

MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR & TOWN COUNCIL: PART THREE

Between now and the beginning of November, the *Crested Butte News* will be asking the candidates for Crested Butte Town Council and mayor to answer questions related to issues in the community. We are asking that they keep their answers to no more than 600 words total.

Readers are encouraged to email us a question they think needs to be addressed. Send your suggestions to editorial@crestedbuttenews.com.

And do not forget the *Crested Butte News* Candidate's Forum will take place on Sunday, October 22. We will begin at 5 p.m. with the two tax issues on the Crested Butte ballot: the Crested Butte Fire Protection District

request for a mill levy increase and the town of Crested Butte asking voters to approve an additional excise tax on short-term vacation rentals in town. Everyone is invited to come in person and ask questions. Candidates should take the stage shortly before 6 p.m.

Ballots will be mailed out on October 16 and they must be returned by the official election day of November 7. Crested Butte voters get to vote for one mayoral candidate and four of the council candidates.

—Mark Reaman



PAUL MERCK
MAYORAL CANDIDATE

From a reader: What do you think your primary and secondary roles are as a council member?

The primary role of the council is to engage the community and maintain a knowledgeable and experienced staff to uphold the values of Crested Butte. The secondary role is to understand and implement those values. Protect our high quality of life. Preserve the "historic district. Remain fiscally responsible. Support a sustainable and healthy business climate. Maintain a "real" community. Embrace resource efficiency/environmental stewardship. This question is answered directly from our government website and is included in the handbook assigned to each

elected official. I am working hard to following these values and it is my primary reason for holding office.

The word integrity has come up in a few campaign ads. Should voters consider character and integrity when deciding who to vote for?

Definitely! Honesty, morality, and ethical behavior is something we all should strive for daily. We should use integrity to help create a soulful community and be a "Good Samaritan" to others whenever possible. Show compassion and lift people up. Contrarily, tearing people down or "bulling" shows lack of integrity, weakness and hypocrisy.

Is it time for paid parking in town?

It is time to plan toward necessary changes. There are many examples of successful parking strategies and Town Council created a parking subcommittee that is currently available for community comment. Parking goes beyond meters on Elk Ave.

Favorite book or last book you read?

I am reading material in preparation to attending meetings. I am traveling to Colorado Municipal League conferences (the last one was a three-day conference in Breckenridge). Tons of literature attached to that conference. I visit other similar towns and read

journals that describe their choices. I listen to educational podcast and read other publications to understand town and national issues.

My favorite subjects to read are diverse. Health care (currently HPV and cancer prevention). Studying because Lisa and I are hosting a dinner and educational talk on the subject at the Center in January. Engineering and technology are my other favorites. I am reading in hopes to develop a recreation/swimming center our town could sustain.

Favorite vacation destination (out of the valley)?

Hawaii is good.



TRACY SMITH
MAYORAL CANDIDATE

From a reader: What do you think your primary and secondary roles are as a council member or mayor?

The last two mayors have been businessman and part-time mayors! It's time for a full-time mayor, a Workingman mayor that is part of the community in the trenches, sober, hard-working, no nonsense and a Pro-active leader. That's what I can bring to our community if I'm elected.

The word integrity has come up in a few campaign ads. Should voters consider character and integrity when deciding who to vote for?

Our community is full of characters all shapes all colors all sizes, integrity that is truly another word. I believe maturity, integrity, re-

sponsibility, community involvement are words that resonate to the whole village. These are the types of words my friends and family use every day.

Is it time for paid parking in town?

Yes, we should have paid parking, but not hired out to some Boulder or Denver company. People, we can solve our parking and housing problems on our own! We are a strong smart community with many local resources. Hire our own meter maids. No more than \$25 reminder fine or visit to the local judge. My friends in the commercial district say it's very dangerous to ride their bicycles at any time during the day because of high speed traffic. Large portable rubber speed bumps will solve these issues quickly and has worked all over the country.

Mag chloride the old Kebler Pass Road and use it during rush hours as one-way traffic out of town. Open and close it as needed.

Favorite book or last book you read?

The Monkey Wrench Gang by Edward Abbey. When I was fishing in Alaska and not around Crested Butte, Steve Cook nicknamed me Seldom Scene Smith, one of the characters in the book. I was honored.

Favorite vacation destination (out of the valley)?

I don't really take vacations but I would like to revisit the Humboldt redwoods in northern California. The Land of the Giants, this is one of the most magical places on earth.



CHRIS LADOLIS
MAYORAL CANDIDATE

From a reader: What do you think your primary and secondary roles are as a council member or mayor?

Our primary role is to translate our community's values into policy decisions that serve our Town's best interests. Not simply to talk about it, or to listen—but to get things done: set clear goals, prioritize, deliberate and make the tough call. We need to do more of this.

The mayor has to be a leader. She/he has a unique role in representing the broader vision of the Council to our local and neighboring communities. While no more powerful—all seven of us have one vote—they also have influence in making the council more effective, by forming

consensus and driving the agenda.

The word integrity has come up in a few campaign ads. Should voters consider character and integrity when deciding who to vote for?

Absolutely. You need a council that consistently represents the Town's values and has the conviction to walk their talk. If you don't believe we say what we mean, and will do what we say, then we don't deserve your vote.

Sometimes it's hard. Our friends may not like our decisions, and we might personally miss out on opportunities. But people need to be assured that we will put the public interest ahead of our own. Some issues, like the current Brush Creek

housing development, will soon test the council's conviction: Can we balance these competing views, and are we willing to stick our necks out to do what's right for the Town? I am.

Is it time for paid parking in town?

Yes, it's time for us to stop bitching about traffic and congestion and do something about it.

It's more than "paid parking:" We need to protect our neighborhoods and make them more bike and pedestrian friendly; we need to change behavior and get people out of their cars; we need to manage the traffic and congestion that is getting out of hand. Accommodating cars is expensive for everyone in Town, and if parking remains "free and easy,"

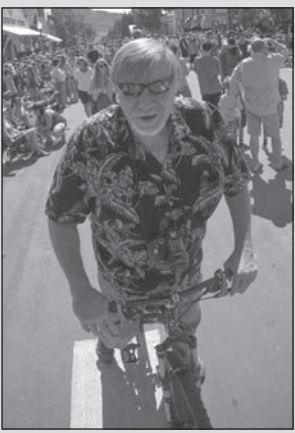
the impacts will only get worse. The best tool to influence people who drive, i.e., when and where they park their cars, is to have an overall parking management plan. This could create residential zones, define permitted parking times and locations, and yes... drumroll please... you might have to pay a little bit to park your car on Elk Avenue in July.

Favorite book or last book you read?

Donna Tartt's *The Goldfinch*.

Favorite vacation destination (out of the valley)?

When the water is warm, the skies are blue and the people are friendly.



JIM SCHMIDT
MAYORAL CANDIDATE

From a reader: What do you think your primary and secondary roles are as a council member?

Our responsibility is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Crested Butte. I have protected the health by instituting strict wood smoke emissions standards, upgrading the water treatment plant and waste water plant. We have kept the speed limit down, used mobile signs, and used traffic calming to slow down traffic. (Some people insist on speeding.) We bought the town ranch while I was mayor partially to provide a location for the school. It has been my mantra over the years to make the town the best it can be for residents and that will in turn spur economic viability. The secondary role is to react to all situations with thought, wisdom, and fairness which I have a proven record of over the years. I have brought forth

many new ideas to the council that have been implemented but just as important is to recognize great ideas and solutions of others and bringing them to fruition.

The word integrity has come up in a few campaign ads. Should voters consider character and integrity when deciding who to vote for?

The voters should absolutely consider integrity and character when voting. I was very disappointed in a fellow councilman who didn't hold himself to an even higher standard that one would expect from a citizen in town and even more disappointed that he did not realize that what he was doing or not doing was wrong. In an era when national politicians blur

the line between ethics, truth, and using their office for monetary gain, I have always pledged honesty and transparency. I think we cannot and must not lower our expectations of our elected officials.

Is it time for paid parking in town?

The recent presentation on paid parking was interesting and showed possibilities. Breckenridge will be fully instituting paid parking this winter and I think it is imperative that we learn from their results. I am very concerned about what happens on Sopris and Maroon Avenues with any parking and traffic solutions. We cannot just say no to people. We must come up with good alternatives. Our bus system is terrific and the more people we can get on the bus the

better off we will be. The new parking systems are becoming very sophisticated and do show great promise.

Favorite book or last book you read?

The Boys in the Boat. It's an outstanding book about the 1936 American crew of eight at the Berlin Olympics. The background story of these young men suffering through the Great Depression made a profound impression on me.

Favorite vacation destination (out of the valley)?

My favorite vacation destination is the next one I'm taking to somewhere new. There is so much of the world to explore and so many beautiful people to meet.



LISA MERCK
COUNCIL CANDIDATE

From a reader: What do you think your primary and secondary roles are as a council member?

Primary: Listening to the constituents as a whole as to what they want for our Crested Butte community. Secondary: Keep Crested Butte fun—this was from a constituent.

The word integrity has come up in a few campaign ads. Should voters consider character and integrity when deciding who to vote for?

We all should consider character and integrity in everything we do like for example, being an editor

for the newspaper and reporting the correct news and asking honest questions with no hidden agenda. Other things that come to mind are being true to the one you love, instilling integrity in our children, having integrity on the job, with your family, friends and community. Integrity is doing the right thing for the good of society. Doing the right thing when no one is looking. Giving back to the community through volunteering and helping. Always assume the best in people and not the worst. Most of all give them the benefit of the doubt. Look to find good mentors that actually help boost you. I believe

serving in the Air Force and being an Advanced Practice Nurse has taught me a lot about both honor and integrity.

Is it time for paid parking in town?

Yes. We need help with both traffic and parking. I believe paid parking would generate money for town, increase more jobs, and get people moving around instead of having free parking on Elk, other side streets and/or Clark's all day long to go mountain biking, hiking or skiing. We need to free up these spots for the restaurant owners, merchants, shoppers, locals, and

visitors.

Favorite book or last book you read?

I can't remember the last book. I do read lots of medical and nursing journals to stay current in my profession as an advanced practice nurse. I just watched a great video www.ladyganga.org about HPV prevention and a former Crested Butte resident who passed away from cervical cancer, Michele Baldwin.

Favorite vacation destination (out of the valley)?

Oahu, Hawaii.



KYLE "SQUIRL" RYAN
COUNCIL CANDIDATE

From a reader: What do you think your primary and secondary roles are as a council member?

As a council person, I see my primary task to use legislation to enact the vision of the community with a thoughtful and long-term eye toward policies effects on future generations. While there are certainly many other tasks I also hope to enable and encourage my constituents to become personally engaged with the legislative process.

The word integrity has come up in a few campaign ads. Should voters consider character and integrity when deciding who to vote for?

Of course integrity should be a factor in someone's decision. However, integrity shouldn't just be a catch phrase in an advertisement. It should be able to be spoken to and reflective directly in the individual and their actions. Raised to be an Eagle Scout, I grew a deep understanding of the meaning of integrity from an early age and carry it as a guiding light in my daily life.

Is it time for paid parking in town?

While I understand the argument for a town wide residential parking pass system I do not feel that the citizens are ready for the "pace of life" change that a privatized, for profit,

parking system would produce. While there are certainly traffic and parking issues in town I feel that we should exhaust all other options such as improved signage and local monitoring before signing up to have our license plates continually monitored. If moves were made toward such a privatized parking system I would encourage my fellow council persons to proceed only after vigorous public discourse and after all other options have been explored.

Favorite book or last book you read?

Twee by Susanne Heller.

Favorite vacation destination (out of the valley)?

My vacation destinations are quite humble and local. I might make a day trip to ski Wolf Creek's local's day after a southerly storm, or travel to a hot spring for a soak. When it's not too hot I enjoy long weekends in Denver soaking up the urban energy and culture. While I have visions of distant destinations mainly I find the perfect mix of relaxation and adventure daily right here in our valley. Whenever I do get out of town, I'm certainly never disappointed when I turn the corner on 135 and Paradise Divide comes into view!



KENT COWHERD
COUNCIL CANDIDATE

From a reader: What do you think your primary and secondary roles are as a council member?

The Town Council Handbook specifies the roles and responsibilities of a councilperson as making policy, approving regulations and laws that guide town government, and serving

as the licensing agency and appeal board for BOZAR decisions. In this context, my primary role as councilperson would be to listen to and respond to the will of the citizens of Crested Butte, and work with my colleagues in formulating balanced solutions that reflect the overall will of Crested Butte. Many changes are heading our way, and receiving input from the local business community and local citizens, and managing those changes to retain our unique character, while cultivating an appropriate business environment, are my goals.

My secondary role would be to encourage a sense of cooperation and collaboration with my fellow council members, to work together to weigh out all sides of an issue before making a decision. It is important to accomplish goals while understanding that I may need to respectfully disagree with other fellow council

members as they will with me, while not allowing that difference of opinion to prohibit stepping forward with solutions.

The word integrity has come up in a few campaign ads. Should voters consider character and integrity when deciding who to vote for?

Yes, of course they should. My integrity and character ultimately influence every decision I make and how I respectfully interact with everyone in my life. I believe my reputation for integrity, honesty, respect for others and service to my community has been established and proven throughout the Valley over my 27 years of residency.

In my professional life, I have displayed and honed my core values, while advocating and offering persuasive arguments before local review agencies, within the confines of guidelines and regulations, which has

resulted in many satisfied clients, and good relationships with those serving our community.

Additionally, my former elected positions as a Crested Butte Fire Protection District board member (two terms) and president of the Crested Butte Volunteer Association speak to what others think of my character and integrity. I will continue to exercise my steadfast core values if elected Crested Butte councilperson.

Is it time for paid parking in town?

Parking is definitely an issue affecting our community, one that needs to be addressed, and the idea of paid or permit parking obviously has many potential far-reaching effects throughout Town. I recently attended a meeting sponsored by the Town, which addressed what and how paid parking could look like or work. Many tools were discussed to regulate parking, and encourage use of satellite

parking lots and ridership with the bus services.

However, before deciding for or against any paid parking, I would want to seriously consider all the implications, with input from local business owners, to hear how these possibilities would affect them, their businesses, their employees, their customers, their deliveries, etc. We should also get input from local residents and Town staff to carefully weigh how our community would be impacted by such a change.

Favorite book?

Zen and The Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.

Favorite vacation destination (outside of the valley)?

Klondike Bluffs, outside of Moab. It's rugged and remote, with challenging desert mountain bike trails.



**WILL DUJARDIN
COUNCIL CANDIDATE**

From a reader: What do you think your primary and secondary roles are as a council member?

The primary role is to represent the people who live and work within Crested Butte itself. Anyone who has

spent a few years out here knows we have something special going on and has probably seen things change a little bit, from a shortening shoulder season to Whatever to eviction by vacation rental and 50 percent increases in rent. As more instances of locals bumping up against the winds of change occur it's the responsibility of the council to listen to their actual constituents and stand up for the community to keep things moving forward in a positive manner.

Secondarily, as part of guiding the town's fiscal responsibility, the town council has a chance to make a positive difference deciding the direction of the general fund distribution from our sales tax fund. If we are looking at almost \$3 million for distribution as we near \$5 million in total revenue in the coming years the Town Council can really affect change desired by the community.

Ideas that have been voiced recently, just to name a few, are helping maintain valley-wide bus service in the off season, expanding the grant program that distributes funds to local non-profits, and recognizing the historic value of the skate park and giving it the attention it deserves. These kinds of investments in our community that affect the entities that deal with our influxes of people help our town maintain its personality and preserve the things we care about.

The word integrity has come up in a few campaign ads. Should voters consider character and integrity when deciding who to vote for?

Integrity is intrinsic to one's moral makeup. I think voters should consider the integrity of the candidates when making their choices. While assessing a candidate's integrity is generally straightforward, I've found that people

who make the loudest claims are usually the ones with integrity worth questioning.

Character is separate, yet related, to integrity; when assessing the character for someone running for office you need to look at their motivations and commitment to public service. I've mentioned my own local community service with various non-profits that preserve our environmental and community relationships in a previous newspaper questionnaire. My commitment to the mental and athletic growth of our local junior athletes is evident through my long-time coaching position at the Crested Butte Mountain Sports Team. Working numerous jobs to live here and keep my coaching job has aligned my character with my community's.

Is it time for paid parking in town?

It is not the time for parking meters or painted spaces lining Elk Ave

and I hope people recognize that isn't in the plans for paid parking in town. I went to the recent Town Council parking meeting and I think we need to stay ahead of the tourist-related parking problems that plague us every summer and as the snow-banks stack in the winter. Making a town-wide plan that encourages bike traffic and safe driving is in the best interest of our community; it will help contribute to town revenue by making people pay for using their cars on Elk. We cannot charge locals for residential parking.

Favorite book or last book you read?

Favorites: *The Wheel of Time* series and *Brave New World*. Currents: *Cadillac Desert* and *Neuromancer*.

Favorite vacation destination (out of the valley)?

Chile.



**RICHARD MACHEHL
(MOCK-O-MEL)
COUNCIL CANDIDATE**

From a reader: What do you think your primary and secondary roles are as a council member?

First is to listen to the locals and get their feedback on every issue. Second is to act in the best interest of the locals and the community after hearing what they have to say. Council members should

be open minded to ideas that differ from their own because they are representing the people who live here, work here and raising families.

The word integrity has come up in a few campaign ads. Should voters consider character and integrity when deciding who to vote for?

Without character and integrity, there's really not much else for someone in a position of power. The voters need to hold each politician accountable, whether it's local, state or federal. I would question why a voter wouldn't consider character and integrity when deciding who to vote for.

Is it time for paid parking in town?

Paid parking should be further researched and discussed with the locals. There are pros and cons to having it and not having it. Parking in town during peak seasons is a nightmare,

especially during winter months due to snow storage reducing parking spots. The two-hour parking limit on Elk is never abided by anyone and it's not enforced. To enforce the two-hour parking would require additional resources we simply don't have. Paid parking could potentially alleviate many issues. However, locals need to be taken care of if paid parking becomes a reality.

Favorite book or last book you read?

I typically read books on business. I'm currently reading *Six Disciplines for Excellence: Building Small Businesses That Learn, Lead and Last* by Gary Harpst.

Favorite vacation destination (out of the valley)?

We'll visit Disneyworld, Disney Land or Universal Studios every other year. We enjoy theme parks. Otherwise, a nice beach somewhere is always a nice break from reality.



**JACKSON ANTHONY PETITO
COUNCIL CANDIDATE**

From a reader: What do you think your primary and secondary roles are as a council member?

Our primary role is to act as

a decision making body, filtering information provided and questions framed by the unbelievably dedicated and competent Town staff through our sense of what the people want (hopefully gleaned through an ongoing dialogue with our constituents), and of what's best for the Town. Being elected representatives makes us accountable to the will of the people to keep our jobs.

I think of our secondary role as a liaison between the people and their government. We're not experts in these matters like the staff are, but we get a ton of information that's public, but that the public isn't necessarily exposed to in their daily lives. We should be able to boil things down to a layperson's understanding when discussing matters with the public, and be able to present the public's common sense feelings on a

matter to the experts on staff so they can do their jobs with public input.

The word integrity has come up in a few campaign ads. Should voters consider character and integrity when deciding who to vote for?

Of course. I know a lot of campaigns end up being framed by issues either just decided or in the pipeline, but these are long terms we're being elected to, and there's no way to know what will come up a year from now. All a voter can rely on is their sense that the person they elected will do the right thing for the Town. That's not always what's best for a given councilperson's (or voter's) property values or business. Character and integrity are what inform a councilperson's sense of what's best for the Town, so they're

important factors for voters to consider.

Is it time for paid parking in town?

Maybe. I'm on the Parking Committee, and my goal in that room is to get people out of their cars. The insane volume of traffic is the single biggest difference I've noticed on moving back to Town, and it's not an improvement. The committee is going to recommend a parking management system encompassing Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte to the Council for public input, and paid parking on Elk is an essential part of that system. The system as a whole makes sense to me personally, but I frequently make my life more difficult to avoid sitting in a car. This will be a big change and I really want the public fully engaged on this issue before we decide anything. The public has to live with these decisions, and

often have a tremendously valuable perspective that staff and the Council might have missed.

Favorite book or last book you read?

I am a paperback fiction guy all the way. *Red Dragon* by Thomas Harris is the epitome of what a paperback novel should be. I've read it at least six times. Rounding out my Top Three is *The Stand* and *Fight Club*. I'm currently on my fifth trip through the *Dark Tower* books by Stephen King.

Favorite vacation destination (out of the valley)?

Based on frequency: Paonia and Glenwood Springs (where I'm typing this now). Favorite trip of all time: Our honeymoon in Jamaica 10+ years ago.



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CANDICE BRADLEY
COUNCIL CANDIDATE

From a reader: What do you think your primary and secondary roles are as a council member?

My primary role as a council member is to assist in making policy that reflects the needs of the community of Crested Butte while

preserving our unique Crested Butte culture. My secondary role is to act as an educator, resource, and consensus-builder to my fellow community members. I offer an open door for discussions regarding the fine points of town policy or debate with my neighbors and fellow town-folk.

The word integrity has come up in a few campaign ads. Should voters consider character and integrity when deciding who to vote for?

Great relationships are built on a strong foundation of trust. Integrity is fundamental to establishing and maintaining a trust-based relationship. Campaign ads use a lot of words to establish a picture of each candidate. You can say anything you want about yourself and capture your best side. Voters should consider as much information

as possible when choosing any candidate to represent their voice.

Is it time for paid parking in town?

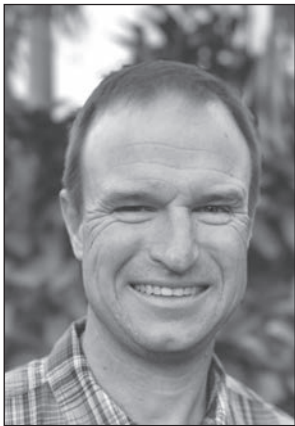
I think it's time for affordable housing in town first. If paid parking could help fund housing and extended bus service it might be helpful to our community. If it actually reduced traffic and promoted transit system use that benefited the community and environment that would be even better.

Favorite book or last book you read?

Naked Lunch by William S. Burroughs

Favorite vacation destination (out of the valley)?

New Orleans.



CHRIS HAVER
COUNCIL CANDIDATE

From a reader: What do you think your primary and secondary roles are as a council member?

Primary Roles:

To serve the public good.

To represent the interests of the citizens of town by working as a team with other council members and town government for the betterment of town.

To research and fully understand issues that affect the public.

To decide on policies, regulations and approve laws that guide town government.

To direct and guide town by helping the town plan for the future.

To appoint and evaluate annually the town manager, attorney and municipal court judge.

Secondary Roles:

To represent town on various community boards such as transportation, chamber of commerce, tourism association, center for the arts, etc.

To work with other elected officials, organizations, and local governments for the betterment of the entire valley.

To educate the public on issues in or-

der to get better public feedback and opinions when making decisions.

The word integrity has come up in a few campaign ads. Should voters consider character and integrity when deciding who to vote for?

Integrity requires the ability to be truly honest with yourself. This begins with openly examining your moral principles, ethics and motives. Integrity can be a double-edged sword because often times it can cost you to be true to yourself when facing an "unfair" situation. This is where our integrity is often tested. Integrity is only part of one's character but it is the guiding principle of one's character in which those voting for you, and those working with you, will rely. And it is that character that will determine how issues that have not already been addressed during the election will be handled as they come up throughout

the individual's term.

Is it time for paid parking in town?

I'm not completely convinced that we need to immediately enact paid parking. I do believe we need to have a plan prepared so that we are not scrambling to come up with a solution when the time comes. Town has been conducting parking studies since 1980, yet currently there is no agreed upon plan. I am very grateful for the work done by the most recent parking committee and believe we should use their work to create that parking plan. We will also need a traffic plan. We all see these issues coming yet we tend to only go into action once an issue has become a crisis. We can anticipate a lot of our town issues by studying what has happened to other ski towns as they have grown and our own needs assessment. We need to start creating and having plans in place so that

when an issue reaches a tipping point our decision is when to act, not what should we do. By doing this, it is my hope that we can start moving away from a historically reactionary government to a proactive one.

Favorite book or last book you read?

Latest books: *The Brewer's Tale: A History of the World According to Beer* by William Bostwick and *Norse Mythology* by Neil Gaiman. I also have to admit to being somewhat of a sci-fi fan.

Favorite vacation destination (out of the valley)?

Siesta Key, Florida. We visit family there. It's a great place to relax where the biggest decision each day is what to grill each night.

Don't forget the *Crested Butte News* Candidate's Forum will be held Sunday, October 22 at the CB Center for the Arts. *The public is encouraged to attend and ask questions.*

SALES POSITION!

The *Crested Butte News* is seeking an advertising sales representative to join the *News* team!

This is a great opportunity to connect with the Gunnison Valley community.

NECESSARY SKILLS

- Great people skills
- Self-motivated
- Work well with deadlines
- Team player
- A basic knowledge of Microsoft Excel & Mac OS

Please email resume to jill@crestedbuttenews.com



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