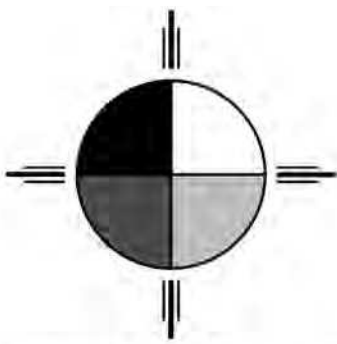


WITH



- + *The Earth is Our Mother; Care for Her*
- + *Honor All Your Relations*
- + *Open Your Heart and Soul to the Great Spirit*
- + *All Life is Sacred; Treat All Beings with Respect*
- + *Take From the Earth What is Needed and Nothing More*
- + *Do What Needs to be Done for the Good of All*
- + *Give Constant Thanks to the Great Spirit for Each Day*
- + *Speak the Truth but only for the Good of Others*
- + *Follow the Rhythms of Nature*
- + *Enjoy Life's Journey; But Leave no Tracks*

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news Briefs



THOMAS KAYE, INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED ECOLOGY

Wayside aster

Amazon Creek headwaters off Nectar Way and Dillard Road.

Developer Joe Green's attorney, Mark Hoyt, took the first hour to pump the proposed subdivision as an ecologically sensitive design that will leave almost half of the property undeveloped, clustering 113 homes on low-quality habitat while protecting stream corridors and steep slopes. "We want to preserve the site as naturally as possible," he said.

Then experts hired by Southeast Neighbors did their best to erode Hoyt's testimony, arguing that the subdivision would compromise homeowner safety, sensitive wildlife habitat and Amazon Creek water quality. Southeast Neighbors President Kevin Matthews presented a slide show with aerial photographs illustrating what he claims are unstable soils. Geologists Gunnar Schlieder and Michael James confirmed that soil is already "creeping" on Green's development site, and the potential for landslides is high. Hydrologist Al Johnson testified that water on the site contains unacceptable levels of arsenic, and that any large-scale soil disturbance would likely increase those levels. Amazon Creek already exceeds the maximum arsenic concentration permitted under the federal Clean Water Act.

The site is home to sensitive and threatened species such as pileated woodpeckers, red-legged frogs and wayside aster. Neighbors have been fighting the development for more than two years; before that, the city twice fumbled opportunities to buy the property and preserve it as parkland.

Hearings official Ann Corcoran Briggs will make her ruling by Feb. 2.

— Kera Abraham

**U.S. DEATHS NEAR 3,000**

Another landmark number is approaching as the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq approaches 3,000. This week the total



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