

The CRESTONE EAGLE

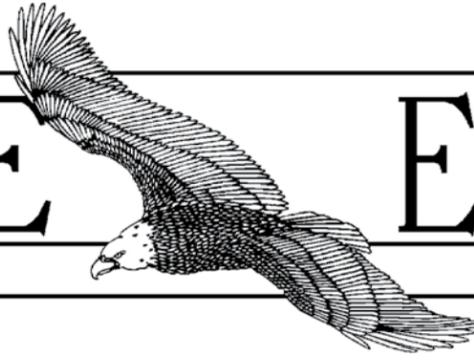
Crestone, Colorado Volume 26, Number 5

May, 2015 \$1

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This apricot tree's beautiful flowers promise an abundance of goodness here in Crestone. Taken on Easter Day, April 5 at Robin Blankenship's annual Potluck & Easter Egg Hunt. photo by Lori Nagel To see this photo and more in color, visit our website at www.crestoneeagle.com

US Senate Republicans push for public lands sell-off

by Lisa Cyriacks

Republican-backed Amendment 838, an amendment to sell off portions of national forest, passed 51-49 on March 25 in the U.S. Senate. Essentially, it aims to slash U.S. Forest Service budget demands by giving states control of federal lands, which can then be overtaken by private companies and mined for resources: i.e. timber, grazing rights, and minerals, along with the very lifeblood of the west—water.

The vote was purely symbolic—budget amendments carry no weight of law. Although this amendment is not law, it signifies

growing support for the privatization of public land.

Three Republican U.S. Senators, Corey Gardner of Colorado, Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, and Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, did not vote for the amendment. Democrats staunchly opposed it.

On March 26 U.S. Senators Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) and Martin Heinrich (D-New Mexico) introduced an alternate amendment to the Senate's budget resolution that would protect America's parks and public lands, including national forests, wildlife refuges, and conservation lands, from being sold off as a deficit reduction tactic. The

amendment was co-sponsored by U.S. Senators Tom Udall (D-New Mexico) Michael Bennet (D-Colorado) and Jon Tester (D-Montana). This amendment failed to pass.

It is feared that SA 838 would pass the U.S. Forest Service debt onto those who can not afford to pay for it: state taxpayers. Then, big business can swoop in with a bigger checkbook and foot the bill. And, lock out hunters and hikers.

Colorado legislation

Introduced in the Colorado Senate in January, SB 15-039 seeks to establish "concurrent jurisdiction" over Colorado land held

continued on page 32



Local artist Jeff DeMers paints the skate ramp at the Crestone Town Park as part of Global Youth Service Day. More photos and story on page 9

Local postal mail now makes a round trip to Denver

United States Postal Service mail sent from Crestone to a Crestone post office box now gets sent to Denver for sorting rather than being sorted at the Crestone Post Office. A postal worker said all the local mail has to be put in box-number-order before being placed into the appropriate box. The sorting takes lots of time and costs money and it is more cost effective to have the mail automatically sorted.

David Rupert, United States

Postal Service Corporate Communications, said "Nationwide, USPS has continued to be more efficient in our processes. As part of that effort, we have expanded our use of high speed automated sorters. These eliminate manual handling of mail and also automatically integrates into publication notification and forwarding systems.

"Although there is no local mail slot available in Crestone or any other local Post Office, single

letters destined for Crestone can still be handled by local personnel across the counter."

Rather than getting local mail the next day, people serviced by small post offices without the automatic sorting machines should expect it to take 2 days for local mail to go from the "in" slot in the lobby to the recipient's post office box. Plan ahead for the delivery delay—or consider the old fashioned "hand delivery".

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The Crestone Eagle

Publisher & Editor: Kizzen N. Laki
Copy Editor: Janet G. Woodman
Display Advertising: Alma Sever
Classified Advertising: Dee Rudoff
Production: Carrie Caverly
Photo Editor: Diane Bairstow
Contributing Writers:

David Nicholas	Matie Belle Lakish
Bea Ferrigno	Kim Malville
Larry Calloway	Gussie Faunteroy
Ed Lyell	Earl W. Sutherland
Keno Menechino	Sandia Belgrade
Lisa Cyriacks	Paul Shippee
Kelly Hart	William Howell
Lori Nagel	Dorje Root
Mary Lowers	Peter Anderson

All photos by Kizzen Laki, Janet Woodman or Eagle staff unless otherwise noted.

Contributing Photographers:

Lori A. Nagel, Matthew Crowley, Kate Steichen
 Bill Ellzey, Wendi Shattil/Bob Rozinski
Digital Subscription Rate: 12 issues \$15 digital.pdf
 Paper Subscription Rates: 12 issues \$20 Bulk mail.
 For 1st class postage \$32. Foreign \$75.
 Back issues \$3.50 each by mail.

The Crestone Eagle is an independent monthly publication. POB 101, Crestone, CO 81131.

Telephone (719) 256-4956

Email: info@crestoneeagle.com

www.crestoneeagle.com

No junk mail or solicitations please!

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

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Deadline for copy: 18th of the month.

Letters to the Editor must be 300 words or less.

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



Thanks for the participation

Dear Editor,

The Baca Grande Friends of the Library send many thanks and appreciation to our community for all their support. Once again our community came together and supported the FoL Bake Sale—despite the windy, blustery & dusty day. Thank you, thank you and thank you. Special thanks for our library staff, Suzanne, Barry and Sandia for their ideas and help, and Barry for helping me recount the donations. Special thanks to all those hearty souls who braved the weather to stay at the baked goods table, to help keep everything organized and collect the generous donations. We wish to thank Ed and Carmin who helped set up and again Carmin who remained all day. To Natasha for all her help, from making posters to keeping things organized throughout the afternoon. Also, special thanks to all those wonderful bakers & chefs, and chocolatiers, who donated their time & talents making all the delicious and delectable yummys—Blessings.

And thanks to Miton, who so generously allowed us to conduct the event on his property—thank you.

Thom Ontko,
 Chair, Friends of the Library

Caring, thoughtful people

Dear Community,

We want to thank everyone for their prayers, healing thoughts, cards, phone calls, visits, gifts and delicious, nutritious meals prepared for us.

Kathy's journey with cancer has been made easier by living in a community surrounded by caring, thoughtful people.

Deepest gratitude and love for each and everyone of you!

Blessings,
 Kathy Spinks & Bill Aldinger

Abundant gratitude!

Dear Friends & Family,

I would like to deeply thank my beloved community for truly being there for me during this divine healing crisis I am now facing. As I write this I am almost four weeks post surgery from a full hysterectomy and I will begin chemo treatments at the beginning of May for stage IIIC ovarian cancer. I have been home recovering with Phoenix Tears and Essiac Tea as part of my healing protocol and I will continue with this thru chemo. I am feeling really good and chomping at the bit to get out there and start playing in the woods again. My deepest thanks goes out to everyone who has sent me healing prayers, beautiful flowers, delicious food, heartfelt cards and much needed financial assistance to see me through this difficult time. I would like to send

out a very special thank you to some people who have really stepped up for me and have made sure I am taken care of and loved. My heart is overflowing with gratitude and joy for Gayatri Devi, Tamar Ellentuck, Donald Gifford, Scott Norris, Renee Hill, Loretta Covert, Allison McClure, Tammy Cliche, Peter May, Nina Bonneville, Amulya Dawn, Naomi Lake, Cheyenne Mendel, Elaine Johnson, Shanti Dechen, Dan Perlman, Malina Feder, Denise Peine, Peter Taylor and John Day. I could not get through this with out all of you out there. My prognosis is good and I will beat this! Since I will not be returning to work until this fall, I still find myself in need of financial support while I am unable to work. If you feel so inclined and are able to donate any amount to my fund you can do so with NHN at PO Box 822, or at my Go-Fund-Me account here: www.gofundme.com/oyotrg.

Thanks to all of you who have made this new journey of mine much easier to face head on and conquer. My heart is deeply touched and is shining brightly.

With abundant love & gratitude,
 Cathy Amenta

Amenta benefit May 21

Dear Editor,

I will be doing an all day Cut-a-Thon for my good friend Cathy Amenta. All haircuts and money raised will go to Cathy's personal fund to help out in her time of need. On Thursday May 21, Cynthia Surface will be chopping locks and trimming shapes at His and Hers beauty salon in the Sangre De Cris-

to building. Minimum donation is \$20.00 and will be on a walk-in basis 9am-7pm. Come down to help a neighbor out! Even if you do not want a cut, a donation jar will be there for giving.

Best,
 Cynthia Surface

Value the Freebox or lose it

Dear Editor,

I am afraid we are going to lose the Freebox. Many families and individuals benefit from the clothing, books and small treasures. A few people continue to trash it, and you know who you are. Please stop it. Please.

Lulan Sanford

Lay off the poison

Dear Editor,

We were recently informed that the Fish & Game Department plans to poison Sand Creek and its entire river basin in order to reintroduce only the native cutthroat trout into a future dead river system. It's the age-old war on "invasive" species such as tamarisk, white top and tumble weed. When nature has been disturbed by man, nature will introduce something strong to fill the imbalance.

For example, beavers were exterminated from our rivers, so the dams and much of the topsoil was washed away, and the majority of the watershed was lost. So was most of the native trout habitat lost, namely the larger pools, especially beaver dams, and cutthroat are a

Editor's Notes

Thank you

As we finish this issue of the Eagle we got word that Kalisama had died. She fought as long as she could and then let go. At first the world felt like a lesser place without her. Smaller and not as bright. A huge large-as-life passionate exuberance was gone. Then I looked out and up at the sky over the cliffs—bluer than I'd ever seen it—and the light on the mountains so brilliant, so clear with such depth that it lit up the insides of our souls. A strum of music, a flash of color, a belly laugh. That grand always-up-front woman was freed and shining brighter than ever. Of course. Just what you'd expect from her. Go Kali go.

And thank you.

In the June issue of the Eagle we'll have a proper obituary for her. After family and friends catch their breath and the Kalisama stories pour out.

But right now I'd like to acknowledge all of those who cared for her during her several-year journey and battle with cancer. So many people stepped up and helped her. Friends, family, hospice, her greater community. They really, really rocked. They walked with her every step of the way and carried her when needed. They cooked, drove, visited, helped, encouraged, loved and held her close.

Sometimes I am in such awe of the people of this place and the broader circle of friends we connect with. How they come together in often quiet unannounced ways. I honor you so very much for your big generous hearts.

with deep appreciation,
 Kizzen

Mother's Day is May 10th
 Remember the Mom!

A Mother's Day Message

Children Learn What They Live

*If a child lives with criticism,
 he learns to condemn...*

*If a child lives with hostility,
 he learns to fight...*

*If a child lives with ridicule,
 he learns to be shy...*

*If a child lives with shame,
 he learns to feel guilty...*

*If a child lives with tolerance,
 he learns to be patient...*

*If a child lives with encouragement,
 he learns confidence...*

*If a child lives with praise...
 he learns to appreciate...*

*If a child lives with fairness,
 he learns justice...*

*If a child lives with security,
 he learns to have faith...*

*If a child lives with approval,
 he learns to like himself...*

*If a child lives with acceptance and
 friendship, he learns to find
 LOVE in the world.*

-author unknown

larger trout getting up to 20 lbs.

So let us bring in the beaver to rescue not only the cutthroat that still live in Sand Creek and many other creeks in our area, but all the other creatures in the river and adjacent forest that will be killed or adversely affected by their poison program. They'll tell us that, like the buffalo, the beavers will spread disease, when actually modern man is the plague of the planet, invasive, evasive and pervasive with their poisons. If Monsanto and the corporate farmers carry through their program to grow GMO alfalfa, they

won't have to poison the rivers, as everything will be sprayed with Agent Orange, unless of course you happen to be "Agent Orange Ready".
Al & Julie Sutherland

No bee poisons

Dear readers of the *Eagle*,
Just a reminder to be very careful to NOT buy bee-toxic plants this season. Also, ask the seller to not sell any plants treated with pesticides. We must protect the few bees we have left!

Carol DeAntoni

Kalisama of Crestone passes

by *Mary Lowers*

Kalisama, aka Lisa Micklin, passed away on Monday, April 27 at her home in Crestone. She left this life after a long and hard fought battle with cancer. Kalisama came into this life fifty years ago in Brooklyn, NY. She died in her bed with her cat, holding friends' hands as was her wish. Her parents and brother had just been to visit. Many Crestone friends and family came by to say goodbye in the last week of her life.

She will be missed by many. Those of us who have helped Kalisama on this journey would like to thank Hospice del Valle, the Crestone End of Life Project, Neighbors Helping Neighbors and individuals too numerous to mention here for the help and support that allowed our dear one to leave us in the way she wanted. A more complete obituary will follow in the June *Eagle*.

Saguache County sheriffs solve burglaries

by *Mary Lowers*

Mason Judson, 31, was arrested and will appear in court on three felony counts of burglary, theft and criminal mischief. It was around March 24 when the Saguache County Sheriff's Department (SCSD) started to receive calls from seasonal cabin owners in the Saguache Park area who returned to their property to find it had been broken into. These cabins were not accessible by vehicle until spring.

Deputy Elke Wells and Undersheriff James McCloskey, after processing the crime scenes for evidence, were able to narrow down possible suspects and vehicles connected to the case. Interviews with area ranchers further reduced the suspect list.

According to the press release, "The use of old but sound crime scene investigation techniques merged with new technologies were

used to solve the case. Satellite images showed the prime suspect lived near all the victim's cabins." Mason Judson was identified as the likely perpetrator.

Armed with search warrants issued for Judson's residents, the Sheriff's deputies recovered the stolen property. According to Undersheriff McCloskey, Judson said he had "a case of the guilts and wanted to make things right with his neighbors." Charges have been filed with the District Attorney's Office.

The Sheriff's office would like people to know there are many new technological items that can help protect remote locations. Trail cameras can be installed. There are now alarm systems that will work without a landline telephone. The SCSD can provide information and suggestions for property security. Call 655-2525 and ask for Undersheriff McCloskey.

Saguache County Crime Report

by *Mary Lowers*

Spring is here and the intoxication of the season causes all animals to behave with certain recklessness. In us humans this is reflected in the increase of speeding infractions logged by Saguache County deputies last month. If the balmy breezes or raging winds cause you to look away from the speedometer, use cruise control, for pity sakes.

In other crime news, a 19-year-old Center woman was arrested and jailed in Saguache on charges of criminal impersonation and failure to appear in court. She was held on \$3000 bail. A Moffat man, 20, was held in the county jail on charges of failure to appear in court. His bail was listed at \$500. A \$1000 bail was levied on a Center man, 21, jailed in Saguache for habitually driving with his license revoked.

Later in the month, a 25-year-old man living in the unincorporated county was delivered a summons to appear in court on charges of third degree harassment. According to the summons he allegedly, was "harassing, annoying, and alarming another man unlawfully striking and touching the victim." In violation of Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) 35-46-105 a county man, 52, was summoned to appear in court to face charges of unlawfully grazing livestock on the road.

Westerners need to stand up for public lands

by *Todd Tanner*

Reprinted with permission from *Writers on the Range*

As Google Earth flies, it's five miles and change from the Echo Lake Café in the Flathead Valley, one of Montana's great little restaurants, up to a parking area at a trailhead that leads to Jewel Basin. Down here in the valley, we're at 3,000 feet. Up where the gravel road dead-ends, you're looking at 5,700 feet. If you make it all the way to the top of 7,500-foot-high Mount Aeneas, you'll be rubbing elbows with some top-of-the-world views, not to mention mule deer and mountain goats.

We're talking about almost a mile of elevation change, yet the amazing thing is that once you leave the valley floor, all that land stretching on seemingly forever belongs to you and me and all of our fellow Americans. It doesn't matter whether you live here in Montana, or in Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico or New Jersey. All that acreage, which is administered on our behalf by the U.S. Forest Service, is ours. We can roam where we choose, we can hike, we can fish the lakes and pick fresh huckleberries for lunch and pitch our tents under all that Big Sky. We're free to wander to our heart's content on public land, and for a lot of Americans, that's an incredible thing.

Whether you actually visit these places in person—go hiking in Jewel Basin or hunt in western Montana's backcountry—is almost beside the point. You still own those places, and you benefit from them, either directly or indirectly, because of all the clean air, clean water and wildlife, not to mention the billions of dollars that our federal lands inject, year in and year out, into our economy. That's a pretty incredible dividend, paid on the principal, or make that the principle, of our public lands.

I'd go so far as to say that here in Montana and across the West, our public lands, which make up 50 percent or more of our states, equate to freedom. Let's make that freedom and prosperity, because almost everything of substance, from our Western heritage to our economy to our recreation, flows from the bounty of our public lands.

That is why it's so disappointing that 51 U.S. senators, every single one of them entrusted with our nation's well-being, recently cast a vote that could help destroy the West—one that could turn over America's public lands to multinational corporations, lock out hunters and hikers, and shift control of our timber, our grazing rights, and our minerals, along with the very lifeblood of the west—our water—to profiteers and foreign interests.

That's right. In an almost entirely party-line vote, 51 U.S. senators just voted in favor of Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski's budget amendment to sell off our public lands, with only three Republicans voting no. Colorado's Cory Gardner was the lone Western Republican to vote no, joining all of the Western Democrats.

The senators won't tell you what transferring these lands out of federal management really means. No, they'll stand in front of their microphones, puffed up and proud, and state that they're for smaller government and state's rights and local control. But once you make your way through the obligatory smoke and mirrors, you come to the truth: This is about power, plunder and money. It's about water, which is the source of all that power here in the West. And it's about the fact that an awful lot of folks back in Washington want to privatize our federal lands.

Montana writer Hal Herring called the vote "an attempt to re-create our country, to vanquish forever the notion that we citizens can hold anything in common. It's a new paradigm, where the majority of Americans are landless subjects with little recourse in the courts or political process."

Now we have an important decision to make. Do we turn our back on this grand experiment in democracy? Do we accept that the future will always be smaller and shabbier than the past? Do we resign ourselves to a world where our freedoms are locked away behind "No Trespassing" and "Keep Out" signs? Or will we choose to fight for what's ours?

Because that's the real question. Will we give up? Or will we as western citizens stand up and defend the America that was passed down from our forefathers? It brings to mind a question that Elizabeth Willing Powel asked Benjamin Franklin following the Constitutional Convention in 1787. "Well, doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?"

Franklin's response still rings true today: "A republic, if you can keep it."

Todd Tanner is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a column service of High Country News (hcn.org). He lives in Big Fork, Montana, and is an outdoor writer and the president of Conservation Hawks, a nonprofit that defends hunting and angling.



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Saguache County News

Peggy Godfrey appointed to Water Conservation District by Sandia Belgrade

The Saguache County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) voted to appoint Peggy Godfrey to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board (RGWCD) for a 3-year term, serving as representative from Saguache to Subdistrict 1. There are five people representing the subdistrict: two representatives from Rio Grande County; two from Alamosa County; and one from Saguache County.

To no one's surprise, water remains one of the flash points for the valley, and it was evident with this Water Conservation District position appointment. The room was filled to capacity which, according to some, seemed an effort to influence the BOCC. Ken Anderson, board chairperson, stated authoritatively at the outset of the meeting that the policy is on record and the board will look at it as they review their policies. Tim Lovato reiterated they will stay with the policy as it exists. The BOCC was not intimidated by the packed room which had political and personal implications, but they agreed to re-advertise the position and accepted letters of interest from any individual residing north of Saguache County Road L who wanted to serve as the Saguache County representative. On April 20, after review, the Board held a special meeting and voted to appoint Godfrey who has been ranching for several decades in Moffat. As a director she will be facing the task of helping Subdistrict 1 solve the depleting groundwater problem.

Subdistrict groundwater management

While some focus on those using surface water and those pumping water out of the aquifer, or see farmers versus ranchers, or personality differences or who pays more, the mandate is to restore water levels in the unconfined aquifer. The first priority of Subdistrict 1 is replacing injurious depletions. That is being accomplished. But not much progress has been made toward the other significant goal: the recovery of the aquifer and replenishment of it to a sustainable level, a concern for everyone in the valley. The water levels of the unconfined aquifer have been rapidly declining and exceeding the total amount of recharge. According to Lovato, the aquifer has been depleted over 1.4 million acre feet. The decline is a result of prolonged drought (2002 was the driest year on record for the Rio Grande) and increased consumption. The current level of groundwater use is unsustainable; yet, Subdistrict 1 keeps over-pumping. The Conservation Resource Enhancement Program of the US Department of Agriculture has approved \$120 million to help pay farmers in Subdistrict 1 to stop farming. The goal is to permanently retire approximately 40,000

acres of farm land. It has a long way to go: they have achieved around 2,000 acres so far. The water table will continue its decline unless the consumption of groundwater is reduced significantly. The reality is that the valley may no longer have enough water to support the abundant farm production it has known.

Child abuse prevention

Linda Warsh, Director of Social Services, introduced a proclamation announcing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The County Commissioners approved the proclamation and dedicated the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child abuse is one of nation's most serious problems. The state statute's definition: "an act or omission where a child is subject to sexual assault, molestation, exploitation, emotional abuse or prostitution; is in need of food, clothing, shelter, medical care or supervision because parent or guardian fails to do so; where child exhibits evidence of bruising, bleeding, malnutrition, burns, fractures, etc. that may not be the product of an accidental occurrence." Every year there are more than 3 million reports of child abuse, involving almost 6 million children. Four or five children are killed by child abuse or neglect each day. Warsh pointed out that our future depends of their thriving. Nurturing relationships and positive parenting improve a child's development and quality of life.

Hiring

Warsh reported that one caseworker abandoned her job. Social Services is now accepting applications for the position of Child Protection Caseworker. Social Services hasn't been fully staffed for three years.

The Firewise project

Daniel Johnson has implemented the Firewise project, funded by Title III, which is now in its 7th year. Title III funds are used to carry out activities in communities providing homeowners in fire-sensitive ecosystems education on, and assistance with, implementing techniques in landscaping that can increase the protection of people and property from wildfires. In his final funding report Johnson noted he has achieved measurable fire goals: he has gone to properties to assess the house and grounds and makes recommendations. He has created a DVD on preparing for a wildfire, allowing residents to make a wise decision about whether to evacuate or stay in place. Thirty-two assessments have been done; 157 homes mitigated. Most homes need some mitigation. One uncomfortable thing he said was that others did not use funding to mitigate as the grant stated. What was done instead was a fire fuel break way out in the Baca Grants. Johnson noted that lightning doesn't hit rabbit brush. The imperative need is to remove trees. He has requested that Baca residents take care of heavy fuels within 200' of a house. For residents the one main thing is to keep the fire on the ground as it goes past.

County Treasurer

Connie Trujillo is looking into online venues for auction sales. Even though she herself likes the

personal approach, Trujillo sees that Tax Lien Sales are being phased into online sales as a wise revenue strategy. She cited Alamosa County which, in its 3rd year, is selling 100% of county tax lien properties, using an online strategy. Trujillo believes that Saguache County can bring in more revenue if we do these sales online and get tax lien properties back on tax rolls. Trujillo was encouraged by the BOCC to look into online auction of County-owned properties.

How does tax sale property work?

County residents got tax notices in January. They have a choice of making one payment by April 30 or two half payments which are due the last day of February and the second half by June 15. A delinquent notice is mailed after June 15. If they still haven't paid, the County advertises the property in October and they go to a tax lien sale in November. Properties become County-owned after being delinquent for 5 years if held by the County.

County Assessor

Pete Peterson, Saguache County Assessor, said the Pueblo computer system is still not fully functional for the Assessor's office. Personnel issues are reported to be ongoing in Pueblo, and it might be wise to back off from them. What makes it difficult is that this is a reappraisal year. The Assessor's office must mail out notices by May 1, so they're having to do a lot by hand. Peterson said the County might do better with another vendor, including one that serves many counties in the state. He is entertaining bids from other software providers and getting bids in line with our budget. Lyn Lambert offered that they might be able to write a DOLA grant to find a system vendor for all counties in the SLV. Peterson won't switch in midstream and will complete this cycle first. It takes time to set it up a new system and a 60-day notice is required to leave Pueblo. The Treasurer's office not as affected, and they don't have the deadlines that are a factor for the Assessor.

President signs Secure Rural Schools Act

Jason Anderson reported that Senate Bill 517 was signed into law on April 16. This bill extends the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and the Community Self-Determination Act or PILT program (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) through FY2016 at FY2011 funding levels. PILT provides federal payments in lieu of taxes to local governments to compensate for losses in property taxes due to non-taxable Federal lands within their boundaries. SRS is very significant for our county, and especially valuable for our schools. Previously the funding was split about 80% for schools and 20% for other entities. It will be 45 days before more information on the money is announced, but the County stands to get retroactive money from 2014 as well as 2015.

Updates from Dan Warwick, Sheriff

Due to recent moisture, Warwick will not seek a resolution at this time to ban burning on red flag days. Of concern, however, are chain saws and burning in barrels, barbeques, etc.; even if a property is between creeks it can burn. Warwick presented the PayMyJailer service to the board. When inmates are re-

leased, this internet-based service sends them a bill and collects booking, boarding and other fees owed. There is a 30-day cancellation period. Deputy Wayne Clark may leave Crestone because he has not found adequate affordable housing. Municipalities are responsible to provide law enforcement, but neither Crestone nor the POA has provided any funding.

ScSEED activities

Julie Mach gave an update on ScSEED, whose mission includes sustainable environment and economic development projects, including:

- * The 15th Annual Ranching Celebration held April 25 & 26 in Saguache featuring local food, poetry, live music, a film at the Ute Theater, art and antique vendors, dinner and silent auction. The event featured emcee Peggy Godfrey and was a fund raiser as well as a celebration of the ranching way of life.

- * ScSeed will sponsor the Crestone Energy Fair and a Biodiesel Conference the weekend of August 21-23

- * They will have a booth at the Crestone Music Festival the first weekend of August

- * ScSEED received an El Pomar grant for small business development and will host workshops to support small businesses and cooperative enterprises that add value to county resources.

Saguache County Public Health 719-754-2773

Alyssa O'Brien and Crowfox Cbristi Fleming, acting co-directors of Saguache County Public Health, reported on their activities and services for Home and Community Based Services. They're part of the public health partnership established in part by a Robert Wood Johnson grant and the Center for Sharing Public Health Services. They have been monitoring chronic and communicable diseases, have worked on emergency preparedness, set up an asthma management plan at Mountain Valley School, promoted tobacco prevention, and provided nursing services such as immunization and vaccination.

Tourism grants

Saguache County Tourism Council offers grant support for advertising by organizations and groups that sponsor community events open to the public. See the grant application at: <http://bit.ly/1GgAQix>

Town of Crestone Crestone Creative Council Youth Work Force



Please contact our
NEW YWF Coordinator:
Gretchen Nelson

719.480-4946

POA board reiterates commitment to clean up Baca blight

by John Rowe

The Board of Directors of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) met as regularly scheduled on March 26. Four board members were present with Matie Belle Lakish being absent, and there were eleven people in the audience. A private board executive session began at 6pm and the regular public meeting began at 6:40 with Vice President Nigel Fuller presiding in President Lakish's stead.

Housekeeping items such as approving the agenda as stated and approving minutes from March 12 passed unanimously. The Member Forum portion of the meeting was short with a brief statement by an audience member that San Luis Valley Electrical Cooperative (SLVEC) planned to install wireless smart meters that can be read remotely in Crestone and the Baca. She alleged that these could be harmful to people's health and

promised to provide the board with more information as it became available. At least one board member stated that this was nothing the POA board had any say in, one way or another, but promised to stay open for more information.

Shawn Hollmer, who heads up the maintenance department, reported that the sprinklers would be turned on at the golf course as of April 1, and that perhaps some of the ponds on the course would be filled as well. This observer has notice that since April 1, at least three of the ponds do indeed have a significant amount of water in them. It is not known if this will be continued throughout the year or under what circumstances. More on this will be included in next month's POA report.

A new recycle center in the west side of the POA parking lot was scheduled to open sometime in April. A large metal container that has been placed onsite and has had

a door and some windows installed will house the new facility. Recycle Creede, who now operates the recycling available twice a month in the parking lot in town, will be operating this center. The POA office can be contacted by those who wish more information.

Eli Dokson, representing the Baca Grande Stables, was present to request \$500 in scholarship money for a summer ride program that has been made available to resident children for several years. The POA has historically supported this program and voted unanimously to approve up to \$500 again this year. Each scholarship is \$50 and last year seven families requested help for a total of \$350 and the remaining \$150 was returned to the POA.

The board unanimously voted to extend YES!'s lease in one of the old charter school buildings owned by the POA.

Director Sugandha Brooks

suggested a leash law sign as people enter the Baca in the community's continuing concern over dogs running loose. POA manager Alison McClure unequivocally stated that the POA cannot do that as there are no leash laws in POA covenants.

Alison McClure reported that the POA has some of its reserve funds currently in CDs that will mature in April. The board committed to investigate the possibility of more lucrative investments that would be appropriate for a public entity such as the POA. Current interest on federally insured CDs now pay well under 1%.

All issues on the agenda were addressed as well as all old and new business. Everyone who chose to speak in Member Forum and on issues being voted on were heard and all appeared to be able to comment to their heart's content. The meeting even finished on time.

POA board hires attorney to aid in the recovery of delinquent dues

by John Rowe

The Board of Directors of the Baca Grande Property Owners Association (POA) met as regularly scheduled on April 12. Four board members were present and Matie Belle Lakish was on vacation. There were ten people in the audience. An executive session was held, starting at 6pm and ending just before 7pm. The public meeting began at 7pm, with Vice President Nigel Fuller presiding in Matie Belle Lakish's stead.

This evening's agenda and the minutes from the March 26 meeting were approved unanimously and the Member Forum was ushered in immediately.

There was much discussion among all participants later in the meeting but not too much in the Member Forum portion of the meeting. A question was brought up about \$8500 being spent to send one of the POA's EMTs to school to become a certified paramedic. It was explained, primarily by Director Fuller, that after Pam Gripp retires this year, residents of the Baca will have no licensed paramedic, widely viewed to be of much concern to local residents. As is common in rural communities, a public entity will often help educate doctors, nurses, and, in this case, a paramedic, in exchange for an agreement that the recipient of such assistance will agree to

serve the community for a period of time. The classes, testing, and time interval to get all this done may take until December. It was not made clear why December was the date given when the testing will be complete in July.

The new business portion of the meeting was dominated by the interviewing of Hal Kyles, a community association attorney, who works for the firm of Orten, Cavanaugh, and Holmes, LLC. Mr. Kyles' specialty is helping HOAs such as the POA, to collect delinquent association fees. Mr. Kyles answered many questions from the board and the audience as to what to expect if the POA should retain him. The discussion was mostly positive and it seemed to this observer that the audience was very receptive to this avenue to recoup some of the approximately \$1,000,000 in unpaid late dues.

The board voted 3 to 1 to hire Mr. Kyles to begin action on 100 properties that are a total of \$162,000 in arrears. This is only a portion of the money owed and past due but the board and Mr. Kyles agreed that this was a good place to start. The results will be reviewed and further decisions will take place at that time. The board members voting "yea" were Nigel Fuller, Bruce McDonald, and Joanna Theriault. Sugandha Brooks cast the dissenting vote.

Director Brooks wanted more discussion on the possibility of taking lots back from owners who would rather give up their lot(s) to the POA than to pay the back dues owed. That issue was left open and not decided upon. The whole collection issue has been a bone of contention with many members for some time and has been brought up at several POA meetings. They are sure to be grateful that constructive action is going to take place.

The other issue dominating new business discussion was brought up by Director Fuller. He is much concerned that a change in the covenants in 1995 may violate state law and therefore anything being voted on by the membership after that date may be null and void. He stressed that while he did not know the answer to that question, he found it paramount to bring the issue to the POA attorney to see where the association stood legally in regards to all that. Both Director Fuller and Director McDonald were adamant about getting the attorney's professional view of this situation while Directors Theriault and Brooks were much more hesitant. Several audience members were quite vocal in that they thought this was clearly an attempt to end lot consolidation and Director Theriault expressed concern about this as well but said

she also had concern about leaving such a weighty issue hanging. A heated though civil discussion ensued with Directors Fuller and McDonald dominating the discussion among the board members and the audience. Directors Theriault and Brooks were mostly quiet during all this. In the end, it was voted by a 3 to 1 margin to take this issue to the POA attorney. Directors Fuller, McDonald, and Theriault all voted "yea" and Director Brooks cast the dissenting vote.

Commercial marijuana growing in the Baca was the other new business issue on the agenda. It was not discussed as all the directors thought it best to table the topic until more detailed information becomes available. This will be put on next meeting's agenda.

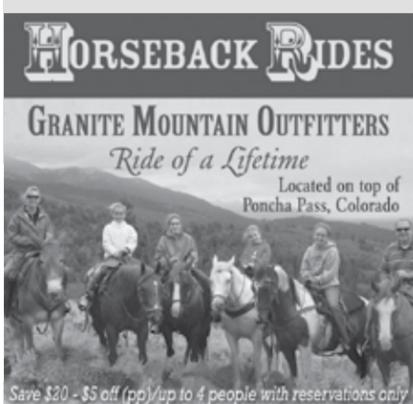
A motion was made and passed unanimously to roll over one POA reserve money CD at the new interest payment of 1.09%. This is higher than last year's payout. The other CD was voted to be put in a money market until June to allow more time to investigate other options.

The collections attorney and ensuing discussion and the question about the validity of some POA voting both took up a lot of time and the meeting ran 40 minutes over schedule.

PROCESS FOR REPORTING DOG VIOLATIONS WITHIN THE BACA GRANDE POA

- Members, residents, guests, employees, Board and Committee members may file a dog at large complaint in three ways:
 - Phone the POA Office at 719-256-4171 and a staff member will record the complaint on the standard complaint form. You will be asked if you were able to take pictures of the dog. If pictures are available, the POA staff will instruct you on how to forward the pictures to the POA.
 - You may email a complaint to info@bacapoa.org. If you choose to email a complaint please include date of the incident, your name, your phone number, your lot number, the location and lot number (if possible) where the dog resides, what you witnessed, and attach pictures of the dog if possible.
 - You may come to the POA and fill out the form yourself. Please bring pictures with you so the staff can download or copy your pictures.
- If a dog acts aggressive, vicious, or bites you, a family member, friend, guest, tenant, or causes injuries to your dog, please call the Saguache County Sheriff at 719-655-2525. Please take pictures if possible. Do not call the Sheriff for barking dogs or dogs at large, they will not respond to those offenses.
- If you see a dog(s) harassing wildlife, please take pictures if possible, and contact the Division of Wildlife at 719-587-6900.

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From the water tank: Clean water

by **BGWS Board Member
Judy DeLuca &
BGWS Operator Chad Tate**

The Baca Grand Water and Sanitation District encompasses a very large geographical area, including Chalets I, II, and III, Casita Park and properties along Road T to Camper Village.

The District's 64 miles of water mains serve approximately 677 service connections in the District.



Booster pump for Well 18, located near the Colorado College complex, pumps water uphill for Chalets I, II, & III.

Casita Park and its environs receives water from the "Motel Well" located behind the White Eagle property, and distribution from that location to 67 service connections occurs

via 6-inch pipes which traverse fairly flat ground. A booster station in that area pumps constantly in order to maintain adequate pressure in the lines.

The water for Chalets I, II and III, however, originates from Wells 17/18 located near the Colorado College Complex and travels in all directions, mostly uphill.

I wondered and sought to answer this question, shared by many, I'm sure:

How does a glass of clean drinking water get from a well located at an altitude of 7,752 feet up to the highest customers whose homes are above 8,770 feet? The answer is complex but I can share my simple version.

However, before we follow our glass of water, it is important to know that the District operates three transfer stations and four booster stations whose functions are to move water; associated with them, there may be storage tanks and/or pump houses. These facilities contain approximately 15 pumps, the workhorses of the operation. During 2014, the average monthly electric bill associated with these clean water facilities was approximately \$7,748.00.

Our glass of water exits the well (18 or 17) and in the booster station it is treated with chlorine per State regulation and with sodium bicarbonate to maintain proper pH. It travels through the South Crestone tank (off Baca Grant Way), then the Moonlight tank and transfer station (near intersection of Moonlight and Peaceful Way), through the Ridgeview transfer station (top of Brookview) to the Brookview tank. This tank is at the highest altitude in the District and holds up to 132,000 gallons



Baca Grande Water & Sanitation District's Cottonwood station.

of water. From there, the Pinecone booster station pushes our glass of water to the receiving home(s).

Some of the challenges associated with the successful delivery of clean water include maintaining and repairing the infrastructure: meters which must be checked, water mains which develop leaks, pumps and/or motors which may fail, hydrants undergoing upgrades, tanks which must be cleaned. The field staff is responsible for these functions and also monitors chlorine, pH and coliforms. Staff is assisted in their work by a sophisticated electronic system, housed in the booster stations, which monitors functions and sends information to the District office. During off hours, the system, SCADA, is set

to detect untoward events and contact via telephone the operator on call. SCADA eliminates the need for a daily visual examination of every facility and improves efficiency.

Water loss from leaks is a challenge with which residents can assist staff. Keep a look out for unusual wet spots on our roads and/or uncharacteristic green areas during the dry months. Report these to the District office (256-4310) and one of the staff will follow up. The staff of Baca Water and Sanitation are committed to their work and service to the community. We appreciate all their efforts and are encouraged to say "hello" as we pass them at their work.






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State of the Crestone & Baca Fire departments

by Mary Lowers

This past month as powerful spring winds blew the topsoil from one side of the San Luis Valley to the other and red flag fire warnings were announced, fire protection became a pressing issue for locals. The three fire departments in the Crestone/Baca area are the Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Department (BGVFD), part of the Baca Grande Property Owner's Association; the Crestone Fire Department (CFD); and the Kundalini Fire Department (KFD), which serves the spiritual centers. The CFD is part of the Northern Saguache County Fire Protection District (NSCFPD), which includes fire departments from all over the northern reaches of the county. Our departments are part of the 336 fire departments, many of them volunteer, in the state.

Most members of these three institutions are volunteers who generously give of their time and energy to protect our community. As you may know, over the past few years the fire departments have experienced upheavals in membership. Many of our firefighters have moved out of the area or have quit due to political situations. The purpose of this article is not to dwell on the past but looking forward into what has become increasingly known in the western US as fire season, to look at where our fire departments are in terms of protecting our community, homes, livestock and families.

Baca Grande Volunteer Fire Department

The BGVFD, under the leadership of seasoned fire fighter Chief Chris Botz, has twelve active members including four new recruits. Botz told me, in addition to nineteen BGVFD members who hold "red cards" the new recruits already have their "red cards", from the first and most important fire fighter training course. There's one fire fighter out of the country on leave of absence. The age range in this department is from late twenties to sixties; "With our level of training we can safely defend life and property," Chief Botz told me confidently.

The BGVFD sports an impressive list of individual qualifications and trainings. According to BGVFD Captain Robin Durrance, "In 2014 the department focused their trainings on community incident response and operations, personal safety, geography and most especially on the maintenance and operation of compressed air foam systems." Chris Botz explained to me this foam system "lays down a wet line in which the foam greatly slows down the fire before it reaches homes." The Chief sees this area as having "seasonal fire departments" that are fighting structural fires in the cooler months and wildfires starting in the spring. A structural fire a few weeks ago northeast of Villa Grove, to which Baca Grande and Crestone departments along with other fire fighters in the NSCFPD were called out, was caused by a space heater left on in a cabin. The cabin was lost but the firefighters were able, in this blustery time of year, to stop the fire from spreading to field and forest.

Training is an ongoing task

for firefighters according to all three departments and district representatives I spoke with, keeping firefighters up-to-date and in shape to defend their neighborhoods. All three of our fire departments list an array of qualifications and certifications. These include wild lands and structural fire certification. Due to a cheating scandal on the eastern slope the structural fire fighter certification program is being revamped to a three-year recertification as opposed to a yearly recertification policy. This works in favor of small rural fire departments and fire districts such as ours because all these helpful and necessary certification programs take time from volunteers' lives and cost money. Adding up information from the firefighters I spoke with, it seems most of our firefighters at one time or another have taken structural and wildfire trainings, at least at the beginner and intermediate levels. Each department has members with more training and experience fighting wildfires in and out of our region. As Captain Durrance says, "What makes a fire incident go better is training."

The BGVFD has regularly scheduled trainings year round. According to Captain Durrance BGVFD is now training on the first and third Tuesdays of the month and two Saturdays. Attendance is good at trainings. These trainings make actual fires safer for fire fighters and residents. Captain Durrance told me "It generally takes forty minutes from the time a fire starts to the time a 911 call comes into the dispatcher." Chief Botz is perusing more training opportunities for the department including a smoke-reading course which allows firefighters to predict from a fire's smoke color and volume the heat and intensity of a fire. The department will also be participating in NSCFPD training with other departments including the CFD. The San Luis Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association trains together quarterly. Chief Botz said, "This training keeps our mutual aide response vital and sharp."

Getting funding for volunteer fire departments is a full time activity. The BGVFD has applied for three recent grants, one state- and two federally-funded. These grants were written and submitted by Chief Botz. The departments also benefit from a federal Title III Grant. Grants largely fund fire departments' safety, equipment, and training needs. Captain Durrance, who will be taking a grant-writing workshop, explained that "when equipment becomes outdated it can be replaced through grant funding."

Crestone Fire Department

The Crestone Fire Department serves the Town of Crestone, is a member of the NSCFPD, and is called out by central dispatch for other fire situations in the district. According to Wes Moores, head of the NSCFPD and Acting Chief of the CFD, there are currently eight active members in the department. Longtime CFD member Warren Stephens told me age range in the department is between 65 and 35 years of age. While the department in Crestone has seen some changes

this past year and no one in the department felt like taking on the role of chief, there are well trained and dedicated fire fighters in the CFD. They are leery of politics but fully committed to protect their town and district. Longtime department member Nathan Good told me three department members have intermediate weather certification, one firefighter has Structural Certification II and one has Hazmat certification. Good said of the CFD active members, "We have forty training certificates between us."

The Crestone department has members with a lot of experience in wildland fire fighting, in and outside the district. According to Stephen, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) certification is offered by CFD every year and the Crestone and Baca departments are talking about doing a mutual training soon. The CFD did meet monthly over the winter and are gearing up for more training. Stephens pointed out, "we came off winter and have been called out on three fires in three days." Real fire experience, fire fighters seem to agree, is more valuable than any class or training. Chief Moores told me the CFD will benefit from a \$6,777 VFA grant for training and equipment.

Kundalini Fire Department

The Kundalini Fire Department (KFD) is not part of the NSCFPD. It is a 501(c)3 organization affiliated with the spiritual centers around the Baca Grande. While not officially part of the district, the KFD works with all area fire departments to protect the community. The chief of the KFD is long time Crestone/Baca resident Peter May. We discussed how fire protection has changed since the 1990s when, if the fire bell sounded, residents and firefighters gathered together to deal with the emergency. Fire fighters now must be affiliated with a fire department. Increased organization around fire protection and professional trainings have brought us to a time when, as Chief May said, "we have a higher rate of safety and commitment among our firefighters."

Chief May, who is qualified to conduct many important fire training classes, sees that local fire fighters, while generally only having entry level training on structural fire fighting, are on target there. He sees the threat of wildland fires as greater than the threat of structural fire for us. In a community like Crestone/Baca where we are surrounded on three sides by public forest and grasslands, the wildfire threat is large and can be addressed by more experience and training of firefighters and residents. As Chief May pointed out to me, "We don't just occupy the ecosystem we are in; we are a part of it." We need to get to know the forest and how we can live here safely and without much harm, or how we "live on this planet and in this place." Chief May and Chief Botz both encouraged residents to mitigate their property for fire safety. Mitigation allows not only structural protection but also creates known pathways for fire fighter to get to more remote parts of our area quickly. A mitigated

property is easier to defend against wildfire.

The KFD is in its twenty-first year as a department. There are seven active members in the department. According to Chief May they are working with the NSCFPD to get called out to fires by the dispatcher. They have a truck up at the spiritual centers at the southeaster end of the Baca Grande. They conduct regular trainings with members of the various spiritual centers and local departments. "We have folks training diligently," Chief May says, "but nature is fickle and we have only been here around 100 years so we don't really know if we are adapting to fire correctly."

Northern Saguache County Fire Protection District

With his NSCFPD Chief hat on, Wes Moores explained that fire departments in the district are trained to be the first out for wildfires that may start in the area. This initial attack function is vital as it protects us and holds the fire until crews can get here from elsewhere. This summer the NSCFPD board has authorized funding to send firefighters to trainings held in Salida for wild land fires and Pagosa Springs for structural fires by the Colorado Fire Academy. Moores along with everyone in the firefighting community I spoke with wishes we had more firefighters. Everyone knows it is difficult to make a living in Saguache County and it is hard to make time to be a firefighter what with extra costs, meetings and trainings. "We can't guarantee all firefighters will be in town when we need them on a district page out," Moores told me; therefore the more the better. It seems that the BGVFD, CFD, and KFD have about two to three "cross-over" members who are on the roster of more than one department.

New members welcome

Life experience along with firefighting experience is as valuable as training for firefighters. Captain Durrance pointed out that members of the BGVFD who are knowledgeable in the fields of plumbing and construction can be a huge help in structural fires. Longtime residents who join one of the departments can help with knowledge of the area. All three departments need more members and all encourage people who are invested in the community and in reasonable physical shape to join a department. Fire fighting is a real tangible service to our family and neighbors. It could save our homes and forest.





Alison, Malana and Oriana create huge bubbles during the celebration.



Uma Long having fun with paints at the "Earth Day Celebration."



Aurora, Jazzy, Ada and Ziggy havin' a blast. photo by Lori Nagel



Ashleigh Deffert, Monet Meisman & Krystle Smith having so much fun with their contributions to this lovely creation in the town park. Crestone Creative Council (CCC) supplied primer, paint and brushes for completing the "half-pipe" skate ramp murals. They also brought along art supplies and trash bags for a general park clean-up. This was an all-day Earth Day celebration & potluck, held on Saturday, April 18. photo by Lori Nagel



Simone & kids help out on the park and skateboard ramp project.

Global Youth Service Day volunteers improve Crestone's Town Park

by Lisa Bodey & Ara MacDonald

Our deepest gratitude to everyone who turned out to make Earth Day-Global Youth Service Day a success in Town Park. The purpose of this event was to encourage our community to take ownership of our local Town Park and provide healthy activities for all ages. The energy and collaboration of our community blew us away:

- All ages park clean-up
- Teens organizing the Free Box
- Artists painting the skate ramp
- Children creating art to raise environmental awareness
- Musicians playing and singing together
- Fire spinning classes, yoga, relaxing, skate boarding, biking, face-painting . . .

- Sharing a meal together
- Crestone Creative Council supplies & donations
- The Singing Stone praying & singing on the ceremonial drum

The park was buzzing with high vibrations, laughter and joy throughout the day. Community Service is supposed to be fun and connecting. Let's continue to inspire each other and come from a heart space in our interactions with each other.

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+ August 7, 8 & 9 +
Crestone Music Festival
+ 2015 +

Sensational acts abound!

by Tom Dessain

Crestone Performances Inc. is proud to announce that the regional performers are booked for the 17th Annual Crestone Music Festival, August 7, 8, & 9. The festival will be held at the Baca Grande Golf Club in Crestone Colorado. It's a three-day, two-stage, multi-genre, multi-cultural event with a kids' zone, family activities, all-age contests, arts & crafts, international cuisine and great libations. So here goes the Multi-genre, multi-cultural, multi-cool list . . . bongo roll please.



Global Soul Experience funks it up on Friday.

+ Friday +

Opening for Lunar Fire on Friday is **Global Soul Experience**. With music to move your hips and a message to free your mind, Global

Soul Experience is a groovalicious fusion of original funk, R&B, hip-hop, roots, Samba, Salsa, West African and Afrobeat, seamlessly blended into a soul-stirring, hip-shaking, heart-opening, family-friendly musical feast! The band has three female singers whose harmonies are drop dead gorgeous and that combined with stellar musicianship, exemplary songwriting, and more than three decades of professional performance experience combine to make this multi-cultural, multi-generational band truly unique and an audience favorite!

Friday also features the return of one of last years' favorites, **Intuit!** Intuit is a band that draws on different influences for an eclectic sound. The core of

the 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 both bowed and plucked. That combined with drums, percussion, bass, electric guitar and original music, make for a very unusual and exciting sound and feel. Come hear it and feel it for yourself Friday afternoon.

Headliners!
Lunar Fire
Robben Ford
Young Dubliners

Friday night features Lunar Fire, a multimedia trans-cultural musical spectacle with spectacular dancers, fire dancers and world class musicians who glide smoothly from structured song to improv exploring Latin hip-hop, tribal drumming and gypsy rock.

Saturday night will feature 5 time Grammy nominated, renowned guitarist, Robben Ford. Robben began his career supporting harmonica virtuoso Charlie Musselwhite. He then joined the historic fusion group Tom Scott & The L.A. Express and began touring with Joni Mitchell. Ford went on to record and tour with the likes of Bonnie Raitt, Bob Dylan, Phil Lesh and a host of others. By the time he joined the Miles Davis' group in the '80s, he'd developed a signature approach based on an axis of blues, jazz, pop and rock.

Sunday features the legendary, Irish/American rock force, the Young Dubliners! The Young Dubliners consider themselves to be ambassadors of Celtic and American rock. The band members' dual Irish and American heritage has always resulted in a distinctive and richly varied musical palette.



Crestone favorite Intuit is back on Friday.

+ Saturday +

On Saturday don't miss **Todo Mundo**. Todo Mundo won the "Best World Music" band at the 2014 San Diego Music Awards.

They tour throughout Mexico and the U.S. With band members from all over the world, different cultural influences have become naturally infused into Todo Mundo's sound. They sing original songs in both Spanish and English with a mix of musical styles that include Rumba, Reggae, Samba, Bossa Nova, Balkan and Middle Eastern. This seven piece band includes horns, and with the rhythm section, they create an energy that is off the charts. Catch them Saturday opening for Robben Ford at 6pm.



Todo Mundo will Latin you up on Saturday.

Before Todo Mundo comes a new comer "**Mama Magnolia.**" Best described as Soul Rock, this six-member group from Denver consists of 2 horns, guitar, bass, drums and a vocalist that pushes hard on that "Oh yeah, sing it Mama" brain button! With a love of shifting meters, polyrhythmic structure, evolving harmonies and complex dynamic shape, you could almost call this jazz—and you wouldn't be too far off. Most of the members hold a degree in Jazz Performance. But that education just served as the jumping off place for their soulful groovin' evolution. Yes, Mama Magnolia is your guide through a mesmerizin' an' tantalizin' musical landscape. Don't miss them on the main stage Saturday.



Mama Magnolia will get soulful on Saturday.

Beth Quist is back! She is our very own multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and composer. She began playing piano at age two and has toured with Cirque du Soleil and sings with Bobby McFerrin's Voicestra. Her music combines influences from the Balkans, the Middle East, and India. She teaches Turkish, Greek, Bulgarian, and Indian Raga singing, improvisation, music theory and keyboard. Her passion also extends to a love for permaculture. Catch this unusual and compelling artist and her talented friends Saturday afternoon.



Beth Quist. photo by Rick Cummings

Aventa & Crestone Performances offer youth scholarship

CPI and Aventa Credit Union are offering scholarships to Saguache County students who want to further their education in the performing arts. This includes music, theater, voice, dance, or other. Scholarships must be used for performing arts costs and expenses for instruments, lessons, camps, workshops, etc. Each school has also received guidelines for applicants. The 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 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. The 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, 2015.
- A purchase request detailing use of the funds will be required.
- A parent or guardian's signature is required.
- One submission per person, per year.

The deadline to apply is Monday June 1, 2015. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. For questions call 719-256-4533 or e-mail us at: info@crestfest.org. Mail application to Crestone Performances Inc., PO Box 6, Crestone, Colorado 81131.

And why not a good ole' Country, Southern Rock band. Early Saturday afternoon will feature **Sandy Wells**. With a hot band backing her up, Sandys' powerful and sultry voice is the perfect conduit for her original music. Music that raises strong emotions yet keeps your foot tapping. She leaves it all on the stage when she plays and everything she feels come out in her music. "People love music because it's honest. Music doesn't lie, it can't, it comes from way too deep a place. Human Nature, Life, we all live it, we all feel it, good, bad, happy, sad!" Sandy Wells.

+ Sunday +



Gipsy Moon appears on Sunday.

Opening for the Young Dubliners on Sunday will be **Gipsy Moon**. Their sound is something like a backwoods hoedown meets the smoking basement of a New York jazz club. Soothing harmonies, raging solos and dirt encrusted bass lines bring an old time style into an exciting new dimension; one that hippies and poets, lovers and dancers, freaks and families alike can all come together and enjoy. They have been touring with and opening for one of our favorite bands from the past, Elephant Revival. Hey . . . they're hot . . . don't miss them . . . OK!



Logo Liji is back for Sunday.

After a year away, **Logo Liji** returns with their authentic drum and dance troupe from Ghana. The name of the group comes from the Ghanaian language of Ga and translates as 'to tickle or excite.' Logo Liji consists of musicians and dancers who have studied Ghanaian music for many years. The three drummers are professors from CU Boulder who teach African drum and dance. Music is used in African communities for ritual

ceremonies like weddings and births, as well as for the everyday celebration of life and social engagements. In sharing Ghanaian culture, they hope to inspire through the use of contagious rhythms, joyous songs, and exhilarating dances.



The Rifiers will lay it back on Sunday.

Back after several years off, we have the ever popular **Rifiers** featuring Don Richmond! The Rifiers, in their own words; "play music that comes from where we come from—both from the high desert and mountain landscape of our home and from the background and experiences of our lives." They are sort of a laid-back, high-energy gentle giant, old blue-buffalo-grama-grassy, cowboy, folksy, shake-a-leg with a smile sort of thing. See them Sunday Afternoon.

Be sure to check out the June *Eagle* for our local act line-up!

+ Apply Now +

last chance for local acts

The deadline for local acts to apply for the 17th Annual Crestone Music Festival is May 10. Only 9 slots will be available this year for locals to perform, so get it to us. Local means that half the act lives in or has a house in Saguache County. The range of submissions, over the years, has been between 9 and 22, so competition could be fierce. Selection will be based on quality and popularity with consideration also given to new acts that are also of high quality. Please present us with your best stuff. If you are musicians, we need good recordings that showcase your music. Dancers need to submit good video. Whatever you do, show it well so we can be as objective as possible. Applications are available at local stores, at the CMF office and on-line at crestfest.org. We are interested in any performing art including music, dance, drama and comedy. Locals get paid \$25 each with a maximum of \$100 per act. They also get in free on their day of performance. The application is mandatory and should be postmarked by May 10th. You can also drop it off at our office at 120 W. Silver Ave., Suite 104 which is the former Secret Garden location. Applications should be posted to: CPI local, PO Box 6, Crestone, Colorado 81131. You can call 719-256-4533 for more information.

Get your Early Bird Tickets

Tickets prices have been frozen from last year and our early Bird discount is in full swing. Please go on-line at crestfest.org and order your tickets or call our office at 719-256-4533. Prices are: Under 12 free, teens are \$10 a day or \$25 for the weekend. Adults are \$25 for Friday and Sunday and \$35 for Saturday or \$70 for the weekend. Seniors are \$15 for Friday and Sunday and \$20 for Saturday or \$40 for the weekend.

last chance local vendors!

The 17th Annual Crestone Music Festival is accepting applications from local vendors for this years' festival August 7-9. Categories include food, arts and crafts, healing, merchandise or other. Applications are available at local businesses, at our office and on-line at crestfest.org. The application is mandatory and should be postmarked by May 10. You can drop it off at 120 W. Silver Ave., Suite 104 which is the former Secret Garden location. Applications should be posted to: PO Box 6, Crestone, Colorado 81131. You can call 719-256-4533 for more information.

last chance for T-shirt designs

T-shirt designs are now being accepted for the 17th Annual Crestone Music Festival. We pay \$200 for the accepted entry plus two weekend passes 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 also. It does not have to be fully completed for us to review it as the general idea and look will be enough to start with. Entries should be post-marked by May 9. Please mail submissions to: CMF T-shirt, PO Box 6, Crestone, Colorado 81131. For more information or to discuss your design, please call 719-256-4533 or drop by our office at the old Secret Garden across from Aventa Credit Union.



The magnificent Blue Rooster will get you up dancin' for Safiya!

Benefit for Safiya Balekian Hearthfire Memorial Blue Rooster at Cloud Station May 9

by Joanna Dokson

Safiya Balekian, a well loved community member who passed away September 2013, was a co-founder and board member of the Atalanta Project, a 501(c)(3) non-profit located in Crestone. Atalanta, whose vision statement is "learning to live with personal responsibility in peace and harmony with all creation," is raising funds to commemorate Safiya's vision of Atalanta as a "hearthfire" project, and to enhance Atalanta's ability to serve the greater community and the world at large.

The idea of a hearthfire project comes from the ancient hearthfire community that literally kept the hearth fire burning for outlying settlements. When an outlying settlement needed to replenish its own fire, a runner would travel to the hearthfire community to gather an ember to bring back home. This concept has evolved to encompass replenishing the fires of culture, wisdom and healing for individuals and communities.

Atalanta has developed plans to build a park pavilion on the Atalanta property for gatherings, events, workshops and other yet-to-be-determined purposes. This pavilion is named in Safiya's honor because of her belief in beauty, nature and the power of gathering together in community. Safiya was

a founder, director, and a mover-and-shaker in many Crestone projects such as Y.E.S.! (Your Empowerment Solutions), Crestone Peak



Safiya Balekian

Community Housing, Crestone Adventure Camp for youth, the Energy Fair, and other community art, youth and family initiatives.

Safiya's involvement with Atalanta began in 1981 when she and Joanna Dokson met in Santa Cruz, California. Safiya moved to Crestone in 1994 in order to bring Atalanta's vision to life.

Come dance and party to the rock & roll and blues-infused music of the new hot local band, Blue Rooster, on Saturday, May 9 at the Cloud Station, starting at 7pm. \$10 at the door to benefit the Safiya Balekian Hearthfire Memorial. See you there!

Saguache County Museum & American Legion celebrate Memorial Day May 23 & 24

On Saturday and Sunday, May 23 and 24, enjoy a pancake breakfast held in the Otto Mears Park Pavilion, 7-11am to kick off the Saguache County Museum's opening for its 57th season.

Saturday: The American Legion Garcia Post #0010 hosts the annual Saguache Memorial Day Celebration with "Senior Veterans Remembered". At 11am the parade begins with family fun for everyone. From 9am to 4pm food, fun and art vendors will be in Otto Mears Park.

Events at the Ute Theater, on 4th Street in Saguache, begin at 4pm. Tickets are \$10; children 10 and under are free. Acts include: Veterans & students in a question & answer forum; historical vignettes performed by local actors; a digital slideshow of local servicemen and women; and The Reveille 3 Andrews Sisters tribute act, a musical extravaganza. All of this is sponsored by the American Legion and the Saguache Recreation Board.

Sunday: The Saguache County Museum's new exhibits include Bunker Site artifacts, cameras, and, spoons, jars & bottles; along with new books and local crafts in the gift shop. Admission: \$5/adults, \$1/children under 12.

A sloppy joe lunch will be served in the Saguache Community Building on May 24, 11am-1pm. This is a museum fundraiser at \$5/plate.

Other events on May 24 include: food & vendor booths in Otto Mears Park; an all-day garden party at the Hazard House Museum with historical vignettes and tours; and belly dancers in the park at 1:30pm. Afternoon in the museum yard includes live music, pioneer crafts, and face painting.

Cozy Castle Cinema opens for business in Saguache

The Cozy Castle Cinema, located at 401 4th St. in downtown Saguache, opened its doors on April 17. The opening was a great success. Cozy Castle Cinema will operate year round showing first-run movies and foreign films. First run movies will be shown every weekend. All showtimes are Friday 7pm, Saturday 4pm and 7pm, and Sunday 7pm. In addition to first run films, the cinema will also showcase foreign films the first Thursday of every month starting at 7pm.

Cozy Castle Cinema features amazing digital cinema, 7.1 surround sound, all carpeted floors, high back rocker chairs, extended leg room, and a fully stocked concession stand. All this plus a warm, inviting, cozy atmosphere.

Cozy Castle Cinema owners Scott and Pearl Alexander want to thank the community for their awesome support and good wishes during the construction phase. If you haven't had the chance to experience a movie with us yet, come by the cinema, sit back and enjoy the show. You won't be disappointed.

For feature film and showtime information, call the movie hotline at 719-221-4159.



Cozy Castle Cinema

FIRST-RUN MOVIES & FOREIGN FILMS
401 4TH STREET SAGUACHE, CO
MOVIE HOTLINE 719-221-4159

The Memorial Day Celebration in Saguache

Please come and join the Town of Saguache in this year's Memorial Day scheduled events. The American Legions Garcia Post 110 will be working with the Saguache Community to ensure this year's Memorial weekend will be respectful and enjoyable for everyone. The weekend will begin with a Museum pancake breakfast in the Otto Mears Park on the morning of Saturday May 23rd. Vendors will also be in the park from 9 am to 4 pm on both Saturday and Sunday. The Garcia Post, in conjunction with the Towns Parks and Rec. Board, will be hosting this year's Parade on 4th Street at 1100am on Saturday. Following the Parade the Garcia Post will have hot dogs and hamburgers in the park until 4 pm. As the vendors in the park wind down, activities will shift to the historic Ute Theatre with a variety of activities ranging from vignettes on military history, readings of veterans letters from home, questions from area students to local veterans on their experiences and the internationally acclaimed Reveille 3 tribute act reenacting Andrews's sisters performance. There will also be an actual images of veterans, many from the area, from WW I to date on the big screen as well as actual military uniform and equipment displays. There will be food, fun and entertainment for all. If anyone would like to have something in the parade or set up a booth in the park please contact us:

American Legion
Garcia Post 110
PO Box 395
Saguache, CO 81149

OR

The Town Hall
Saguache, CO

515-480-1636 or 970-275-0439

ALMA PRESENTS

Crystal Yates

Thursday, May 14 @ 7:00 p.m.

The Roast - 420 San Juan, Alamosa



Cover Charge: \$10 General

\$8 ALMA Members

\$5 Students/Seniors/Volunteers



Crestone Artisans Gallery news: May flowers & art abound!

by *Moira*

Late snows and wishful thinking have finally brought the spring we've been waiting for. May represents "Anniversary Month" for the Crestone Artisans Gallery and with it comes a plethora of art events and celebration.

Our artists have brought in numerous gift items for moms and sweeties alike: felted heart coaster sets from Moira, art cards, mug sets from Helen, gift bags and journals from Carrie Caverly, additional earring sets from Dancing Elk Designs and more. Whatever your budget we have something that will make another's heart sing while supporting your local artists to keep sharing their talents here a little longer!

We welcome new bead artist, Carolyn Victoria, who's thoughtful stone mala combinations are a joy to hold, wear, gift or keep.

Our talented members invite everyone within reading distance

to join us on May 22 for our Annual Anniversary Celebration from 5-7pm. Wine, cheese, music, art, (did I mention cheese?), will all be in abundance as we ring in yet another summer season of fun, art and beauty for Crestone. The musical talents of CB Jazz will set the tone for the evening. Moira will be present for updates on the recent Colorado Creative District convening event that took place in Ft. Collins last month.

As Crestone seeks to create a statewide brand for itself as a vibrant, emerging Creative District, we welcome input from all on how to expand our artistic and creative image. So come on by on the 22nd and share your thoughts!

Knock on our newly brightened gallery doors and inhale the sweetness of our emerging gardens. Check out this month's featured artist at www.crestoneartisansgallery.org. Spring hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 11am to 5pm. We look forward to seeing you! 719-256-5280.

Happy Mothers' Day movie night

In honor of Mothers' Day, Crestone Performances will present the controversial comedy cult classic *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. The show will be Friday, May 8th at the Crestone Charter School. Doors open at 7pm with homemade chili, drinks and popcorn.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner stars Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn and Sidney Poitier. The story is about two young people who fall in love. The glitch comes when one is the handsome African-American doctor John Prentice (Sidney Poitier) and the other is the idealistic white Joanna Drayton (Katharine Houghton). The upper-class liberal Draytons (Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy) and working class Prentices (Beah Richards and Roy Glenn) are thrown into a tizzy, but everyone must figure out what to do during an impromptu dinner at the Drayton's fancy home. Eventually, ultimatums are cast, the mothers function as fonts of wisdom, and everyone must figure out how to live and love in a changing world. Released in 1968, this is the first movie to delve into the social bias of interracial marriage. The film is both humorous and poignant. The movie earned ten Academy Award nominations, winning two for best actress and screenplay and received seven Golden Globe nominations.

This is a continuation of our Friday Movie Night fundraiser held every second Friday of each month. It's been fun so far and the fun goes on with this groundbreaking movie. Suggested admission donation is \$5 for adults and \$2 for teens. But wait! Become a member of Crestone Performances for \$50 or more a year or \$5 or more a month and get in for free that night! You can even make a pledge to become a member and get in free. CPI annually produces the Crestone Music Festival, now in its 17th year; has produced free school performances for over 13 years; and provides free production and consultation to other organizations. For more information, please contact us at 719-256-4533, see our web site at crestfest.org or write to CPI, P.O. Box 6, Crestone CO 81131. CPI is a 501(c)3 community service organization. All donations are tax deductible.

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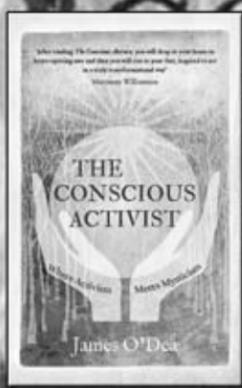
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KTTG offering to the community

KTTG (the folks that take care of the Tashi Gomang Stupa and the surrounding retreat cabins) invites anyone who is interested in learning basic Calm Abiding and Mindfulness Meditation. This will be an opportunity for anyone who has wondered about this basic Buddhist (and other traditions') meditation practice to learn the technique and have the advantage of practicing together in a group. There will also be time put aside for questions related to meditation and anything that may come up in this practice. This opportunity begins Tuesday, May 5, at 6:30-8pm in the shrine room at the back of the driveway of 243 Baca Grant Way. We will continue to offer this thereafter every Tuesday, same time, same location.

For further information or to let us know of your interest please call Zoe de Bray at 360-370-7770 or Mark Elliott at 256-4764 who can also give you directions, if needed.

Two workshops with Láné Sáan Moonwalker offered

Wisdom of the Flicker

Riparian Environment Series, Part 9

This beautiful woodpecker has been loved and respected by the first peoples of Turtle Island for hundreds of years, both for mitigating the insect population and being a benefit to the environment. They are seen as a signet bird for healers because of the way they work with the environment. In the modern world they are sometimes seen as a pest because of their tendency to

build nests in wood siding, though this can be worked with by understanding the flicker. We will be working on building a beneficial relationship with these beings.

Saturday, May 16 from 9:30 to 4:30. \$75 or \$140 for both workshops. To register and for location call Dorje Root, 719-937-7786, or dorjoroot@yahoo.com.

Working with Feathers as a Sacred Tool

Feathers have inspired people throughout the ages. They not only help us connect with specific birds, but they also connect us with sky energy. Feathers traditionally have been used to assist in prayer. In this workshop we will be working with feathers to help us align with the masculine creative energy known as Father Sky. Bring several feathers (large and small) as well as craft supplies (check with Dorje for specific suggestions).

Sunday, May 17 from 9:30 to 4:30. \$75 or \$140 for both workshops. To register and for location call Dorje Root, 719-937-7786, or dorjoroot@yahoo.com

- Energy Healing • The Journey*
- Herbal Medicine • Classes & Herb Walks
- House Clearings

Láné Sáan Moonwalker
Wisdom of the Flicker
May 16th
Working with Feathers
Sacred Tool 17th

Dorje Root,
RH (AHG)
Herbalist /
Intuitive Healer
719-937-7786
dorjoroot@yahoo.com
www.rootsofhealing.com



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Scholarships for Crestone locals to attend ElementsCamp for Kids

by Peter May

As we are excited to be offering ElementsCamp for Kids 2015, we want to be sure that every kid who would like to attend not be limited by funds. We therefore are creating a special scholarship fund for local kids to attend this year's ElementsCamp for Kids. As mentioned in last month's article, this year we will be offering the Awakening the Natural Genius program.

Last year, more than 75% of the local kids received full or partial scholarships. This year we expect more local kids to be interested in coming, and it is our goal to raise about \$7000 more to be able to offer scholarships for everyone who needs one.

This year, we will be offering

an ElementsCamp for Kids T-shirt or a PranaCamp T-shirt to people who donate \$275 or more to this fund.

If you would like to make a huge difference in a local kid's life, please donate to this scholarship fund by sending a check to E3 KFM, PO Box 686, Crestone, Colorado 81131. As E3 KFM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, all donations are tax-deductible. If you would like to donate another way, or help us with camp preparation, please email us at elementscamp1@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone who donated last year, and thank you in advance to everyone who is donating this year. Your support is really making a difference in our kids' lives!

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Scholarships for Crestone Locals

50% Scholarships for 18 local kids: \$4,950.00
100% Scholarships for 3 local kids: \$1,650.00
Scholarships for Special Extended program: \$3,975.00
TOTAL TO BE RAISED: \$10,575.00

RAISED TO DATE
THRU DONATIONS AND GRANTS
\$3,500.00

GOAL: \$7,075.00 BY JUNE 1, 2015

Send donations to E3 KFM, POB 686, Crestone, Colorado 81131
Elementscamp1@gmail.com

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Republican Annual Spring Fling Fund Raiser

You are invited! On Saturday June 6 at 11am the social hour and silent auction opens at the Mountain Valley School. Lunch will be served at 12:15 (Adults \$25, Kids 12 & under \$10).

Enjoy a meal of beef brisket or baked chicken, baked potato with butter and sour cream, green beans, dinner roll, green salad with Italian or ranch dressing. Drinks are iced tea, lemonade and bottled water.

Featured speakers are Congressman Scott Tipton and State Senator Larry Crowder.

To RSVP contact Wyoma Hansen at 719-655-0299 or Mike Cowan at 719-655-6202, or e-mail to: info@saguachegop.com no later than May 15 with your choice of beef or chicken. Please make checks payable (no later than May 15) to: Saguache County Republican Party, Ed Nielsen, PO Box 55 Saguache, CO 81149 www.SaguacheGOP.com.

Attention regional artists

Come join us in Gunnison celebrating the 41st annual Art in the Park by exhibiting your original fine art and crafts in a beautiful mountain setting. The event will be held Sunday, July 26 at the Legion Park in Gunnison, Co. The park is right on Highway 50. This one-day show attracts thousand of local followers and tourists.

Sponsored by the Gunnison Branch of the American Association of University Women, there is no screening cost. A registration fee of \$80 is due upon acceptance. The fees help us fund local scholarships and community projects. Call 970-641-4230 or email aauwartinthepark@yahoo.com to request information and a registration form.

New library presentation & spaghetti dinner May 17

The Crestone-Baca Friends of the Library are sponsoring a spaghetti dinner and presentation on a preliminary design for a new library in Crestone. Dinner begins at 6pm on May 17 at Cloud Station. After dinner, local architect Burt Wadman will present his design ideas. A question and answer session will follow. Board members from the Northern Saguache County Library District will also be collecting written comments (pencils and paper will be available) on the design concept.

Estate sale & tea May 7&8

There will be a special benefit event on Thursday and Friday, May 7 and 8 from 2-6pm each day at the home of Moira Forsythe on N. Chaparral Way. Estate jewelry and other items of the recently departed Mary Palermo will be available for purchase. Let's convert their energies into useful cash for Vince and allow their beauty to continue on with new owners. The sale includes beaded Indian artwork pieces, fine jewelry items, vintage Baltic amber jewelry and more.

Light refreshments, tea and coffee will be served. Call 719-221-2334 for more details.

Free landfill day May 9

Randal Arredondo, Supervisor of Road & Bridge and Landfill, announced a free landfill day on Saturday May 9, from 8am-3pm. May 16 is the alternative day in event the wind is blowing too hard. There will be a weight limit of 1000 lbs with a charge for overs.

Restrictions: no tires, no hazardous waste. Electronics that are banned from disposal include: computers & computer monitors, printers, televisions, fax machines, DVD & VCR players, peripherals such as keyboards & mice, radios & stereos, video game consoles, laptops, notebooks, ultrabooks, netbooks & tablets. The website, www.saguachecounty.net/index.php/departments/landfill, lists places where these materials can be recycled.

Tedd & Tarantulas at the Ute, Saguache, May 1

This little ol' acoustic band might be the best kept secret in Colorado. The Tarantulas play powerful original music with an insight that is hard to find nowadays. Made up of three players from different parts of the world who now reside in Crestone, Teddy Brumm is the primary song writer while Eli Dockson, a talented writer in his own right, adds a different slant on his compositions. Joining on bass is John Hefty. John is a consummate bassist, constantly bettering his craft. Come hear the band and I am sure you will agree.

Recycle Crestone opens May 2

Recycle Crestone will be open for use to the public starting May 2 and will be open 7 days for your convenience at the POA location. Pick ups will also continue to be in parking lot in Crestone the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 10-2. Thank you for all your support. For questions you can also call 303-913-5961.

Commissioner available in Crestone 2x monthly

Commissioner Jason Anderson will hold office hours in downtown Crestone in the former restaurant building on the corner of Galena and Alder on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, 9am-1pm, schedule permitting.

Tea Circle May 6

Tea Circle is Wednesday, May 6th at 4:30, -pot luck supper at 6 pm...save the date, you are invited!

What is a Tea Circle gathering?

Being Together. Grow community w/ conversations of the heart - transformational.

Part 1: tea served in a circle

Part 2: personal expression

Part 3: respectful dialogue

Please bring a cushion to sit on and a teacup (for the circle), --(and a plate/bowl & spoon for the potluck.)

RSVP (please reply-yes or no so we know how to prepare), Paul 719-256-4656 (for questions and directions)

Saturday Market starting in May

The Crestone Saturday Market is now forming. We are seeking vendors of art, crafts, local produce, food, musicians, children activities director. Volunteers are needed, too! Please contact annlachman@gmail.com if you want to be a vendor, and/or if you want to help out.

NHN annual yard sale May 30

Once again Neighbors Helping Neighbors is having its annual yard sale. The Elephant Cloud said we could use their porch again this year. Save your stuff and bring it the morning of May 30 (Sat.). We will be there by 8:30, setting up.

We have had a tough year this year and can really use your help in making this a success. donate and shop and help your neighbor.

CB Village potluck May 3

The next Crestone Baca Village potluck will be at Don and Pat Tullos' house Sunday May 3, 1pm.

The Tullos' residence is located at 383 N.Chaparral. That is between Palomino and Panorama, going uphill.

Saguache County Museum opens Sunday, May 24

The Saguache County Museum opens Sunday, May 24 for its 57th season. New exhibits include Bunker Site artifacts, cameras, and spoons, jars & bottles, along with new books and local crafts in the gift shop. Admission: \$5/Adults, \$1/Children under 12.

Enjoy pancake breakfasts held in the Otto Mears Park Pavilion, 7-11am, Saturday & Sunday May 23 & 24. Sloppy Jo lunches will be served in the Saguache Community Building on Sunday, 11am to 1pm. These events are museum fundraisers at \$5/plate.

Other events on May 24 include: food & vendor booths in Otto Mears Park; an all-day garden party at the Hazard House Museum with historical vignettes and tours, plus belly dancers in the park at 1:30pm. Afternoon in the museum yard includes live music, pioneer crafts, and face painting.

Don't Miss a Trip to The Saguache County Museum
on Hwy 285 in Saguache
Open daily: May 24 through mid-September 9am to 4pm
Open for special groups until mid-October
Admission \$5.00 adults- children 12 and under \$1.00

Happy Mother's Day
to
Nakia & Erin
Two wonderful loving Moms
xoxoxo

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram Annual On-Line Auction Fundraiser - FINAL DAYS TO BID May 1st, 2nd & 3rd!

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To Bid on the 125 items or call 719-256-4108



Community Calendar—May 2015

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

Friday, May 1

- Teddy & Tarantulas at Ute Theatre – Ute Theatre

Sunday, May 3

- Ashram Annual Online Auction Ends 8pm www.biddingforgood.com/babajashram 719-256-4108
- Full Moon – All Day
- Full Moon Fire Ceremony & meal Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am free babajashram.org 256-4108
- Riwo Sangchö: smoke offering (outdoors) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-10:45 am
- Drop-in Meditation – Choying Dzong 11am-1pm
- Don Richmond at Great Sand Dunes Visitor Ctr. 3-5pm www.nps.gov/grsa 719-378-6399
- Brendon O'Brien Memorial 7-10pm byob 928-202-0609

Tuesday, May 5

- County Commissioners meeting Saguache Cty Courthouse 9am www.saguachecounty.net 719-655-2231

Thursday, May 7

- Estate sale & tea Forsythe residence 2-6pm 719-221-2334

Friday, May 8

- Movie Night – Crestone Charter School 7:00 pm \$5 for adults and \$2 for teens 719-256-4533

Saturday, May 9

- Free Saguache County Landfill Day 8am-3pm www.saguachecounty.net/index.php/departments/landfill
- S. Balekian Memorial dance – Cloud Station 7:00 pm \$10

Sunday, May 10

- Mother's Day – All Day
- Monthly Sampai, Shumei Sanctuary 10:30am-noon Free www.shumeicrestone.org 719-256-5284

Monday, May 11

- No. Sag. Co. Library Dist. mtg, Sag. Pub. Library 9-11am <http://nscld.colibraries.org> 719-655-2551

Wednesday, May 13

- Northern SLV Conservation Roundtable all day
- Dakini Tsok (Vajrayana communal feast) – Choying Dzong 6:30 pm-8:30 pm
- Monthly Crestone End of Life Project open meeting – The Topping House 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Thursday, May 14

- Sufi Dhikr & Potluck – 4:00 pm-6:30 pm free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290
- Intuit performs – Cloud Station 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 16

- Wisdom of the Flicker – 9:30 am-4:30 pm \$75 719-937-7786

Sunday, May 17

- Working w/Feathers as a Sacred Tool – 9:30am-4:30pm \$75 for both workshops 719-937-7786
- Drop-in Meditation – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-1:00 pm
- New Moon Fire Ceremony & meal, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram 10am Free www.babajashram.org 719-256-4108
- Occupy Love, movie & discussion on senior services gap, Cloud Station 2-4:30pm www.occupycrestone.us
- Dinner & Presentation on new Crestone Library – Cloud Station 6:00 pm

Monday, May 18

- New Moon – All Day
- Riwo Sangchö: smoke offering (outdoors) – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-10:45 am

Thursday, May 21

- Benefit Cut-a-thon for Cathy Amenta – His and Hers Beauty Salon 9am-7pm 970-222-6030

A free society is a place where it's safe to be unpopular. -Adlai Stevenson

Saturday, May 23

- Saguache Memorial Day celebration – Downtown Saguache All Day
- 13th Anniversary celebration, Shumei International Institute all day free www.shumeicrestone.org
- Vision Quest – The Singing Stone all day \$70 to \$120 or offering www.thesingingstone.com 719-256-5307 or 937-1331

Sunday, May 24

- Saguache County Museum opening – Saguache Co. Museum 7:00 am

Thursday, May 28

- Rumi Study Circle all welcome 4-6pm Free or by donation nurashkijerrahi.org 719-256-4290
- Guru Rinpoché Tsok (Vajrayana communal feast) – Choying Dzong 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Saturday, May 30

- Well-Being Celebration – Challenger Golf Course All Day 719-937-3308

Sunday, May 31

- Drop-in Meditation – Choying Dzong 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday, June 5

- Retreat w/Latri Khempo Nyima Dakpa Rinpoche, Chamma Ling All Day <http://colorado.ligmincha.org>

Saturday, June 6

- Camino de Crestone pilgrimage – All Day www.caminodecrestone.com
- Republican Annual Spring Fling Fundraiser – Mtn. Valley School 12:15 pm Adults \$25, Kids 12 & under \$10 719-655-0299, 719-655-6202

Saturday, June 13

- Storytelling by Company of Players – Cloud Station 7:00 pm \$10 719-937-3308

Sunday, June 14

- Storytelling by Company of Players – Cloud Station 2:00 pm \$10 719-937-3308

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
- Jyorei, Shumei Sanctuary, please be seated by 7:50am and 5:50pm, 256-5284
- Tours, gallery and Jyorei, Shumei, 9am-5pm, 719-256-5284
- Evening Aarati, Haidakhandi Universal Ashram, 6pm, 256-4108, info@babajashram.org, www.babajashram.org

Sunday

- Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Crestone Town Hall 7:00 pm-8:00 pm 719-937-7769

Tuesday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5:00 pm-6:45 pm By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668
- Basic Mindfulness Meditation instruction & practice KTTG shrine room, 243 Baca Grant Way 6:30 pm-8:00 pm Free KTTG.org 360-370-7770, 719-256-4764
- Narcotics Anonymous open meeting marijuana users welcome Baca Library back door 7:30 pm-8:30 pm crestonena@gmail.com 970-309-0710

Wednesday

- Yoga Fundamentals & Refinements Shakti Sharanam 8:30 am-10:00 am By donation shaktisharanam.com 719-256-5668

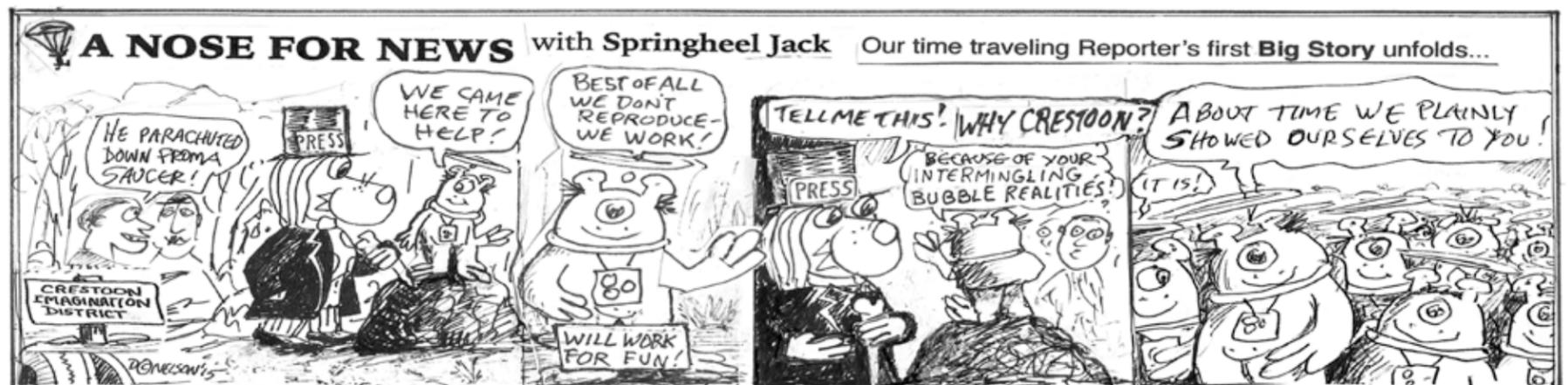
- Crestone Food Bank Crestone Town Hall 1-3pm
- Yoga n' Soak Joyful Journey Hot Springs 5-6pm \$10 class \$10 discounted soak 719-256-4328
- iNtEgRaTiVe Yoga YES Bldg next to library 9:15 am reduced package rates 719-298-0360
- Gentle Flow Yoga YES Bldg next to library 11:00 am-12:30 pm 719-298-0360

Thursday

- Continuing Ashtanga Yoga, Mysore Style Shakti Sharanam 5-6:45pm By donation 719-256-5668

Saturday

- Dorje Trolo Practice White Jewel Mountain 10:00 am-noon no charge 719-480-5403
- Song Ceremony in the Lakota language 3-5pm www.thesingingstone.com 719-256-5307



Easter Egg Hunt & celebration



Bella Chambers, Luna Blue del Amor, Raven Cabeza-Willis, and Malana Ramadei hangin' out on the tree swing at Robin Blankenship's. photo by Lori Nagel



The eager children all line up to get ready for the Easter Egg Hunt. photo by Lori Nagel



The children gather around Ryan Johns as he creates an animated storytime adventure for them, as they patiently wait for all the goodies to be hidden. photo by Lori Nagel

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"Life-affirming and life-transforming"

Our Global Village: Shumei's 13th Anniversary celebration May 23-24

The Shumei International Institute will celebrate its 13th Anniversary over the Memorial Day weekend, May 23-24 this year. All events will take place at Shumei's main campus on Dream Way Rd., require no advance RSVP, are free and open to the public.

In Asian culture anniversaries are often milestone celebrations. For Shumei the annual anniversary is an opportunity to express our gratitude to the Crestone community, reflect on the previous year and plan for the next. Shumei is entirely funded by generous donations from individual members, many of whom are from Japan. Our anniversary is also an opportunity to express

our gratitude to our donors. In keeping with this tradition we host guests from around the U.S., Japan and the world, some of whom are visiting Crestone for the first time. Sensei Tamao Koyama who will travel from Shumei's headquarters in Japan, will be our guest of honor and will lead the Saturday evening sumpai for world peace and Sunday morning's anniversary sumpai.

The weekend's events will begin on Saturday at 1:30pm with an interfaith gathering. One of the primary reasons Shumei chose to have a presence in Crestone was to learn about and engage with the unique collection of spiritual traditions that have a presence in our community. This year some of



Members from Shumei's Los Angeles-based Makoto Taiko will perform again at this year's 13th Anniversary accompanied by singer songwriter Madi Sato.



Offerings are meticulously prepared for Shumei Sumpais. They, along with Ikebana floral arrangements, symbolize art and the beauty of nature.

these groups will gather together to share about the rituals, songs, ceremonies and practices that are at the heart of their traditions. This annual interfaith gathering is unique and a rare opportunity to learn about your neighbors. No matter how long you have lived here, I promise you will learn something you did not know and walk away inspired by the community you live in.

Also on Saturday, members from Shumei's Los Angeles-based Makoto Taiko will be coming to Crestone and performing along with special guest singer and songwriter Madi Sato. The day's activities will culminate in a special world peace

prayer sumpai in which we will join our intentions, voices, hearts and minds with Shumei centers around the world to pray for a world free from poverty and strife.

Sunday begins with the anniversary sumpai lead by Sensei Tamao Koyama at 10:30am. Following the sumpai there will be a special presentation and a luncheon that Shumei offers free to the public as an expression of our gratitude to the community and all of our guests.

Shumei's philosophy is centered on the practice of jyorei, art and beauty and Natural Agriculture. We offer jyorei daily at our morning and evening sumpais or

- Our Global Village -

Shumei Natural Agriculture Projects Worldwide

Saturday May 23rd 2015

1:30pm

A variety of Crestone's spiritual groups will share from their traditions in the Shumei Sanctuary

3:30pm

Come experience the power of Taiko at the Shumei Amphitheater

6pm

Sumpai prayer for world peace at Shumei Sanctuary



13th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday & Sunday May 23rd, 24th

Sunday May 24th 2015

10:30am

11am Anniversary Sumpai at the Shumei Sanctuary

12pm

A delicious and healthy community lunch provided by the Shumei Staff

Garden Open 1 - 3pm

1:30 - 3pm

Art Exhibition in the Shumei Gallery

Shumei International Institute, 3000 East Dream Way Road, P.O. Box 385, Crestone, CO 81131, 1719-256-5284, www.shumeicrestone.org



Overwhelming welcome and gratitude from Zambian farmers and villagers at a Natural Agriculture gathering in Pemba prefecture. 2015 will mark the tenth anniversary of the Natural Agriculture gathering held in Mbabala prefecture in Zambia where there are now more than 8,000 farmers involved in Natural Agriculture cooperatives.

anytime people may wish to experience it. Shumei hosts and promotes art events throughout the year in the form of concerts, art symposia, exhibitions and other special events. And we have 3 gardens in the community dedicated to the practice and development of Natural Agriculture. What people may not know is that Shumei's practice of Natural Agriculture spans the globe.

Shumei's Natural Agriculture projects worldwide

The theme of Shumei's anniversary this year is "Our Global Village". In keeping with this theme the art exhibition at this year's anniversary will feature photos from some of Shumei's

Natural Agriculture projects worldwide. The photos, taken by Shumei's Director Alan Imai, staff photographers and Bill Ellzey will feature the people, nature, wildlife and crops being grown using the Natural Agriculture method. Shumei currently has projects in Zambia, Nepal, the Philippines, Brazil, Madagascar, Italy, the UK, Germany, Turkey. The exhibition will open the weekend of the anniversary and there will be a reception Sunday afternoon following the public luncheon. See the ad in this month's *Eagle* or visit www.shumeicrestone.org for a complete schedule of this year's anniversary events.

Phurpa—the action manifestation

Retreat with Latri Khempo Nyima Dakpa Rinpoche June 5-7 at Chamma Ling

The Phurpa is one of the five supreme deities (known as the Yidam Sekhar Chognga) of Yungdrung Bön, in the Father Tantra series. The Phurpa is the manifestation of the action aspect of the Enlightened One.

The practice of Phurpa is meant to connect us with this deity at a deep level, through meditation and receiving the power of wisdom and energy. By using the pure quality energy received from the Phurpa, a practitioner can transform and balance negative energies with the focused intensity of a thunderbolt. This most powerful energy can help us deal with negative energy of others, dissolve our own internal fears and life struggles, greatly strengthen our healing energy, and developing inner peace and self realization.

Transforming our karmic energy into Phurpa's wisdom energy is simple and powerful. With such strengthened energy, it becomes easy to dissolve any negative ener-

gies or imbalances that are causing harm to others, our community, the environment, or ourselves.

This teaching is from the text Walphur Nagpo Dragpo Tingzog of Walbon Tagla Meber, a disciple of Chime Tsugphud. The latter is the prior incarnation of Tonpa Shenrab. He is also a source of all the Tantric (Tibetan Sang Ngag) teachings.

During this Phurpa retreat, Rinpoche will talk about the history of "Yidam Phurpa." He will teach two methods of meditation on the Phurpa, and how to receive direct power and energy from the Phurpa. You will learn how to transform your ordinary energy into the Phurpa's energy power to balance negative energies, and increase your healing energy, and develop inner peace and self-realization.

This retreat is open to everyone. Register early, as seating is limited to 25 participants. Email Peter.ChammaLing.Crestone@gmail.com.



Phurba
The Action Manifestation
Retreat
With Latri Khempo Nyima
Dakpa Rinpoche

June 5 - 7, 2015

At Chamma Ling, Crestone, Colorado
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Register at Colorado.Ligmincha.org.
Seating is limited.
Peter.ChammaLing.Crestone@gmail.com

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PROFILES IN MUSIC: BETH QUIST

After recording & touring with Bobby McFerrin, & singing & playing with Cirque du Soleil, the remarkable Beth Quist calls Crestone home



Beth Quist, Crestone resident and music festival performer.

photo by Ron Dessain

by Eli Dokson

Beth Quist first connected with Crestone in 2009 when a friend invited Beth to park her RV for a visit. The visit morphed into a performance at the Crestone Music Festival, and Beth has been calling Crestone home on-and-off ever since. She is now a full-time resident, and we will once again be able to hear her at this summer's music festival!

If you have experienced Beth's music, then you know how unique, eclectic and talented she is. Her four-octave vocal range and multi-instrumental virtuosity can be heard in her Middle Eastern and Eastern European-inflected original tunes as well as the traditional and classical compositions from Turkey, Greece, Persia, and India (to name a few international influences) that she loves.

The piano was Beth's first instrument. At age two she was playing the themes from *Batman*, *Star Trek* and *Doctor Zhivago* that she

heard on TV, so when she was a little older, Beth's parents wisely signed her up for formal lessons. She studied piano from age six through her college years at CU Boulder, where she majored in classical piano and also provided improvisational piano accompaniment for modern dance classes. But at age 19 Beth attended a Balkan music camp in Mendocino, California, and the direction of her life changed dramatically.

Beth discovered that the modal scales, microtonal bends and vocal breaks found in the traditional folk music of Eastern Europe resonated deeply. And little did she know that the improvisational skills she had developed would lead to a life-long association with ten-time Grammy award singer, songwriter and conductor extraordinaire, Bobby McFerrin ("Don't Worry, Be Happy").

When a friend of a friend of Bobby McFerrin's manager passed on Beth's CD of original compositions, it was not only her voice but her experience with creative improvisation that landed her a gig with McFerrin's improvisational vocal group, Voicestra. Appearing on three Voicestra albums and a number of world tours, Beth was then tapped to be lead singer in the Cirque du Soleil show "KA" at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, which she did for three years (2004-2006) before returning to Voicestra for a European Tour. The thrill of performing while sometimes being suspended 65 feet in the air was just not enough to keep Beth in Vegas.

Hearing Beth perform at the Crestone Music Festival, which I have done three times, is a rather mind-blowing experience. I can't figure out how she sings like she does while alternately playing keyboards, her guitar (tuned like a Turkish saz), a flute and her hammered dulcimer, while at the same time using a foot pedal to play percussion on a cajon with one foot and a riq (a traditional Arabic tambourine) with the other!

If you get a chance to hear Beth perform you really should. While Beth still performs and records, she is focusing these days on composing and music licensing. Beth is also a certified permaculture designer and is spending more and more time following her life-long love of plants and gardening, so catch her if you can!

Another wonderful purveyor of music in our little town. Thank you!

For more info on Beth's music, visit www.bethquist.com.



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Congratulations Graduates! Best of Luck!



Richard Rose at the Hardware



Jade Montoya at Bob's Place

Memorial Day is a time for remembering those that died in service to this country. It was originally called decoration day. Please take some time to visit the cemetery and pay some respects to the veterans that called this community home.

Happy Anniversary

-The Crestone Mercantile Grocery opened its doors on May 10th, 2010. We would like to thank the community for its continued support.

It has been quite an experience for us all.



Grocery Store

Who We Are

Karen Acker; Teaching & learning life

by Gussie Fauntleroy

There's something Karen Acker never told her students, but now she can. Now that she's retiring as language arts and humanities teacher for Crestone Charter School's LINK program (Learning Independent Kids, grades nine through twelve), she can admit: She hated school as a kid and almost flunked out of sixth grade. A mean-spirited sixth grade teacher who made her academic experience miserable didn't help. But somehow—and this is the spunk and spark that contributes to Karen's status as a beloved and highly respected teacher—during the summer before seventh grade, she had an epiphany. "I said: It's my decision how smart I am and who I am as a learner. It's my decision." Happily, good teachers the following year reinforced this conviction, and soon she was, as she puts it, "one of those teenagers under the covers with a flashlight and a book."

A meandering path

The daughter of an agronomist father and stay-at-home mom, Karen grew up in various parts of Colorado. Following high school she enrolled in fashion design and merchandising at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, having been raised with 4H and a sewing machine. But her creativity and independent sense of style recoiled at being required to make a conservative wool skirt she knew she would never wear. She switched majors after her first class in an elective early childhood education course, thanks to the woman she calls the most significant teacher of her life. "She loved the child and taught me

how important the child was," Karen remembers, sitting in the sunny living room of her Casita Park home. "The impression she left was ultimately what, circuitously, got me into teaching."

That meandering path suddenly became straight a few years later in Ketchum, Idaho. By then she was married and had two young sons and a small wearable art business creating one-of-a-kind clothing. One night she was at work at her sewing table at about 4am when she abruptly knew, deep down, that it was time for a change. She set the fabric down, found a huge box and placed everything in

it—half-finished projects, materials, even her sewing machine. She duct-taped the box shut and vowed never to return to it. "I felt like I was not contributing anything to the world," she explains simply. The next day at a Valentine's party she saw a friend who taught at a private school and told the friend she wanted to teach. Two days later she started a new career.

Falling in love with know-it-alls

After working as a private school K-6 tutor and librarian for about three years, and as her marriage was breaking up, Karen visited friends in Crestone. She met other young families who, spurred by the state's charter school legislation, wanted to start a new school. In 1993 Karen and her sons moved to Crestone and she became intensely involved in the effort. "We were all studying, researching, reading and debating education. It was such an exciting time," she says.

Within a few years of the



Karen Acker

photo by Linda Drish



Karen with her sons, Hunter (left) and Journey, on the occasion of Hunter's wedding near Lake Tahoe in 2013.

Crestone Charter School's 1996 founding, the high school level was added and Karen found herself not only designing the LINK program (along with Pat Scott), but teaching high school for the first time. "It was hard. It was one of the greatest learning experiences of my life, learning to teach belligerent, know-it-all teenag-

pen but red for marking papers is symbolic of her respect for the students. "She sat down with me and said this is what you need to do to make this great," he remembers of a paper he wrote. "The biggest thing to be said about Karen is that she gets excellence out of us. She sees it in us and helps us realize our own excellence."

Hard work and trust

That trait has been especially visible over the years in student theater productions, an integral part of LINK's academic program. Working alongside professional actor/director and Crestone resident Bill Roberts, Karen has expressed her lifelong love of theater through hands-on involvement in every aspect of the school's always well-received productions. "I can't say enough about Karen. It's inconceivable how much energy she put into it," Bill says. The admiration is mutual. "I had a great time. I loved working with him and what we came up with, with the kids," she says.



Karen lights candles at a small shrine while traveling with a Crestone Charter School LINK trip.

ers—that I fell in love with," she says, laughing. Twenty years later she wouldn't trade the experience for anything. Neither would her students. "One of the things that makes Karen so special is just this fire in her heart that never seems to die down. I've seen it die down with a lot of other teachers," says Rowan Lyford, a junior who was Karen's student for three years. "She's a life teacher, not just an academic teacher."

That quality is intentional on Karen's part. "I've always said I feel like social, emotional and spiritual growth comes first, and if you can support that for a child—of any age—the academics will come," she reflects. "If they can learn to trust you as a person, they'll be willing to open up to their own vulnerabilities. You're telling them they're okay where they're at." For senior Ben Potter, Karen's use of any color

In January, Karen was diagnosed with breast cancer and had to step back from teaching just months shy of her planned retirement. The notes she received from students following her diagnosis contained one word more often than any other, she says—trust: "I trust her. She's there for us." Now it's Karen who is learning to trust in new ways as she undergoes a year of treatment. "I know I'm only given what I can handle. I know I'll be given what will direct me in the next phases of my life," she says. In this phase and throughout her career she has come to understand the value not only of teaching, but also of being taught. "They taught me it's okay to be humble, and they taught me to be the best I can be," she says of her students. "If I'm asking that of them, I need to be that also."

Gussie welcomes ideas for this ongoing series on Crestone area residents: gussie7@fairpoint.net.



One of Karen's favorite places to be: in nature.

The Sri Aurobindo Learning Center

On sincerity

"A sincere heart is worth all the extraordinary powers in the world."

This spring, all around Crestone, spiritual centers are planning their summer retreats. Seekers and students from far away are planning their travel schedules. We look forward to this time of learning to go within more deeply, and our aspirations are intense. There is, however, one quality that is essential and sometimes overlooked in our fervor: sincerity.

"Sincere is simply an adjective meaning that the will must be a true will. If you simply think "I aspire" and do things inconsistent with the aspiration, or follow your desires or open yourself to contrary influences, then it is not a sincere will. To be absolutely sincere, straightforward, open, is not an easy achievement for human nature.



"It is only by spiritual endeavor that one can realize it—and to do it needs a severity of introspective self-vision, an unsparring scrutiny of self-observation of which many yogis even are not capable and it is only by an illumining Grace that reveals the sadhak to himself and transforms what is deficient in him

that it can be done. And even then only if he himself consents and lends himself wholly to the divine working.

"The one condition of getting rid of things is an absolute central sincerity in all the parts of the being, and that means an absolute insistence on the Truth and nothing but the Truth. There will then be a readiness for unsparring self-criticism and vigilant openness to the light, an uneasiness when falsehood comes in, which will finally purify the whole being. The most important thing for the purification of the heart is an absolute sincerity.

"No pretense with oneself, no concealment from the Divine, or oneself, or the Guru, a straight look at one's movements, straight will to make them straight. It does not so much matter if it takes time: one must be prepared to make it one's whole life-task to seek the Divine. Purifying the heart means after all a pretty considerable achievement and it is no use getting despondent because one finds things in oneself that still need to be changed.

"If one keeps the true will and true attitude, then the intuitions or intimations from within will begin to grow, become clear, precise, unmistakable and the strength to follow them will grow also: and then before even you are satisfied with yourself, the Divine will be satisfied with you and begin to withdraw the veil by which he protects himself and his seekers against a premature and perilous grasping of the greatest thing to which humanity can aspire."—*The Integral Yoga*, Sri Aurobindo's Teaching and Method of Practice, pg 116-7

Reading, discussion and meditation on the work of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother follow a potluck meal every Tuesday evening. The community is invited to join us at 83 Baca Grant Way at 6pm. Call 256-4917 for information.



Only 3 more days to bid on ashram on-line auction! Go to www.biddingforgood.com/babajiaashram.org before May 3 at 8pm MT to place your bids.

Haidakhandi Universal Ashram news

by Ramloti

We have had another great month at the ashram with lots of activities and visitors.

We also had the opening of our 7th Annual on-line Auction Fundraiser on Friday, April 24. It will continue running through this Sunday, May 3, closing at 8:08pm Mountain Time so there is still time to place your bids. We had great bidding on many of our 125 items so far but the final day will see the most bidding.

We have some amazing items this year including: a signed basketball by the NBA leaders, Golden State Warriors; an original pottery bowl by Bertha Gotterup; artwork by Rita Berault; and two JD Marston framed fine prints. We also have many items from our local community, including body workers, dental, restaurants, consultations, all of the local hot springs, and bed and breakfast. They are great values and go to support the ashram.

To view the items go to www.biddingforgood.com/babajiaashram. If you have friends that may want a remarkable 11-day stay for two at the award-winning healing sanctuary in Thailand or other wonderful items and adventures, please refer them to the website above. You can also refer friends on the site as well. Everyone's help has made this a big success over the years and it has become a big part of the ashram budget, so please spread the word. Thank you so much for your support.

Our full-moon fire ceremony this month is on Sunday, May 3 and the new-moon fire ceremony is on Sunday, May 17. The fire ceremonies begin at 10am and are followed by a meal. Morning aarati is at 7am and evening aarati is at 6pm. A heads-up for summertime: our children's camp with a concurrent workshop for adults will run

from Tuesday, July 21 through Thursday, July 23 from 10am until 1pm daily. The children's camp is a free offering to the community from the ashram. A parent or guardian needs to be on the ashram premises at all times, however.

The Maha Lakshmi Shop is well stocked and ready to serve you. The shop is open every day from 10am until 5pm. We invite you to come in and if you mention that you are an *Eagle* reader, we will happily give you a 10% discount on your non-sale purchases. We deeply appreciate your support. You may view some of what is in our shop on our website at <http://mahalakshmiashram.com>.

For more information about the ashram, please visit our website at www.babajiaashram.org where you will find a calendar of upcoming events, many stories by devotees, writings about Shri Babaji and the Divine Mother, and the ashram 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.



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इहक्ती इहारानाल टटल

Crestone Company of Players show their art of storytelling

by Ammi Kohn, Kelly Hosner & Richard Collier

Storytelling is a favorite entertainment choice for Crestonians who will be treated to yet another theatrical event by the talented and dedicated Company of Players on Saturday, June 13 at 7pm and a Sunday matinee June 14 at 2pm. Proceeds from the suggested donations will be shared with the Friends of the Library.

The Company of Players are expanding and stretching Storyville to present new, originally crafted, one-act plays and masterful monologue performances. The ensemble is using their history as collaborators to upgrade both the level of performance and technical presentation of this production. Storyville will be presented for the first time at the Cloud Station on a raised stage. Improved lights and sound are the hopes of stage manager Holly Hosner.

Always finding ways to support the creativity of group members, the cast of characters that continues to fuel the artistic juices of the Company of Players has transformed from a writer/producer, director and cast model, where each had their role: Ammi Kohn as

producer/performer, Richard Collier as director/performer and seasoned actors like Findley Demko worked following directions. That was the set-up in the first production of this group about the Lama Foundation performed at Shumei in 2009. But in response to actors, performers and writers of Crestone, a new paradigm required changes to this model, more collaborative with artistic growth at the center, a model that allowed for more flexibility. Findley will present a *Death of Neruda* about Chilean poet and Nobel Peace Prize winner Pablo Neruda. Richard Collier is expanding the role of music by collaborating with fluteman Bruce Becker in a piece entitled *My Cousin's Story*.

Local artists wanted to grow and explore their work in a new environment. The group prides itself on consensus decision-making and honoring the different creative styles of its members. Some pieces are self-directed, others use the input of group members in the formative stages, others are written by the group in performance. The desired outcome is to storytell, to get across an experience in an entertaining way. The process keeps expanding.



Company of Players Richard Collier, Kelly Hosner and Ammi Kohn.

Kelly Hosner has been a favorite in many Company of Players productions over the years, telling stories she has written. In this production she will take on some very interesting characters expanding on the theatrical charm by creating a wildlife creature with costume and make-up for a scene conjured with fellow thespians Jennifer Thomson and Dean Lloyd. Ammi and Findley will explore the adventures of *A Blind Date* in a simple coffee shop setting. Many other warm and comedic moments will be shared by this band of talented community members in this new original presentation at a new venue for Storyville, the Cloud Station, in downtown Crestone. Tickets will be sold at the door; suggested donation is \$10. For additional information call Holly at 719-937-3308.

atures of *A Blind Date* in a simple coffee shop setting. Many other warm and comedic moments will be shared by this band of talented community members in this new original presentation at a new venue for Storyville, the Cloud Station, in downtown Crestone. Tickets will be sold at the door; suggested donation is \$10. For additional information call Holly at 719-937-3308.



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Atalanta Cooperative Garden has openings for new members

by Joanna Dokson

The Atalanta Cooperative Garden has openings for both working and non-working members this year. Located on the north bank of Willow Creek, the garden is in its 16th year on the Atalanta project land. The garden has been producing food for members as well as the Food Bank and La Puente each summer with the help of working members. No non-organic pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers are used in the garden.

A wide variety of veggies are grown each year from asparagus to potatoes, greens to tomatoes, peas and beans, peppers and radishes, carrots, garlic, onions, leeks, shallots, parsnips, squash and herbs.

An orchard is being established with apple, plum, and cherry trees and berry bushes. Members may also purchase eggs and goat milk from Atalanta.

Members can sign up for 1/2 or full shares. A full working share is \$100 and a non-working share is \$250. A full share is generally enough for a family of four. Share contents and amounts change and increase throughout the growing season. Non-working members have their shares delivered while working members take their share home after harvest each week. Working members help with planting, harvesting and maintaining the garden which is watered by soaker and drip irrigation on timers.

We are looking forward to another productive and fun year. The asparagus, rhubarb, horse radish and garlic are already showing their heads. Call for information and to sign up: 719-256-6200, Joanna.



Youth at the Baca Grande Stables having a great time learning about horses.

Baca Grande Stables offers Summer Children's Riding Program

by Joanna Dokson

The Baca Grande Stables' 2015 Summer Children's Riding Program for children ages 6 to 15 will begin the week of June 22. Please note that there will be two sessions in June and three sessions in July. Session 1 will be June 22-26; Session 2, June 29-July 3; Session 3, July 13-17; Session 4, July 20-24; Session 5, July 27-31. 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 has generously agreed to underwrite a portion of the summer children's riding program in order to reduce the cost of lessons for local residents who demonstrate financial need. With the POA subsidy, the full cost of \$150 per weekly session will be reduced to \$100 for eligible students.

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

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

2015 Crestone Day Camp

Brought to you by:
Crestone Youth Plaza (CYP),
Saguache County Commissioners
with The Town of Crestone,
Parents, and COmmunity Donors

Session One: June 8-June 25
Session Two: July 13-July 30
Mon-Thurs 10am-4pm

Questions?
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Community Calendar

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<<	S	M	T	W	T	F
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	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10	11	12	13	14	15
	17	18	19	20	21	22
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(719) 256-6200 Joanna and Eli Dokson

Enjoying Everyday Life Pitiful or powerful?



by Joyce Meyer

Learning to get our minds off ourselves and bless others

Do you want to be happy—I mean, really happy? I believe that deep down we all want to be happy and enjoy our lives. We can spend a lot of time and energy trying to do things that will make us happy, but our own efforts will never truly satisfy us. That's because God doesn't want our minds to be on ourselves all the time. He wants us to look past the things that are happening in our own lives and reach out to others and bless them. Because when our focus is on ourselves, we can end up feeling sorry for ourselves and face the danger of self-pity.

I used to have a real problem with self-pity. I felt sorry for myself because I'd been abused by my dad, and sometimes I felt sorry for myself when my husband, Dave, got to go out and play golf while I stayed home with our kids. I wasted so many days having pity parties for all types of reasons.

In the first few years of our marriage, Dave tried to keep me happy, while I carried on with a bad attitude. But one day he finally told me, "You know what? I'm not spending my life trying to make you happy. You can get happy or not get happy, but I'm going to be happy. I'm not going to feel sorry for you because it won't help you." And you know, even though it was really hard to hear at the time, it was the best thing he could have said to me. Because when you struggle with self-pity, if other people feel sorry for you it just feeds the problem.

Now that doesn't mean we can never be sad. But we need to understand that if we hang on to

our pain for too long, it can become self-pity, and we can become addicted to it. The good news is God gives us the tools to work through our feelings in a healthy way and not let them control us.

People who are focused on themselves never see what they can and should be doing for other people. We should have compassion for other people who are hurting. In the Bible, we see times when Jesus was moved with compassion, and then He would go and help people. If we can be moved with sympathy toward others and keep our mind off of ourselves, we will be much happier. We will also trust God to meet our needs and bring justice in our lives when we are hurting or mistreated, rather than getting into self-pity.

I want to encourage you to keep a notebook of your blessings, the special little things that God does for you, prayers that He answers. And when you're tempted to have a pity party, go get that book out and have a talk with yourself.

I am so thankful that God is allowing me to take what has happened to me and use it to help other people. The best treatment in the world for sadness and self-pity is to help somebody else. That's when we get our minds off of our own problems and trust God to help us and do what's best for us.

No matter what happens, be determined—with God's help—to keep a good attitude, remain thankful and avoid self-pity. Then God will bring restoration, peace, joy and real happiness to your life.

Group meets to bridge gaps in senior services

by CarolAnne Robinson

Cloud Station was a-buzz with possibilities on March 8 as the Living Wisdom presentation came to a close and the Q&A session opened. A hand shot up nearby, and the microphone came our way. A community elder with a richly toned voice posed a sharp question about the senior community initiative being discussed. "Well that's all great, but it's 6-10 years down the road so what are we doing in the meantime? We need solutions now!" Those comments, especially the *now* reverberated in the silence. Pragmatic as ever, another man interjected that he needs a ride to see his doctor in two days. This reality of aging is a chapter that each of us will face in our life, sooner or later.

A Sacred Activism Synergy Circle has been meeting in Crestone since early autumn of 2014, to study Andrew Harvey's book *The Hope*. The question was asked: How best can we be of service in our community? The universe gently pointed us back to senior services. How do we as a community help our elders and the homebound in managing the gap between need and assistance?

With wonderful organizations like CB Village, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Your Empowerment Solution and Living Wisdom, one would expect that the gap would be met within an overlap of services. However, the services provided do not overlap and the gap has become apparent. NHN addresses financial need in a momentary crisis; CB Village connects volunteer labor with those needing assistance, but isn't equipped for sustained, ongoing services; and while Living Wisdom has a great long term vision for senior housing it cannot accommodate interim needs.

In that moment of *now* echoing through my being I could not remain a bystander. I responded. I raised my hand and forthrightly committed to work on the immediate and interim needs of our elders. Since then, advisors have stepped forward to share their wisdom and Sacred Activism group and others have jumped in with their support. Dialogue is in process and we want to hear from our community at large as we explore options beginning with the critical issue of transportation.

How best to facilitate communication? We are happy to announce the launch of our new website: www.OccupyCrestone.US where you can read about our initiatives, take a short survey to share your wisdom and inform our process, sign up for email updates and enjoy upcoming blog posts. We welcome you to join our online community! Sacred Activism meetings are open to the community so please email ca@occupycrestone.US or j7oceanstar@gmail.com or if you feel called to learn more or join this initiative. We invite you to participate at a level where your genius will shine.

The story of aging is the story of us—our values, our quality of life, our community culture and our embracing of the "who we will become" as we age. Let's come together now to create a blessing that will sustain us through the years!

Talk little.
Listen a lot.
Be grateful.

David Hillman
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Joyce Meyer Article
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Ask Dr. B about pets

Do we really need to vaccinate for rabies here in Crestone?

by Linda Behrns, DVM

I hear this at least a few times a month. Unlike most diseases we routinely vaccinate animals for, rabies poses a huge public health risk to humans. That in itself is a good reason to have your pets and horses vaccinated. Rabies cases are also on the rise in Colorado. Bats have been the most common carrier of rabies in Colorado but since 2007 a variant of the virus associated with skunks began moving westward and is now commonly seen in eastern parts of the state and the Front Range. Bats are still the primary carriers of rabies in the state and in our area. In the first ten months of 2014 there were 4 confirmed cases of rabies in bats in counties bordering Saguache County and over 20 within a 150 mile radius of Crestone. Rabies was also confirmed in a fox, a coyote, two raccoons and two cats in that time in the state of Colorado. These are just the cases that were discovered and confirmed. It is likely that many other animals were never found or tested. May through September are the biggest months for confirmed cases of rabies in bats so now is a good time to make sure your animals are vaccinated!

With the warmer weather coming up I am seeing more cases of fleas, ticks and even lice. There are a number of tick-borne diseases that can be a problem in pets and people so using Frontline Plus, Advantix II or other means of control is highly recommended.

Another warm weather issue is whether or not to shave long-haired dogs in the summer. There are arguments against doing so, but the dogs I have seen that have been shaved seem much happier and have more energy than before they were shaved. Grass lawns and other stickers are much less of a problem as well. I have my own dog shaved in May or June every year and he stays much cooler, even if he looks a bit silly at first!

Have a question you would like answered here? You can call Dr. Linda Behrns at Crestone Mobile Veterinary Service at 719-588-4024 or email her at crestonemobilevet@gmail.com

Homemade Crunchy Cat Treats

Ingredients

1 5-ounce can pink salmon or tuna drained. (No salt added, packed in water.)

- 1 cup oat flour
- 1 large egg
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 heaping tbsp dried catnip

Directions

Place a rack in the upper third of the oven and preheat oven to 350°F.

Combine drained salmon or tuna, oat flour, egg, olive oil and catnip. Pulse in a food processor or blender until mixture comes together. Bits of fish and dry food will remain but the mixture will easily form into small balls. It will be thick but pliable and not terribly sticky.

Roll dough into 1/2 teaspoon balls and place on prepared cookie sheet. Use a fork to press marks into each cookie ball.

Bake cookies for 10 to 12 minutes until they are dried on top and slightly browned. Allow to cool completely before offering to your kitty.

Place treats in an airtight container and store in the refrigerator for up to seven days.

From JoyTheBaker.com



Yes, coyotes are out there. You may not see them, but they see you and your little pets, and, like what happened to a Crestone woman, make a grab for your dog even when you are present.

News from Colorado Parks & Wildlife Keep close watch on pets in coyote country

by Joe Lewandowski

As coyotes are looking for mates, for food and protecting their young, Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds pet owners that the wild canines can be aggressive toward humans and small animals.

Coyotes roam free in Colorado's abundant forests and open-space areas and will not hesitate to attack if they feel threatened, explained Rick Basagoitia, area wildlife manager in the San Luis Valley.

"We recently had a report from a woman near Crestone that a coyote grabbed her pet Chihuahua," Basagoitia said. "The woman was able to chase the coyote off, but then it acted aggressively toward her again the next day."

Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers these tips to avoid interactions with coyotes:

- Never feed coyotes.
- Don't leave pet food outdoors.
- Never approach coyotes, and make sure children know that, too.
- If your pets are left outside, make sure they are kept in a fully enclosed area.
- Never let your dog interact or play with coyotes.
- If you see a coyote nearby, yell at it, wave your arms and throw things to make it feel unwelcome.
- When walking your dog, keep it on a leash.
- If you know that there are coyotes in the area where you walk your dog, carry a stick, a deterrent spray and a noise maker—such as a whistle.
- Attacks on humans are rare, but they have occurred. If you're attacked fight back.
- If coyotes wander into your neighborhood, talk to neighbors and make sure the area is not providing attractants for coyotes.

"Coyotes are very hardy animals and they'll always be around, so we need to learn how to deter and avoid conflicts with them," Basagoitia said.

If your dog is attacked and bitten by a coyote, you should call your veterinarian immediately; you should also call the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment at 1-800-866-2759.

If you are having problems with coyotes or other wildlife, please call your local wildlife office. In the San Luis Valley, call 719-587-6902.

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The bears are awake & hungry Time again to be bear-aware!

Colorado's bears have awoken from their winter's nap and are again active throughout the state. Colorado Parks and Wildlife urges state residents in bear country to make sure they aren't providing any food attractants around residences.

By following some simple steps, we can all pitch in to avoid conflicts with Colorado's wildlife. Here are some tips to help keep bears out of trouble and away from your house:

- Keep garbage in a well-secured enclosure.
- Only put out garbage on the morning of pickup.
- Take down all bird feeders—birds don't need to be fed during the summer. Bird feeders are a major source of bear/human conflicts.
- Attract birds naturally with flowers and water baths.
- Clean garbage cans regularly to keep them odor free.
- If you don't have secure storage, put items that might become smelly into the freezer until trash day.
- Don't leave pet food or stock feed outside.
- Never provide food for any wildlife.
- Secure compost piles. Bears are attracted to the scent of rotting food.
- Fully enclose backyard bee

hives and chicken coops. Electric fencing is an effective bear deterrent.

- Allow grills to burn for a couple of minutes after cooking to burn off grease and to eliminate odors. Clean grills and grease cup after each use.
- Clean up thoroughly after picnics in the yard or on the deck. Don't allow food odors to linger.
- If you have fruit trees, pick fruit before it gets too ripe. Don't allow fruit to rot on the ground.
- Keep garage doors closed.
- Keep the bottom floor windows of your house closed when you're not at home.
- Do not keep food or used-food containers in your vehicle.
- Lock vehicle doors and roll up the windows.
- Talk to your neighbors and kids about being bear aware.

Bears are constantly on the move, so residents are reminded that they only need to file a report with Colorado Parks and Wildlife when an animal is causing problems around your house or neighborhood.

For more information about avoiding conflicts with bears and other wildlife, go to the Living with Wildlife section on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/LivingWithWildlife/Pages/LivingWith.aspx>



CCC Youth Work Force welcomes Gretchen (front center) to the team!

Crestone Creative Council welcomes Gretchen Nelson as new Youth Work Force Coordinator

by Lisa Bodey

The Crestone Creative Council (CCC) is pleased to announce that we have hired Gretchen Nelson as our new Youth Work Force Coordinator. The Youth Work Force (YWF) is a job program for youth 13-24 years of age which partners them with clients in the community to assist with their home and work projects. We would like to thank all of our existing clients as you helped us generate over \$20K in 2014 which created job income for youth and stimulates our local economy.

Gretchen moved to Crestone when she was 15 years old and understands the challenges of growing up as a teen in a small rural town well. Her son Taleb was also born here, and will graduate from Crestone Charter School in two years and is also an active CCC council member. They moved to the Virgin Islands for a while, but Gretchen could hear Crestone and the breathtaking Sangres calling her home, so they returned and have remained a family dedicated to making various improvements to our community. Gretchen is currently our Town Clerk so you will see her smiling face behind the counter in Town Hall and she coordinates the Town's 4th of July festivities. She also has experience with manual labor jobs, landscaping, house cleaning, day care (and so much more) which will add valuable experience to our team.

Gretchen has watched this town grow, with its ups and downs, has had great experiences here and

would like to give back to the community in any way she can. When asked why she is interested in working with youth, Gretchen responded, "Youth bring out the best in me. Because our population is so small, there's not much Crestone offers for this age group. I want to help youth by keeping them surrounded with positive interactions and activities, and to help guide them in making healthy choices in life. I believe that personal responsibilities, commitment, follow-through and the value of a good work ethic are important for their future. I am really excited to be part of this program and hope to see the YWF program thrive in this community and hopefully, at some point, across the San Luis Valley. Supporting the youth in this community to develop job skills and be of service is what I truly call . . . "good medicine!"

Some of the projects the YWF assists with are: gardening, firewood stacking, moving projects, fire mitigation, technology/computer assistance, snow shoveling, yardwork, construction, house cleaning, house/pet sitting, event set-up & clean-up. Please be mindful of the time it takes to set up the logistics for your job and allow 3-5 days for scheduling. To hire local youth, please contact Gretchen at 719-480-4946 or email at: talebndg@gmail.com. Lisa Bodey will continue to provide overall supervision for the program and can be contacted regarding CCC matters at 719-480-5925 or emailed at: bodeycrestone@gmail.com.

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Moffat & Charter Schools compete in State Knowledge Bowl

This past week the Moffat School District Knowledge Bowl team composed of members from both Crestone Charter School and Moffat High School competed at the Colorado State Championship. Moffat's varsity team includes Jam Young Dorji (Captain), William Higgenbotham, Jacob Smith, Taru Gouldberg, Joedeelee Rigdon and Nicholas Meisman. Also attending were junior varsity members Marlon Jacobi and Sierra Swartz as well as Christina Chavez. On Thursday morning the team started the day with a respectable score in the written round, which positioned them well for that day's subsequent oral rounds. Throughout the day the varsity team held their own and had earned a 4th place position by the end of that day's events.

In spite of a wet, sloppy snow that had been falling all day, the team ventured out for a fun evening about town. The first stop was at Jun Japanese Restaurant where everyone was entertained by the mad skills of Joe

the Hibachi Chef. A particular favorite with the crowd was the flaming onion volcano and the spinning egg on the spatula trick. It was fascinating to watch the food prep on the grill at the table where we were seated and Joe was truly a motivational speaker as well. He not only gave the students lots of kudos for their academic excellence but he took a special interest in talking with the seniors to hear of their plans after graduation. It was a special meal/celebration with good friends that will be long remembered.

After dinner it was off to laser tag and arcade games across town. The team enjoyed a couple of competitive rounds of laser tag and air hockey before calling it a night so everyone was well rested for Friday's final competition.

Friday the team bumped up their game by improving their score on the written round. Competition was keen and the team continued to do well against the opposition in some very close and competitive rounds. Moffat School District finished with a 4th place statewide ranking in our 1A Division. They also held their position as the top scoring school in the San Luis Valley Region (which includes 2A and



Moffat School District Varsity Knowledge Bowl members prepare for another round of questions at State Knowledge Bowl.



Kbowl team enjoys a Hibachi-style dinner at Jun Restaurant.

3A schools). When comparing Moffat's final scores with the top scores in 2A through 5A we would be placed within the top 8 from each of the other larger divisions. This, as well as 4th place in State 1A, is a tremendous accomplishment! Great work team; what a wonderful, memorable year it has been!

Moffat seniors attend Red Carpet Scholarship Days at Trinidad State

by Elise Lovato

On April 9, the Moffat senior class attended the Red Carpet Scholarship Days at Trinidad State Junior College (TSJC) Valley Campus in Alamosa. This year TSJC gave Scholarship Days a makeover and made some changes in the way it had operated in the past.

The students had the opportunity to listen to students currently attending TSJC tell about their college experience thus far and about the programs in which they were majoring. Many of our seniors showed high interest in the students who were talking about the EMT and Criminal Justice programs and the expectations of each of those programs. Each senior received information on the various scholarships available, the financial aid process, and learned if they were right-brained or left-brained. Each senior that attended the Red Carpet Scholarship Days received a \$500 scholarship to put towards their tuition if they decide to attend TSJC in the fall.

A call for items to be placed in Moffat School's time capsule

Do you have a small picture, news article, memento or other non-perishable item that you would like considered for placement in a time capsule in the new school building? We have a 4"x20" capsule that we will use to honor special mementos and written memories of our time in the old building. If you have an item you would like to donate for consideration please either make a copy or turn in the original to Ms. Virginia Drake at the front office of the school. Please include a name and phone number so we can contact you if needed. Space is very limited, so the smaller the item the better.

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Moffat Consolidated School Library hosts Scholastic Book Fair until May 2

Moffat Consolidated School is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair until May 2, from 7am to 5pm. Funds raised will help to purchase books for needy children in our area. Families, faculty, and the community are invited to attend this fun reading event that helps inspire children to become lifelong readers.

You don't have to have a student at Moffat or the Charter School to participate!

You can donate funds to help a needy child in our community purchase a book. Not only will you provide a book to a child, but these donations also help our library to fill our shelves with interesting and current literature. Moffat Consolidated School's annual budget for purchasing books for the library is \$500. This does not go very far, as you well know if you have purchased books lately. Moffat School provides books for students Kindergarten-12 grade. A Book Fair is one of the easiest ways to offset some of the budget challenges schools are facing today. We use our profit/scholastic dollars to purchase books for Moffat Library as well as for classroom libraries. Please Con-

tact Patte Reaves-Smith, Moffat School Librarian, if you would like to donate a book to a needy child in our community.

Moffat Consolidated School is located at 501 Garfield Ave. Moffat.

The Book Fair offers specially priced books and educational products, including popular series, award-winning titles, new releases, adult bestsellers, and other great reads from more than 100 publishers.

Book Fair customers may help the school build classroom libraries by purchasing books through the Classroom Wish List program. In addition, the Book Fair will feature the All for Books™ program, where kids, adults and teachers can share the thrill of reading by donating funds to purchase books from the Book Fair for Kids and students in our community. Scholastic matches monetary donations with a donation of up to one million books, which go to national non-profit organizations dedicated to helping families in need, such as the Kids in Distressed Situations and Kids In Need Foundation.



Congratulations to Crestone Charter School's graduating seniors: from left to right: Jacob, Benjamin, William, and Jamyoung; Tui's photo inserted.

CCS performs play: 'Almost, Maine'



The cast & crew of the play *Almost, Maine* pose for an energetic cast photo directly following the final full-house, standing-ovation performance on April 11. Performed by the Crestone Charter school LINK students, directed by Bill Roberts. photo by Lori Nagel



Ryan Triplett and Zya Hollyer.

photo by Lori Nagel



Ben Potter and Chenoa Off in a tense moment in *Almost, Maine*.

photo by Lori Nagel



Taleb Nelson and Marlon Jacobi getting a little rough.

photo by Lori Nagel

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The Washington Beat

Hilary for America

by David Nicholas
She is running

Hilary Clinton formally entered the presidential race for 2016 on April 12 at 3pm ET. Good for her. It was supposed to be noon but expectation had us waiting for a few hours before the YouTube video was released announcing the news, and the web site went up, HillaryClinton.com, for folks to donate.

Why mid-afternoon on a Sunday when the talk shows were over, not doing a live speech and not doing interviews on those shows to start a narrative rolling, and controlling the daily news cycle that Hilary is the one, mystified me, but that's me. To compare, Barack Obama did it on a Saturday, live in front of a crowd in Springfield, IL and hogged the Sunday talk shows (thus zapping any coverage Republicans might have tried for) for a good part of the week that followed.

True, the media "landscape" has changed with social media playing a more influential part in the commentariat, but people still like an old-fashioned presidential start-up with speeches and someone to cheer for. Maybe 2016 is different in how to get the message out. We shall soon see, but there is still a narrative out there to control, that for the most part—even 18 months before election day—is TV advertising. On Sunday morning, the Koch brothers, in anticipation of her announcement, had their ads blasting her en masse even before Mrs. Clinton announced.

In 2015 you still have to win the daily news cycle, which then gets you to winning the weekly news cycle, which generates the "overnights" and the weekly polling data. It gives the media something to talk about, even if you are not doing anything. When the nightly news hits at 6pm ET you still want your story no less than the third item down before the first commercial. Don't do that and you have lost the day because people start tuning out after that, doing whatever they need to do. Hilary has to do this for the next 18 months; that's the test.

Already the media is wondering about a Plan B candidate, if Hilary fails to win the grade. The media does like to fret.

Hilary can beat most of the announced GOP candidates except one, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), who announced his candidacy on April 13. He is young, 43, conservative and Hispanic, the latter quality being the big plus in his favor, of which more below. No matter whatever else Mr. Rubio's politics may be, Hispanic voters will listen to what he has to say and that puts many Latino folks in the undecided camp where otherwise they would be clear Democratic voters.

But back to Mrs. Clinton. The Chipotle "love it or hate it" moment and the "Harrow" icon chatter notwithstanding, and having the press second guess her every moment, she can be seen as the person who wants to be the champion for everyday Americans. As long as the policies start coming out quickly that everyday Americans can identify and empathize with, she can over-

shadow her opponents. But she needs to start doing that now.

The "Bill baggage" isn't an issue like it was in 2008. Former President Bill Clinton is still larger than life on the political stage, but these days he knows to cool his jets when his wife is in the room. My guess is that he will be called in to help make a difference if Mrs. Clinton gets into trouble and it's not in the distant past. These are very fresh to the memory.

Hilary Clinton, Part 2: Trust

The trouble I'm thinking is both Benghazi and the private email account she kept as Secretary of State, the latter being a major no-no. If foreign policy becomes the major issue for the major part of this year, and because President Obama has staked his legacy on the Iran agreement and rapprochement with Cuba, it will be hard to get away from that commanding the news cycle in 2015. It's a problem if she gets caught up in it. The way the Koch brothers are thinking right now, and from the ad campaigns they are planning, they are just waiting for the President to blow it on the foreign policy front. I am saying that if either turns out to be perceived as missteps, it blows back onto the Hilary Campaign.

It's not Democrats fazed by this but the independent/swing voters, who decide presidential elections. You don't want question marks on trust and competence when running for president. As a campaign director, you would want these questions asked and answered satisfactorily before the primary season begins in 2016, because trust is the one factor in Colorado that Mrs. Clinton has in the negatives. In the Quinnipiac Poll March 27-April 7, 2015, 56% of Coloradans have problems with her around trust. As a swing (purple) state that went for Mr. Obama in 2012, it's must-win state for Mrs. Clinton in 2016. She has similar numbers on trust in Iowa and Virginia.

You overcome this trust issue by being out front and fielding questions about it until the media gets sick of asking about it or when the public gets sick of hearing about it from her critics, when there is nothing more to be said about it. You just want voters settled on Mrs. Clinton's side.

So the big concern is that Mrs. Clinton becomes media-shy and has trouble facing the cameras or gets quick-tempered about questions asked about trust (which she is known to do). This gets tricky real fast.

You can't be defensive over trust issues, because you can't win the narrative being on the back foot. It's hard to come from behind to win the presidency. At present Mrs. Clinton has given satisfactory answers on the e-mail scandal, 34% of voters say, but 54% say se-



rious questions remain. So that's the problem that needs to be addressed.

Marco Rubio declares April 13

Senator Rubio is different from the other GOP candidates and would-be candidates in that he has Hispanic heritage. Although he is part of the Cuban American community in Miami, he could find himself quickly out of step if, through the Obama administration's move to relax restrictions, the Cuban government actually eases the tight reins it keeps on its people. While the Senator is a stick-in-the mud when it comes to normalizing relations in Cuba (there will be no lifting of sanctions "no way, no how,") the issue may move past him. He is going against the national mood, which sees 60% of voters in favor of recognizing Cuba. But in the last three presidential elections, Florida was the must-win state for any candidate for the presidency. The Senator's announcement was pretty strong, accentuating age and the past without mentioning Mrs. Clinton or Jeb Bush by name. Mr. Rubio, 43, cast himself as a forward-looking, next-generation leader. In a direct attack on Mrs. Clinton's candidacy, which she announced the day before, Mr. Rubio said: "Just yesterday, a leader from yesterday began a campaign for president by promising to take us back to yesterday. Yesterday is over and we're never going back."

If this tactic strikes a chord with the electorate, particularly voters 35 and younger, it's going to be very hard to shake. Mrs. Clinton has her work cut out for her if the Senator beats out a field of nineteen GOP hopefuls who think they have a chance at winning the brass ring.

"Too many of our leaders and our ideas are stuck in the 20th century," Mr. Rubio said, pointing to education and spending programs put in place by Democrats in the 1990s.

Mr. Rubio has a lot of clout whether he becomes the successful nominee for the GOP or not. His big weakness among GOP conservatives is that he supported the Senate's Immigration Bill in 2012, which still sits on the table of US House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), and which among other things includes the pathway to citizenship section which has become a political hot potato. The Senator's vote was recorded in the "Aye" column, and that compromises his conservative credentials for many right-wing Republicans. On other issues, such as the budget, anything President Obama does, he's a hardliner, so maybe conservatives can/will revise their view of him.

The Senator is currently being overshadowed by the "Will Jeb Bush Run or Won't He?" narrative and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's strange opinions on foreign policy.

Again, if he can get over that and looks like he can bring the moderate GOP voters to the fold, he can be formidable and has a good chance of winning the presidency. We will be tracking him throughout the next eighteen months.

Other GOP candidates declare

That said, the presidential

race is starting to heat up:

a) Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) did it first at Liberty University in Lynchburg Virginia, home of the late pastor Jerry Farwell. The attendance to the gathering of students he addressed required compulsory attendance or be fined \$10. Most were texting or nodding off as he delivered his message. He is serious, apparently. Hasn't a prayer (sorry couldn't resist) and what's worse he can't go back to Canada if he loses.

b) Much more interesting is Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) who declared April 5 with a speech that was very underwhelming. However, speeches at this point don't make the candidate. They do later on, but not right now.

Since riding the Tea Party wave into the Senate in 2010, the Senator has carefully built a brand of mainstream libertarianism—dogged advocacy of civil liberties combined with an anti-interventionist foreign policy and general support for family values—that he bets will create a coalition of younger voters and traditional Republicans to usher him into the White House. He's a serious contender in that he has themes and issues which resonate with and appeal to younger voters. I like him because he's out to change the Republicans' narrative on war with any country that doesn't like us, and that's a good thing.

c) The rest. Jeb Bush is still mulling at time of writing. Hopefully he will keep mulling for some time yet to come.

Scott Walker, the Wisconsin governor, is still mulling. He rates high in polling among GOP conservatives but he hasn't convinced anyone else that he has a chance to win over Independents or center Democrats. And former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee announced among all the hoopla that he would announce his decision mid-May. Maybe.

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none of these have a prayer against Mrs. Clinton.

The Lynch nomination

Loretta Elizabeth Lynch was nominated six months ago as the successor to Attorney-General Eric Holder. There was really no good reason to hold up her confirmation as the top US lawmaker, but hold it up the Senate did. She was confirmed on the floor of the Senate April 23.

More than eminently qualified, Ms. Lynch was United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. Her current tenure as U.S. Attorney began in 2010, and she previously held the position from 1999–2001. She was endorsed by Rudy Giuliani, after all.

Cuba comes off the list of SSTs

At the seventh Summit of the Americas held in Panama over the weekend of April 11, President Obama was expected to announce that Cuba would be taken off the list of states supporting terrorism as a gesture toward normalising relations with them, but it didn't happen when everyone thought it would.

Instead the President indicated on April 14 that Cuba will come off the list after 45 days—around June 1—allowing time for Congress to debate and to try to overturn the decision, which you can expect Republicans will try to do, coming from the House of Representatives. But it does look like Democrats, with the exception of Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), seem to back the President's action. So getting the necessary 60 votes to pass a bill blocking this move appears remote at the moment.

Nevertheless the “historic” meeting between Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro did occur, and they talked for about an hour. In case you got the photo of them shaking hands, it wasn't as historic as commentators would have liked. They did shake hands the first time at Nelson Mandela's funeral.

What really steamed the GOP about all this was that Mr. Castro apologized to President Obama for the usual harangue Cuba always delivers as opening comments at summits like this.

Citing the standoff between Cuba and the U.S., which has lasted for over half a century, Mr. Castro said, “I apologize to him because President Obama has no responsibility for this.”

“In my opinion, President Obama is an honest man,” he added.

So it doesn't take much to imagine Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX) and John McCain (R-AZ) chewing nails over this and they did. Yawn.

Iran: We have a framework!

It was like pulling teeth in Lausanne in hotel rooms at \$4,500 dollars a day, but SecStat John Kerry finally appeared with the other P5+1 foreign ministers that we have a framework for an agreement on Iran's nuclear program that has to be finalized by June 1.

Congress will get to review the agreement once the final draft is arrived at. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee on April 14 voted 19-0 on a time frame for Congress to review the agreement. The bill would require that the administration send the text of a final

accord, along with classified material, to Congress as soon as it is completed. It also halts any lifting of sanctions pending a 30-day congressional review and culminates in a possible vote to allow or forbid the lifting of congressionally imposed sanctions in exchange for the dismantling of much of Iran's nuclear infrastructure.

What the bill does is give Congress a back seat at the negotiating table, because it finally dawned on Senate members that despite all the Congressional posturing that had been going on since Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu addressed the Congress on March 4 about how bad this deal is, in the end if the President really wanted to bypass Congress and lift the major sanctions, he could. Congress could only carp.

When sanctions are lifted, as the majority could be, the opportunities for US corporations to access the young consumers in Tehran could wither while Congress dithers. Europe could get an edge up and do deals. It's a consumer market that is hungry for foreign merchandise. To emphasize this, right after the framework was announced, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius turned up in Tehran being all buddy-buddy with Iran's Foreign Minister Zarif and President Hassan Rouhani. No one wants to be left out.

So what does the framework of the agreement look like? According to the State Department release it says:

- Iran has agreed to reduce by approximately two-thirds its installed centrifuges. Iran will go from having about 19,000 installed today to 6,104 installed under the deal, with only 5,060 of these enriching uranium for 10 years. All 6,104 centrifuges will be IR-1s, Iran's first-generation centrifuge.

- Iran has agreed to not enrich uranium over 3.67% for at least 15 years.

- Iran has agreed to reduce its current stockpile of about 10,000 kg of low-enriched uranium (LEU) to 300 kg of 3.67% LEU for 15 years.

- All excess centrifuges and enrichment infrastructure will be placed in IAEA-monitored storage and will be used only as replacements for operating centrifuges and equipment.

- Iran has agreed to not build any new facilities for the purpose of enriching uranium for 15 years.

- Iran's breakout timeline—the time that it would take for Iran to acquire enough fissile material for one weapon—is currently assessed to be 2 to 3 months. That timeline will be extended to at least one year, for a duration of at least ten years, under this framework.

These are just the basic de-

tails, but they are big. Immediately that this State Department paper was released, Iran was upset that it had been released and an argument broke out about when sanctions would be lifted when this agreement is put in place. Iran said that it wanted sanctions to be lifted immediately, while SecStat Kerry was saying it would be gradual. Whatever is arrived at, it has to be hammered out—and hammered is the right word—before June 1. Deep breaths.

Yemen—where is it again?

Since March 26, Saudi Arabia has taken it upon itself to attack Houthi positions in Yemen with US blessing. The one thing about the Saudis you have to appreciate: while they like financing Islamic State/Islamic State in Iraq and al Sham/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant in Syria and Iraq, they are pretty hopeless as a fighting force. I have been listening to the daily updates by Saudi Air Force Colonel Ahmed Asseri on the 2,700 or so bombing sorties they are conducting with “100 fighter aircraft” with the help of members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. To hear him tell it, they are having a profound effect taking out Houthi positions in major cities they occupy in northern and southern Yemen. They also mutter about 150,000 Saudi troops lining up on the border ready for ground operations. Uh-huh.

With all this “success,” the Houthi have moved quickly to capture major points in the city of Aden on the Gulf of Arabia and they still occupy the capital of Senaa and hold their territory in northern Yemen. Uh-huh.

The major idea of this bombing was/is to bring the Houthi to the negotiating table, demanding they recognize the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, whom they captured and let go, who fled from the presidential palace in Aden for the sunny climes of Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. So how's that working?

Well, five weeks later, it's still a goat-f**k. Hopeless. It's not that the “100 fighter jets” can't hit targets, but what targets are they hitting? Not Houthi fighters it appears. Lots of civilians are getting killed and thousands are being forced to flee the constant barrage.

The talk is that there has to be “boots on the ground,” a ground operation. Any enthusiast might use their Google Earth app and look at the terrain on the Saudi/Yemen border where those “150,000 Saudi troops” are supposed to be.

Northern Yemen is mountainous, very mountainous, steep and highly hostile to major troop movements against the seasoned guerrilla Houthi fighters whose home turf it is. Any clashes in the past have cost the Saudi army dearly and they have even had to retreat. The casualty figures will be staggering. Sau-

di soldiers' only war experience was in Bahrain where they opened fire on unarmed Shia demonstrators in Bahrain in 2012 during the Arab Spring uprisings. With this great experience, the Saudis won't be able to bury their own fast enough.

If you wanted a definition of dumb and dumber, this exercise in Saudi hegemony is just stupefying. That we back this exercise in futility is because it isn't costing us anything except materiel and it is just head-shaking. Our special forces cleared out to Djibouti on the African side of the straits several weeks ago.

What I haven't mentioned is that al-Qaida has a vast number of fighters in the eastern part of Yemen, fighting the Houthi and whoever else opposes them. It was with al-Qaeda in Arabia that we had cause and we were using drone strikes en masse to kill them. The Houthi campaign wasn't really of interest, but it is now because the Houthi threaten US interests—the lanes for 60% of all shipping that passes through the narrow Bab el Mandeb strait, 12 miles wide, with Yemen on one side and Djibouti on the other.

The Saudis are screaming that Iran is backing the Houthi because they are Shia Moslems. The Houthi are Shia, except they are Zaydi Shia, not the same as the Shia in Iran and Iraq who are in the main Twelvers (look it up). But while the Saudis are trying to make this a war between sects of Islam and arguing that Iran is highly engaged in aiding the Houthi, there is very little evidence that Iran is doing that much. Iran has its hands full in aiding Hezbollah in Syria and the Shia militias fighting ISIS in Iraq. Iran does have two warships off the coast in the Arabian Gulf, but so do we and Egypt, along with something called “the Saudi navy,” whatever that is.

So there is tension which could run amok at any moment. This can become a bigger storm very quickly, but by whom and why, only time will tell.

And the Beat goes on.

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-From the ‘Words to Live By’ 2015 Calendar

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



Abbey Road, Crestone style! Taken on lower Camino del Rey on April 23.
photo by Lori Nagel

Public lands 4 sale?

continued from page 1

the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The bill has been characterized as an attack on public lands.

As written, the legislation would allow the state to prosecute crimes committed on federal land, “retain jurisdiction over civil and criminal processes with respect to such lands; to tax persons and corporations and their property and transactions on such lands so acquired; and to exercise such additional powers and legislative authority as will further protect the life, health, and safety of the residents of the state in accordance with the state’s police power subject to any limitations arising from federal law.”

Republican State Representative Jim Wilson (Chaffee County) acknowledges the bill has raised concerns about eroding public lands.

“Managing the vast swaths of land currently handled by the federal government would be hugely expensive for Colorado. Transfer of federal lands to the state would not only cost money, it could affect PILT funding,” Wilson said. “Transferring ownership to the state could result in public lands being sold off to private bidders due to sheer economic necessity.”

This legislation could lead to restricted access to public lands—areas like Maroon Bells, Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Indian Peaks, Flat Tops, and San Juan Mountains. The bill possibly violates the U.S. Constitution, and unnecessarily pits Colorado against the federal government over public lands. It affects 24 million acres of national

public lands in Colorado.

The amendment also changes wildfire response without input from state, local, or federal governments, nor firefighters. It would cause legal ambiguity and wildfire response ambiguity with the “Colorado Statewide Wildland Fire Management Annual Operating Plan” and local community fire protection plans.

Colorado State Senator Jessie Ulibarri (D-Westminster): “Public lands belong to all U.S. citizens. Here in Colorado we are fortunate to have acres and acres of public lands that enrich our culture and feed our economy. The system we have is working—the federal government provides the resources to manage these lands, and we enjoy the benefits of having them in our home state. Once we seize these lands, we will be responsible for them, and we don’t have the means to manage them. We would be wiped out after just one fire season.”

Republicans on the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee approved the amendment on a 3-2 vote, and approved the bill on another 3-2 party line vote. SB 15-039 now moves to the entire Senate for a second reading hearing.



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Medical marijuana bills introduced in US Congress

by Lisa Cyriacks

On March 10, US Senators Cory Booker (D-New Jersey), Rand Paul (R-Kentucky) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-New York) introduced a bill that requires the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to re-schedule marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule II under the Controlled Substances Act.

The Compassionate Access, Research Expansion and Respect States (CARERS) Act would drastically reduce the federal government’s ability to crack down on state-legal medical marijuana programs and encourage more research into the plant through several major changes in federal law.

A similar piece of legislation, The Compassionate Access Act, was introduced April 14, in the US House of Representatives by Reps. Morgan Griffith (R-Virginia) and Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon). The act would allow states to provide appropriate access to patients needing legitimate, medical treatments under the supervision of their physician.

Specifically, this bill would exempt cannabidiol (CBD) from the federal definition of marijuana in the Controlled Substances Act, effectively de-scheduling CBD at the federal level.

Federal law currently outlaws marijuana for all purposes. Many states, including Colorado, however, have legalized possession, production and use for medical or recreational purposes.

Rescheduling marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule II would mean that medical use of cannabis would not be inconsistent with federal law.

The Controlled Substances Act currently classifies drugs into one of five schedules with Schedule I being the most restrictive and Schedule V, the least. Examples of Schedule I drugs include heroin, LSD, ecstasy and marijuana. This classification specifically identifies these drugs as having no accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse.

Reclassifying marijuana as a Schedule II would not make it legal under federal law, but it could ease restrictions on research for medical use. Rescheduling marijuana would be the federal government’s first acknowledgement that the drug has medical benefits. Current Schedule II drugs include methamphetamine, Oxycontin, and Adderall among others.

This bill would remove marijuana with less than 0.3% THC from the Controlled Substances Act’s schedules altogether, allowing

states to import low-THC/high-CBD strains for patients that need it.

Under this new legislation, the Controlled Substances Act would be amended so that states can set their own medical marijuana policies.

Currently, doctors working under the Department of Veterans Affairs are prohibited from aiding their patients who are seeking medical marijuana, even in states where it is legal. This legislation would lift that ban and allow for VA doctors to recommend medical marijuana to their veteran patients suffering from certain conditions, where it is legal to do so under state law.

Legal marijuana, medical and recreational, is the fastest-growing industry in the US bringing in more than \$1 billion in annual revenue. The legislation would expand banking access for medical marijuana businesses, enabling them to function largely like more traditional businesses.

Colorado Department of Revenue statistics for marijuana businesses in 2014:

- At the start of 2014, there were 399 licenses recreational MJ businesses and 1,335 licensed medical MJ businesses. At the end of the year, there were 833 licensed recreational businesses and 1,416 medical MJ businesses, including retailers, cultivators, testing labs and infused product manufacturers.
- A total of 148,238 pounds of marijuana flowers were sold in 2014.
- There were 2.85 million units of recreational edibles sold last year and 1.96 million units of medical edibles sold.
- Total sales for the year were \$699,198,805, according to data tabulated by the Colorado Department of Revenue. Sales of medicinal cannabis totaled some \$386 million for the year, while marijuana sales at recreational outlets totaled \$313 million.
- Tax revenue from sales of recreational marijuana totaled some \$44 million for 2014. That total includes revenues from the imposition of a special 10% sales tax and a 15% excise tax on wholesale marijuana transfers.
- Colorado received an additional \$32 million in revenue from the imposition of licensing fees in addition to state sales taxes paid on purchases of medical marijuana.
- These numbers are all despite the fact that in the vast majority of local jurisdictions, the sale of both MMJ and recreational marijuana is banned. Such bans are in place in 228 out of Colorado’s 321 jurisdictions.

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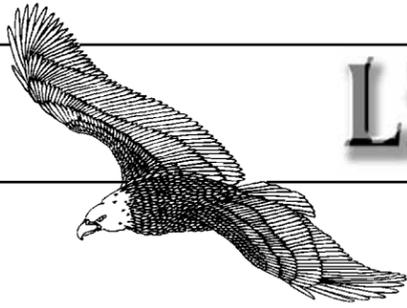
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Living on the Earth

Building Ed's house: Living with the sun

by Paul Shippee

Meet Ed, a retired sociologist who taught innovative classes at colleges and prisons. Now he is building a "healthy house," his off-grid, passive solar home in Crestone. "This is my first owner-built home, and my last," he told me when I asked about his building experience.

Ed is an unusually conscientious, budget-wise and careful owner-builder who seeks a harmonious and practical edge where social awareness meets environmental concerns. When I first visited Ed's house last winter I was impressed with the myriad ways he was implementing the socially responsible ethic—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—and how he was integrating those earth-friendly principles with our local building culture. As I observed the many low-cost and low-embedded-energy building materials and techniques Ed was using, I was moved to take a closer look.

What is low-embedded-energy? It's a fossil fuel energy accounting perspective that considers all the mining, manufacturing and transportation energy spent in order to get building materials (including concrete, wood, metals, plastics, insulation, etc.) to the site. I observed that Ed was bringing his sociology background and his awareness of the larger social-environmental picture into every detail of his house-building process. I thought to myself, here is a truly serious eco-builder.

Planning Ed's house

Moving to Crestone a few years ago, Ed purchased a building lot at 1188 Hilltop Way and began with a simple one-story rectangular house plan with the long side facing south for best solar exposure. The roof would have an appropriate slope to accommodate both solar thermal collector panels (for space heating and domestic hot water) as well as solar electric (PV or photovoltaic) panels. The long south-facing house wall would be constructed to integrate a large array of passive solar windows into the extra-thick, double-stud wood-frame walls. In this way, living with the sun's en-

ergy for heat and electricity would be combined with energy conservation in the form of lots of nontoxic, inexpensive insulation in the ceiling and house walls. Once having passed the POA building permit review, before the walls were built, Ed began shopping for recycled windows and doors. In other words, the basic open and flexible house design was to be built almost entirely around upcycled components and local building materials. Upcycling is a specific term for giving used materials a new life, thus saving them from the landfill.

Most of Ed's upcycled building materials and components were sourced from the Resource-2000 yard in Boulder County and the no-longer-serviceable White Eagle Hotel in Crestone. Valley sawmill operators and Amish suppliers provided local wood products such as attractive spruce tongue & groove ceiling boards, rough-cut wall studs, roof trusses, and also coated steel roofing panels. Although travel to Boul-

der is energy intensive, Ed combined such trips with visits to help care for his son who was recovering from a serious bicycle accident there.

The Resource-2000 recycle yard is supported by a Boulder law requiring that buildings must be deconstructed piece-by-piece rather than demolished and sent to the landfill. Building components purchased there in good condition can be had for as little as one tenth of their new retail price.

Living with the sun

In addition to combining energy from the sun for both heat and electricity with extra insulation in the walls and ceiling, Ed is also pre-



The long side of Ed's house faces south for solar gain. The roof accommodates both solar thermal collector panels as well as solar electric panels.

pared to opt for a low-demand lifestyle that he calls "living with the sun." With a modest size home (988 sq. ft. interior) and mid-sized solar components, he understands that the sun doesn't always shine. Timing showers and laundry for when solar energy is abundant is part of Ed's overall energy conservation strategy, along with an outdoor clothesline and a robust wood stove for occasional cloudy winter days.

Recycling & upcycling

The list of upcycled items in Ed's house is long. It includes all windows; all kitchen and bath sinks; bathroom tiles, tubs, toilets and shower enclosures; all interior and exterior doors; four solar thermal (hot water) collector panels; a solar thermal storage tank; recycled exterior and interior paint; large stainless steel industrial kitchen counter with sink; all plumbing fixtures (except new code-required shower mixing valves); a cast iron wood-burning kitchen cook stove, and a gas range cook top (the only propane gas usage); and cellulose insulation made from recycled paper. I must add that Ed is not a junk man! Choosing building items for upcycling that is consistent with

building materials purchased from far-away corporate retailers riding a global economy is the kingpin of Ed's keen socio-environmental perspective. We live in a rich, surplus society with much built-in waste. Building Ed's house shows how it is possible to opt almost completely out of such a system while on the same hand answering the call for doing positive social good. This creative nonparticipation calls on modern communities to envision and create benign social structures that support sustainability, cooperation and mutual aid. Abandon enemy images!

By using locally milled rough-cut lumber for wall studs Ed was able to build a double-stud, thick wall cavity with room for 12" of blown-in cellulose insulation yielding a thermal insulation value of up to R40 (similar to strawbale). In addition, the cellulose is manufactured at a facility in Penrose, about 100 miles from Crestone. The same cellulose is blown into the attic to yield R60. There is zero foam insulation board, no spray foam insulation, and no VOC (toxic volatile organic compounds) used anywhere in the house.

Foundation

In a bid to build a nearly concrete-free home (cement used in concrete is an energy-intensive and polluting building material), Ed built an earthen solar radiant floor paved with bricks except in the bath, kitchen and utility rooms, small water areas where a conventional 4" concrete floor is used. Another concrete saving technique is the

earth-bag foundation constructed of recycled rice bags filled with scoria (a local volcanic porous rock like pumice with good insulating properties). A thick layer of scoria was also placed under the earthen solar radiant floor to help keep the solar heat in the house.

continued on page B-8



Ed, a retired sociologist, is building his own "healthy house" in the Baca Grande.



Passive solar windows in the extra-thick, double-stud wood-frame south-facing wall.

a good-looking home aesthetic requires the discerning eye of an antique dealer. Cost savings from using upcycled building components can range from 75% to 95%.

Energy conservation

Conserving fossil fuel energy and costs from the mining, manufacturing and transportation of new



by Kim Malville
The night sky of May

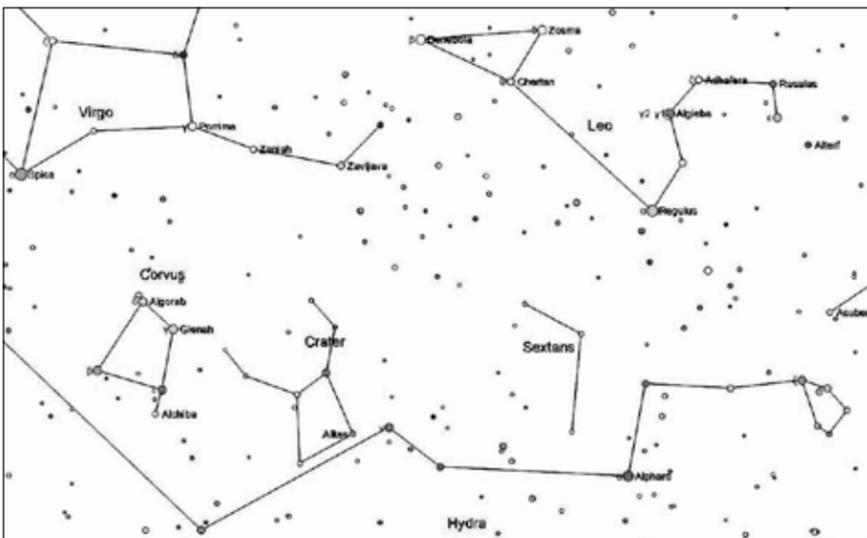
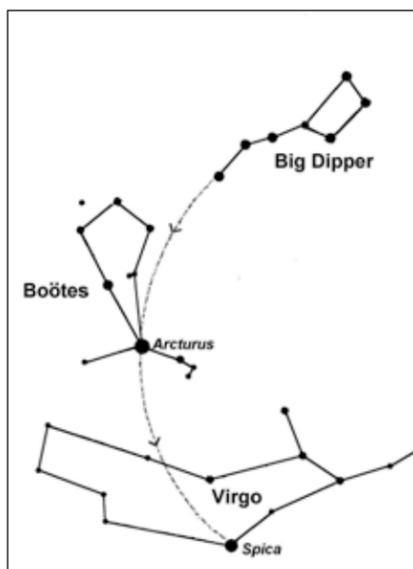
Summer is coming! Now is the time to start spending more time outside at night. The most brilliant star in the evening skies looking south is ruddy Arcturus, halfway up the sky. Arcturus is similar in mass to the sun but it is nearly 3 billion years older. Because of that it has exhausted all of the hydrogen in its core and has grown larger to become 25 times larger than the sun and nearly 200 times brighter. It is the brightest star north of the celestial equator.

Arcturus can be located using the bent handle of the Big Dipper: follow its arc southward to reach the star. If you continue south you will move downward to Spica, the brightest star of Virgo. Beyond Spica you can continue the curve to Corvus the Crow. Beyond Corvus are the fainter constellations of Crater and the water monster Hydra. To the right of Spica is Leo the Lion with Regulus its brightest star, and just beyond it is Jupiter.

Arcturus is particularly interesting because prehistoric Polynesian navigators used it to guide them on the voyage from Tahiti to Hawaii. They called Arcturus Hōkūle'a, the "Star of Joy". Arcturus is the zenith star of the Hawaiian Islands. Using Hōkūle'a

western sky. Below it and to the right you should be able to see Mercury about an hour after sunset. Higher in the sky is Jupiter. And then to the left of Spica is Saturn. Venus and Jupiter move toward each other (Venus moves faster since it is closer to the earth) until a magical evening on June 30 when they will come together in a spectacular conjunction.

May 1: For two weeks Mercury should be visible below Venus just after sunset. Just beyond Mercury you might be able to spot the Pleiades at one hour after sunset.



and other stars, the Polynesians launched their double-hulled canoes from Tahiti and the Marquesas Islands. Traveling east and north they eventually crossed the equator and reached the latitude at which Arcturus would appear directly overhead in the summer night sky. Knowing they had arrived at the exact latitude of the island chain, they sailed due west on the trade winds to landfall. If Hōkūle'a could be kept directly overhead, they landed on the southeastern shores of the Big Island of Hawai'i. For a return trip to Tahiti the navigators could use Sirius, the zenith star of that Tahiti. Since 1976, the Polynesian Voyaging Society's Hōkūle'a has crossed the Pacific Ocean many times under navigators who have incorporated this technique in their non-instrument navigation.

In the early evening Venus is the brightest object above the

May 4: The moon will be close to Saturn near the head of Scorpius.

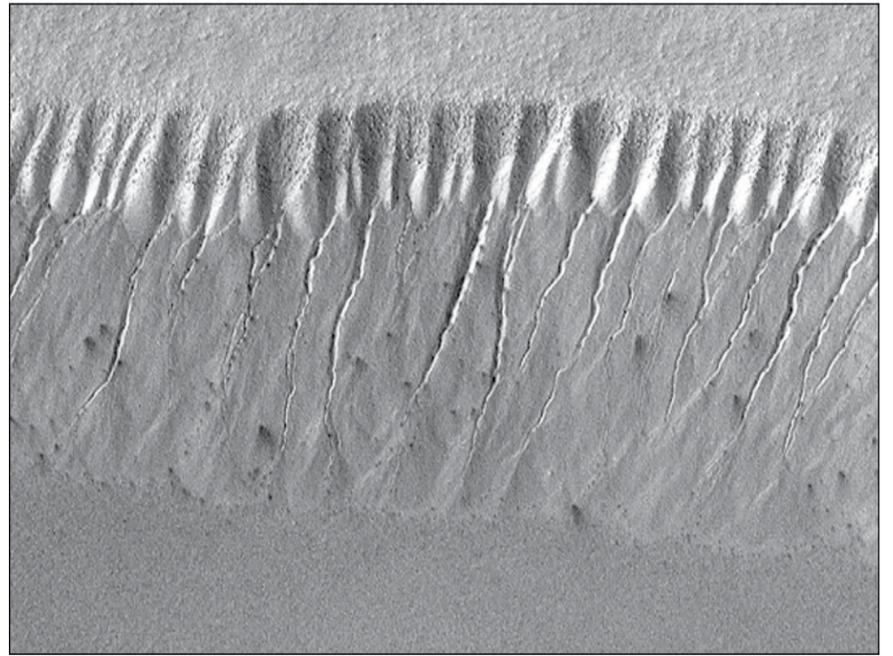
May 21: The crescent moon is on the bent knee of Pollux and close to Venus in the constellation of Gemini.

May 23: The moon has moved just below Jupiter.

May 30: The moon will be moving toward Spica, getting closer and closer throughout the night.

Organics circling a young star

Organic molecules have been found in a disk of gas, dust, and ice swirling around a very young star. This is the kind of disk that produces planets and comets. Using the radio telescope known as the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) in Chile, astronomers have found large amounts of methyl cyanide—(CH₃CN), cyanoacetylene (HC₃N) and hydrogen cyanide (HCN) in the proto-planetary



Exposed edge of a glacier with rivulets of water.

NASA

disk surrounding a very young star roughly twice the size of the sun, which is located about 455 light-years from Earth. The ratios of these molecules are similar to those is found in comets in our solar system. These are the kind of molecules that form the building blocks of life.

This research demonstrates that these gaseous disks, wherever they are, function as engines of chemical synthesis, creating environments vital for building the chemical complexity of biological life. All this happens long before a planetary surface is created. This kind of "pre-biotic" chemistry found in asteroids and comets in the solar system seems to be replicated in other young planetary systems in our galaxy. The building blocks of carbon-based life are thus not only found all over our solar system in the comets that sweep in toward the sun and in the asteroids that occasionally fall to earth, they exist throughout our galaxy. As we are discovering more and more often these days, it's no great leap to imagine carbon-based life, like us, thriving amongst the hundred billions of galaxies in our universe.

Glaciers on Mars

When you hike over glacial moraines in the Sangre de Cristos this summer, think Mars! The red planet has thousands of glaciers buried beneath its dusty surface. Mars apparently contains enough frozen water in its glaciers to blanket the planet with a layer of ice 3'-4' deep. If you are a doubter, look at this photo of a rock-covered Martian glacier with its lateral and terminal moraines.

Radar data, collected by Mars-orbiting satellites, combined with computer models of ice floes show the planet has about 5.3 trillion cu-

bic feet of water locked in the ice.

What is it that transformed Mars from a warm, wet and presumably Earth-like planet early in its history into the cold, dry desert that exists today?

Billions of years ago, Mars lost its global magnetic field when its core, smaller than Earth's, cooled. Without a protective magnetic field much of its atmosphere was stripped away by the solar wind. The atmospheric pressure on Mars is now so low that water ice sublimates and becomes water vapor. But when glaciers are protected by a thick layer of dust, they can survive.

It is a strange and disturbing thought that when our planet warms up and all glaciers on the earth have all melted, glaciologists can continue their research on Mars.

Mars has lost about 87% of the water it once had due to evaporation into its thin atmosphere. The planet probably had an ocean more than a mile deep covering almost half of its northern hemisphere.



Dust-covered glacier on Mars with lateral and terminal moraines.

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New insight on ground shaking from man-made earthquakes

Wastewater well injecting a key cause

USGS press release

Significant strides in science have been made to better understand potential ground shaking from induced earthquakes, which are earthquakes triggered by man-made practices.

Earthquake activity has sharply increased since 2009 in the central and eastern United States. The increase has been linked to industrial operations that dispose of wastewater by injecting it into deep wells.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) released a report on April 23 that outlines a preliminary set of models to forecast how hazardous ground shaking could be in the areas where sharp increases in seismicity have been recorded. The models ultimately aim to calculate how often earthquakes are expected to occur in the next year and how hard the ground will likely shake as a result. This report looked at the central and eastern United States; future research will incorporate data from the western states as well.

This report also identifies issues that must be resolved to develop a final hazard model, which is scheduled for release at the end of the year after the preliminary models are further examined. These preliminary models should be considered experimental in nature and should not be used for decision-making.

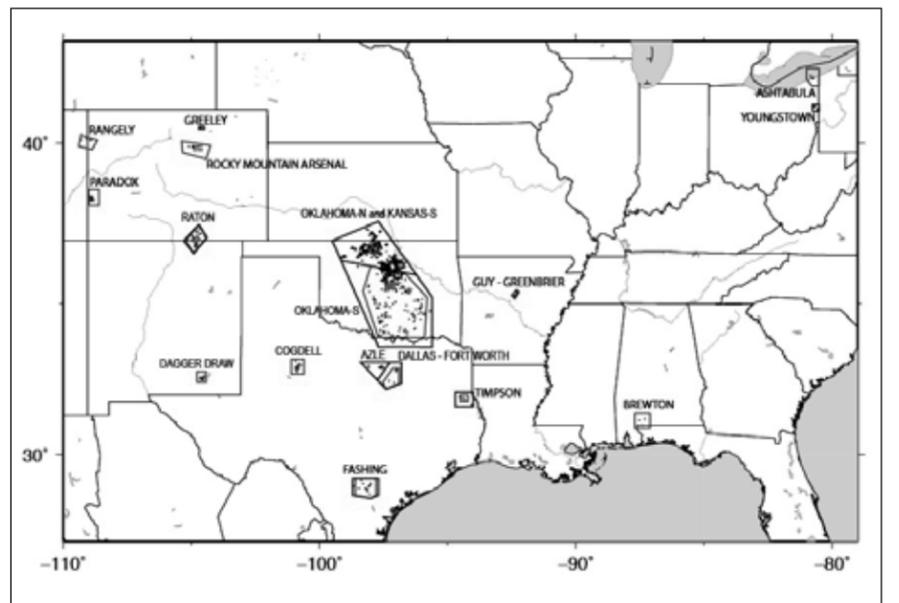
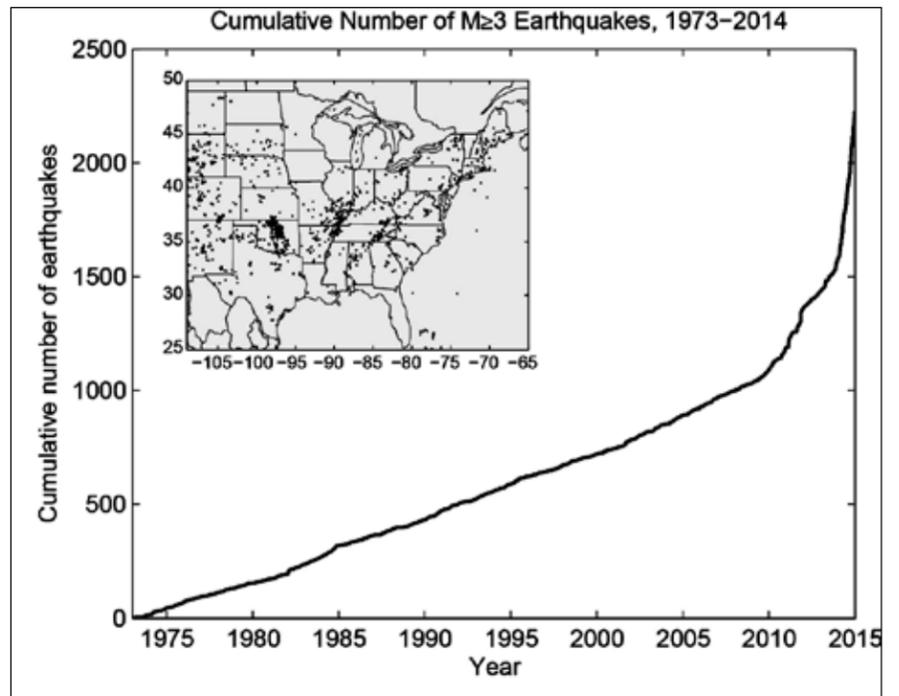
USGS scientists identified 17 areas within eight states with increased rates of induced seismicity. Since 2000, several of these areas have experienced high levels of seismicity, with substantial increases since 2009

that continue today. This is the first comprehensive assessment of the hazard levels associated with induced earthquakes in these areas. A detailed list of these areas is provided in the accompanying map, including the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Scientists developed the models by analyzing earthquakes in these zones and considering their rates, locations, maximum magnitude, and ground motions.

“This new report describes for the first time how injection-induced earthquakes can be incorporated into U.S. seismic hazard maps,” said Mark Petersen, Chief of the USGS National Seismic Hazard Modeling Project. “These earthquakes are occurring at a higher rate than ever before and pose a much greater risk to people living nearby. The USGS is developing methods that overcome the challenges in assessing seismic hazards in these regions in order to support decisions that help keep communities safe from ground shaking.”

In 2014, the USGS released updated National Seismic Hazard Maps <http://on.doi.gov/1HyexKT>, which describe hazard levels for natural earthquakes. Those maps are used in building codes, insurance rates, emergency preparedness plans, and other applications. The maps forecast the likelihood of earthquake shaking within a 50-year period, which is the average lifetime of a building. However, these new induced seismicity products display intensity of potential ground shaking from



induced earthquakes in a one-year period. This shorter time-frame is appropriate because the induced activity can vary rapidly with time and is subject to commercial and policy decisions that could change at any point.

These new methods and products result in part from a workshop hosted by the USGS and the Oklahoma Geological Survey. The workshop, described in the new report, brought together a broad group of experts from government, industry and academic communities to discuss the hazards from induced earthquakes.

Wastewater that is salty or polluted by chemicals needs to be disposed of in a manner that prevents contaminating freshwater sources. Large volumes of wastewater can result from a variety of processes, such as a byproduct from energy production. Wastewater injection increases the un-

derground pore pressure, which may lubricate nearby faults, thereby making earthquakes more likely to occur. Although the disposal process has the potential to trigger earthquakes, most wastewater disposal wells do not produce felt earthquakes.

Many questions have been raised about whether hydraulic fracturing—commonly referred to as “fracking”—is responsible for the recent increase of earthquakes. USGS’s studies suggest that the actual hydraulic fracturing process is only occasionally the direct cause of felt earthquakes.

Read the newly published USGS report, “Incorporating Induced Seismicity in the 2014 United States National Seismic Hazard Model—Results of 2014 Workshop and Sensitivity Studies.” at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2015/1070>.

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Garden Guru

Using soaker hoses in gardens



by **Matie Belle Lakish**

I've been using soaker hoses in my gardens for over a decade and have learned a few things that might benefit those who are considering installing irrigation systems for their gardens, or who have experienced problems they would like to correct.

Drip systems and soaker systems are not the same. Drip systems, such as Raindrip, are designed to drip or spray from an emitter or specialized sprayer. The systems can be quite complicated and expensive, depending on how many components a gardener chooses to employ. Soaker systems use a hose with very small holes all along it so that water seeps from it continuously along the length of the soaker hose. Usually, soaker hoses will water plants spaced 3" to 4" from the hose in the sandy soil we have in our area. Soakers are also available that have single holes spaced at regular intervals, such as one foot, that can water individual plants. In this article I will be discussing the soaker hose, but the same principles apply to other applications.

Soaker hoses come in different diameters. Most of us have seen or used the 5/8" or 1/2" soaker hoses, but a 1/4" size is also available.

In putting in a system, each of these can be used with a 5/8" regular garden hose or 5/8" black plastic pipe such as is carried by Crestone Mercantile hardware store. That is the feeder hose. This delivers water from the faucet to the garden. For a simple system, this is where the soaker hose is then connected.

In the garden area, I try to create a closed loop system. This allows water pressure to be equalized to all parts of the garden. So, for instance, I may attach a Y or T fitting to the end of my feeder hose, attach my soaker hose to the end, then loop it around until it comes back to the Y and connect that end as well. I will have to buy a special fitting for this that has 2 female ends, as I will, at that point, be trying to connect 2

male hose ends together. This equalization of pressure is important, especially as we are often dealing with slight differences in elevation even in relatively level garden beds.

This example is a simple Y fitting, but the same principle applies even in a large flat garden. You can feed water into both ends of the system using an extra hose. It may take some thought to see how to accomplish this, but in my experience, it is worth the extra effort to get equalized water output to each plant.

The same principle can be used with the smaller hose placed around each plant. In my young orchard, I have a 5/8" feeder hose that circles the orchard. Off of this I have 1/4" feeder hoses going to each tree, and a circle of 1/4" soaker hose around the drip line of each tree. For



Soaker hoses are flexible and can be wrapped around plantings and placed in the shape of your garden.

a large tree, I would circle it twice or three times, but have the two ends attached to a T fitting so water feeds from both ends.

Other hints for working with soaker hoses:

1) Do not mix systems. The difference in water pressure between a spray nozzle and a soaker hose will



Soaker hoses conserve water by only watering the area by the plants and not spraying water up in the air.

cause uneven watering. Also try to use the same brand of soaker-hose throughout each system, as different brands seem to have different sized holes.

2) Keep each watering system as level as possible. If you are working with different levels, make a separate system for each garden level, otherwise the lower level will receive most of the water, even if you feed water from both ends of your hoses.

3) It is easier to work with the hose after it is straightened out. This can be done by stretching it out in the sun for a while, anchoring the ends with rocks.

4) Cut the ends straight with a utility knife. Angled cuts are not as

stable.

5) Soak ends of hoses in hot water before attaching the fittings. This makes the process *much* easier. I keep a thermal cup of near-boiling water on hand when I am working with attaching fittings to hoses.

6) Fittings for 5/8" hoses can be found in the hardware section. I

often use pipe-fittings and clamps to create a secure union between two hoses.

7) Avoid kinks, or tight bends that crimp the hose. Water flow will stop there.

8) Use garden staples (available at the Merc) or rocks to hold hoses in place while you are laying them out.

9) Space hoses several inches apart in your circle or rows or you will have puddles.

10) Use a timer on your faucet to conserve water.

11) Establish zones. You can attach a splitter to direct flow to different areas of your garden. I prefer the ones that have valves I can shut off, so I can water different areas at different times. If I try to water everything at once, I don't have enough water pressure.

Setting up your system before planting makes it easier to position your plants close to your hose. It is more challenging to add a system later, but it can be done, especially if using the 1/4" soaker line. Happy spring!

What to plant in May at 8,000'

Greens: Spinach, lettuce, chard, oriental greens, peas.

Roots: Carrots, beets, parsnips, turnips, radishes, onions, potatoes.

Cole crops: Cabbages, broccoli and cauliflower, kale and collards

Herbs: Parsley, thyme, rosemary, chives

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Forest Service Plan Revision & federal water reserve rights: Rio Grande Roundtable & other April water meetings

by Bea Ferrigno

The main event at the April 14 meeting of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable (RGRT) was a Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) presentation on the Forest Management Plan Revision, currently in the first phase of a four-year process. Through July of this year, RGNF staff will be assessing what has worked and what hasn't since the current plan was completed. Adam Mendonca, RGNF Deputy Supervisor, explained that the Forest Plan has not been updated since 1996 and that the current expedited schedule is "lightning fast in federal time."

Conditions in the Rio Grande National Forest have changed substantially since the current plan was put in place, while funding has decreased radically, from \$14 million eight years ago \$8.5 million today. Consequently, forest managers will be sorting through the standards (which must be met) and guidelines (which should be met) in the present plan and shifting some to arrive at goals that can be reached within budgetary constraints.

Much of the discussion focused on federal water reserve rights held on streams within the RGNF, primarily for habitat preservation. In contrast to other basins where minimum instream flow rights were difficult for the

USFS to obtain, the RG Basin was cooperative and the rights have been successful now for some 30 years; since they were decreed in 1983 they have had no noticeable impact on downstream users. Travis Smith, Interbasin Compact Committee representative on the RGRT, said there was no need for change. Several other members expressed similar views and one remarked that valley water users want water to migrate through riparian areas. It was agreed that the RGRT would send a letter to the USFS noting the success of the federal rights and recommending that they remain unchanged.

State-required maintenance of reservoirs and ditches within areas now designated as wilderness could prove challenging. The federal Wilderness Act prevents access by and operation of motorized equipment which would provide the usual means of reaching and repairing structures at reservoirs within the RGNF that were built prior to wilderness designation. Wilderness legislation specifies what can and can't be done in those areas, with no consideration of how they can be reached and no provision for upkeep of pre-existing structures. In addition the RGNF has large swaths of standing dead timber, but only hand tools can be used in wilder-

ness areas. Various suggestions were offered to get around these obstacles. An additional meeting on water issues in the plan revision was held at Saguache in late April and will be reported here next month. The assessment phase of the plan process will continue through July; it will be followed by a collaborative consideration of solutions and tradeoffs.

Pending groundwater rules

State Engineer Dick Wolfe and staff met again with the San Luis Valley Advisory Com-

mittee (aka the rules committee) on April 7. Response functions, which assess injurious depletions to surface waters and determine amounts that must be replaced, were still pending but were released within the week. Several questions raised by attorneys at the meeting are expected to be resolved shortly, but considerable work on supporting documents remains to be done before the rules can be submitted to court. The committee is expected to meet again in May.

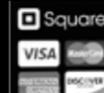


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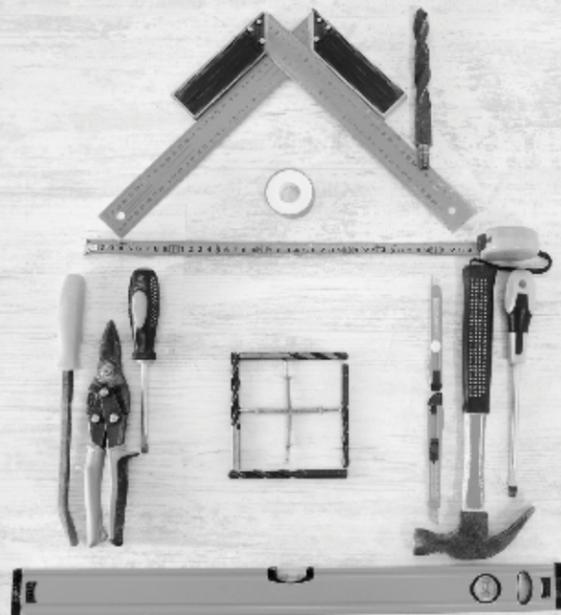
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EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

Canada's Energy East Pipeline— cause for concern?

Dear EarthTalk: The proposed KeystoneXL oil pipeline from Canada into the U.S. seems to get all the headlines, but shouldn't we also be worried about the Energy East pipeline? —Art Shea, Troy, NY

The Energy East Pipeline is a \$12 billion project proposed by TransCanada Corp. that will combine existing, converted natural gas pipelines with new pipeline construction to carry oil some 2,800 miles across Canada from Alberta's tar sands fields to export terminals in Quebec and New Brunswick. Unlike TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline proposal, which aims to transport oil from Alberta to Nebraska, Energy East would not directly cross into the U.S. But environmentalists on both sides of the border are concerned since Energy

East would transport 1.1 million barrels of tar sands oil a day—25% more than Keystone XL—and will be the longest oil pipeline on the continent.

Just as Keystone XL has been shrouded in controversy and debate in the U.S., Energy East faces fierce opposition in Canada, where groups like Environmental Defence and the Council of Canadians believe the pipeline threatens both sensitive ecosystems and populated areas with the risk of a spill. According to the report *Liquid Pipeline: Extreme Energy's Threat to the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River*, by Maude Barlow of the Council of Canadians, Energy East would cross the northern end of the Great Lakes, including the St. Lawrence River Basin watershed, threatening many water systems along the way.

"In its preliminary project description filed with the National Energy Board in March 2014, TransCanada outlined details about its plans to build a port in Cacouna, Quebec, just north of Rivière-de-Loup on the St. Lawrence River," the report states. "Local residents are very concerned that any accidents involving either the pipeline or marine shipments along this route would put the already endangered beluga whale population at greater risk."

For its part, TransCanada



Protestors from the Canadian activist group Defend Our Climate rally against TransCanada Corp.'s proposed 2,800-mile pipeline from Alberta to Quebec and New Brunswick.

says that it "understands the important role all aquifers, rivers and lakes play in maintaining sensitive and vital ecosystems across Canada," but asserts that "pipelines remain the safest, most efficient and most environmentally friendly mode of transporting energy across the continent." Before the Energy East pipeline goes into service, TransCanada plans to clean and thoroughly inspect the converted section of the pipeline. The company has also promised to avoid crossings of important water bodies to minimize disturbances of sensitive aquatic ecosystems. Highly-trained technical staff in TransCanada's control center would monitor the pipeline 24/7.

While construction and maintenance of the Energy East pipeline would create some 14,000 jobs during its first seven years while providing upwards of \$7.6 billion in tax revenue to pay for schools, roads and other public services across Canada, many Canadians remain concerned that a spill could threaten or destroy their livelihoods.

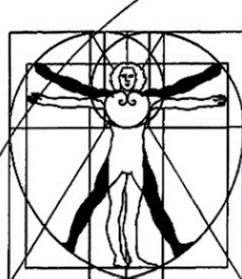
Regardless of these concerns, TransCanada is currently working to get final regulatory approval from Canada's National Energy

Board (NEB) to start work on Energy East and hopes to have construction completed by the end of 2018. Environmentalists are still holding out hope that NEB will reject Energy East on environmental and/or socio-economic grounds, and continues to drum up support across Canada and beyond for shelving the beleaguered pipeline.

Contacts: Energy East Pipeline, www.energyeastpipeline.com; Environmental Defence, www.environmentaldefence.ca; Council of Canadians, www.canadians.org.

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Building Ed's house

continued from page B-1

Solar systems

Ed's house has three solar systems, two for heating and one for off-grid solar electric supply. The large passive solar south-facing windows are for "direct gain" daytime winter space heating. In addition, four large solar thermal panels mounted on the roof collect solar heat by circulating fluid (antifreeze-water solution) pumped directly through pipes embedded in the earthen radiant floor. This solar heat is distributed naturally by radiating upward from the large floor area during nighttime winter space heating. A domestic hot water tank is also solar-heated directly via a heat exchanger coil of copper pipe placed inside a 40-gallon tank. An electronic thermostat directs the pumped liquid away from the floor into the small tank when needed. Thirdly, sharing the roof with the solar thermal panels is a small one-kilowatt array of photovoltaic (solar electric) panels that supply four deep-charge solar batteries and an inverter for standard 110-volt household electric use. You can see, with these three modest solar systems, Ed's house is energy independent and completely free from dependence on fossil fuels for heat and electricity (except for a small blue propane flame for cooking). Only water and sewage are connected to local infrastructure, along with cell towers that provide for mobile telephone.

Local culture

An important principle of social and environmental sustainability that we can value (besides diversity) is a local culture whose members learn to function cooperatively outside the urban and suburban mentality we grew up with. As I observed Ed's application of recycling, upcycling, and reducing practices with regard to energy and materials, I also began to hear about another local building skill that grew perhaps out of Ed's sociological career.

"You have to learn how to appreciate and connect with the local culture," he says. "Things are done differently in rural areas than in big cities." For example, some of Ed's helpers might want to take time off for hunting when elk are available.



Laying the earthbag foundation.

Some have other jobs they are working and show up part time or later than expected. Other helpers would stop by and lend a hand when heavy windows needed expert framing skills, or cold winter required a hot shower and a warm place to stay. Ed comments that when he learned to stay open, friendly and flexible, help would show up just at the right time to save the day, a kind of magical quality when community is flowing with ease, mutual aid and reciprocal support.

Building cost

When I asked Ed how much his house will cost to finish up all the remaining details, he was quick to point out that upcycling and using recycled materials is labor-intensive. Because he is recently retired, Ed has full time and energy to put into gathering materials and building his house. The sweat equity and mutual aid contributions are large. Beyond that, he says this house will cost him under \$50,000. When you divide this number by 988 sq. ft. (interior space 38' x 26') you get a building cost of around \$51/sf. Since the walls are a foot thick, using the exterior building footprint, you get \$45/sf. By comparison, the cost of conventional house construction in our area ranges from \$100-\$200 and more per sq. ft.

Conclusion

It seems that Ed's program of careful upcycling of materials, lots of managerial and sweat equity, and smart deployment of solar systems is demonstrating success in "living with the sun." Contact Ed for an invitation to a future open-house event! To learn more about a wide variety of solar energy applications and natural building techniques you may visit <http://crestonesolarschool.com> for information and a schedule of upcoming local solar education workshops. Some scholarships are available.

There's No Such Thing As A Weed

by Dorje Root
Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria spp.*)



Wild Strawberry.

Although wild strawberry is a medicinal plant as well as an edible, in this area we might just be happy to see it and know it energetically. The little strawberries are sweet and delicious, and will be eaten by critters as soon as they ripen! If you're lucky you'll be able to taste one! As kids growing up in rural New Jersey, we were often able to collect enough berries to put them in our cereal. In this climate that would be a difficult task.

The plant grows close to the ground and can be hidden under other plants. The leaves are three-lobed and the flowers are white with yellow centers. The flowers look like many members of the rose family—5 petaled with numerous stamens. The plant sends out runners which root and start new plants. The berries look like cultivated strawberries but are much smaller, and much sweeter.

Medicinally, wild strawberry leaves act similarly to raspberry leaves, just a milder version. Like all rose family plants, they are mild astringents, useful in a tea for sore throats, inflamed gums, diarrhea (especially in children), and urinary tract infections. Gather the

leaves in spring (if you can find enough!) and dry.

When I checked out Wild Strawberry flower essence, I found some interesting information. Here are a few snippets about what the essence is useful for: "clears negative thinking, worry, and anxiety", "restores trust in flow", "clears guilt and creates self-confidence and dignity", "eases guilt from past lives", "frees one from vows made in past lives, or the power of words uttered in extremis at the moment of sudden traumatic death". And, "for those who are stuck in old patterns of behavior of an emotionally charged mental loop, unable to separate thoughts and emotions".

Hmm . . . I'm off to find some wild strawberry flowers. Anybody want to join me?

Keep an eye on the Crestone Facebook pages and my website for dates of upcoming spring herb walks.

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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\$420,000 41 pristine acres located in the Grants; would make a great retreat property. Solar system, new batteries. 3550 sq ft with home and meeting/retreat building. Creek runs through property. 703497



\$330,000 Amazing contemporary home on 1 acre with separate 1BD apartment above the detached garage. Kitchen features all the modern amenities. 701128



\$298,000 PRICE REDUCED! Unique property with 2 units and office space, 3BD 2 1/4 BA, full sauna, 33' grow dome, orchard. Borders greenbelt & Cottonwood Creek. 699764



\$269,500 Just north of town, 5 acres with North Crestone Creek running through it! Secluded 960 sq ft home. About 200 feet of creek. 681507



\$249,500 Large home on 7+acres in the Grants, tons of charm! Built in 1998, 2552 sq ft with additional guest cottage, out-buildings. Off-grid for self-sustainability. 699783



\$245,000 Cozy, energy-efficient straw bale home on 2.5 acres near Cottonwood Creek and greenbelt. Elegant feel as you enter the front door. 2-car oversized carport with workshop area. 700945



\$239,000 2BD 2BA, spacious straw bale home. Radiant heat and a wood burning stove. Amazing views off decks and patio. Creek meanders through the property! 699757



\$229,000 5BD 3 1/4 BA with additional room off Master suite. Kitchen has plenty of cabinet space. Attached 2 car garage. 699746



\$215,000 This home has 40 acres with an artesian well. The lovely home has 3BD and 3 BA. Horse set-up, equipment barn and fenced pastures. 699756



\$199,900 New construction, 2BD 1 1/2 BA. Backs to greenbelt & creek. Passive solar, year-round warm earth mass floor. Custom kitchen with maple cabinets. Bathroom has a garden tub. 699761



\$199,000 Secluded beautiful home on 40 acres. Completely off-grid with top-of-the-line solar system. 2BD, office, formal dining room, nice outbuildings. 360° views. 700012



\$198,000 Perfect retirement home! Santa Fe-style home on 1acre. Detached 1 car garage, garden area, beautiful kitchen, tile floors, wood stove, radiant heat, large porch. 2BD 1BA. 703882



\$198,000 3BD 2BA home with a larger Master in the upstairs loft. Amazing views from porch. Kitchen features built-in range oven, refrigerator, and dishwasher. 699742



\$195,000 Superbly constructed monolithic dome with R-60 energy efficiency. Extremely fire and element-resistant structure. 5BD 2BA. Has large Quonset for multi-uses. 699782



\$189,500 Cozy 3BD 2BA 1500 sq ft beautifully situated Victorian Ross Chapin cottage. ETS & baseboard heat. Built with attention to detail. High ceilings, sky lights & fenced-in back yard. 699770



\$189,000 2 high-quality cabins in a beautiful setting! Built in 2002 as show cabins, secluded within the town of Crestone. Amazing interior! 1BD 1BA main cabin, 288sq ft quest cabin. 699742



\$179,500 Recently remodeled, bright, spacious, cozy duplex with private patios 5BD 3BA. Conveniently located on the edge of town. Close to Charter School & grocery store. 699772



\$179,500 3BD 2BA 1434 sq ft cute Victorian Ross Chapin cottage home. ETS & baseboard heat. High ceilings, skylights, private balcony with amazing views. Convenient to town. 699771



\$179,000 Creek-side home! Large fireplace, spacious kitchen, deck with hot tub, views of the Sangre de Cristos. Great vacation home! 1BD, 2 loft rooms, 1BA, adjoining room downstairs. 699746



\$179,000 Great 5.25 acres for horses and dogs. Backs to Willow Creek greenbelt for trail riding. Thoughtfully built straw bale 3BD 2BA home. Solar hot water. 699780



\$169,900 Walking distance to Dharma Ocean Institute. High up on the mountain with amazing panoramic views. 2BD 1 1/2 BA, office. 699803



\$165,000 Charming home! 4BD 2BA, newly painted, new wood laminate floors upstairs. Large green house in the back of the house. 699751



\$159,000 Surrounded by trees, spacious 3BD 2BA, 1850sq ft. LR, DR, large family room with fireplace opens to rear deck & views. Master Suite has 5 piece bath. 2 car garage.



\$158,000 Great getaway home near Cottonwood Creek. Builder's own home, great room with vaulted ceilings, quality craftsmanship; loft could be guest area. 699734



\$150,000 Nestled in between the town of Crestone & Chalets I. 2 floors, 2BD, 2 BA, bright, spacious living room with high ceilings, private balcony and patio. 699773



\$147,000 Beautiful Baca Meadows Town Home. 2 floors, 2BD 2BA, spacious living room with high ceilings, private balcony & patio areas. Convenient to town. 699781



\$139,000 A great buy! This ranch-style home has 3BD, 2BA, lots of light. Detached garage with workshop area, grow home for year-round growing. On a very private cul-de-sac. 703303



\$75,000 This A-frame cabin offers a great opportunity to buy a turn-key house in the Baca Grande subdivision at a price rarely found! 699702



\$54,900 Nice large home on 1 acre. Horses allowed. Had several out-buildings. Grow a garden and be self-sufficient! 702541



\$52,000 Large home with 5BA 3BA, large front porch, storage shed. 5 acres with views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. 699785



\$44,900 Handyman special on 1.85 acres with tremendous views, on a private cul-de-sac. Household well. 699739



\$37,500 PRICE REDUCED! Nice open floor plan, spacious kitchen, separate dining room. Wood burning stove in living room. Community fishing pond and clubhouse! 699737



\$44,500 Bank foreclosure on lot with fantastic views, in a secluded area. Large living room and kitchen, walk-in pantry, 3BD 2BA, near golf course. 699740



\$25,000 3BD 2BA mobile in Lazy KV water is included with yearly HOA. On 1 acre with a new greenhouse and beautiful mountain views. 703451



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102-104 WAGON WHEEL ROAD: 11.60 acres on paved road, unobstructed views \$29,000

1447 MALACHITE TRAIL: Bring all offers! Owner financing! 1.4 acres \$5,000

1602 SILVER SPUR TRAIL: Nice lot, 1.65 acres, near Spanish Creek, close to town. \$3,000

1396 WAGON WHEEL ROAD: a walk to the creek, with an adjoining lot available for sale! 1.71 acres \$4,250

1958 COUGAR TRAIL: 1.87 acres near open space, creek & the swimming hole \$7,250

605C QUAIL RUN: 11.86 acres. Nice for horses & privacy \$22,000

STABLES LAGOON TRACT: bordering the greenbelt, near creek. No covenants, outside of POA, 10 acres \$117,000



DISPATCH

from the edge 

32 things I've been thinking about small towns

by Peter Anderson

The other day I was thinking about small towns—what it's been like to live in them most of my life, and what I may have learned along the way. Here are a few thoughts, some of them gleaned from experience and some of them taken from long-term observation.

1. Spend your first few years getting to know the lay of the land.
2. Mind your own business, especially as a newcomer, and have plenty of business to mind.
3. Appreciate postmaster/mistress, UPS and Fed-ex guys, wi-fi providers, and public radio stations who keep you connected to the rest of the world.
4. Tip waitresses/bartenders well, especially those who call you "hun."
5. Pay attention to the birds: who's here, who's coming, who's leaving, who stays. They are a source of endless amusement and good cheer.
6. Listen to those who have ideas, but praise those who get stuff done.
7. Shovel out your neighbor's driveway after a big spring snow.
8. Honor your elders, listen to their stories, and read the

obituaries to see what you can learn about the people who came before you.

9. Welcome the newcomer; they are always needed to refresh the gene pool.
10. Talk more about gardens, weather, and children than local politics.
11. If you do choose to engage in politics, check your ego at the door and hold on to your sense of humor.
12. Be like your favorite well-behaved dog: wag more, bark less, and if you must piss on a fire hydrant, know that we are all territorial, love our space, and there may be consequences.
13. Feel free to gossip as long as it's good natured—it adds to the social fabric—but refrain from malicious chit-chat, which may return to bite you in the ass.
14. Buy your neighbor a beer or a cup of coffee since they are conversational lubricants and conversation is the engine of a small community.
15. Buy local whenever you can; small town economies are fragile.
16. Buy at least one cookie from every bake sale, since bake



A 4th of July crowd of neighbors. Small town living at its finest.

sales make the small town world go round.

17. Appreciate those who always have a story or a joke to tell and pass along the good ones . . . so this blind guy walks into a bar, stops in the middle of the floor, and starts to swing his seeing-eye dog around and around, at the end of its leash. "What in the world are you doing?" yells the bartender. "Oh, I'm just having a look around."
18. For a guaranteed feel-good moment, tune into big city radio and listen to the traffic report.
19. Resist the temptation to wish you were somewhere else. If you can't resist it, move on.

For Crestone in particular, I might add the following:

20. Read the *Eagle*, the most accurate media source for community news and often an amusing window into the life of the place that you call home.
21. Learn to love the seasons or at least be stoic about all that they bring including wind, mosquitos, bitter cold. These are things that keep your town small, which, after all, is why you live here.
22. Praise moisture in all its forms and know that we couldn't be here without it.
23. Develop your own personal on-the-road greeting, waving indiscriminately at all other drivers in Saguache County. You will surprise out-of-towners—who was that?—and reassure your neighbors that we are all in this together.

24. Learn to tolerate the eccentric which keeps us pleasantly weird.

25. Allow extra time for a trip to the post office since it's one of the few places where you may just see your reclusive neighbors, except for those who sneak in and out at night.
26. Enjoy the circuit—Merc, hardware store, Cloud, Post Office, credit union, Crestone Spirits—and take time to visit since your errands would take much longer anywhere else.
27. Take care of the Free Box, as it takes care of those more needy.
28. Learn to watch the weather. It's the best show in town.
29. Allow yourself to slow down during those moments in the late afternoon or early evening, when pinyons and junipers are so full of light, it appears as though they may burst into flame. Praise the Sangres as they earn their name.
30. Learn some new constellations and enjoy the Milky Way, knowing that it is all but invisible in most of the world's urban areas.
31. Find a high place where you can watch distant trucks on dirt roads out in the valley. Notice how the dust rises in their wake like a lit fuse.
32. Fall in love with open space. Sometimes it's what's not here that ultimately keeps us happy.

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MAY 2015 Listings



SOLD!



1541 Camino Real - \$179,000
This 1799sf, 3BR/1.75BA home built in 1974 & w/attached 2 car garage. On 3.25 acres in the grants, 188 ft well, septic, elec. baseboard heat, wood-stove, composition shingle roof. Great opportunity for a fixer-upper

Under Contract



275 W. Iron Ave - \$189,000
Built by Terry Anderson in 2002, in a secluded area of the Town of Crestone. Both contain Amish hand crafted timber frame trusses, hickory hardwood flooring, structural insulated roof panels with tongue & groove white pine ceilings.



1479 Badger Rd - \$175,000
Custom 3BD/1.75BA home, built in 2004, backs to open space. Immaculate condition. Beautifully crafted w/diamond plastered walls, wood ceilings, wood floors, in-floor radiant heat, & wood stove.



36 Camino Baca Grande - \$98,000
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.

New Listings



1275C Bear Grass Way - \$399,000
Unique, 2-story 2BD/2BA 2040sf+loft hexagon energy efficient Rastra home up high in Ch1, adjacent to greenbelt on ~2 acres. In-floor radiant heat, passive-solar, woodstove. 352sf guest house. Gorgeous, must-see home!



340C Palomino Way - \$389,000
Immaculate 1820sf, 2-story, 3BD/2BA home on 1.79 acres, meditation gardens w/rock lined pathways & patios. Solar h/w, woodstove & solarium. Detached double garage w/396sf studio space w/full bath, possible kitchen.



207C Foothill OL - \$259,000
2-story 3BD/2.5BA/Study stucco home with a 2-car attached carport is non-toxic with Bioshield paints & oil finishes, Bamboo floors & natural pine ceilings. Spacious Master Suite w/Jacuzzi tub, separate shower, porcelain tiles & marble counter.

New Listings



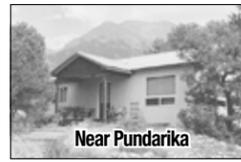
2145 Indian Well Way - \$209,000
This 2BD/1BA is a new construction w/huge windows & rooftop deck for gorgeous views. Aspen panel ceiling in Great Room, ETS heat, stainless kitchen appliances w/granite tile & butcher block countertops. Soak tub w/separate shower.



3949C Cheerful Way - \$189,000
Built by Terry Anderson in 2002, 1110sf, 2-story 2BD/1.75BA/carpport on .699 acres. Balcony w/ outstanding views, diamond plastered walls, soak tub. Private location w/ trees. Retreat home, private getaway, full time residence.



635C Panorama Way - \$179,900
This 1504sf 3BD/2BA home sits on 1.013 acres & has an open, flowing floorplan w/lots of windows for natural light. Hardwood floors, custom made cabinets, screened porch, honeycomb window blinds.



1221 Chaparral Way - \$149,000
This lovely one owner 2BD/1BA 1008sf Terrapin home has hot water baseboard heat, Vermont casting wood stove, stucco exterior & beautiful views. Landscaped, fenced yard & off the road for privacy. Near Pundarika retreat property.

Commercial Property



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



332 E. Mica Ave - \$449,000
Spectacular Strawbale 3BR/2BA/ Office custom home w/ enormous chef's kitchen, on North Crestone Creek. Lush, grassy yard & trees. Detached 950sf barn could be great as enclosed yoga/art studio!

Town of Crestone



315 E. Iron Ave - \$150,000
Built in 1951-2,400sf log home on a full city block (12 lots) is ready for your TLC. Well permit allows irrigation of 1/2 acre & watering of domestic animals. Land can be divided into 3 additional building sites

Baca Meadows



Baca Meadows Townhome #10 \$189,000
Exquisite town house completely remodeled in 2008. 1480sf 2-story 2BD/2BA features redesigned kitchen & bathrooms, updated heat & lighting systems, beautiful patio. Must see!

Baca Grande - Chalets



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. A must see home!



1967 Rockyview Way - \$465,000
Luxurious 3BD/2.75BA/Office/3-car Garage 2953sf home sits on 2.374 acres & has a 2-room upstairs Master Suite. Beautifully landscaped courtyards & gardens with custom fence & deck.



786C Panorama Way - \$419,000
This Lee Mitchell custom 3bd/2ba/ sunroom/library/balconies 2428sf home with fabulous gardens sits on 2.14 acres w 2-car garage/studio. Exquisite - Must See!



4262C Serene Way - \$299,900
Immaculate 2500sf 5BD/2.75BA 3-level home on .98 acres. Custom finishes, fire resistant, energy efficient, magnificent views, extensive patios. Private. Good retreat home.



557 & 560 Panorama Way - \$299,000
This spacious 7BD/3BA home has functioned as a B&B - fantastic for owner occupied &/or retreat space. Amazing 360 views, nearby creek w/ cottonwood & aspen trees. A must-see property.



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.



22 Alpine OL - \$295,000
CUSTOM 3bd/2.5ba/2 car garage 2232sf home close to town. Screened porch & wrap deck. Gracious Living with exceptional views!



3615CR Splendid Terrace - \$275,000
1938sf 3BD/2.5BA, meticulous, Southwestern style home with arched windows & doorways sits on 1.719 acres. 400sf detached Casita Apt w/kitchenette & full bath.



149 Moonlight Way - \$269,000
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. Great space for entertaining!



1255C Eagle OL - \$267,000
Beautiful 2075sf 2-story home with 2BD/2BA/Office/Sunroom in a private cul-de-sac on 1.766 acres in Chalets 1. Dramatic view windows, vaulted ceilings, master suite w/soak tub.



1540C Willow Creek Way - \$249,000
3BD/2.5BA 1946sf classic farmhouse, 1.3 acres, backs to greenbelt & w/ 2 screened porches & southern deck. Separate log-cabin studio, w/steam-shower bathroom, kitchenette, and covered porch.



909C Brookview Way - \$240,000
Home on 1.12 acres w/ spectacular views at top of Baca waiting for the right person to complete the vision. 2324sf & designed with 3bd/2ba. Separate 576sf guest house w/kitch.



1216C Chaparral Way - \$235,000
Custom built 2005-Teahen home, 1710sf 2-story, 3bd/2.5b home on 1.132 acres is immaculate! Great kitchen, master suite w/ elegant master bath. Upstairs sitting room, bonus room and balcony.



4454C Ridgecrest Way - \$229,000
Beautiful custom 2-story, 3BD/2.5BA/Office on 1.508 acres backs to Cottonwood Creek gmbit. Master Ste w/attached sun room & meditation room. Energy-efficient quality construction.



397 N Chaparral Way - \$209,000
Lee Mitchell Home, 1410sf, 3 bd, 2 ba, 2-story stucco home has magnificent mountain and valley views. Gorgeous Master Suite on entire 2nd floor. Private suite is complete w/ large closets, master bath.



333 Palomino Way - \$199,000
Built in 2011, this 2-story 1685sf home offers 3BD/Study/2.5BA in a very functional floorplan. Passive solar, fire-resistant siding, carport, spacious kitchen with concrete countertops,



1447 Chaparral Way - \$199,000
This 1440sf 2bd/2ba home is a complete remodel with bamboo flooring, Jenn-Air stainless appliances, maple cabinets, granite countertops, travertine bathrooms, master bath soak tub. Adjacent lot available.



3356C Camino Del Rey - \$199,000
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.



3376 Genial Way - \$179,000
Tri-level 3BD/1.75BA home, lovely screened porch w/trex deck off living room. Lots of windows in the living space, offering amazing views, lots of light, and passive solar. ETS heat.



3704 Carefree Way - \$179,000
Immaculate like new 3 bd/1.75ba, 1316sf home has wood floors, stucco privacy wall, single car garage, beautiful views of the mountains.



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. New roof.



3732C Cordial Way - \$159,000
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.



499C Willow Trail - \$349,000
A unique & rare find! ~3900sf with 4bd/3ba/office/sunroom + attached greenhouse. 20+ acres. Tall trees. Private, long cul de sac & backs to Conservation Easement, offering extreme privacy. Well water.



765CRR Heatherbrae Rd - \$295,000
Off-Grid - 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.



56 Wagon Wheel Road - \$295,000
Luxurious ~1800sf 2BD/2BA southwest-style ranch home built in 2002. 2-car garage w/studio. Large windows in great room w/stone fireplace & amazing views. 4.6 acres, well & septic.



1234 Laredo Trail - \$265,000
This strawbale 1831sf 3bd/2ba home with detached studio on 1.86 acres has magnificent views & fine finishes, an open floor plan, a Ma. Ste w/ soak tub, deck with bamboo fencing and plenty of privacy.



1564 Wagon Wheel Road - \$229,000
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. Great value!



1175 Golden Eagle Tr - \$185,500
2BD/2BA 1196sf Ranch-style home on 2.15 acres, built in 2006. Cozy luxury in the Grants. Mstr suite has tremendous views, full bath, walk-in closet, patio & garden. ETS heat. Well & septic



600 Heatherbrae Road - \$185,000
Off-Grid - Beautiful 1240sf 2BD/1.5BA home on 2.61 acres, borders Conservation Easement. 220sf enclosed passive solar porch, 105sf shower & deck, 528sf deck & 8'x12' storage room. Well & septic.

FOURTEEN New Listings in the Last TWO Months!
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Baca Grande Library News



by **Suzanne McGregor**

On behalf of our wonderful Friends of the Library, we would like to thank all community members who contributed delicious

baked goods to the Tax Day Bake Sale last month. Coordinated by Thom Ontko with assistance from many dedicated volunteers, the event was a success! Thank you for supporting our efforts by buying some of these goodies—the profits will go to enhancing our present library and to hiring a program coordinator for the fundraising activities for our future library in town. (Just a note—some folks are missing the plates they brought, so if you took one home by mistake, please check the back for a name and just bring it to the library).

April showers bring May

flowers, but a little bit later in our area. A shorter growing season and high altitude gardening requires some basic knowledge to plant and care for your garden. The library can assist you by providing the information and guidelines that you might need for a successful (and fruitful) season. Come take a look at our gardening section—we have books on low-maintenance and vertical gardening, high altitude western gardens and Colorado month-to-month guides, selecting perennials for our location, desert grasses, solar gardening and greenhouses,

xeriscaping and permaculture. For year-round information, the *Zone 4* magazine is available at the library.

We appreciate your patience in allowing us to close the library for two days to do inventory (the first time ever!). We now have an accurate record of all the items in our collection, and all those that are missing or lost or that were discarded many years ago. The shelves look the same, but this “spring cleaning” has made the staff feel much more organized!

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

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In Search of Economic Reality

The mean morals of Congressional leaders & their wealthy sponsors

by Ed Lyell

Americans are increasingly stressed and struggling just to earn the basics of life. Since 1990 wages have gone down in inflation-adjusted dollars for 90% of Americans. The median family earns less now than in 1999. The richest 1% gets 93% of all new income. This is caused by a moral failure of many leaders who have adopted the selfish philosophy and economic positions of the novelist Ayn Rand. This has also destroyed our trust in government.

Forty million families must use food stamps and subsidized housing because their wages no longer purchase the necessities. Too many families rely upon both parents working, leaving little time and energy to raise their children. Instead there is an expanding loss of hope, and a sense that their children will not enjoy a better life than they have. We have schools that work for the wealthy while the majority of children are in low-performing schools destroying their future opportunities.

My mentor Kenneth Boulding taught me about more than pure economics. He received 53 honorary doctorates yet had walked away from finishing his economics doctorate at the University of Chicago because he did not agree with their focus on self-interest as the

key component of all economic activity. Kenneth wrote hundreds of articles and over 30 books placing economics in the context of broader social science grounded on using economic activity to advance what he called human betterment.

Thus I resent and dispute the current Republican-led Congressional House of Representative's budget and economic plans which are led by a group of men who received their economic philosophy from the novelist Ayn Rand and her fictional books like *Atlas Shrugged*. This is a philosophy of selfishness. Ms. Rand did not even believe that an individual should feel an obligation to help their own children or family, let alone some sense of responsibility for helping unknown fellow humans. Their philosophy has led our Congress to distort statements by the father of capitalism, Adam Smith. Smith said that all will prosper best if each individual pursues their own self-serving goals and then as if by an "invisible hand" all will succeed. Smith was referring therein only to the value of international trade, not to all economic activity.

Congressional budget leader Paul Ryan and other neo-conservatives do not follow Adam Smith's other quotes such as: "To feel much for others and little for ourselves; to restrain our selfishness and ex-

ercise our benevolent affections, constitute the perfection of human nature . . ." Smith concluded that "Consumption is the sole end and purpose of all production; and the interest of the producer ought to be attended to, only so far as it may be necessary for promoting that of the consumer."

Thus both Adam Smith and Kenneth Boulding advocated for an economic system focused on helping the many to become successful and thrive. In America today we have an economy and Congress focused on giving all economic rewards to the already wealthy and powerful. The tax code has been changed to re-distribute middle class income upward to the wealthy. The US has the world's highest level of income inequality. After taxes and government payments the wealthy come out even richer since only America's income redistribution goes from the middle class to the wealthy.

Boulding argues that benevolent actions are made possible by our human "capacity for empathy, for putting oneself in another's place [and] feeling the joys and the sorrows of another as one's own". Acts of benevolence, for Boulding and me, belong to a larger category of "heroic" actions. Boulding cites "saints and martyrs of all faiths, religious and secular," as extreme examples of heroic action. Yet he mostly emphasizes the "quiet heroism" of everyday life, "in jobs, in marriage, in child rearing, and in the humdrum tasks of daily life,

without which a good deal of the economy might well fall apart." (from www.conversationsonphilanthropy.org).

I was trained and raised by my mentor and "second father" to see the world as it could be if we go away from selfish gain and focus on human betterment for all. To me the current US Congress is evil when it eliminates the inheritance tax which is only paid by estates over ten million dollars. Only 2 of every 1,000 estates pay this tax and yet it gives \$25 billion a year back to the richest families. The Republican leadership runs ads claiming that the inheritance tax hurts family farms when no family farm has been damaged from this tax.

For decades taxes of all types have been cut, or deductions created, to help only the richest 1% and the corporations that they own. Our Congressional leaders tell us that this is best for us since capitalism is based on self-interest only. Yet the economists that I respect keep telling us that capitalism works best when it works for the majority. As Gandhi said, "Poverty is, but misery is a choice". Misery is being poor knowing that others are getting richer from your hard work and diminishing quality of life.

As Chief Supreme Court justice William Douglass said over a hundred years ago; "Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe."

Ed Lyell PhD is Professor of Business and Economics at Adams State University, ehlyell@adams.edu.

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Houses & Property for Sale

Chalet One Home For Sale

Chalet One home for sale, hexagon, open, light-filled, cathedral ceilings, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, wood stove, maple cabinetry, centered on 3 fenced, consolidated lots on paved road, backs to creek greenbelt, seclusion, trees, fire-mitigated, mountain views, great neighbors! \$159,000 256-5017

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Baca Grande property for sale. Crestone Creek front on green belt. 1.42 consolidated acres, flat building site, good access from road. Tap paid. Private. 3887C Caprice Way Chalet 2. \$49,500. 970-927-3881

Woodsy Lot For Sale

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Great Lot—Chalets 2—Cheap Price

Private court in Chalets Two – located near trail to Great Sand Dunes National Park. Trees, views, wildlife \$3,000 Tap fees paid. Lot 4348 Chalets Unit Two Baca Grande. Contact leannebac@gmail.com.

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Tiny Little Crestone Clinic

The Tiny Little Crestone Clinic closed in January 2015. To get records, have your new provider mail a records request signed by you- to PO Box 983, 81131. They may only need labs and test results that you were given over the years, so take those items with you! Thanks!

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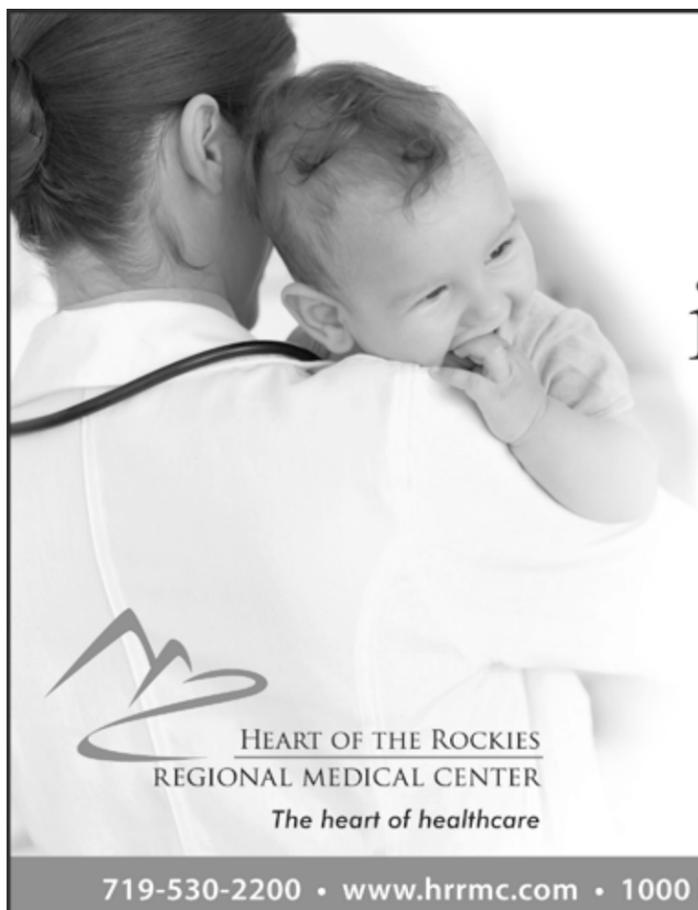
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Orient Land Trust has an opening for a part-time front desk staff person at Valley View Hot Springs. Excellent computer/database experience and superior customer relations skills required. Nights, holidays, weekends required. Contact Dave at 719-256-4315 or dave@olt.org for more info.

Help Wanted
The Baca Grande POA is seeking two FT Maintenance Assistants. These will be temp. summer positions. Must be 18 years of age with a valid Colorado DL. Ability to perform heavy manual labor required. Prefer someone who is able to operate a variety of heavy equipment regularly.

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

Working knowledge of mowers and golf course equipment, turf watering systems, maintenance, basic carpentry, plumbing and electrical skills are preferred, but not required. Please contact the BGPOA office for an application at: (719) 256-4171 or on our website: www.bacapoa.org

Housecleaning and Outdoor Work
Need helper for indoor housecleaning and outdoor work (digging, weeding, moving wood piles, chopping wood) Once every week, four hours work, \$75. Catherine 256-4248

Software Company in Crestone! We are hiring.

Seeking: 1) Bootstrap Web Developer 2) SaaS Client Manager 3) enterprise software Sales. Needed skills: E-Commerce, database experience, & technical onboarding. Fast learners only need apply. Long-term opportunity. www.SilverEarth.com

Construction & Landscape Helper
PART TIME: Construction & Landscape Helper needed – next 6 months at Home remodel in Chalet II, approx. 2-3 days per week. Some skills required. Send response: chcenter@fairpoint.net or Call 256-4370

Child Protection Caseworker
Saguache County Department of Social Services is now accepting applications for the position of Child Protection Caseworker. Starting salary range \$2370 to \$2620 depending on experience. Bachelor's degree in one of the behavioral sciences required. Spanish-speaking advantageous but not required. Applications and complete job descriptions are available at 605 Christy Ave., Saguache, CO 81149, by visiting the Saguache County website @ SaguacheCounty.net or by calling 719-655-2537 and requesting one be mailed. This position announcement is open until filled. Saguache County is an E.O.E.

Misc. Wanted

WE BUY ANTLERS
WE BUY ANTLERS. Grande Natural of Del Norte buys all grades of antlers at competitive prices. Local weekly pickup for minimum quantities. 719-657-0942

Straw Bales – New or Old
New & golden or old & moldin', our garden needs 'em. Please call Janet at 719-937-3767 or stop by the Crestone Eagle office.

WANTED: Bodhisattvas
For the benefit of all beings, starting with all beings here and now! tinyurl.com/Bodhisattvas

Misc. for Sale

Natural Pork
We have natural and humanely raised Red Wattle Heritage pork for sale by the whole pig or individual cuts. Please call 719-480-2689.

Windows For Sale
White vinyl windows for sale. No nailing fins. Fixed: Six 24x60. Sliders: two 24x36, two 24x60, two 36x48. \$300 for all. Call Chris or Syd 719 256-5243

Plant Starts for Sale
Variety of Janet's vegetable, flower & herb plants at Saturday Market starting May 9.

Community Service

CB Village – Local Help, Give & Receive
CB Village is a local time bank where you can help others and gain credit for future help when you need it. Go to www.cbvillage.net or call 480-8757 to join for free.

Yard/Garage/Moving/Estate Sales

YARD SALE
Great selection – fair prices. 9 – 2 Saturday May 2nd. No early birds! 2nd & San Juan, Saguache & other Saguache locations.

Events

COMMUNITY GRANGE POTLUCK
Community Grange Potluck @ The Cloud Station. Meet up and network for local farm folks. Saturday, May 23rd at 12:00. Call Nathan for info: 256-4768

Free

Free Manure
Free horse manure. Call the Baca Grande Stables to arrange pick up. 256-6200.

FREE DAY AT THE SAGUACHE COUNTY LANDFILL
The Saguache County Commissioners will be hosting a free dump day for Saguache County Residents:
Monday, May 9, 2015 8am-3pm
The maximum limit for free dumping is 1000 pounds. Poundage above 1000lbs will be charged at a rate of \$1.82 per hundred pounds. Items accepted on free dump day will be everything except household trash, electronics, paint, tires, freon units and hazardous materials. An example of acceptable items would include construction debris, old furniture, and yard waste. Commercial haulers will be charged the normal fee. If the wind prevents us from holding free dump day on May 9th the alternate day chosen will be May 16, 2015. For questions please contact the Saguache County Road and Bridge Department at 719-655-2554.

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Healthy beef raised in a responsible organic pasture Available for sale Contact Amber Felmlee 303-886-9436

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by Keno
Do we really get much water down here on the flat land (in the Grants) from the snow melt?

Yes, no question about! The snowmelt makes its way down there, especially each spring, and is why there's all of that water under the valley floor. In April and May, we usually see lakes of water form along T Road, as the water below the valley floor rises up. All of this is directly because of the snowmelt/spring runoff from the mountains. Most of the water in our creeks, which comes from both snowmelt and rainfall, makes its way into the valley floor just outside of the Baca. There it doesn't dry up but seeps into and under the valley's floor.

I'm confused, are we or are we not still in a drought? I've heard both ways on this.

The answer would be both yes and no, as it depends on where you live around here as to if where you are officially in drought or not. If you live anywhere in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, or in the mountains' foothills, like in the town of Crestone or the Baca, then no, you are not in the drought area. But if you live in the Grants, or Casita Park, Moffat, or anywhere in the San Luis Valley, then yes you are in what is being classified as "Class D0" drought conditions. This is the lowest level of the chart use to de-



Some yaks enjoy the spring weather in the valley while Crestone gets rained/snowed/sleeted on in the background. 4:15 pm on Saturday, April 18. photo by Lori Nagel

termine how severe the drought is. But for our entire area, a dry spring and early summer could change everything for the worse, so water conservation is always recommended.

What's the difference between weather and climate?

Great question! The difference between weather and climate is a measure of time. Weather is what atmospheric conditions are over a short period of time, and climate is how the atmosphere is over relatively long periods. Another way to state this is that weather is the condition in the atmosphere right now, but climate is the whole continuum, and much more than just what is happening today.

Weather is the combination of temperature, precipitation, cloudiness, and wind, and what all of that adds up to.

Climate looks at the weather overall, and we can learn what the normal average weather conditions will be for any one area by

using data, usually taken from the last 30 years. So we talk about climate change in terms of years and decades, etc., by using both past normal weather events and also a range of weather extremes. Scientists study the climate to look for trends or cycles of variability. Using such data helps to show us where we are heading, and this helps to prove the planet really is warming up and what that will lead to in time.

There is an excellent animated video made by CoCoRaHS called *Weather vs. Climate* that I recommend watching. It's only 6 minutes long, but explains this question best, and it's excellent for both children and adults alike! You can find this video at this web address: <http://bit.ly/1yTLWNq>. Give it a try!

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

Crestone-Baca Weather Report

by Keno
March 21 to April 20

Total precipitation for period:

Liquid precip: 0.32"

Snow: 5.0"

Measurable precipitation fell on 2 days.

Measurable snow fell on 2 days.

A trace of snow fell on 5 days.

A trace of rain fell on 1 day.

No measurable rain fell.

No hail or thunderstorms occurred.

Total precip to date since Jan 1: 2.77"

Total snow to date since Jan 1: 38.1"

Snow Season*: 71.0"

*Snow season runs July 1 to June 30

Temperatures for the period:

High temp: 67.8°F on March 28

Low temp: 18.8°F on March 26

Avg. high: 58.2°F

Avg. low: 28.4°F

Number of days with the high temperature at or above 60°: 13

Number of days with the low temperature at or below 32°: 24

Winds for the period:

Avg. speed: 5.5 mph

Highest gust: 46 mph on April 2

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

Weather summary:

In an usual twist, the last 11 days in March were warmer (average temp of 60.4°), than the first 20 days in April (average temp of 57°). March of '15 turned out to be one of the warmest Marches ever, and saw the second-least amount of snow ever for the month, 0.4"; the record remains at 0.2". Because of so little measurable snow falling in March, the snowpack in the mountains, instead of rising as it normally does this time of the year, dropped like a rock, and was down to below 50% of normal by the end of March. It did rebound just a bit in April, but overall, precipitation for the entire period was well below normal, with temperatures well above normal.

We also saw very dry conditions, with humidity values below normal for this time of the year, with 5% humidity readings on several days starting in March, and overall our area experiencing 13 days of below 10% humidity readings.

Outlook for May:

In May we usually see 0.99" of precipitation, making it the sixth wettest, or if you prefer, sixth driest month of the year. Snowfall-wise, we average 2.1". The most snow in May fell in 2001, with 21". The wettest May was in 1993, with 2.18".

Temperature-wise, things start to warm up nicely in May. For the first week, the average highs and lows are 64° and 31°, and by month's end, it warms to average highs of 72°, and lows of 39°. The record high for May is 90° on May 29, 2000, while the lowest temp was 13° on May 2, 2011.

The 30-day outlook for May is calling for slightly below-normal temperatures, along with well above-normal precipitation.

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