lot of infrastructure construction,

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

—MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



by Ish
Movies:

1/ REDEMPTION ROAD: In this indie film, a white bluesman with a compulsive fear of performing that is a threat to his career goes on a drive from Austin, TX to Huntsville, AL which turns out to be life-changing. He is accompanied by a kindly African American stranger. This has Luke Perry, Tom Skerritt and Melvin Van Peebles amongst others. ****

2/ JANIE JONES: In this Indie drama a has-been rock star, Ethan Brand, is attempting a comeback when an old groupie tells him he has a 13-year-old daughter, Janie. While left in his care she has to convince her new but hedonistic father to reform and accept his responsibilities. Elisabeth Shue is in this. ***

3/ MUAY THAI WARRIOR: In this martial arts film, a young samurai, Yamada Nagamasa, who had been left for dead by his warrior bretheren, must face his past when his betrayers come to finish the job. Meanwhile he has become bodyguard to the king after mastering Muay Thai boxing. ****

4/ INTERVIEW WITH A HITMAN: Victor, a perfect killer as he understands the value of life more than most, is ruthlessly betrayed by his bosses. He escapes to London and joins a new family but finds himself caught in a vicious underworld power struggle. I liked this one. ****

5/ DRAGON (WU XIA): In another martial arts action film, there is intrigue mixed with historical mystery. Liu Jin-xi, an apparent humble paper maker, is hounded by a persistent detective as events reveal the possibility that he is a killer with a complex bloody past. ****

such as building offloading gas ports to handle shipments sent in through the Bosphorus and the Black Sea and it could take years.

Meanwhile in Geneva, the US, EU, Russia and Kiev met in a dramatic emergency meeting on April 17 to hammer out an agreement to stabilize the situation. In essence, the agreement requires those militias in Ukraine's eastern cities like Donetsk to stand down and withdraw.

For the record, the deal calls for the disarming of all illegal groups. In the next few days they would have to vacate all the government buildings and public spaces they have occupied over the course of the crisis. In return, the protesters in eastern Ukraine would be offered amnesty for all but capital crimes and the government in Kiev would immediately start a process of public consultation aimed at devolving constitutional powers to the provinces.

When the deal was signed and sealed, no one at the talks came out expressing optimism that this agreement would go anywhere. The west

insisted it was Putin who they believe controls the militias to rein them in and comply, while Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov insisted it was up to Kiev to comply with the agreement.

Good luck with that and at time of writing, the response of the pro-Russian militia/para-military groups in the eastern Ukraine was that Geneva could take a running jump. Most of the militias remain occupying buildings, one group insisting that they would leave the buildings/facilities when those responsible in Kiev for ousting of pro-Russian Viktor Yanukovich vacated the parliament.

Not a scenario that is likely to end well, and with the tension being ramped up by the day, it's Mr. Putin who has the upper hand. He has troops and mechanized units close to the southern and eastern borders; he just needs to roll. The "Reichstag incidents" keep on happening—such as the charge that two pro-Ukrainian parliament member were tortured—and as of April 26, it's clear Russia is moving to invade.

Personally I expected Mr. Putin to move troops into eastern Ukraine after May 12. Little is said about this but the pro-Russian population had expressed a desire for a referendum May 11. But President Putin doesn't want civil war to break out as much as the west frets that such a war could happen. Mr. Putin would want the eastern Ukraine intact to be absorbed into the Russian Federation, so it appears now he isn't going to wait and his forces are on the move.

As I have written on many occasions, the only thing certain about war and open hostilities is the beginning of them; after that everything is a crap shoot.

The one thing most western leaders do is underestimate the ruthlessness of Mr. Putin. He will do what he wants to make sure Russia is pre-eminent. This is the guy who, when faced with Chechen rebels holding hostages in a Russian theater in 2002, used nerve gas and Spaznetz elite units to take out the cell without regard for casualties and loss of life. 130 hostages died, two survived

Irrespective, the coming days will tell the tale.

And the beat goes on.

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Colo. 'ground zero' on fracking

continued from page 1

again can be done safely.”

The Colorado Oil and Gas Association responded quickly to the local bans at the end of 2013 by suing Lafayette and Fort Collins, challenging their authority under home rule powers to put in place restrictions on activities that are under the auspices of state control.

The state's lawsuit filed in 2012 against Longmont's regulations has not yet been decided. “If the court says Longmont is free to ban fracking . . . that is an earth-shattering reversal by the court,” Suthers said in a recent interview with *The Denver Post*.

Beginning April 2014, Attorney General John Suthers is hosting a first summit of states' chief law enforcement officers to address challenges as the expansion outpaces existing rules.

Among experts called for the forum, Colorado School of Mines petroleum geologist Steve Sonnenberg said he'll describe the scope of the boom. An area northeast of Denver holds 3-5 billion barrels of untapped oil, Sonnenberg said. While natural gas production is slowing, oil production in Colorado has set records—63 million barrels in 2013, up from 49 million in 2012. “Now we're transforming back to an oil state,” Sonnenberg said.

For Suthers, the key question is just how far cities and towns can go to shield residents under current law, which establishes an overriding state interest in developing oil and gas.

Also currently in the works is a wide-ranging study to analyze health and quality-of-life impacts of oil and gas production which passed in the state House of Representatives. It will then go to the state Senate for consideration. All Democratic representatives voted for the

bill, joined by one lone Republican, Rep. Jared Wright (Grand Junction).

House Bill 1297, if signed into law, would direct the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to conduct a study, focused on Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Larimer, and Weld counties, by January 1, 2017. According to the fiscal note accompanying the bill, the study will cost \$598,717.

Voters may be asked in November to consider several ballot issues that would add more restrictions to oil and gas operations—beyond current state regulations.

The 17 proposed ballot measures fall into two groups: one that would amend the constitution to allow tighter local control over oil and gas operations, and another that would require buffer zones statewide up to five times bigger than the 500-foot limit set by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

If any voter initiative passes and gives locals power to prohibit owners of oil and gas from extracting it, “a huge consideration will be whether this will amount to a ‘taking’ of that property by the government,” Colorado Municipal League attorney Geoff Wilson said. “If that's the case, a proposal to ban drilling may amount to a proposal that local taxpayers purchase all the affected mineral rights. That could easily make this popular political and policy choice a very expensive one for local taxpayers.”

The amendment to the state constitution, known as the “Right to Local, Self-Government Act”, is sponsored by the Colorado Community Rights Network. The ballot measure would give local governments across the state the power to protect the health and safety of residents by banning or restricting oil and gas drilling and other industrial activities now permitted by state law.

According to community ac-

tivist and Lafayette resident Cliff Willmeng, “The measure would address any type of corporate project that a local community would deem to be a threat. That could include hydraulic fracturing (fracking), but would not be limited to it.”

Other activities over which residents should be able to exercise control might include the planting of genetically modified crops, cyanide use in gold mining and the construction of dams, he said.

Once the ballot language has been turned in to the state, a statewide signature collection campaign—86,105 valid signatures would be needed to be presented to Colorado Secretary of State's office by August—would qualify the measure for the November 2014 ballot.

Willmeng said the intent of the proposed act would be to ensure that state law and corporate interests don't trump local law when it comes to making decisions about what's best for the health and well-being of a community.

He expects that there will be strong legal challenges to the measure, which would give local communities the power to eliminate the “rights, powers and duties of for-profit business entities” if they usurp or conflict with the “fundamental rights of people, their communities and the natural environment.”

Willmeng said the Colorado Community Rights Network formed last fall and has about 50 members so far, though he expects that number to grow rapidly as the campaign picks up steam.

Draft of language for proposed ballot measure:

“As all political power is vested in and derived from the people, and as all government of right originates from the people, the people have an inherent and inalienable right to local self-government, including in each county, city, town, and any other municipal subdivision or other local community within the State. That right shall include, without limitation: (a) the power to enact local laws recognizing the fundamental rights of people, communities, and the natural environment, and securing those rights using prohibitions and other means; (b) the power to enact local laws for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of people, their communities, and the natural environment; and (c) the power to enact local laws establishing, defining, altering, or eliminating the rights, powers, and duties of for-profit business entities, operating or seeking to operate in the community, to prevent such rights and powers from usurping or otherwise conflicting with the fundamental rights of people, their communities, and the natural environment.”

Colo. primaries

continued from page 1

state needs instead of aiming, as Gardner has, to repeal Obamacare.

At Colorado's GOP Assembly on Saturday, Cory Gardner took 74% of the delegate vote, knocking out two other Republican contenders to challenge Democratic U.S. Sen. Mark Udall.

Gardner took to the stage inside the Coors Events Center to address the nearly 3,900 delegates plus another thousand or so alternates and guests, calling for new leadership in the U.S. Senate and touting a message of economic growth, lower taxes and advanced energy development.

Former state Senate minority leader Mike Kopp and Secretary of State Scott Gessler made the GOP gubernatorial primary, where they will join Tom Tancredo and probably Bob Beauprez, who are petitioning onto the ballot. Tancredo's petition signatures were verified the week before the GOP Assembly. Beauprez's have yet to be verified.

Former state lawmaker Abel Tapia of Pueblo, in his speech at the assembly, said he could beat incumbent Scott Tipton in Congressional District 3. Tipton is facing a contested primary in June against David Cox.

Colorado is one of the few states that still uses a caucus/assembly process to select primary candidates.

US Senate

Democratic: Senator Mark E. Udall

Republican: Cory Scott Gardner (currently CD 4 Congressman)

Libertarian: Gaylon Kent

Unity: Bill Hammons

Independent: Stephen H.

Shogan

Governor

Democratic: Governor John W. Hickenlooper

Republican: Mike Kopp (Former State Senator)

Republican: Scott E. Gessler (Secretary of State)

Republican: Thomas G. “Tom” Tancredo (former Congressman)

Republican: Robert Louis “Bob” Beauprez (former Congressman)

Green: Bill Bartlett

Green: Harry O. Hempy

Libertarian: Matthew Hess (• for Lieutenant Governor: Brandon Young)

Unaffiliated: Jim Rundberg (Unaffiliated Conservative)

Congressional District 3

Republican: Congressman Scott R. Tipton

Republican: David Lawrence Cox

Democratic: Abel J. Tapia

Secretary of State

Democratic: Joseph “Joe” Neguse (UC Regent)

Republican: Wayne W. Williams (El Paso County Clerk)

Libertarian: David Schambach

Treasurer

Republican: Treasurer Walker Stapleton (first elected 2010)

Democratic: Elizabeth “Betsy” Markey (former Congresswoman)

Libertarian: David Jurist

Attorney General

Republican: Cynthia Coffman

Republican: Mark Waller (state Representative)

Democratic: Donald S. “Don” Quick (former Adams County District Attorney)

Libertarian: David K. Williams



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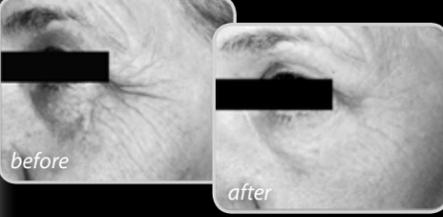
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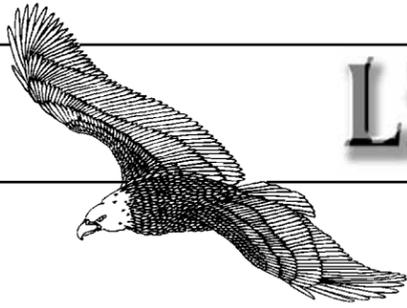
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Living on the Earth

The Origami House— innovative next steps in the self-sufficient dwelling

House design & construction by Burt Wadman

by **Patrick Moore**

Forget the notion of any house you've ever seen or thought of. Architect Burt Wadman has designed and built a boldly original, conscientiously engineered, super efficient off-grid home which does not compromise life style in traditional senses and is beautiful. It is classified as "fortified construction" to endure extreme weather conditions, and the use of insulated concrete construction for exterior walls gives the house superior efficiency and fire resistance. In designing and building the house Burt embraced the personal goal of minimizing fossil fuel usage both in construction and post-construction

phases with the ultimate goal of eliminating negative impacts on the environment. He also wanted the cost of construction to be low, affordable and in line with or below traditional construction costs.

The house has now been occupied for three years, including three full winters, and the efficiency statistics are astounding. External carbon energy usage is at a minimum, the house is very comfortable and livable and the interior and exterior are beautiful. Total construction costs came in at an amazing \$145 per square foot even though the house has completely custom interior and exterior features.

In 2008, renowned local art-



Southwest exterior view showing "solar well" (below center), passive solar windows (middle center) and "passive solar augmentation cubes" (center right and left).

ka and Burt realized they wanted to expand the small studio project and its innovative concepts into a full 2,400 square foot home for both of them.

The unusual design of the house has its genesis from that original small studio design. Marika wanted the main walls in the studio to function as easels for her large paintings so the walls tilt back at a 7° angle. Marika also wanted to maximize the infusion of natural northern light (which is the best light for painting because it is soft and casts the least shadows) into the studio so Burt incorporated wide, high windows on the north side and high jutting angled roof features to capture and bounce the light into the studio. When the project expanded, Burt retained the angles for Marika's studio walls, high windows and the roof features and seamlessly incorporated them into the entire house to achieve a unique aesthetically balanced design.

The design phase took about two years. Ground was broken and construction started in spring 2010 and took 17 months to complete. Marika and Burt began occupying the house full-time in November 2011. The finished house is a custom designed and built home employing conventional construction techniques in innovative ways. There are no high-tech or expensive environmental systems employed in the house, yet the house is highly energy-efficient, meaning that the energy needed to warm and run the house is captured from the sun and efficiently used. Burt designed and employed several new, innovative features into the structure to achieve this level of efficiency.

Passive solar collection, storage and usage are the powerhouse in this masterpiece. Burt's design maximizes all three with traditional methods applied in highly innovative ways.

The lower level, which is Burt's office, has large, wide floor-to-ceiling windows to collect sunlight, and a concrete floor to store the heat. This garden level is earth-sheltered on the north, east and west sides to retain the heat and help warm the upper floor. Burt calls this solar collection system the "Solar Well." There is no in-floor radiant heating system in the house. This lower level keeps the floor above warm, where the

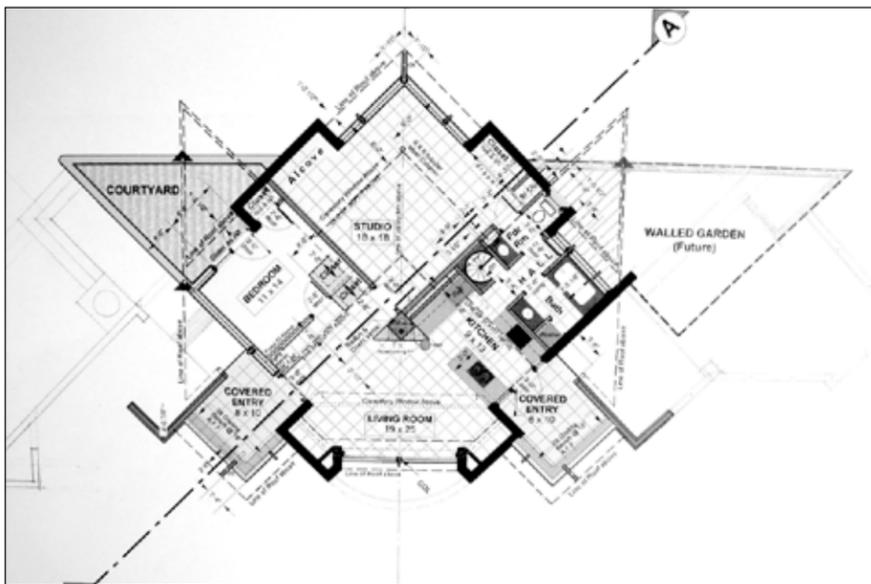


Central spine with high efficiency wood burning fireplace and high efficiency air heat exchanger to distribute fresh air to both levels of the house.

kitchen, bedrooms, living room and bathrooms are, eliminating the need for artificial in-floor heating.

The living area above also collects solar heat through large, south facing windows and concrete floors covered in attractive black heat-collecting tiles. It incorporates small ventilation windows at mid-level for fresh air and heat regulation. But the most amazing part of the system consists of two "passive solar augmentation cubes", one on the east side for early heat capture and one on the west side for extended heat capture when necessary and heat blocking during warm summer months. Each cube is approximately 10' square, with two floor-to-ceiling seamless glass walls covering the east/south and west/south walls respectively. The interior walls are traditional construction with doors leading to the larger living space and are used to regulate the temperature throughout the house. They are highly effective. The house is always at the optimum, comfortable temperature.

Three other important features which contribute to the passive solar efficiency are reflective roof design, super-insulation, and airtightness. The high jutting roof features evident on the exterior of the house are not just beautiful. Burt designed them to capture solar energy in the form of light for all interior spaces, including important north light for Marika's



Architect's drawing showing passive solar windows at bottom center and Passive Solar Augmentation Cubes at bottom right and left.



Architect and builder Burt Wadman.

ist Marika Popovits asked Burt to design a small studio for her which would be completely carbon neutral, highly energy efficient, off grid and yet be functional and comfortable for her to work in. And she needed the construction costs to be very affordable. Burt researched every building material, construction method and construction cost and discovered that the best way to keep costs down was two-fold: 1) use conventional building materials and construction techniques in innovative ways, and 2) employ well-thought-out design with tight construction management. According to the Means Construction Costs reference manual there can be up to 40% difference in costs for the same build, depending on the management of the project. Burt decided he could keep the costs at the minimum if he managed the build.

As design progressed, Mari-

continued on page B-11



Astrologically Speaking

... with Ananur

(mountain time zone calculated)

Mercury will not be turning retrograde this month. There are no eclipses this month. Uranus and Pluto are not in an exact 90° challenging aspect this month. My conclusion is that May will be an easier month to deal with. April certainly had its challenges.

May 1 is an energetic day with the Sun in an awkward aspect to Mars. Try to avoid hasty decisions or actions. This aspect is known for igniting impatience.

May 1-2 Mercury in Taurus is opposite Saturn in Scorpio. This is the ultimate when it comes to being willing and able to only see your own point of view. Try to stretch and listen to what the other person has to say and why.

May 2 Venus will enter Aries and remain here until April 28. With Venus in courageous, passionate, romantic, impulsive, Aries, a relationship is bound to develop and fizzle out just as quickly. That is unless there are amazing aspects between your charts that bring about something super special. Astrological chart comparisons and composite charts reveal information about the potential for the relationship whether it is meant to be long term or of short duration. And of course that all depends on the consciousness of the people involved and the choices they make.

May 1-3 the Sun in a positive aspect to Pluto, which promises transformations and healing to those who apply themselves and are ready to dig deeply to uproot that which needs healing. Asking for help from those who know what it's like is a huge plus. Arrogance is a setback. Twelve-step programs ought to be thriving with sincere seekers.

May 3-4 the Sun is nicely aspecting Uranus increasing creativity and intuition.

May 4 Mercury is in a challenging aspect with Mars. Impatience blocks clarity.

May 4-6 the Sun is in a favorable aspect to Jupiter ushering in peace, joy, playfulness and "good

luck." This is an expansive time and good financially.

May 6 Mercury is awkwardly aspecting both Uranus and Pluto. This is not a good time for making decisions. It's a good time for study and contemplation.

May 7 Mercury enters Gemini and remains in this glib, curious, intelligent air sign until May 29. This is the ideal time to study something which requires writing and thinking out of the box. It will keep you young and healthy.

May 8 Venus is aspecting Neptune, stimulating the dreamer in you. Using your imagination to create art and music will find you happy and relaxed and in the flow.

May 8-10 could be a bit of a frustrating time for all of us while the Sun in Taurus is opposite Saturn in Scorpio. There are some circumstances arising with others which seem to hold you back. Although it may seem frustrating there is someone you're thinking about whose health is a concern for you. Reach out and do what you can. Also during this time span Venus will be opposite Mars. What you want and think you need may not work out right now. Compromise may seem impossible to you.

May 9-11 Mercury is in an awkward aspect to Neptune which brings about confusion and misunderstandings.

May 10-12 Mercury will be in a super-fine aspect to Mars, which is ideal for expressing your thoughts and ideas. The words seem to flow with ease.

May 12-14 could be challenging with Venus aspecting Pluto, suggesting that issues of jealousy are likely to crop up to be transformed. While you're feeling the feelings, you are not likely to have much of a perspective on what is going on. These could be deep old feelings that are getting triggered in the present and are stronger because of past patterns. If you allow yourself to feel and go back to childhood and teen years you will be likely (later on) to find the thread which has

carried these intense feelings into the present and then be done with them. Most likely these feelings are being covered up by an addiction of some sort.

May 13-15 Mercury is in a fine aspect to Venus and Uranus (conjunct in Aries). The charmer in you knows how to win support for your cause. It's an excellent time for writing or teaching. You are spontaneous and full of enthusiasm.

May 14 the Full Moon will take place with the Moon at 23° of Scorpio and the Sun 23° of Taurus at 1:16pm. It's time to break free from old beliefs that no longer serve you. You are able to see more clearly where you've been stuck and what thought systems need to be released. This Full Moon is especially good for anyone who was born between March 8-14, July 9-16 or October 11-17, of any year. Jupiter and Chiron are in a positive aspect to each other which produces unconditional love and intimacy.

May 16-18 Venus is aspecting Jupiter increasing the desire for sweet things and other indulgences which could throw you out of balance. Funny, as I write this I am longing for coffee ice cream.

May 17 Mercury and Jupiter are in a challenging aspect, which suggests that your mind is full of ideas but the time is not right to implement them. You need more information but you're feeling impatient.

May 18 Mercury is in a frustrating aspect with Saturn which brings up negative thoughts which block your creative juices. The Sun is in a difficult aspect to Pluto which usually brings about confrontations.

May 19 Venus is aspecting Saturn known to stir up disappointments and often hardship financially. "This too shall pass."

May 19 Mars will be turning direct after having been in retrograde motion for a long time, that is since March 2, 2014. With Mars now direct you'll notice that it's easier to move forward with your projects. You should have more energy too, especially anyone born between October 2-5 of any year.

May 20 the Sun is in an awkward aspect with Uranus which is, "an accident-prone time." Try to be patient and not attempt to push to make things happen your way.

May 20-29 Jupiter in Cancer is in a positive aspect to Saturn in Scorpio. For the U.S.A.'s chart this suggests financial gain and stability. Anyone who was born between 8-11, July 10-13, November 10-13 of any year will find this to be a beneficial time for them financially.

May 20 at 9pm the Sun will enter into Gemini and remain here until June 21. With the Sun in Gemini you're more interested in having lots of different experiences, meet-

ing new people and learning new things to expand your awareness of your surroundings. You have more to say and enjoy talking to people who really get what you're saying and having something of interest to contribute to the conversation.

May 21-22 (at noon) Venus will be awkwardly aspecting Neptune causing confusion in romantic relationships. Your expectations might be running high and thus make you unable to see what is really going on. Check out your expectations to see if they are causing you to feel disappointed.

May 26-28 the Sun is in a challenging aspect to Neptune which can cause you to feel like you need to rest, or take a nap when you don't really want to. Your immune system may be in need of support. Resting now is actually a good idea. Usually just before the New Moon our energy level is apt to be lower. The New Moon will be taking place soon, on May 28.

May 28 the New Moon will be taking place at 12:40pm with the Sun and Moon at 7° of Gemini. The New Moon forms a positive aspect to Mars in Libra suggesting that the next 29½ days will be active for you. The New Moon does create a challenging aspect to Neptune, reminding you to take good care of yourself and get rest when you need it. Try to find a balance between work and rest.

May 28-30 the Sun is in a fine aspect with Mars which is incredibly energizing.

May 29 Mercury will be entering into Cancer and remaining in this sensitive psychically-aware water sign. Your dreams may bring up old memories. Mercury will be turning retrograde and moving back into Gemini in June.

May 31-June 4 Venus in Taurus will be in a favorable aspect to Neptune in Pisces which is romantic and artistic and incredibly receptive to the emotions of those you are with. This aspect is also good for watching movies and listening to music which uplifts your soul.

Ananur Forma lived in Crestone from 1996-2003. Ananur currently resides on the ocean in Rockland Maine. 207-594-2565 www.AstrologyWithAnanur.com

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by Kim Malville

What's in the sky this month?

May 5-7: In the early morning hours there is one of year's best meteor showers for folks in the southern hemisphere, the Eta Aquariids. A few of these meteors may reach to northern skies as earthgrazers, skimming across the upper atmosphere, like skipping rocks in a pond. They will be coming out of the east-southeast, from the direction of Aquarius, the Water Jar and are debris from Halley's Comet. There should be better meteors on May 24.

May 10: Bright, reddish Mars is just to the left of the moon.

May 10/11: Saturn is in opposition to the sun and closest to the earth for the year.

May 13-14: The full moon is close to Saturn

May 23/24: A new meteor shower may stun us. A small periodic comet, 209/LINEAR, will pass within 280,000 miles of the earth's orbit, close enough to drop debris onto our orbit to produce a spectacular meteor shower. It may rival the Perseids of August. The predicted rates are 100 or more per hour in the morning hours of May 24. Or, there could be none! But, be there!

May 26-28: Best views of Venus this year. It will be just above the west-northwest horizon as the sky darkens.

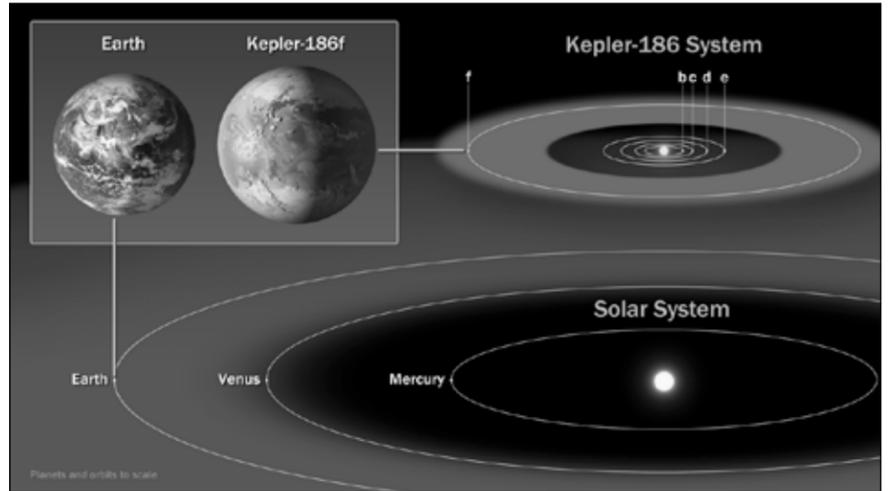
The Earth has a distant cousin!

The Kepler Spacecraft has detected over 3000 planets. Only one so far is the right size and lies

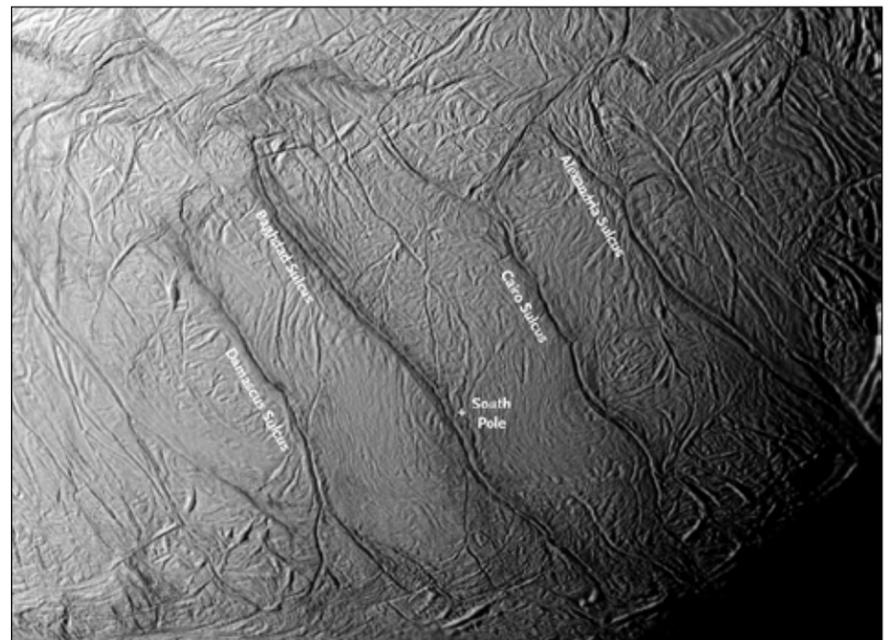
at the right distance from its star in the habitable zone (otherwise known as the Goldilocks zone, neither too hot nor too cold). That planet known as Kepler-186f, orbits a red dwarf star 500 light years from Earth in the constellation of Cygnus. Only 10% larger than Earth, it may have oceans and an atmosphere lit by auroras. There is no way to tell whether any life forms on this cousin of ours are looking toward us at this moment. Nor do we know what constellation of their skies we might lie in. They could have pointed radio transmitters in our direction 500 years ago, and said hello. But that message has not yet arrived. For us to send them a message and get a reply will require waiting 1000 years.

The designation "f" means that there are four other planets closer to its sun. The four companion planets, Kepler-186b, Kepler-186c, Kepler-186d, and Kepler-186e, whiz around their sun every 4, 7, 13, and 22 days, respectively. Too close to their sun, they would be too hot for life as we know it. They would shine in the skies of Kepler-186f around dawn or dusk, just as Venus and Mercury do on Earth.

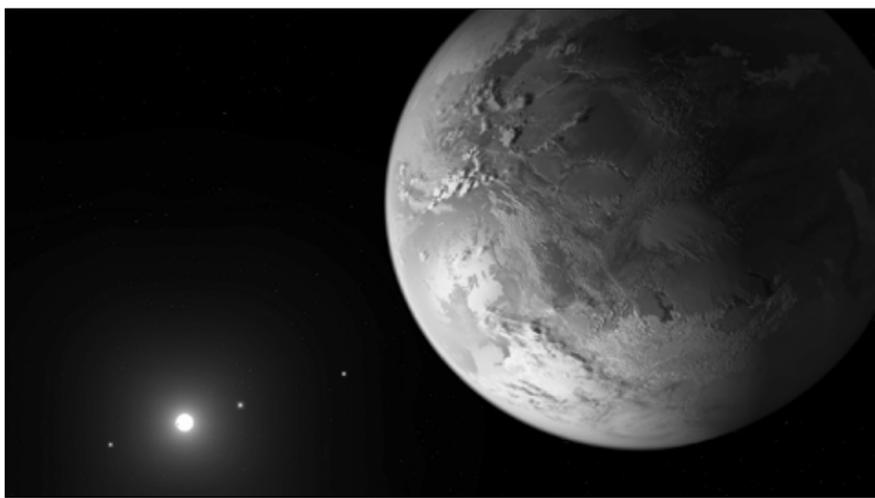
Kepler-186f orbits its red dwarf star once every 130-days and receives one-third the energy from its star that Earth gets from the sun. On the surface of Kepler-186f, the brightness of its star at high noon is only as bright as our sun appears to us about an hour before sunset. Red dwarf stars



The Earth and our cousin Kepler 186f



The cracks on Enceladus.



Artist's depiction of Kepler 186f.

are highly active, producing frequent flares and strong winds of charged particles. Kepler-186f is slightly larger than Earth, and, if it has a similar internal structure, it might produce a stronger magnetic field, depending on how fast it is rotating. In that magnetic field there could be local versions of Van Allen Belts which could create frequent auroras.

Being in the habitable zone does not mean this planet is habitable. The temperature on the planet is dependent on whether or not there is carbon dioxide in its atmosphere producing a benign greenhouse like the Earth's. It's another Goldilocks situation. Too little carbon dioxide would leave the planet too cold for life. Too much and the planet would become too hot for life (like our sister Venus). As more telescopes are pointed its way, we shall be learning more about this long lost cousin very soon.

Geysers, falling snow, & life on Enceladus

Enceladus is the sixth-largest moon of Saturn. It was discovered in 1789 by William Herschel, but little was known about Enceladus until the two Voyager spacecraft passed near it in the early 1980s. The Voyager showed that the diameter of Enceladus is only 310 miles, and that it is one of the most highly reflective objects in the solar system. Its high reflectivity is due to freshly fallen snow on its surface.

In 2005, the Cassini spacecraft started multiple close flybys of Enceladus, revealing its surface and environment in greater detail. In particular, Cassini discovered water-rich plumes venting from Enceladus's south polar region. Long cracks in its ice crust near the south pole shoot geysers

like jets of water vapor, ice particles, and organic compounds into space, totaling approximately 440 lb. per second. That's a lot: the equivalent of a 2000-ton iceberg each hour. Some of this material falls back as snow. Features on Enceladus are named after Burton's translation of *The Book of One Thousand and One Nights*. These particular cracks, each known as a sulcus, have been named after Cairo, Alexandria, Baghdad, and Damascus (see the figure).

On April 3 of this year planetary astronomers announced that Enceladus probably has a liquid water ocean beneath its frozen surface. Their results came from astonishingly careful measurements of tiny changes in the speed of Cassini as it passed through Enceladus' gravitational field and detecting a slight change in speed due to a change in gravity. The most likely explanation is the presence of an ocean of water beneath a 20 mile thick ice crust. It's a huge ocean, some 6 miles deep. It rivals our Mariana Trench which has a depth of 6.8 miles, where, it should be noted, there is evidence of flourishing microbial life. Cracks in the ice sheet above the ocean release the geysers, which in addition to ordinary water contain hydrocarbons such as methane, propane, acetylene and formaldehyde, enormously increasing the likelihood that some form of primitive life grows in its ocean.

What a bizarre conjunction of astronomy and war! The cracks of Baghdad and Damascus reveal possible life, while, at the same time, the guns of Baghdad and Damascus are destroying life.

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Information and input on water issues at Basin Implementation Plan Meeting

by **Bea Ferrigno**

About 20 local residents held a lively discussion of regional and local water issues on April 16 at the Crestone Charter School during an input session for the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan www.riograndewaterplan.com. Because no meeting had been scheduled locally, the Crestone-Baca Watershed Council invited Judy Lopez to make a presentation here for the benefit of northern Saguache county residents. Ms. Lopez, educational liaison for the Rio Grande Roundtable and Program Director for the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative, lived in Crestone some 20 years ago when, she said, there was standing water in the valley. She first offered some background information on the plan, which will be familiar to regular readers of this paper, and mentioned reports from earlier meetings in Denver in which the "elephant in the room," population was pointedly ignored. Still, water managers recognize the existing and growing gap between water needs and supplies and the effects of an extended drought; these concerns underlie the statewide plan now being developed. The plan does not contemplate changes to existing water law, to interstate compacts, nor to the subdistricts formed and being formed in the San Luis Valley. It recognizes that "buy and dry" is not a viable solution in an economy based on agriculture, and particularly on irrigated agriculture in the SLV.

Among concerns expressed by the local audience were:

- The question of beneficial use,

which requires water to be used in certain ways: "use it or lose it" goes along with "first in use, first in right," the basis of prior appropriation which is the fundamental water law in Colorado and most water-short states.

- Lack of storage for dry years was also mentioned, along with the fact that Colorado is restrained by interstate compacts from constructing new reservoirs except under conditions unlikely to be met in an extended dry period: Colorado cannot build new reservoirs until and unless a specified and substantial amount of water is stored in Elephant Butte reservoir in New Mexico. Improvements to existing reservoirs, however, can be made so that they can be filled to capacity.

- Very little water is allocated for maintaining natural streams. Ms. Lopez noted that the state is moving toward wider use of in-stream flow rights. "Without riparian areas and wetlands, we don't have a functioning ecosystem."

- Are the subdistricts going to succeed in restoring the unconfined aquifer? Tim Lovato noted that although Subdistrict 1 has been replacing depletions to the Rio Grande, that has not yet affected the aquifer level. The culprit thus far seems to be the combined effects of extended drought with only one subdistrict operating for only two years. A modest increase in the aquifer level was seen with the precipitation that arrived after the end of irrigation season.

- Other ideas and concerns included the possibility of reversing desertification; dust events which bring early runoff; lack of augmen-

tation water that will be required under subdistrict plans; and what is meant by the goal of an "optimal agricultural economy." Ms. Lopez noted that might not be what we have now, but an economy at the level of the 1970s.

- And the Closed Basin Project, what is its effect on our area, is it part of the plan? Ms. Lopez had noted earlier that it was based on 1930s studies that incorrectly indicated some 2 billion acre feet of water in the unconfined aquifer that was never expected to run out. That bit of bad science led to installation

of many wells and development of the CBP which was intended to "salvage" water that would otherwise be wasted by non-agricultural plants. As a federal project operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, and one that contributes modestly to Rio Grande Compact obligations, the CBP is likely to remain in place. It may be reassuring to some critics that the water visible in the CBP canal, for instance at mile 97 on Highway 17, is barely moving. It is held there in order to keep the canal liner in place.

Valley geology viewed in 3-D at roundtable

by **Bea Ferrigno**

Members of the Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable (RGRT) were treated to a three-dimensional view of valley geology at their April 8 meeting in Alamosa. Andrew Valdez, a geologist at Great Sand Dunes National Park, presented the group with special glasses for a slideshow based on LiDAR (Laser Imaging Detection and Ranging) data. Highlights included the discovery that there are three craters near Crestone (not just the one we already knew about), a landslide in Costilla county, the remains of a huge volcano near La Garita, and the possibility that the volcanic San Luis Hills once dammed up the valley to form the prehistoric Lake Alamosa.

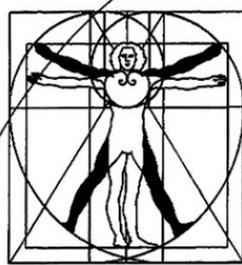
Chairman Mike Gibson reviewed the bylaws and membership of the roundtable; at present there is an opening for a representative of municipalities in Saguache County to be appointed by the county commissioners. Each major river basin in the state has a roundtable whose voting membership is comprised of representatives of counties, municipalities, water conservation districts and various interest groups such as recreation and the environment as well as a liaison to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and a legislative appointee.

A proposal from the Trinchera Irrigation Company (TIC) for a feasibility study at Mountain Home reservoir, which was previewed at the April meeting, was approved for \$25,000 in basin funding. The study will engage underwater divers to examine and photograph the three outlet gates in order to determine the best way to upgrade them. Under

terms of a lease with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), the work must be done without draining the reservoir below 653 acre feet, the level of CPW's conservation pool. Both Mountain Home and Smith reservoirs are stocked with rainbow trout by CPW and are popular for fishing and boating as well as wildlife habitats. Trout Unlimited is also a partner in this project. The reservoir was built in 1908 and still has its original gates, only one of which is functioning. The other two could probably be opened, though that has not been done in decades, but it is doubtful that they could be closed, so the State Engineer now requires TIC to restore full operating capability.

Work on the Basin Implementation Plan, which will be part of the statewide water plan, continues. All the SLV county commissioners have been briefed and several public outreach meetings have been held, the final one in Crestone on April 16 (see related article). Public comments and suggestions will be included in the draft that is to be completed in July. The statewide plan contemplates "new supplies," which seem unlikely to appear without significant change in recent weather patterns, but Steve Vandiver reported that during a recent meeting of the Interbasin Compact Committee a "revolutionary" approach was mentioned that would not require a "firm yield" each year from transmountain diversions: rather, diversions would be determined differently in wet and dry years. Also mentioned was the need for greater water conservation, especially in the urban front range, and for larger and improved reservoirs.

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**COMMUNITY INFORMATION FROM
THE BACA GRANDE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Baca FD training continues

*by Chris Botz, Ass't Fire Chief,
Baca Grande Fire Dept.*

As fire season approaches the BGVFD is still training twice weekly. There have been trainings on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Tuesday trainings have focused on the basics of firefighting, personal gear, personal responsibilities in these situations, communications, truck familiarization and assignments. Saturday trainings have been hands-on operations: acquisition of water, transporting water, and delivery of water with proper tactics and strategies. Tuesday trainings have been 2 1/2 hours, and Saturday's have been 5 hours. This has been going on for the seven previous weeks. At this time, the chief is happy to report very good progress.

Five new volunteers and three veteran firefighters are able to staff all equipment and are familiar with our response area, addresses and the geography.

A reminder: the fire marshal for the county is the Sheriff. All requests for burning need to go through him: Mike Norris, 719-655-2544. We also encourage you to call the COSP Dispatch Center, 719-589-5807 since they will put the information out on our radios. Please call before you burn.

Henceforth the BGVFD will not be conducting burn site inspections, though there are a number of current and former firefighters that conduct education along those lines.

Another change in fire mobilization involves the department's response during emergency fire situations. The Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Department will not be organizing the evacuation. Number one, that is a law enforcement task. Number two, we will be actively engaging the fire through suppression and prevention of extension. There used to be a great CERT, Community Emergency Response Team, presence and we encourage those efforts.

On March 27 the tender, the CAFS truck and the brush truck responded with five personnel to the haystack fires on CR AA. Wes Moores, District Fire Chief for the Northern Saguache Fire Protection District, gave us good marks for our performance. We were on the line for 11 hours and then conducted two 8-hour shifts to clean and maintain the equipment used. The crew was Robin Durrance, Nigel Fuller, Steven Wade, Bill Johnson and Chris Botz. Crestone sent their tender and attack truck, and were staffed by Warren Stephen, Dan Wheeler, Craig Tomaski and Talmath Lakai. The Moffat, Villa Grove, Bonanza and Saguache Fire crews were also there from the NSFPD.

The phone number for the Baca firehouse is 719-256-4781, and the Baca Fire Chief's office phone at the POA is 719-256-4171 x16.

Anytime you see us training feel free to stop by. Thanks.

FireWise Program continues; get your home & property assessed & mitigated for wildfire hazards

Anyone buying or selling a house in a wildfire sensitive area like the Baca Grande recently has most likely experienced trouble when insurance companies refuse to cover the property until it has been mitigated of wildfire hazards. Many of these companies know little about wildfires but demand clear-cutting of all trees within 30 feet of a structure. What to do?

For the sixth year, the Saguache County FireWise Program offers free hazard assessments to prepare homes before wildfire incursion. Daniel S. Johnson, with over 40-years of wildfire experience, will come to your property to identify the expected direction of approaching wildfires, the access to firefighting equipment, fuel types, arrangement and density, and he will help develop a plan to increase survivability.

Anyone interested is urged to watch a YouTube video made by Johnson to share strategies and terminology. To access this video online, go to the Saguache County website (saguachecounty.net) and click the link.

If a yard needs thinning or pruning (not clear-cutting), Johnson will work with the homeowner to increase the survivability of all structures. Using his own equipment, Johnson will remove the slash created from thinning to the Baca Grande mitigation pit. Anyone unable to help work on their own home due to illness, injury, age or other hardship can have the work completed for them.

Johnson stresses the importance of creating defensible space around homes "Homeowners should not expect their houses to be saved if they have not made them as survivable as possible before a fire."

Johnson, a former assistant Baca fire chief here in the 90's says "The valley is seeing larger fires than previously recorded. With global warming, we are seeing an increase in tree mortality due to insects and drought stress. The way the slope lines up with prevailing winds in the Baca Grande, a devastating fire is only a matter of time."

Saguache County Administrator Wendi Maez says further funding for wildfire mitigation is expected this year, but it is unknown when. All assessments will be done in the order of first contact as long as funding remains. To get on the waiting list call 719-480-9764.

Free Wildfire Mitigation Continues in 2014



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Letter from Patagonia: Crestonians faced wild fire

from Lito Tejada-Flores
& Linde Waidhofer

Dear *Crestone Eagle*, and our many Crestone friends,

As you know, in recent years, Linde and I have said farewell to Crestone in winter to spend quite a few months in South America, in Patagonia, in the southernmost part of Chile—a beautiful and largely un-



With great effort, this home was saved.

developed region, full of lakes and glaciers, a paradise for a landscape photographer like Linde or a lifelong mountain enthusiast like myself.

This summer (Southern Hemisphere summer that is, since the seasons here are the opposite of those back home in Colorado) we lived through some intense, dramatic and rather scary moments that probably hold some lessons for all of us who love Crestone and the Baca. Here is the story:

Dawn creeps over Lago Carrera, the air choked with smoke, it's day three of a wildfire that won't quit. Half a mile away a bright line of burning trees leads downhill toward the lake. I twist the focus knob on my binoculars: Our neighbor's house is still there, half visible in the smoke. It didn't burn down



A night of watching the wall of flames advance—even going downhill towards the lake. "All we could do was wait for morning to see what would be left."

last night. Young Weston Boyles, a gringo like us here in rural Chile, the strongest and most energetic of all the firefighters, was the last to leave last night, 4am, out of water, out of options, with a wall of flames less than ten meters away . . . "Gotta get out of here while I still can," he told himself. And he did. And all we could do was wait for morning to see what would be left. I spotted our neighbor's house with relief, almost with disbelief.

It had started a few days earlier. Innocently, and stupidly, like so many wildfires. Our beautiful Patagonian region of Aysén has been suffering from a multi-year drought, just like Colorado. Last year was dry, this year even drier.

After a short wet spring, we never saw a drop of rain, only month after month of dry and windy weather. The combination was deadly. Some weeks ago, in March, the small town near our place, a town about as big as Crestone called Puerto Guadal, held its annual *fiesta*, *La Semana de Guadal*, a lively event with dances and concerts. This *fiesta* draws a number of out-of-town guests, tourists, who don't know the area, much less the local conditions. And the inevitable happened. A young couple from Santiago camping in a meadow just a few kilometers out of town, lit a "campfire" that ignited the dry grass, and triggered a nightmarish week.

"Come quick, there is a fire in the Maqui!" an alarmed neighbor told us. There sure was. And it shouldn't have been such a big deal except for one factor. There were no well-trained first responders. The young couple who started this fire quickly reported it to the local police, the *carabineros*. So a group of *carabineros* grabbed shovels and raced to the scene. They even believed that by quick action they had put out the fire. But these *carabineros* had no fire-fighting training, and they didn't realize that glowing coals were still burning under the ashes. Instead of calling the local volunteer fire department, they assumed everything was under control and went back to their post in town. But then the wind came up. A real Patagonian wind! And all hell broke loose.

At this point the fire was a couple of miles west of our house on

the shores of Lago Carrera, burning mostly uphill. But the west wind was relentless. By the time the *bomberos*, the local volunteer firemen, showed up, the opportunity to nip this fire in the bud was over. Our neighborhood, and all our neighbors, were in for a long fight over the next few days. On the one hand, it was heart-warming to see how ordinary people pitched in, grabbing shovels and other tools to fight what was mostly a grass and brush fire, with only isolated stands of burning trees. But without the *bomberos*, and their equipment, including a pumping truck, things would have been much, much worse. Yet things were bad enough. The wind shifted to what



Bomberos, local firefighters, attack a wildfire in Patagonia as smoke and flames swirl into the air. all photos by Linde Waidhofer

the locals call a *viento de leon*, a strong west wind blowing from the direction of *Rio Leones*, like a spring wind in Crestone. And this wind started to drive the fire not just up the hill toward the high mountain pastures above town, but also horizontally across the



Bomberos on the scene.

slopes to the east, straight toward our house on a bluff overlooking the lake. We were far enough away that we thought we were probably safe; and luckily we were.

But the houses of two friends were right in the path of the flames. Saving these houses took an immense multi-day effort. No one got any sleep. No one knew whether those houses could be saved. Miraculously they were, although on the third night, the fire burned right past the edge of one house and down the hill (a rare occurrence) all the way to the road that runs along the lakeshore. Every night we would look across the hills at a Dantesque scene of flame and smoke. Every morning

cal volunteer firemen.

Once the fire had burned down to the road below the houses there wasn't much left to burn, and the action shifted several miles up the hill, where the fire was still burning on the far side of the ridges above. After a couple of days, official response teams from the Chilean forest service finally showed up, but they seemed ineffective compared to the local *bomberos*. Eventually the regional government sent more and more resources: 50 soldiers and two helicopters with giant water buckets that they would fill up in the lake. These reinforcements finally put out the fire high above the lake, where it had destroyed the summer pasture farmsteads of many local farmers.

The lesson is obvious—in an extended drought, a small mistake can have enormous consequences. And without a trained and dedicated team of local firemen, firemen who know the terrain, and know what to do, **nothing is safe, and nothing will be saved.** Grass and brush fires, in particular, move so fast that it's far too late to figure out what you are going to do once such fires get started. Does this sound like our situation in Crestone? You bet. Aside from the presence of a nearby lake, this was a carbon copy of our situation in Crestone: a long drought, dry fuel, and possible high winds. And for Linde and me, it was a real wake-up call.

We are sending some photos of



Snow on the peaks, but fire in the brush. Firefighters work to contain the fire.

we were surprised that those houses were still there. But wetting down the houses, cutting back the last brush around them, and rushing to put out spot fires caused by flying embers saved the day. And even though the non-stop work of almost a dozen neighbors was critical in saving these houses, it would have been impossible without the efforts of the lo-

cal volunteer firemen. Once the fire had burned down to the road below the houses there wasn't much left to burn, and the action shifted several miles up the hill, where the fire was still burning on the far side of the ridges above. After a couple of days, official response teams from the Chilean forest service finally showed up, but they seemed ineffective compared to the local *bomberos*.

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As the Worm Turns Strawberry passion

by Leigh Mills

As a mountain homesteader who likes to grow as much of our food as possible, I find that cultivating fruit can be a challenge, especially at 8400 feet altitude. While there are varieties of cold-loving fruit trees, our late frosts can nip those buds and kill any hopes for fresh apricots, apples, or cherries. There are other types of berries that do quite well in our region, and the strawberry is one of them.

Strawberries come in three different types: June-bearing, Everbearing, and Day-neutral. June bearing plants produce flowers in the spring and a large harvest in June. Everbearing straw-



Years ago, the first strawberries I grew tended to be small, but as the garden has progressed, and the berry plants pampered, I'm getting berries as big as you can find in the store.

berries produce fruit in June, a trickle through the summer, and then another harvest in the fall. Day-neutral types are similar to Everbearing and produce the greatest amount of fruit. My first plants were given to me years ago from a Crestone gardener. I have since figured out they are an everbearing type, and I love them.

The best time to receive/transplant strawberry plants is in the spring. If they have any blossoms, cut them back so the energy goes to re-establishing their root system, therefore strengthening the plant for a healthy harvest the following year. If they are Everbearing types and have

established themselves well, then late summer flowers can be allowed to grow, which will produce a fall crop.

I have had very good luck with my strawberry plants and haven't experience much disease. I've learned that small, deformed berries mean a nutrient deficiency; yellow leaves in the spring could mean a lack of nitrogen, but they tend to green up later in the season. If I miss a berry, it can get moldy quickly because of the moisture, and I've read it's good to water at the base of the plant for the same reason.

Propagation control seems to be my biggest task. These prolific strawberries send out runners twice a season. The mother plant can send out as many as 6-8 runners with each runner making 4-6 new plants; and those new plants can make as many runners in the next season. If the runners aren't clipped, or the established babies moved, then a strawberry bed can get packed in just a few short years. To keep the plants healthy and productive, it is good to dig up and transplant them into a new location every three or four years. I also clip the early season runners so the plant makes more berries and let the late season runners make new plants.

Because our plants are Everbearing, I'll get a big harvest from mid-June to mid-July and another in late summer. I might eat one or two fresh ones here and there, but my main practice is to gently rinse the berries, let them air dry on a clean cloth, pluck the green stems, put the 'dry' berries into a plastic bag and then freeze them. This way, I get to enjoy strawberries all year long, especially if there is enough to make into preserves. It takes a few quart bags of frozen strawberries to make preserves, but if there isn't enough for that, I still get to enjoy them in smoothies and mixed fruit desserts.

If one of your gardening goals is to grow more fruit, then



Strawberry flowers in different stages of growth. These plants are very cold hardy, but I keep the flowering beds covered at night this time of year to protect the blossoms, and new fruit, from hard spring frosts.

think about growing strawberries. It's best to get them from a trusted source who has grown them for years at a high altitude. If you know of someone growing strawberries, then ask for some and start your strawberry passion.

Leigh Mills has lived and gardened in the San Luis Valley

since 2002 and written the "As the Worm Turns" column since 2010. If you enjoy reading her monthly, visit her website, TheInfiniteBee.com, to view color photos and read journal entries filled with tips about high-altitude gardening, seed-saving, food preservation, yummy recipes, and off-the-grid, homestead living.



For a big strawberry harvest, it's good to have many producing plants. This is the main strawberry bed in the garden this year. Because I covered it with plastic sheeting at the start of March, the entire bed has plants covered in blooming flowers. I'll be eating fresh strawberries by the first of June, weeks ahead of the usual harvest.



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New Listings



332 E. Mica Ave - \$499,000
This 3BR/2BA 3448sf unique home is nestled among the trees next to North Crestone Creek in the town of Crestone. With its custom styling, spacious kitchen, and outdoor amenities, this is a great entertaining, family, rental, or vacation home.



340C Palomino Way - \$389,000
Immaculate 1820sf, 2 story, 3 bd, 2 ba home on 1.79 acres graced by lovely meditation gardens w/ rock lined pathways & patios. Includes detached double garage with 108sf insulated storage room, 396sf studio space w/ full ba. & possible kitchen.



765 Heatherbrae Rd - \$355,000
Exquisite, custom 2-story traditional home located on 11.94 acres offering amazing views and lots of privacy. Bonus attached garage with an upstairs studio apartment. Solar electric & well water. Many other fine features, inside and out!



397 N Chaparral Way - \$219,000
Lee Mitchell Home, 1410sf, 3 bd, 2 ba, 2-story stucco home has magnificent mountain and valley views. Gorgeous Master Suite encompasses entire 2nd floor. This private suite is complete w/ large closets, elegant master ba, 2 balconies offering amazing views.



4406C Twin View Terrace - \$147,000
Artistic straw bale home located high in Chalet II on consolidated 1.417 acres w/ privacy, amazing mountain & valley views. ~1450sf, 2-story, 2-bd, 1-ba, w/ studio/office space, energy efficient passive solar design w/ wood stove backup.

23 Acre Estate



3926 Cordial Way - \$599,000
Secluded 4100+sf home 4bd/3.5ba 550sf guest house plus 2 car garage on 23.749 acres on Cottonwood Creek. Lovely views and privacy!

Retreat Property



4460C Ridgecrest Way - NOW \$479,000
Residential Retreat Complex + strawbale home, 4475sf, sep. office building & 2 building lots. Labyrinth, gardens, yurt, grow dome. Beautiful!

Commercial Properties



121 E. Galena - NOW \$399,000
Premiere, newly renovated downtown commercial bldg, incl. upstairs apt. and 2 rentals 1st floor, modern commercial kitchen. 3800sf. Great opportunity!



46 Camino Baca Grande - \$257,000
Six-Unit professional center. 2 story structure is ~2600 sf. and conveniently located near the entrance to the Baca on a nicely treed 1.05 acre lot - plenty of parking.

Historic Hotel



Willow Springs (Moffat) - NOW \$299,000
Fully restored former historic Forbes Hotel. 9bd/3BA 3600sf; detached 22x24 studio, 500ft artesian well. Great business potential for B&B, hotel/retreat center.

Town of Crestone



170 E. Golden - \$239,000
This 3BD/2BA 1500sf home is beautifully situated with attention to detail. High ceilings, bright skylights & fenced-in back yard make this a must-see property!



345 S. Cedar - \$189,000
A short walk to the post office, coffee shops, restaurants and shopping, this Victorian style 1434-sf home has three bedrooms and two baths.



370 S. Alder - \$179,000
This recently renovated 5BD/2BA 1950sf house can be used as a single-family dwelling or be divided for duplex housing.

Baca Grande Properties



637 Panorama Way - \$699,000 NOW \$479,000
Magnificent ~3000sf 3bd/3ba 1-1/2 story custom home with exquisite detailing & beautiful woodwork. 750sf det. garage w/studio apt. above. Stone fireplace, net meter solar, Viking appliances.

Baca Grande Properties



2795CR Brook Terrace - \$499,500
The castle tucked away on a private cul-de-sac on 2.765 wooded acres. 3 level stone & stucco with views to the sky. Artistic with quality & attention to detail.



923 Blue Spruce OL - \$439,000
Handcrafted home w/ spectacular views. ~2350sf on 1.93 acres. 2bd/2ba, spacious artist studio & meditation room. Surround windows & south facing 2nd floor deck.



786C Panorama Way - \$427,000
This Lee Mitchell custom 3bd/2ba/sunroom/library/balconies ~2400sf home with fabulous gardens sits on 2.14 acres w 2-car garage/studio.



1234C Brookview - NOW \$419,000
Lee Mitchell custom home. 2400sf 3BD/2.5BA/Office/attached 2 car garage, balconies. Magnificent Views.



4262C Serene Way - \$299,900
Immaculate 2500SF 3- level home on .98 acres 5bd/2.75ba. Custom finishes, fire resistant, energy efficient, magnificent views.



483C Point of Rock OL - \$299,000
Teahen Construction, Beautiful 3bd/2ba 2-story home on 1.946 acres Attached 2 car garage, detached studio. High energy efficiency & quality throughout.



909C Brookview Way - \$299,000
Home on 1.12 acres w/ spectacular views at top of Baca iWaiting for the right person to complete the vision. 2324 sf & designed with 3bd/2ba. Separate 576 sf guest house w/kitchen.



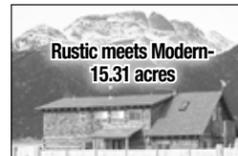
3919 Cordial Way - \$299,000
Two story, 3BD/2.5BA ~2400 sf home has a walled courtyard & 4 intimate decks w/ great views. Southwest style home gracefully adorned with fine details and finishes.



1202 Hilltop Way - \$295,000
Lee Mitchell custom-built, 3bd/2ba home on 5-Chalet 1 lots. Master Suite with walkin closet & luxury bathroom. Fine finishes, radiant floor heat & framed views.



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!



358 Birch Road - \$289,000
Off grid home with 3bd/1.75ba, office, 2nd living room, modern efficient kitchen & elegant bathrooms-an inspired renovation. Natural light, expansive & unobstructed views.



733C N. Rendezvous OL - \$270,000
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.



1255C Eagle OL - \$267,000
Beautiful 2075sf 2-story home with 2bd/2ba/office/sun room, Chalet I on 1.766 acres, private cul-de-sac. Dramatic view windows, vaulted ceilings, master suite w/soak tub.



149 Moonlight Way - NOW \$250,000
Beautiful 3bd/2ba 2118sf home w/ 2 living areas - extensively updated & immaculate condition. Cathedral ceilings & a wall of glass w/ great views. Adjoins greenbelt & creek.



1647C Willow Creek Way - \$249,000
Brand New Terrapin Construction. 1760sf 3bd/2ba home on 1.98 acres with 2 decks + flagstone patio/walkways. Backs to Greenbelt Views.



1564 Wagon Wheel Road - \$249,000
A 2,192sf beautiful single level ranch style home built in 1997 on 1.66 acres. 3bd/2ba, great room, living room & 2 car attached garage. Well and septic.



4376 E. Twinview OL - \$239,000
Custom 1 1/2 story, 1350sf, 2 bdr, 1.75 ba, contemporary new construction by Steve Elliott, long time local builder. Exceptional design w/ energy efficiency & magnificent views. Backs to Cottonwood Creek greenbelt.



4511C Ridgecrest Way - \$239,000
Straw bale home 1.59 acres Backs to greenbelt and national park. 2 adjacent building lots available. Built by Paul Koppa.



1447 Chaparral Way - \$212,000
This 1440sf 2bd/2ba home-complete remodel with bamboo flooring, Jenn-Air stainless appliances, maple cabinets, granite countertops, travertine bathrooms, ma ba soak tub.



3356C Camino Del Rey - \$210,000
2 story, 1981sf, 2bd/1.75ba home w/ passive solar sunroom - great views on .864 acres. Master suite w/ clawfoot tub, pine floors, pellet stove. Propane heat, great appliances.



3704 Carefree Way - \$195,000
Immaculate like new 3 bd/1.75ba, 1316sf home has wood floors, stucco privacy wall, single car garage, beautiful views of the mountains.



2664C Happy Hollow - \$195,000
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.



3705 Carefree Way - \$177,000
This 1874 sf, 3 bdr/1.75 ba home built in 1995 as a passive solar home. Great value & offers lots of space for price. Also includes the upper adjacent lot to protect the views to the mountains.



3732C Cordial Way - \$169,000
Private & unique hexagonal 2 bd, 1.75 ba home on 1.36 treed acres. Separate 384sf. building incl. heated & finished office & workshop/storage area. Great views, wrap around deck.



2747CR Easy Way - \$169,000
A unique 2 story, 1768sf, 3bd/2ba home in Chalet 2, 1.86 acres. Brick floors, rock walls, wood ceilings. Passive solar w/ ETS heater, propane heater & woodstove. Detached shed.



3766C Carefree Way - \$159,000
Immaculate, cozy home, 950sf 2bd/1ba ranch-style house built by Terrapin mid 2013. Magnificent mountain and valley views. Full-time residence or a vacation getaway.



802 Holly Trail - \$159,000
Solar electric-1,700sf strawbale 2bd/1ba fully passive solar with wood burning stove. Large open living space with beautiful views. Well and septic.



1573C Kings Hill OL - \$159,000
Light & bright 3bd/2ba, 1480sf, 1.5 level stucco with large south facing windows and view deck on .84 acres. Easy access off paved road. Hot water baseboard heat/passive solar.



1914 Lone Pine Way - \$142,000
Built in 1999, this 1bd (+Loft) / 1ba 900sf house is in a convenient location off the main road in Chalet One with lots of privacy. It is sunny & bright with lots of windows. Energy efficient with passive solar and in-floor radiant heat.



1372 N Saddlerock Trail - \$139,000
This 1960 sf 3 bed 1.75 bath has a three room master suite & a 200sf sunroom. Panoramic views of three mountain ranges on 2.03 acres bordering the Willow Creek greenbelt. Well & septic.



2776 N. Carefree Way - \$139,000
This 2-story, 2BD/1BA, 1338sf wood & stone home set in the trees high in Chalet II. Great mountain & valley views, close to retreat centers. A cozy mountain feel, very private and quiet.



98 Skyview Way - NOW \$134,000
Built in 2002, this ~953 sf log home is 2 bedroom/1 bath down with large ~200sf loft up. Located close-in to town and accessible by paved roads.



36 Camino Baca Grande - \$115,000
This lovely chalet style home with soaring windows and high ceilings has 3bd/1.75ba, a loft sitting area and attached sunroom. Wood fireplace, Toyostove heater.



381 Del Sol Lane - \$69,999
Casita Park-Immaculate 3bd/2ba bath 1216 sf home located on 0.819 acres (5 cons. lots). Includes attached 2 car garage, storage + appliances. Magnificent views & privacy.



13 Camino De La Plata - \$43,500
980 sf duplex has two complete fully functional separate units (380sf. & 600sf). Decks, Storage shed & landscaping. There are beautiful views of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. Excellent investment property!



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PRICE REDUCTION: Estab-
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Property features Main house
w/ 2 queen bedrooms, and
exquisite Master Suite w/
separate entrance.



\$374,900
Amazing contemporary home
with a detached garage with an
upstairs 1 bedroom apartment.
Kitchen features all the modern
amenities.



\$334,500
Creek meanders thru this 2.72
acre lot. New builders home
has lots of upgrades. 3 bed-
rooms/ 2 baths, open floor
plan. Kitchen features gas,
range, dishwasher, disposal.



\$299,500
PRICE REDUCED
Lovely contemporary home on 8
acres. Creek runs thru the back-
yard, greenhouse, studio apt.,
open floor plan, exceptional
price for this beautiful property.



\$289,000
5 acres with north Crestone
creek running through it just
north of the town. With a 960 sq.
ft home secluded near the creek.
About 200 feet of creek. Call
Terry on 681507R



\$265,000
This professionally built home
in 2000 by Fine Design with
its energy efficient R panel
construction will steal your
heart. High ceilings in the
living room.



\$259,500
PRICE REDUCED
Lovely contemporary styled 2
story with expansive views from
the upstairs porch. Priced well
below the last appraisal, seller is
out of country and says "sell!"



\$255,000
Lovely contemporary home
with 3 spacious bedrooms,
and 2.5 baths. Kitchen fea-
tures gas range, refrigerator,
and microwave. formal dining.



\$249,000
Straw bale home. New sun-
room addition. In-floor heating.
Nice open floor plan down-
stairs. Spacious kitchen. Two
bedrooms upstairs.



\$245,000
Large contemporary style
home. Additional studio. 2
bedrooms and 2 full baths with
2 propane fireplaces and one
wood hearthstone fireplace.



\$239,000
PRICE REDUCED
Completely off grid on 40 acres.
Gas stove, gas refrigerator,
dishwasher, microwave, dining
room, & living room. 2 bed-
rooms, and 2 baths.



\$229,500
ARTESIAN WELL
This home has 40 acres with
Artesian Well. The lovely home
has 3 bedrooms and 3 baths.
The Master Suite has a walk-in
closet, and a bathroom addition.



\$229,000
5 bedroom 3.75 bath home
with additional room off Master
suite. Nice living room. Kitch-
en has plenty of cabinet
space. Attached 2 car garage.



\$225,000
New construction, backs to
Cottonwood Creek. Upstairs
and downstairs in new no
maintenance decking. Bath-
room has a garden tub.



\$199,900
Spacious 3 bedroom/ 2 bath
home has a loft area with a
secluded office attached. Kitch-
en with all the amenities. Master
Suite with an adjoining full bath.



\$199,000
Amazingly beautiful creek lots-
2.08 acres bordering Cotton-
wood Creek. Home is contem-
porary open floor plan with one
large bedroom.



\$198,000
3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a
larger Master in the upstairs loft.
Kitchen features built in range
oven, refrigerator, and dish-
washer.



\$195,000
Spacious 5 bedroom, 2 bath
home with comfortable and
spacious living area. De-
tached, insulated and heated
garage/workshop/studio.



\$188,500
This 2 story stucco home has
3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Open
kitchen with pantry area. Ap-
pliances included. Master
bedroom & a master bath.



\$179,900
Walking distance to Dharma
Ocean Institute-High up on the
mountain with amazing pano-
ramic views of mountains from
upstairs deck.



\$179,000
Great 5.25 acres for your horses
or dogs. Backs to willow Creek
greenbelt for trail riding.
Thoughtfully built strawbale, 3
BR, 2 B home.



\$169,500
This home features a newly
remodeled kitchen with all new
stainless appliances. 2 bed-
rooms downstairs, and a loft
bedroom with 1/2 bath upstairs.



\$168,500
Built in 1996 this home has hot
water baseboard heat for effi-
cient heat, stucco exterior, all
appliances, including washer/
dryer, and window coverings
included.



\$165,000
Charming home in Crestone.
4 bedrooms and 2 bath, newly
painted, new wood laminate
floors in upstairs. Large green
house on the back of the home.



\$159,000
UNDER CONTRACT
High up on mountain straw-
bale home with efficient in floor
radiant heat, and solar hot
water. 2 bedrooms 2 baths.



\$149,000
PRICE REDUCED
Complete remodel on this home
in 2011, new windows, roof,
exterior siding, and interior
remodel. 4 bedrooms and 2
baths.



\$129,000
Very cute and quaint adobe
home with full bath downstairs,
great room floor plan. Upstairs
is one large room, could be
converted to 2 bedrooms. New-
er gas stainless range/oven.



\$90,000
UNDER CONTRACT
Great ranch style home with
oversized 3 car garage, barn,
horse fencing, storage trailer,
and loafing sheds. Home fea-
tures 4 bedrooms 3 baths.



\$64,900
This home is on CR CC on the
west side of the subdivision,
home features spacious rooms
with large kitchen.



\$62,900
Nice open floor plan, with spa-
cious kitchen, separate dining
room, and a wood burning stove.



\$59,999
PRICE REDUCED
New roof, new carpet, new paint
on this bank owned manufac-
tured home on 1 acre of land in
Lazy KV subdivision. Spacious
living room, and open kitchen



\$58,900
Great retirement home! Nice
stucco finish and sweeping views
of the Sangre De Cristo moun-
tain range. Property sold as is.



\$29,500
3 bedroom/ 2 bath with nice
woodstove in living room, addi-
tional storage shed.



\$27,000
Mobile home needs TLC but
backs to farmland and great
views of the Sangre De Cristo.



Origami house

continued from page B-1

studio reflected to the interior by the white surfaces. The combination of insulation products, including high density foam, gives the house an R value of 63 for the roof and 50 in all walls, meaning very little captured solar heat escapes.

Other important features Burt incorporated into the house for very low carbon usage and self sufficiency include a standard 2 kilowatt photovoltaic system with 16 deep-cycle batteries for electrical storage, an active solar hot water system, natural and mechanically assisted air circulation with a 90% efficiency heat exchanger, and rain water collection and gray water use optimization. The house is on its own well and septic system. The fixed windows throughout are double glazed, and the conventional windows are a new economical fiberglass window. Altogether the custom triangular windows and the passive solar augmentation cubes, were completed at

conventional window costs.

The resulting energy usage statistics are astounding. The house is close to energy self-sufficient. In the coldest winters wood usage for the supplemental high efficiency wood fireplace has never exceeded one and a half cords of wood. In three winters the emergency generator for electricity has kicked on once, for 6 hours during a long cloudy week. Propane usage averages \$117 per year, mostly for cooking. There is zero external electricity usage and no other utility costs.

Now that he and Marika have occupied the house full time for almost three years, Burt feels the house meets, and in some cases exceeds, his initial design goals and energy efficiency targets. The house has proven to operate at near self-sufficiency and uses very little carbon.

The house is located in the Baca Grants south of Crestone. You may contact Burt Wadman at 719-937-7782 if you wish to visit the house or ask for more details regarding the design, operation and systems.



Roof feature with white roofing and reflective undersurface to reflect light into studio.



Wadman House exterior view from northwest with its distinctive functional angles.

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120C SKYVIEW WAY: 3 br, 1.5 bath, 1238 sf. This home is easily the best value on the market right now with a new kitchen, wrap-around Trex deck, new windows. On greenbelt close to town. A must see for any serious shopper. ~~\$159,900~~ now \$129,000



4246 SERENE WAY: 3 br, 1.5 bath, 1,338 sf. Great opportunity for affordable living in private high Chalet II location. Bright with many windows and trees and views in all directions. \$159,000



208 FOOTHILL OL: 3 br, 2.5 bath, 2228 sf. Large office or 4th br, carport. Non-toxic finishes, consciously & green built. Energy efficient. 10' ceilings on main. Nice! \$239,000



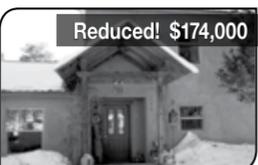
958 MEDITATION OL: 1,363 sf, 3 br, 1.5 bath, built in 2007. Quiet location, meticulously maintained, energy-wise, bright, creative touches. Solar in-floor heat with electric back up. \$195,900 now \$182,000



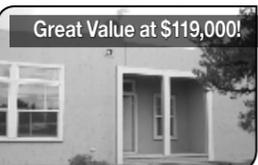
1615 WILLOW CREEK WAY: 2-3 br, 2 bath, 1600 sf. Bright, well-maintained, hot water heat, carport, fenced yard. On greenbelt. Protected on both sides, includes lot 1616. Great value! \$165,000



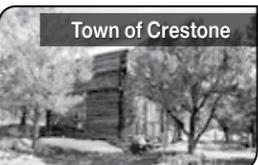
207 FOOTHILL OL: Act now to add your personal touch to this 2 br, 1 bath energy efficient home. 952 sf with attached greenhouse on private cul-de-sac, off paved road near trailhead & park. \$149,000



196C EVERGREEN: 1,532 sf, 3 br plus office, 1.75 bath. Warm elegance with vaulted ceilings, Tuscan faux-finishes, & great-room design. Quiet cul-de-sac location on 1.3 acres. Walk to trails. Now \$174,000!



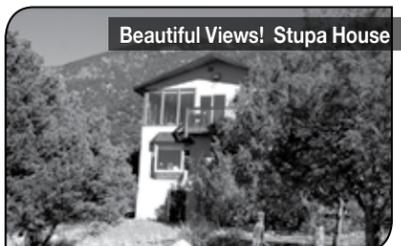
3510 ENCHANTED: 3 br, 2 bath, 1833 sf. Spacious kitchen, living, and master. Two tankless water heaters for hot water & central heat. Beautifully refinished interior, new roof with warranty. \$119,000



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**There's No Such Thing
As A Weed**

by **Dorje Root**

Violet (*Viola* spp.)



Violet plants in flower.

Violets! Certainly a sign of spring! Here in Crestone you will find them tucked in spaces in the shade of bushes, places that stay damp when the surrounding areas have already dried out. You will probably see the flowers first—white, purple, yellow, and then notice the heart shaped leaves. Heartsease is another name, as well as Johnny jump-up or wild pansy. When we lived in Boulder our entire lawn was covered with little purple flowers early each spring, popping up amongst the melting snow. I haven't seen that many in one place here, but the sight of a few flowers tucked away still fills me with delight!

The flowers and leaves are edible. The flowers are a strange lot—they aren't the actual seed-producing flowers—those come later, and are extremely subtle. These flowers are just because. So feel free to eat these showy flowers in salad, as decorations on cake, or just by themselves. The flowers also make a delightful vinegar! The leaves are edible cooked or in salads. Violet leaves are high in vitamins C and A

Medicinally, Violet is soothing, cooling, and anti-inflammatory. All the above-ground parts may be used. The root is a stronger medicine and can be toxic. Violet leaf can be taken as a tincture or an infusion (strong

tea), and can be used externally as a poultice or compress. The fresh or dried leaf may be used but the fresh leaf is considered to be more active. Traditionally, Violet has been used for breast conditions, including fibrocystic breasts, lumps and as an adjunct in cancer treatment, using both the infusion and poultices.

Think of Violet also for skin conditions, again using it both internally and externally. It also has been used for coughs and respiratory conditions. It is a gentle remedy, but potent in its gentleness!

Heartsease is called that because of its effect on the heart chakra and ability to soothe a broken heart! Combine with Rose and Hawthorn and perhaps a little Lavender for this purpose. Or just eat Violet flowers! Apparently it will also help with excessive anger, though I haven't used it this way.

Enjoy our local Violets, even if there are not enough to gather. Just sitting with them can tune you into their energy and many of their benefits.

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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FAST

SLV ancient rock art defaced

by **Angie Krall,**
Heritage Program Mgr.,
Rio Grande National Forest

"To describe the remains of the past is fairly simple but to appreciate their purpose or to gauge the value originally placed on them can tax the imagination and often must lie beyond our grasp."

—I.H. Longworth

I received a call recently from a friend who often treks out her back door into some of our most beloved land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) San Luis Valley Field Office. She had discovered an amazing prehistoric rock art panel (rare in the valley), and wondered if we knew about it. A few days later she had gone back to it and in the course of those few days the names of "T.J., Jo, and Ric" had been etched into the panel, impacting one of the human figures. When I, as a cultural resource manager receive news like this, it is as if one of my own children has been harmed. We do know about this panel, and monitor it frequently, making sure it stays intact and is protected from all but the natural elements. It has remained so, perhaps for a millennia, with no other human impacts until the spring of 2014.

I acknowledge humans have always had the inclination to add their "mark" to other marks. In the southwest, competing tribes have defaced each other's rock art; known as "trumping behavior" in some circles. Others ask, where does history stop and where does graffiti and vandalism begin? What I do know is this: the American people have agreed that it is a federal offense and felony violation to deface prehistoric and historic rock art under the Archaeological

Resources Protection Act (ARPA). In 2011, Trenton Ganey of North Carolina was cited by a Grand Canyon Park Service ranger for etching "Trent" into what is known as the "Decending Sheep" rock art panel. He said he did it because he thought it would be "cool". Ganey pleaded guilty to one felony violation of ARPA and paid a hefty fine in restitution. Not cool.

To some this may seem a bit heavy-handed, but to those of us who watch these priceless gems disappear from the landscape due to carelessness . . . it is deeply heart-breaking; they are gone forever and they are not making more. Moreover, for all we know, and from what some tribes have told us, many of these panels represent sacred space where ritual and prayers took place. For contemporary Native Americans, these places can be considered shrines where they honor their ancestors. As my colleague Dr. Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh states so eloquently, "Ancient rock art matters because it is not really a kind of ancient graffiti—as some might like to think—but the cultural archive of our nation's first peoples. As history books written in stone, rock art recounts what Native Americans have seen, touched, believed and lived through the millennia . . . the rock art that garlands the Grand Canyon are like the words that adorn the Lincoln Memorial or the frescoes that consecrate the Sistine Chapel. These are sacred places."

I have stood next to a Jicarilla Apache elder who excitedly recognized one of his tribe's most venerated deities, Monster Slayer, on a newly discovered panel in the San Luis Valley. Gazing at the figure with a lightning bolt in its hand the elder exclaimed "We were here!" For archaeologists, rock art offers keen insights into the past like no

other traces can. It can reveal elements of human psychology, belief systems, migration, socioeconomics, and of course, art!

The vandalism of rock art robs us of the ability to witness and be in the presence of the ancients when we gaze into the past and into the minds and souls of the people who created this art, if only for a moment. So dear Ric, Jo and

T.J, you may have not meant great harm when you put your names there, you may have simply wanted to be a part of that story . . . it is a great story! But you need to know it is wrong and against federal law. My hope for you is that you can make your mark in new and amazing ways that will be remembered by others far into the future. But not here, not on this rock.

Public health: Prevent animal-borne disease

Residents of the San Luis Valley enjoy our rural lifestyle, which includes proximity to animals. That proximity is one reason that rural residents should be aware of the potential for diseases that are spread by animals. A disease that is passed from animals to humans is called a zoonosis. Several animal-borne diseases are important in the San Luis Valley.

Here are some of the critters to watch out for in our area. Fleas hosted by rodents, rabbits, or domestic pets can carry plague. Mosquitos can carry West Nile virus. Bats, skunks, and other wild mammals may carry rabies. Ticks, deerflies, rodents, and rabbits are carriers of tularemia, also known as "rabbit fever". Deer mice may carry Hantavirus, and soft-bodied ticks may carry relapsing fever.

Most of these diseases are relatively rare, but they are important because they are potentially very serious. For example, Hantavirus infects just a handful of people each year in Colorado, but it is fatal in 38% of cases.

Early medical care is critical to treatment of a zoonosis. Call your doctor right away if you are bitten by an animal. Rabies must be treated before symptoms appear. Incubation periods (or the time it takes from being infected until you get sick) for most zoonoses range from 3 days to 6 weeks. Seek medical care if you experience symptoms such as fever, severe joint or muscle pain, headache, fatigue, neck stiffness, disorientation, difficulty breathing, or diarrhea; let your doctor know if you are aware of potential exposure to disease-carrying animals.

Prevention is always best. Protect yourself and your family by taking common sense precautions:

- Use insect repellent containing DEET when hiking or spending time outdoors. Treat pants, socks, shoe tops, arms, and legs.
- Avoid having standing water on your property.
- Have your pets and other domestic animals vaccinated for rabies by a veterinarian. Pets need a rabies booster shot every 1-3 years (depending on the manufacturer) to stay protected. Prevent them from roaming free where they can come in contact with disease carrying wildlife.
- Check for ticks every few hours if spending a lot of time outdoors where ticks are plentiful.
- Take steps to keep rodents away from your house. Eliminate trash, weeds, and debris. Wood piles should be at least 100' from the house. Do not leave pet food outside. Avoid feeding or drawing squirrels or rabbits into your yard by feeding them. Avoid contact with all sick and dead rodents and rabbits.
- When cleaning an area where mice may have been present, avoid breathing dust. Air out closed buildings for an hour and do not sweep or vacuum up rodent droppings or nests, as this stirs up dust. Consider wearing an N-100 respiratory mask while cleaning the area. Trap and disinfect rodents, rodent nests, and droppings. Wear rubber gloves and use a disinfectant solution of 1 ½ cups of chlorine bleach to 1 gallon of water, or household spray disinfectant. After spraying with disinfectant, put materials in double trash bags and throw away, burn or bury them.
- If you hunt rabbits, wear gloves when handling the animals and wash your hands with soap and water afterward. Cook rabbit meat thoroughly before eating.
- Seal summer cabins and hunting camps so rodents are not able to nest in the roof and walls. Permanently seal all holes in the foundation and walls with cement, grout, flashing or heavy gauge metal screen; leave no gaps larger than ¼ inch. If ticks have already infested the building and are present within the crawl space, floor boards, wall voids or attic, contact a licensed professional exterminator. Wash all bedding before sleeping in the cabin.

For more detailed information on animal-borne diseases, go to cdc.gov/healthypets/animals/wildlife.htm.

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DISPATCH

from the edge 

by Peter Anderson

What I had in mind when I set out hitching home from Cortez one morning thirty some years ago, was making it back to a girlfriend's house in Poncha Springs. Instead, I ended up in the Saguache County Jail.

As the day began, I had every reason to believe I would ride a wave of good fortune all the way to Poncha. It was a glorious green early summer day on the road and I had gotten a few quick rides to Pagosa Springs. I was watching the high waters of the San Juan roll by, when a flashy Jaguar with Arizona plates, came to a stop on the shoulder up ahead. "Where ya headed?" said a jovial fellow from Phoenix who had been driving since the early morning hours.

"Poncha Springs," I said.

"Hop in," he said, and I stuffed my pack in the back of his sporty ride and off we went, chit-hatting up the switchbacks of Wolf Creek. Heading over the pass, my new friend told me that he needed to make Denver that night. Yes! I was home free. It was a shining moment in a hitchhiking career that had included some desolate hours on hot summer highways.

In South Fork, my road-weary friend asked if I would drive for a while and took a nap while I savored my time behind the wheel. It was unlikely that I would ever again have the pleasure of driving a jaguar up the Gunbarrel through the San Luis Valley, but since my new friend had shown such great trust in me, I was careful not to give in to high speed temptations. Not careful enough as it turned out. As I entered the Saguache city limits, I was apparently doing 37 in a 35 mile-an-hour zone when I noticed the flashing lights in the rearview. Uh-oh. But it was a minor infraction, I figured. Surely, I could get off with a warning if I played it right.

Instead, after turning over my license and waiting for the verdict, I was invited by the local authority to step out of the car and spread my hands across the roof, after which I was thoroughly frisked, handcuffed, and—"what-did-I-do?"—escorted to the back of his car. "You're driving with a suspended license, son," he said.

Then I was taken to the county jail. My licence had been suspended,

I later learned, because I had failed to notify my insurance agency after a fender-bender I'd been involved in. I could have sworn I got that letter in the mail. Must have been a bureaucratic snafu. Back at the jail, my shoelaces were confiscated as if a night behind bars might be reason enough to do myself in. Fingerprints were taken. As if a suspended license was a gateway crime to more heinous offenses. I was taken to my bunk where I was introduced to Joey, my cellmate, a very big man with a patch over one eye and a serious gash down the other cheek. Everything I had heard about life behind bars, I was convinced, would soon prove true. For a moment, I wanted my shoelaces back.

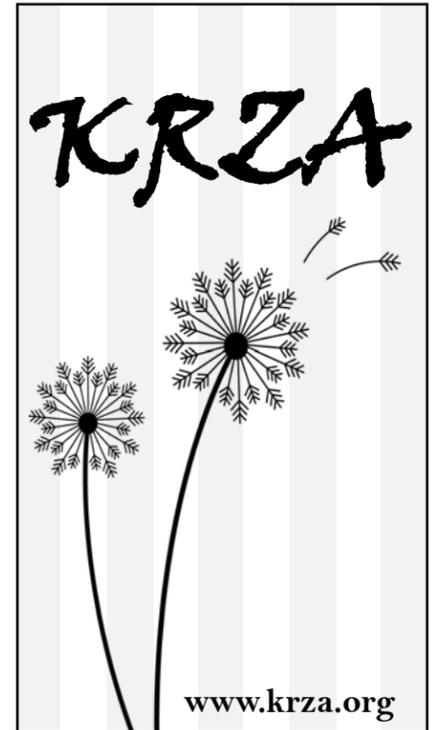
As it turned out, Joey was a nice guy who had gotten thrown through a barroom window and he was glad for a friend. Our two neighbors, who had been making themselves at home in jail for a while judging from a row of condiments—peanut butter, jelly, hot sauce—on a shelf by their bunks, had been hazing my cellmate relentlessly: "They never lettin' you out of this joint, Joey."

Joey had an eight track player and one tape—*Hank Williams' Greatest Hits*. We listened to "Take These Chains from my Heart" and "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" again and again, until we had smoked our way through most of his Marlboros. Then it was lights out we were told, the jail door slammed shut, and everyone settled in for the night. "What if this place catches on fire?" I kept

wondering.

The next day, after a rubbery fried egg on soggy toast with a bad cup of coffee, my boss from Buena Vista, where I had been working as a river guide, came down and bailed me out. Never was the morning air so fresh. Never had the meadow-lark's song sounded so sweet. It was summer. I was young and free, vowing never again to get crossways with the law.

So today, as spring edges into summer, and as I recall that grace-filled morning of liberation from the Saguache County Jail, I am especially grateful for this true blue dream of San Luis Valley sky.



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In Search of Economic Reality

US capitalism is destroying our democracy & economic prosperity

by Ed Lyell

Three independent reports from world class experts all came to the same conclusion—America has fallen behind every other developed nation in many economic and quality-of-life categories. Most surprising to me was having long term conservative Harvard Business Professor Michael Porter take up the torch about US capitalism failing the 99%. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) published research looking at decades of worldwide economic performance and proved that income and wealth inequality diminish economic growth (GDP). French economist Professor Piketty looked at several hundred years of economic data and concluded that capitalism has never provided economic prosperity for the majority unless heavily regulated, including banking, corporate consolidation restrictions and high taxes on the wealthy.

Professor Michael Porter announced the launch of the Social Progress Imperative, a new rigorous index rating the social performance of countries. During Fareed Zakaria's CNN GPS TV show Porter said, "We as Americans do not see ourselves as we really are". (www.cnn.it/1pmXGCv). Thus the world's leading expert on long

term economic strategy stressed that for decades the US pioneered and led the world in all social progress indicators. Our current high GDP is the residual of former leadership in education, income mobility, health quality and access, innovation, and other fundamentals that create economic productivity and prosperity. Now the USA is behind most every other country on these major indicators of social progress. We are 90th in the world on health care outcomes even as we spend twice as much per person as any other country. We have a false perception of our current well-being.

On the summary of all measures we are 16th in the world while New Zealand is first. All northern European countries as well as Canada, Australia, Japan and Britain are ahead of us. Social progress is overall quality of life, opportunity for success, innovativeness and other dimensions. Outcomes are measured, not attitudes or spending. Iceland is number one on access to information and communications while the USA is 23rd. Our mobile telephone access is 83rd in the world behind even Jamaica. In access to basic knowledge Japan is number one and the USA is 39th, behind Cuba. Our current high

GDP is the residual of former decades of leading on these factors which drive long term economic productivity and prosperity. We are still number one on military spending as we spend more than the next ten countries combined (www.nbcnews.to/PxEMYM).

Secondly, a long term economic study by the well-respected International Monetary Fund concluded that re-distributing income and wealth to the middle class has never lowered overall economic growth and may now be needed instead of the current austerity policies that lower taxes on the ultra-wealthy while cutting spending on physical and human capital infrastructure. (imf.org)

Third, the economics and policy world is discussing what some call the most important economics book in over a hundred years. Thousands of people gathered in university lecture halls and watched key media interviews about Professor Piketty's book, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. He looked at several hundred years of economic progress around the world and discovered that high levels of income and wealth disparity always lowered economic growth leading to social revolution. In analyzing the conflicting philosophies of Adam Smith and Karl Marx, Piketty

concludes that he is not for socialism, yet free market capitalism may be even more damaging. Piketty concludes with recommendations that all advanced economies adopt a global wealth tax on the net worth on capitalism's financial elite. All fortunes of the superrich would be detailed and registered, with sanctions levied against international tax havens. Piketty states, "But capitalism and markets should be the slave of democracy and not the opposite". His book ends not with an appeal to policy makers, but with a call for all citizens to "take a serious interest in money, its measurement, the facts surrounding it and its history." "It's too easy for ordinary people to just say, 'I don't know anything about economics . . . but economics is not just for economists.'"

Since 1980 the US has used economic policies that reduced tax rates on the super wealthy and corporations while also providing a yearly trillion dollars in tax deductions and credits serving mostly the richest 1%. A lack of anti-trust law enforcement has led to the elimination of job-creating small businesses while providing corporate welfare to increasingly monopolistic corporations. Disgusted young people do not trust their government, do not vote, and yet are starting to see themselves as the victims of these bad policies. What this means for America's future is the question of our times. These books and databases provide ample support for dramatic reversal of our economic policy.

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Baca Grande Library News



by **Suzanne McGregor**

We have found that DK Eyewitness books (published by DK Children) are among the best resources in non-fiction topics for young people. We have added more of these books to our shelves this month. The new books include: *Reptile*, *Fossil*, *Prehistoric Man*,

Chemistry, *Human Body*, *Crystal and Gem*, *Rock and Mineral*, and *Arctic and Antarctic*. They are very informative, well-illustrated and geared to those in grades 3-7 (8-12 years old). However, many adults like them as well for simple overviews of areas of interest.

The library staff and patrons would like to thank Rodney Volkmar for updating our computers and fixing any glitches that he might find. He has been volunteering his time on Wednesday afternoons to do this, and we all are very grateful for his expert services.

Almost every day, we find pages that computer users have printed that are left behind (and not paid for). They might be dupli-

cates, mistakes or have just a line or two of printing on them. We are asking those who use the computer printer in the library to do "print preview" before printing. Is printing something really necessary or just merely convenient at the time? Think about it. If you decide to go ahead and print, please pay for all your copies. Like a youngster commented last month about Earth Day—"One day is not enough. Every day should be Earth Day!" So let us listen to that sage advice and not waste paper.

Please come in and take a look at the beautiful bags (perfect for books!) that Pat Tullos has designed and made for the library. Each bag is \$25, with \$5 of this going to the

Library Relocation Project. What a perfect gift for Mother's Day.

Speaking of Mother's Day, we have a good idea for youngsters to help celebrate their moms this month. Come to the library and read a book to her! We have many easy and beginning readers, and a large selection of books in a series called We Both Read in which parent and child read the same book together. We think your mom will be impressed with your reading skills!

Note: The library will be closed on Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day.

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

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How to site your orchard

by **Matie Belle Lakish**

If you've decided to grow fruit trees, choosing a proper site can be a challenge unless you have a large property with many site choices. Most of us are limited to one or two lots, and we must look for the best

spaces available for our trees. There are some guidelines that can help us.

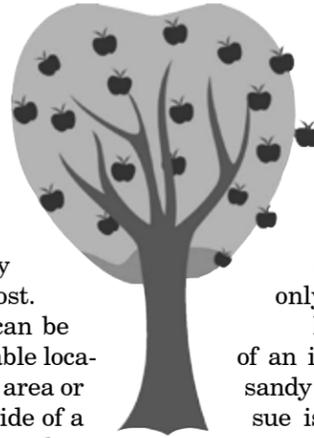
The most important requirement for fruit trees is sunlight. Soil can be amended, and water can be added, but if your trees are planted in the shade, they will not thrive. Even if they do grow, they will produce minimal fruit, and it will ripen slowly and never develop the full flavor you are wanting from your homegrown produce. Therefore, make having adequate sunlight your first priority. A few fruits, mainly bush fruits such as currants and gooseberries, can tolerate filtered sunlight, but the traditional fruit trees such as apples, apricots and plums will need good sunlight for most of the day.

Now that you've looked at your sunnier spots, consider other needs. An ideal place to grow early-blooming trees like hardy apricots and plums is on the north side of your house. The added shade early in the season will keep the blossom buds dormant longer, and the tree will bloom later. This may diminish the likelihood that the blossoms will be killed by a late frost. If you have no available space on the

north side, the east side of the building, which gets morning light but not afternoon heat, will be a good choice.

Apples bloom later than apricots and plums and are less likely to be impacted by frost. Therefore, these trees can be planted in more vulnerable locations such as in an open area or on the south and west side of a building. If you choose to plant pears, peaches, sweet cherries or European or Japanese plums, which are not as hardy as apples, apricots and native plums, plant them in a protected location away from north and west winds. The south or east side of a building is good for these more tender fruits. Just leave enough space from the building that the tree gets good sunlight. If shelter is not available, stacked straw bales or a fence can provide a windbreak.

Planting trees on a slope is better than placing them in a flat or low spot. Cold air sinks and frost tends to drain away to lower elevations. Most of Crestone and the Baca is somewhat sloped. This makes it easier for us to consider fruit trees that would struggle in the center of



the valley. Our location is somewhat sheltered from north winds as well. However, there are low places in the Grants where cold air gathers. Try to find a higher area on your land, or choose only the hardiest fruits.

Drainage is not much of an issue in our area, as our sandy soil drains well. Our issue is adding enough humus to enrich the soil and hold the moisture. Very sandy soil should have some clay or topsoil, as well as compost, added to the planting hole.

Young trees should be planted at the same depth as in the nursery, mulched well and watered twice a week. After they are established for a couple of years, a once a week watering is usually sufficient.

Place an expandable white plastic tree guard, or tie a wrap of white fabric or cardboard around the trunk for the first year. This prevents sunscald of the trunk and keeps rodents from girdling the tree. Remove or loosen it later so it doesn't bind the tree and prevent circulation. Also loosen wire or plastic name-tags, as they can also bind the trunk or limb of a tree as it grows.

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Lot#2835, Chalets #2, Baca Grande, Crestone, CO Approx. 5 acres in Baca Grande Water & Sanitation District. Paid tap fee. Water & electricity on property. Backs a large greenbelt, w/trees, somewhat rocky w/ good building site. Buyer pays closing fees. \$5000.00 OBO 580-6192 588-0607

GREAT LOTS FOR SALE

GREAT LOTS FOR SALE. Chalet II, lot 2212, Spanish Creek Frontage! Tap paid, WS, \$12,500. Chalet I, lot 574, greenbelt, spectacular views, \$6,500. Lot 528, Panorama & Moonlight, WS, \$3000. OBO. Call 588-8727.

Great house for Sale in Chalet I

Great house For Sale: 3 BR, 1.5 BA 1600 sq ft home in Chalet I, recently remodeled completely including laminate flooring, carpeting, plumbing, electrical and stucco exterior, \$160,000, call 719-588-3243 for details.

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For sale by owner, 3 BR, 2 BA home in chalet I on 2.79 acres (5 consolidated lots) with detached 1 car garage, fantastic views of both mountains and valley, now \$216,000, call 588-3243 for details.

Houses for Rent

Beautiful Stucco House for Rent

Beautiful Stucco House for Rent in Chalet II. 1 BD + Office/2nd BD, 2 BA. Radiant floor heat, ETS, wood stove. Hard wood floors, stunning views, covered balcony. Private & quiet location near Cottonwood Creek. No smoking, pets negotiable. \$775/month + utilities, deposit. Call 719-588-8727.

LIGHT FILLED GEM CHALET 2

Private, on Cottonwood Creek. 360 Views, wrap around deck. Large master suite w/ Jacuzzi tub. Solar, propane, wood. No dogs/smokers. For rent while for sale. Available June 1. 700 plus utilities/deposit. ja13ital@gmail.com

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House For Rent

Chalet 1. 3 BR 2 BA, 1600 sf home w/ storage shed. Woodstove, ETS unit, EBB backup. Large deck. W/D, DW. 1 year lease. \$700/month + utilities. First/last/deposit. June 1. 719-937-7786, photos: <http://www.crestonegenie.com>

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House For Rent

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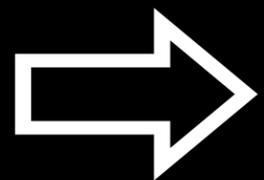
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continued to
Page B-18



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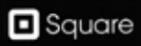

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Director of Public Health, Saguache County

Job Title: Director of Public Health, Saguache County, Effective Date: April 22, 2014 Saguache County, Colorado, is seeking to fill the position of Public Health Director. The position requires a master's degree in a public health discipline; a nurse candidate shall be licensed to practice in Colorado within six months of hire; OR, similar experience to a nurse with exemplary history and at least two years of administrative experience in public health, and willing to seek additional public health education and experience within five years of hire. A complete job description and qualifications are available online at: <http://www.saguachecounty-co.gov>. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Saguache County is a drug-free workplace. All inquiries should be directed to: Saguache County Administration. E-mail: wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov or lzimmer@saguachecounty-co.gov, phone: 719-655-2231, fax 719-655-2635. Applicants must submit a job application, cover letter, and a resume. Resumes must not exceed three pages in length. The job application is available online at <http://www.saguachecounty-co.gov/administration-home>. Submit cover letter, job application, and resume to the following address no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2014: Saguache County Administration, PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149. Faxed and emailed applications are accepted.

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Misc. for Sale

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Remember that there is nothing stable in human affairs; therefore avoid undue elation in prosperity, or undue depression in adversity. —Socrates

Community Service

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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. email Marta at martashoman@gmail.com

CB Village – Local Help, Give & Receive

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Lost and Found

Lost Earring

Lost: Silver feather earring with turquoise bead hanging from silver hook—special gift years ago from a friend. If found, please call Isadora: 719-256-4128.

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. For the very latest, go online to <http://www.crestoneeagle.com/calendar>.

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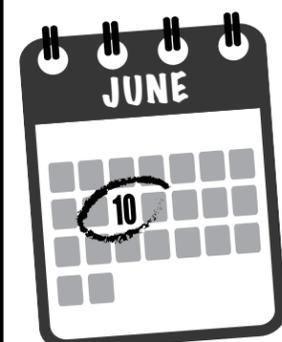
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Mark June 10 on Your Calendar!



A new location!

Plan to attend SLVREC's 2014 Annual Meeting to learn more about your electric cooperative.

Location: Inn of the Rio Grande
June 10, registration opens at 5:30 p.m.
Inn of the Rio Grande is located just east of the junction of Highways 17 and 160 on Highway 160.

A light snack will be served. Door prizes, including two Kindle Fires, four \$250 bill credits, half beef and half a pig, will be awarded. Additionally, a drawing for four \$77 bill credits (in recognition of the 77 years SLVREC has served the Valley) will be held among all members who subscribe to the digital *Newsboy*. To be eligible for this special drawing, sign up for the digital version of SLVREC's monthly newsletter by June 1. Members need not be present to win in this drawing. Keep an eye on SLVREC's newsletter, the *Newsboy*, to learn more about the 2014 Annual Meeting!

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by Keno
Where and what is the highest confirmed wind gusts in Crestone, in Colorado, and in the entire world?

I have written in the past here the National Weather Service (NWS) unfortunately hasn't ever officially taken wind measurements for the Crestone area. I do have an anemometer attached to my home station, but not for the official NWS station with which I take our official readings. In the last 11 years, going with the records from my home station, the highest recorded wind gust here was 54mph, on April 16, 2013. However, a powerful dust storm that hit back in June of 2005 knocked out power early in the storm, and caused my station's daily anemometer records for the day to be lost. Reports claim winds on that day were up to 70mph, and caused widespread damage to the entire area. I was in Denver on this day, so I have no way of knowing myself what really took place.

The two highest wind gusts ever recorded in Colorado were the following: A gust of 147mph logged at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder on January 25, 1971, and 201mph on Long's Peak in the winter of 1981. That is the fifth-highest wind gust ever recorded anywhere on Earth.

The highest wind gust in the U.S., which for years was also the



Low-lying clouds hug the mountains on a majestic morning following one of the many beautiful spring snowstorms we've gotten this year. photo by Lori Nagel

highest surface wind speed ever officially recorded on Earth, is 231mph, recorded at the Mount Washington Observatory in New Hampshire on April 12, 1934. The fastest wind speed ever recorded worldwide, is 253mph, during Tropical Cyclone Olivia on April 10, 1996. However, a wind gust of 318mph was measured by Doppler radar during a tornado in Moore, OK, in 1999. Since Doppler wind readings are not official and no anemometer readings were available in that area on that day, this reading is not looked at as being official.

One last note on this: the place on Earth with the fastest daily wind average is a whopping 108mph at Port Martin, in Antarctica!

It seems that the normal wind direction, at least in the Grants where I live, is usually out of the southwest; yet in most of your reports an easterly wind is noted as our normal direction. Why is that?

That is because out in the Grants, a westerly wind is the usual

direction, both day and night. The farther away from the Crestone foothills one lives (about 1 mile away at least), the more likely this is the case. But our official weather station is located in the foothills, in Chalet 1; whereas during the daytime hours, even here we see westerly winds on most days, on almost all nights we see easterly winds, usually for the entire night, and in a 24-hour period because of this, the easterly winds win out as the main direction for our foothill winds.

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: 1.42"

Snow: 16.0"

Measurable precipitation fell on 9 days.

Measurable snow fell on 8 days.

Measurable rain fell on 1 day.

A trace of snow fell on 1 day.

A trace of rain fell on 4 days.

Hail fell on 1 day.

One thunder snow storm occurred.

Total precipitation year to date:

Since Jan 1: 2.36"

Total snow to date:

Since Jan 1: 30.6"

Snow Season *: 73.6"

*Snow season runs from July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 67.6°F on April 11

Low temp: 15.1°F on April 4

Avg. high: 54.0°F

Avg. low: 26.0°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 60°: 8, all in April.

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

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 3.5 mph

Highest gust: 39 mph on March 30

and also on April 1, and on April 2.

Main direction: Out of the east.

Weather summary:

Temperatures were around normal and precipitation was well below normal in the last 10 days of March, but above normal precip in the first 20 days of April, along with slightly below normal temps. On April 12, and for the first time this year, the low temperature (35°) never went below freezing. This marked the first time Crestone didn't drop below freezing in a 24 hour period since October 29, 2013. The first hail of the year, along with the first measurable rain of 2014, occurred on the same day, April 20, although only 0.01 of an inch of rain fell.

The Crestone/Baca weather station set 2 new precipitation records on April 13 during a thunder snowstorm. First, a record snowfall was reached with 6.2 inches accumulating, the old record for the date of 4.0 inches, set in 1983. Also broken was the total liquid precipitation recorded, which came to 0.52 inches, smashing the old record of 0.23 inches, which was also set in 1983.

Outlook for May:

May is an average month for our area, with 0.97 inches of precip expected on average, making it either the 6th wettest, or if you prefer, the 6th driest month of the year. We usually see our last snowfall of the season in May, with 2.1 inches falling on average. Record snow for May took place in 2001, when 15.0 inches fell, and 1993 saw the most precip fall, at 2.18 inches.

Temperature wise, it starts to warm up nicely as May moves forward, with highs and lows in the first week averaging 62° and 31°, and warming up to 72° and 40° by the last week of the month. Record high for May is 96° on May 31, 2002, and the coldest reading was 13°, on May 2, 1990.

The 30 day our look for May is calling for above average temperatures along with normal precip.

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