

May I Have This Dance?

by Fred Hernandez

She was only four years old when she started dancing and she has not stopped since. Rachael Simmons learned from some of the very best including one who performed at “America Has Talent”. In high school Rachael was already teaching dance classes. Today, she is the *professeur de danse* and owner of Artistic Edge Dance School located at 702 Main Street in Westcliffe, just across from the school’s west side parking lot. At this convenient location, the full spectrum of dance is available and one can join a class in ballet, tap dance, hip-hop, lyrical, contemporary, clogging and jazz. In addition, Artistic Edge offers exercise dance and healthy heart cardio.

Rachael, a longtime resident of Silver Cliff, has won multiple awards in competitions particularly clogging and tap dancing. She teaches all the dances offered at her studio with the help of one student teacher and Ms. Tracey Terry who oversees the healthy heart cardio.



Rachael Simmons, owner of Artistic Edge Dance School instructs ballet with the help of student teacher, Lauren Kitchens.

Photo by Fred Hernandez

DANCE
see page 14

President Donald Trump’s Inaugural Address

Chief Justice Roberts, President Carter, President Clinton, President Bush, President Obama, fellow Americans and people of the world, thank you.

We, the citizens of America, are now joined in a great national effort to rebuild our country and restore its promise for all of our people.

Together, we will determine the course of America and the world for many, many years to come. We will face challenges. We will confront hardships. But we will get the job done.

Every four years we gather on these steps to carry out the orderly and peaceful transfer of power.

And we are grateful to President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama for their gracious aid throughout this transition.

They have been magnificent.

Thank you.

Today’s ceremony, however, has a very special meaning because today we are not merely transferring power from one administration to another or from one party to another, but we are transferring power from Washington, D.C., and giving it back to you, the people.

For too long, a small group in our nation’s capital has reaped the rewards of government while the people have borne the cost. Washington flourished, but the people did not share in its wealth. Politicians prospered but the jobs left and the factories closed.

The establishment protected itself, but not the citizens of our country. Their victories have not been your victories. Their triumphs have not been your triumphs. And while they celebrated in our nation’s capital, there was little to celebrate for struggling families all across our land.

That all changes starting right here and right now, because this moment is your moment.

It belongs to you.

It belongs to everyone gathered here today and everyone watching all across America.

This is your day.

This is your celebration.

And this, the United States of America, is your country.

What truly matters is not which party controls our government,

THE DONALD
see page 24

Colorado Elk Herd in the Crosshairs



Wolves on the attack.

Courtesy photo.

by The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)

—MISSOULA, Montana

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is raising a word of warning about a “quiet” movement in Colorado seeking to place wolves on the landscape. It also has grave concerns about the tactics used by environmentalists and animal rights groups behind such efforts.

A representative of a wolf advocacy group, the Turner Endangered Species Fund, recently addressed a gathering of Colorado citizens claiming the placement of wolves on the Colorado landscape is “most germane” to the state’s future, and added “there’s no downside and there’s a real big upside.”

RMEF strongly disputes those claims.

“Wolves have a measureable and

oftentimes detrimental impact on big game management wherever they go. Their reintroduction into the Northern Rocky Mountains led to a reduction of the Northern Yellowstone elk herd by more than 80 percent,” said David Allen, RMEF President and CEO. “Among other things, wolves also greatly reduced elk numbers to dangerously low levels in central Idaho and have a profound impact on declining moose and deer populations in the Western Great Lakes region.”

The Northern Yellowstone Elk herd numbered more than 19,000 before wolf reintroduction in the mid-1990s but dropped below 4,000 in 2012. Increasing grizzly, black bear and mountain lion populations also played a role in the decline. Minnesota’s moose population numbered

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Behold, I am the
Lord, the God of
all flesh.
Is there anything
too hard for Me?

Jeremiah 32:27
NKJV



We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not granted to us by politicians or governments. Freedom demands responsible behavior of all citizens and must be consistent with the truths expressed in the great moral and governing guides as The Ten Commandments, The Declaration of Independence, The U.S. Constitution and The Bill of Rights.

These were the principles that guided our founding fathers and which we believe are still relevant. These are the principles that will guide our reporting and be the basis of all our views.

We will not be constrained by the illogical, misleading and inaccurate thinking and use of "political correctness" but by truth, facts, logic and common sense.

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Editorial Board

J. Michael Hess - President
Mike.Hess@sdcscntinel.com

George Gramlich - VP and Managing Editor
George.Gramlich.sdcsc@gmail.com

Rob Canterbury - Secretary
Rob.Canterbury@sdcscntinel.com

Key Personnel

Laura L. Vass - Assistant Editor / Graphics Layout
lucyvass@outlook.com

Barbara Napolitan - Advertising Coordinator
BNapolitan@gmail.com

Reporters

Carol Clemenson
cdsclem8@gmail.com

Fred Hernandez
Fr3ddie.sentinel@gmail.com

Larry Luikart
pawprint2@centurylink.net

Office Support

Audrey Slater
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

Yvonne Phillips
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

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Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

The Anti-Trump March?

On January 21, 2017, the day after the inaugural ceremony, we watched thousands of women, and some men, march in "protest" in Washington D.C., around America and around the world. We watched with great curiosity and great confusion. What exactly were they protesting? What was their purpose? What now? It is likely that many of those women had planned to march for a long time with an initial purpose to support the election of the first woman president of the United States. When that didn't happen, why waste the opportunity of a perceived crisis? We are sure many groups and women were inspired to show their displeasure after Mr. Trump won the election on November 8th. It clearly was quite a shock to many Americans. So they joined those already planning to go to Washington and the ranks swelled.

As we watched and listened things got weird. First of all there were the internal conflicts of rejecting some women's groups. Those, predictably, were the pro-life women. It seems they were not welcome to help protest President Trump. We found that odd. Apparently there was no real inclusiveness and solidarity.

Then we watched and listened to the speakers, mostly celebrities and some old famous feminists. This is where some real confusion and sadness set in. First of all there was no coherent, cohesive message. There was a good deal of rambling vulgarity and lewd language. Not sure that represented the values of many American women at all. It was a sad time and embarrassing for many women. The speakers were awful. Are liberals proud of what was said?

Then there were the marchers; grandmothers, mothers and many young daughters. We are sure many of those were as appalled as we were seeing and hearing the vulgar, vile, lewd and undignified signs, shouts and costumes. What message did they really expect to convey dressed up like female body parts? We were sad to see so many young girls caught up in this. We wonder what they really learned about America. Many of these marchers tried to convince themselves they were marching against hate and the loss of women's rights. There were many "Love Trumps Hate" signs among the women who were spewing more hate themselves. As we watched this spectacle we had another thought. During the election there were claims that Mr. Trump's popularity was based on a lot of angry white men. If you watched the march you couldn't help

but notice that the Democrat candidate was obviously being supported by a lot of angry white women.

We are happy that these women were allowed to march and express whatever it was they were expressing in a free and non-violent manner. Unlike the rioters on Inauguration Day, who committed violence and crimes, the women's march seemed to go off without much police intervention. That is great. That is America. They clearly were able to exercise their First Amendment rights to assemble and speak freely. We support that 100 percent. The march did make one wonder where all the pink pussycat hats were when President Bill Clinton was preying on women, did it not? Hypocrisy?

Many women were disappointed in the overall nature and tone of the day. We know and see a much

different American woman than was on display that day. Every single one of those adult women was entitled to be part of that effort. The reports are that about one million women marched throughout America on that Saturday, even more around the world. What did they accomplish? Will they unify and continue? Is this really the liberal version of the Tea Party movement that started when Barack Obama was elected? That remains to be seen. We support their rights to organize. We think they will have to clarify and unify their purpose to be more effective. Those women were marching for 50 different reasons. We know some didn't support the abortion theme, or the vulgar and tasteless signs and costumes. We would hope they leave the little girls out of such a biased and crude ideological theme. There was a popular meme on many Facebook sites that went something like this. "I was part of a 30 million women's march. We marched into the voting booth and helped elect President Trump." We cannot forget that those women also spoke out about the change they thought America needed. Let's see what happens and which group of women will have the greatest effect.



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A Woman Scorned: Temper Tantrums and Hysteria

The familiar paraphrase from William Congreve, "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned" or I might add: "...like a woman who even thinks she may sometime in the future be scorned," if applied to the debacle we are witnessing from the droves of fearful, angry women. It's sad to see where we've come in over 40 years since the likes of Betty Freidan in her book *"The Feminine Mystique"* and Gloria Steinem. Women are mad now that so many are depending on the government to take care of them.

We scoffed at the desire God had put in men to take care of us and declared that we could take care of ourselves. Now we have more women raising children alone and living at the pov-

erty level than ever before, looking to government to take care of them. What women said they wanted they got...more equality in every area and more opportunity in society. Or at least that was what they thought they wanted.

It's really embarrassing to see fellow women who have achieved so much in this great country to resort to hysteria and temper tantrums, departing from having any faith or graciousness when it comes to a president they may not have voted for and don't like. It's emotional hysteria. You would think that President Trump has ordered chastity belts for women, as if the government really has the power to control their bodies. Really?

At the very core of the hysteria is the vilification of any man who has retained any semblance of male traits and of one who wants to see that Americans are better off by providing more jobs and protecting us from outside enemies. Those things aren't what's causing the hysteria. These women are fearful their "reproductive rights" are going to be taken away. How sad. That's just another term for killing your own baby for convenience and having the government and me pay for murder as well as for your birth control. The truth is ugly.

If Hillary had won, you wouldn't see men out on the streets having a meltdown and hysterically reacting so emotionally about their reproduction. No wonder

women are more confused than ever, wanting to be treated like men and yet still acting like women. It's hard to deny the truth. We are different, but what feminism has done to us is take away our humanity, so we wouldn't recognize a good man if we saw one. To see women acting like animals; angry, vile and perverse is sad. You've come a long way, baby, and it's not up.

When President Trump says he'll work for us, build a wall to protect us and provide jobs for us... those are things God put in a man. When he was willing to use his own money, willing to sacrifice and work tirelessly to give us a better life, that sounds good to me. I saw the same characteristics in my own husband, characteristics

that I didn't have in me. No man is perfect, but the heart of a good man is to take care of his family or his people. I don't know how this is all going to turn out. I pray that President Trump will be able to do the things he has promised for a better life for us all. But he's not perfect. No man is.

However, on a higher note, God loves women and has a great plan for us. He created us equal but different, not less. His plan is to take care of all of us (usually through a man committed to us for life in marriage) and for women not to have the burden of providing everything for our children and ourselves. We weren't meant to carry those kinds of burdens and responsibilities. We are women and we are different than men,

thank goodness. No one is keeping us from working at whatever profession we want, but the millions hitting the streets are afraid and hysterical and have bought into a lie.

The truth really will set you free. Jesus Christ is the only perfect one who can provide, protect and love women perfectly and He is the one we can trust completely for all our needs. He says not to fear, to trust and believe in Him. There are no "ifs" with Him, He's not a man that He should lie and He can perform everything He has promised. Give your heart to Him today and face the future with faith, courage and hope. God loves women.

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Women's March

Please understand that the January 21st Women's March, including our own little walk in Westcliffe, was generally to support social, economic, and environmental justice, not to challenge the legitimacy of the Presidential Election. It is my hope that each and every one of us makes the effort to truly listen, with an

attitude of mutual respect, to those with whom we disagree. We just may discover that we all basically want the same thing and come to understand that division and hate make it impossible to achieve our common goals.

Thank you.

*Susan Pitman
Rural Custer County*

Teacher Retention and the "Ten Percent Rule"

To the editor:

Your lead story for the end-of-the-year issue in 2016, addressed the difficulty in retaining teachers in Colorado due to rising housing costs. The article never addressed the other side of the issue, which is that many districts are notorious for hiring teachers for one to three years, then not renewing their

contracts. That way, the teachers cannot stay with that same district and work their way up the salary schedule. The school district, then, always has many new teachers, those with the lowest salaries.

When I joined the Denver Public Schools in the 1980's, the average number of years of experience that a teacher had was not

quite 18. It is now five years and eight months.

When Michael Bennet was superintendent of the district, he adopted the "ten percent rule", whereby a significant number of teachers are not renewed every year. The business philosophy of the "ten percent rule" is to let go of ten percent of your staff every year. The reasoning

is, that way, the employer is in a constant search for the best employees. But, besides reducing payroll, it severely diminishes the experience and expertise of those who touch the future by teaching our children.

Yours truly,

*Michael Johnson
Denver, Colorado*

Thank You Tony's Mountain Pizza

Kudos to Sam and Carol Hepp for opening their restaurant early for President Trump's Inauguration, Friday, January 20th. Also, thanks to all the patriots who showed up on such very short notice.

*Y. Phillips,
The Honest Injun'
Rural Custer County*

A Thank You to Supporters Custer County Youth Wrestling Begins

The Custer County Youth Wrestling team would like to thank the following for their donations to the club during the 2016 wrestling season: ARES volunteers, Beach Redi Mix, Custer County EMS, Custer County School District, Custer Coun-

ty Sheriff's Office, Julia Gall, Marilyn Adams Skin Care, Midwest ECM Repair, Norup Gas, Seifert's Ranch, Seifert's Trucking, Solar Solutions, Westcliffe Ham Radio Volunteers, and the many donors and volunteers that wished to

remain anonymous.

The first practice of the 2017 season will start February 20th from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the High School Gym. Ages are 4 to 5th grade. Keep watch in the paper for upcoming wrestling news and dates.

Inauguration

Folks,

What a beautiful inauguration and speech by our new president and a wonderful Mormon Tabernacle Choir singing. It was impressive and especially since I haven't watched an inauguration since 2004. It was a pleasure to see

the Obama's leave but unfortunately, he is not going far enough and I am sure he will run his mouth before he puts his brain in gear. But finally he is gone, an error over.

God bless America,
*Steve
Patriot*

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Mark Payler Presents "The Future of Rural Education in America"

Larry Luikart, Reporter

At the first of the "The Back Room Speakers Series" held on January 12th, Custer County Schools Superintendent Mark Payler gave a talk titled, "The Future of Education in Rural America." Superintendent Payler's sixteen years of experience as a Superintendent in various Colorado districts provided the listeners with a true professional's insights into the rural school issues.

He began his remarks with the caveat regarding the fact nothing has really changed in his sixteen years as a Superintendent. The numbers may have changed but the underlying causes and attitudes remain the same. The divide is getting worse. While a great deal of the issues have to do with funding there are other important factors impacting the survivability of rural education.

Human Resources:

The foundation of a great school has always been great teachers. The frustration of all districts today is the pool of teachers available for recruitment continues to shrink from a pool to a puddle and in 2017 it is a dribble. Over the last several years, the number of students completing a degree in education shrunk from 3,200 to 2,500. Colorado is now an importer of teachers rather than an exporter.

The millennial generation who will comprise the next group of teacher candidates have done the math regarding the cost of the education degree against the return on their investment, (salary and benefits) while factoring in their quality of life, (repayment of education loans, housing, food, vehicle, etc). They have concluded, as a teacher, "I am going to live, but not the way I want." They are passing on education as a career.

The issues for rural education are more dire. In Colorado 74% of rural schools are in the bottom 10% of pay. Compared to the top 10% this calculates to 56 cents on the dollar. There are approximately 52,000 teachers in Colorado placing 5,200 teachers and 80,000 students in the bottom 10%. There are 178 school districts in Colorado with 110 of them in the bottom 10% and almost all of them are rural districts.

The average salary for the bottom 10 % is \$39,000 per year. The salary differential between the top 10% districts, (there are only three) and the bottom 10% is over \$30,000 per year. Turnover in the bottom 10% is around 22%, while the top 10% turnover rate is only 10%. Superintendent Payler indicated that turnover rate is more than likely retirements

since the teachers in his generation are now beginning to retire.

Custer County has the dubious distinction of having the lowest starting salary (\$28,000 per year) in all the districts Mr. Payler surveyed. Cotopaxi beat Custer by twenty dollars. Boulder Valley as a point of comparison starts their teachers at \$43,000.

In the area of spending per student Colorado spends \$2,070 less per year per student than the national average. While that may seem like a small amount, it translates into horrible results. Compared to the other 50 states in the Union, Colorado is 50th in competitive wages, 49th in novice teachers (new teachers), 47th in per pupil spending and 39th in the reading gap.

Funding and Demographics:

The district receives revenue from three primary funding sources: Local funding from mill levy taxes, State funding from disbursed state taxes, and some Federal funding for Title programs. During the great downturn a number of years ago, Colorado indicated each student was to receive a certain number of dollars from the state coffers. However, due to the severe reduction in revenue, the state introduced a negative factor to the per student calculation. The 2016 budget year resulted in negative funding at \$437,137 for the district. (Reporters note: *This is funding that should have been provided by the state from your taxes but was withheld and in most cases was spent elsewhere. This is a serious breach by the governor and legislators in Denver.*) Superintendent Payler pointed out, the governor's calculations for the 2017 budget, so far, and it is too early to get exact figures, will result in another \$16,500 reduction on top of the 2016 negative factor.

At the local level, there are two primary sources of extra funding for school; bonds which are primarily allocated for capital projects such as buildings, infrastructure, etc. or a mill levy override. The mill levy override permits more funding for the schools. Please do not call Mr. Payler with threats of imminent physical harm. He was only explaining, not making a proposal. But, as a point of concern, please remember those districts supplying better salaries in the above average area all have mill levy overrides.

Student enrollment drives all funding for public schools. Custer County is projected to increase in population over the next few years, which is good news. The bad news is that almost none of it will involve demographic age groups of

people with children. The age demographic for Custer County is almost twenty years older than the average for the state and the projection is for it to continue to age. Mr. Payler pointed out this is not very promising for the fiscal health of the District.

Activities and Academics:

The Free and Reduced Lunch Program, an indication of poverty, continues to run year from year between 50% to as low as 43%. This has some effect on the cost of food service for the district which has been a revenue negative. Activities also cost more revenue than they bring in. The nice part is the district does not normally charge the public to attend the activities which Mr. Payler pointed out is unusual.

The board, administration, teachers and staff continue to work on improving the academic results for the district and there has been improvement. The district excels at the high school level in science surpassing the state average.

What is the Crisis?

Kids are not going into education, instead opting to do something else. It is easy to get cynical. Superintendent Payler indicated he has heard from the state level for his entire career, "we have to do something for rurals," and then a one-time damage approach is applied to the issue with no real possibility of sustained funding. This results in a lot of lip service for rural school districts with no real desire to do anything about the crisis. The upcoming change in administration at the federal level may bring some changes resulting in the Department of Education (DOE) actually functioning. Superintendent Payler cited an example of touring DOE; there were lots of people and cubicles but no one was doing anything. Thus his idea of hopeful positive change.

The concept of vouchers, (each student gets money and you can go to school wherever you want) and Charter Schools (privately run schools) offer as many pitfalls as they offer opportunities. For example, if vouchers were approved where else would a student go in Custer County to get educated? Large 'for profit' education companies that run charter schools are not going to approve a school in Custer County because they know they could never turn a profit. Therefore, these are no viable alternatives for our district.

What is the Future for Colorado Rural Education?

Superintendent Payler thinks consolidation is one possible way to save declining enrollment and fiscally dis-

traught districts. The sharing of mutual needed operations can reduce costs. He also indicated the BOCES (Board of Cooperative Education Services) currently a cooperative that provides services to individual districts such as speech pathology, will have a role in the future. Forced consolidation is probably on the way. The Governor is aware of BOCES and he may greatly expand their authority permitting them to become the central administrative unit. Such action will reduce the need for a superintendent in each school district, consolidate administrative services, etc.

Superintendent Payler discussed the concept rural districts may become more than the traditional twelve-year program, moving forward with vocational training. By adding two years, a student could obtain efficiency in a certified trade such a plumbing, mechanics, electrical, agriculture, etc. Blended education is absolutely coming. A combination of computer generated training and traditional classroom education. Fiber optic cable has already been installed at Custer County and they are just waiting for it to be turned on. Once operating, the world is available to every student.

Mr. Payler indicated he believes there will be a trend for more local control of our schools with the role of the federal government reduced. The local control will offer an unprecedented opportunity to make changes to our schools, opening up subjects and curriculum currently unavailable. Currently, students are awarded credit for time spent in a classroom. The future will tend to offer credit for content and knowledge. This idea will alter the way students are taught, providing them ways to learn in an alternative way rather than forcing them into a one-size-fits-all curriculum.

Educating our students is a cooperative effort between each member of the community and those who are tasked with educating them. Most of us think our voices are not heard in the white noise so prevalent in Washington and Denver. Mr. Payler debunked that idea when he indicated a national congressman told him it only takes seven emails for his office to take notice. Pick a topic, negative funding, unfair treatment of rural schools, over regulation, etc. and write a letter or send an email. Remember the magic number is seven! (Your state legislators are listed on page 23 of this issue.)

There was a thoughtful question and answer session following Superintendent Payler's remarks.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Custer County Boys Middle School Basketball Away at LaVeta and Home Against Cripple Creek

by Shelly Penkoff

The Custer County Middle School played two games this past week. The team traveled to La Veta on Tuesday and played Cripple Creek at home on Friday.

The A Team started the day in La Veta strong against a fast and aggressive opponent. The Bobcats trailed in the first quarter by two points but struggled with their shooting. Scoring 11 points in the fourth quarter, they lost by a margin of 32-24.

Ben Penkoff led the scoring with nine, followed by Garrett Stepanich with seven, Wesley Curtis and Wyatt Aldrich each had four points on the day. Dillon Kinsey worked really hard down in the paint, snagging rebounds.

The B Team only got two quarters of a game, being a school night. Brey Chipps came out aggressive and played a great two quarters. Scorers on B Team were Brey Chipps, Zach Fischer, Sam Babcock and Andrew Slawski all putting in two points for the team with Jake Lafary making one free-throw.

Friday's game against Cripple Creek proved very exciting for the B Team. The B Team struggled with this team the first time they faced them, only putting in three points for the game. This team has worked hard on getting good shots and passing the ball. The hard work paid off! The score was 10-6 at halftime with the Pioneers leading. The Bobcats came out aggressive with their press and were able to cause some turnovers and convert their layups. In the fourth quarter Brey Chipps was able to make a shot at the buzzer to put the game into overtime. The Bobcats couldn't get the ball to drop during overtime and ultimately lost the game 25-21. The high scorer of the game was Brey Chipps with six points. JD Morris and Sam Babcock contributed four points each. Cameron Penkoff had three points, Zach Fischer and Andrew Slawski contributed two points.

The A Team performed great against a huge opponent. The Bobcats came out with a full court press that caused the Pioneers to turn the ball over repeatedly. The Bobcats kept the pace of the game working

in their favor and were leading at halftime 19-12. Matthew Keinbusch and Dillon Kinsey played a solid game in the paint. The Pioneers guards found it difficult to get past the defense played by Wesley Curtis, Ben Penkoff and Garrett Stepanich. High scorer of the game was Stepanich with 12, followed by Penkoff with eight, Curtis had seven on the day, Kinsey with four and Kienbusch and Aldrich with two each.

The Custer County Middle School Basketball Team took on the Cotopaxi Pirates at home on Tuesday, January 17th and went on to play South Park. *See page 8 for details.*



#35 Chad Lewis



Above; Zach Fischer fighting off the Pioneers. Below; #34 Cameron Penkoff.



#24 Zach Fischer shooting a free throw.



Local Mountain News & Notices

CCSD 2nd Graders Inauguration Activities



Lisa Guarnere's 2nd grade class had a very educational day on Friday, January 20th, Inauguration Day, when they studied many aspects of the event. They examined what actually happens when we get a new president and the obligations and responsibilities that one has when an oath is taken. They also received books about the inauguration that they could take home.

Courtesy photo from CCSD

Bobcats Sport Schedule

MS Girls Basketball Game AWAY v Cripple Creek
Departure time TBD
When: Fri., January 27, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Where: Cripple Creek

HS Boys & HS Girls Basketball HOME v Sanford
When: Fri., January 27, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Where: Custer County High School

Elementary Basketball Program
When: Sat., January 28, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Where: East Gym

Wrestling Valley Classic
Departure time TBD
When: Sat., January 28, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Where: Center, CO

Winterfest Dance
When: Sat., January 28, 9 p.m. to midnight
Where: School Library

Peak Photography - Winter Sports Teams
When: Wedn., February 1, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Where: East Gym

HS Boys & HS Girls Basketball HOME v Cripple Creek
When: Fri, February 3, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Where: Custer County High School

Elementary Basketball Program
When: Sat, February 4, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Where: East Gym

Wrestling v Crowley County
Departure time TBD
When: Sat., February 4, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

HS Boys & HS Girls Basketball AWAY v Antonito
Departure time TBD
When: Sat., February 4, 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Where: Antonito



Bobcat Menu • Jan. 30 - Feb. 2, 2017

Monday

Breakfast

Choice of Cereal
Fruit
Milk

Lunch Elem.

Chili w/chips
Tator Tots & Celery/Carrots
Fruit
Milk

Lunch MS & HS

Chili over Bkd. Potato
Corn Bread & Mixed Veg
Fruit
Milk

Tuesday

Breakfast

Choice of Cereal
Fruit
Milk

Lunch Elem.

Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce
Garlic Roll
Gr. Beans & Fruit
Milk

Lunch MS & HS

Meat/Veggy Lasagna
Garlic Roll, Salad
Gr Beans & Fruit
Milk

Wednesday

Breakfast

Choice of Cereal
Fruit
Milk

Lunch Elem.

Fish Patty Sand.
Mozz. Stick, Oven Fries
Fruit
Milk

Lunch MS & HS

Pulled Pork Sand.
Cole Slaw & Bkd. Beans
Fruit
Milk

Thursday

Breakfast

Biscuit & Gravy
Fruit
Milk

Lunch Elem.

No K-5

Lunch MS & HS

Kitchen Choice
Vegetable
Fruit
Milk

Elementary: Main Dish, Grain Product, Veg., Fruit, and Milk

Middle & High: Main Dish, (Or Premade Chef Salad), Grain Product, Vegetable, Fruit and Milk
A la Carte Items To Be Sold To M.S. & H.S. Only

KIDS Friday, January 27, 2017

The Sangre de Cristo Mountains

We are blessed in Custer County to live at the base of the beautiful, magnificent Sangre de Cristo Mountains. They are available to us to hike, fish, rock climb, cross-country ski, or just admire.

Some interesting facts you might not know about the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

The name Sangre de Cristo is Spanish for "Blood of Christ". Folklore relates that about 300 years ago a Spanish explorer made his way from Mexico into Colorado, following the Rio Grande, and when he saw the red sunrise and sunset over the peaks, he exclaimed, "Sangre de Cristo!" The blood of Christ.

They are the longest mountain chain in the United States, running from Poncha Pass, Colorado, in the north to Glorieta Pass, New Mexico, in the south. There are ten peaks over 14,000 feet high in the range, five of those in Custer County, and more than two dozen over 13,000 feet. The five fourteeners in Custer County are Crestone Needles, Crestone Peak, Kit Carson, Challenger Point and Humboldt Peak.

Custer County is located on the east side between the Sangre de Cristo and Wet Mountains, with the San Luis Valley on the west side.

The Sangre de Cristos are fault block mountains, which means they were formed along a normal fault where stress caused huge blocks of rock to tilt up. They have major fault lines running along both the east and west sides of the mountains. It is believed that the mountains were pushed up about 27 million years ago, pretty much as one big chunk of rock. There are also fault lines cutting right through the mountain chain in some places.

On the southeast side is the Raton Basin which has a quiet but still active volcano field, the Capulin Volcano National Monument.

So when you get up in the morning and see those glorious mountains, snow-capped and maybe reddish, don't take them for granted. Remember not everyone is lucky enough to live here, one of the most beautiful areas on God's earth.

by Audrey Slater, Sources: answers.com, sangres.com, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sangre_de_Cristo_Mountains

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Spirit Campaign Results

Charity Name	Donated Amount	Match Amount	Total
All Aboard Westcliffe	\$4,740.00	\$943.71	\$5,683.71
American Legion Post 170 Boys State	\$925.00	\$144.56	\$1,069.56
Animal Advocates	\$940.00	\$100.67	\$1,040.67
Ben Kettle Scholarship Fund	\$250.00	\$50.50	\$300.50
CERT	\$150.00	\$35.77	\$185.77
Cliffs Commercial District (CART)	\$1,940.00	\$139.75	\$2,079.75
Cross D Bar Recreation Foundation	\$3,250.00	\$777.20	\$4,027.20
Custer County 20/20 dba Club America	\$9,810.00	\$1,767.86	\$11,577.86
Custer County 4H Foundation	\$1,250.00	\$98.35	\$1,348.35
Custer County Ambulance Corps	\$8,409.50	\$1,472.21	\$9,881.71
Custer County Cares About Cancer	\$1,080.00	\$228.84	\$1,308.84
Custer County Community Sharing Center	\$12,707.50	\$2,045.18	\$14,752.68
Custer County Conservation District	\$245.00	\$60.83	\$305.83
Custer County E911	\$100.00	\$25.25	\$125.25
Custer County Economic Development	\$3,250.00	\$375.92	\$3,625.92
Custer County Geneoigical and Historical Society	\$705.00	\$134.54	\$839.54
Custer County Medical Foundation	\$535.00	\$84.59	\$619.59
Custer County Schools	\$4,000.00	\$252.52	\$4,252.52
Custer County Search & Rescue	\$19,460.00	\$3,670.42	\$23,130.42
Custer County Senior Center	\$1,040.00	\$205.22	\$1,245.22
Custer County Sheriff's Department	\$4,255.00	\$956.55	\$5,211.55
Dark Skies, Inc.	\$9,175.00	\$1,331.56	\$10,506.56
Dundee Memorial Park	\$3,493.00	\$608.22	\$4,101.22
Eagle Summit Ranch	\$1,735.00	\$343.15	\$2,078.15
Education Legacy Fund	\$5,625.00	\$232.10	\$5,857.10
Excellence in Education	\$11,385.00	\$1,200.59	\$12,585.59
FFA	\$1,600.00	\$310.04	\$1,910.04
Friends of the Beckwith Ranch	\$1,110.00	\$224.08	\$1,334.08
Friends of the West Custer County Library	\$9,752.50	\$1,702.65	\$11,455.15
Frontiers Pathways	\$495.00	\$81.51	\$576.51
High Altitude Garden Club	\$1,075.00	\$133.36	\$1,208.36
High Country Recycling (Make Check to Sustainable Ways)	\$1,538.00	\$282.27	\$1,820.27
High Mountain Hay Fever Festival Association	\$2,760.00	\$434.57	\$3,194.57
Historic Willows School Society	\$1,415.00	\$267.59	\$1,682.59
HMHF Children's Fund	\$350.00	\$52.52	\$402.52
In Concert	\$4,145.00	\$769.75	\$4,914.75
Junior Achievement	\$210.00	\$9.54	\$219.54
KLZR (Wet Mountain Broadcasting)	\$15,470.00	\$2,434.06	\$17,904.06
Lighthouse Helpline and Pregnancy Center	\$3,420.00	\$801.34	\$4,221.34
Mission Wolf	\$6,355.00	\$1,046.47	\$7,401.47
Olde Schoolhouse Quilters	\$145.00	\$36.62	\$181.62
Operation Uplift	\$3,650.00	\$795.44	\$4,445.44
Outdoor Buddies	\$3,930.00	\$902.89	\$4,832.89
Paca Peace Ranch	\$5,525.00	\$1,227.16	\$6,752.16
Pawsitive Reaction	\$920.00	\$127.30	\$1,047.30
Pet Project WMV	\$6,750.00	\$558.85	\$7,308.85
San Isabel Land Protection Trust	\$14,765.00	\$2,565.86	\$17,330.86
Sangre De Cristo Hospice	\$3,235.00	\$315.73	\$3,550.73
Sangre De Cristo Volunteers for Change	\$200.00	\$7.01	\$207.01
Sangres Art Guild	\$4,640.00	\$741.51	\$5,381.51
Silver Cliff Commemorative Com Park	\$820.00	\$93.23	\$913.23
Silver Cliff Museum	\$1,630.00	\$297.47	\$1,927.47
Southern Colorado Space Museum	\$1,725.00	\$374.18	\$2,099.18
Sustainable Ways	\$1,205.00	\$241.23	\$1,446.23
The Bluff	\$340.00	\$39.21	\$379.21
The Ranch of Hope	\$5,485.00	\$1,334.57	\$6,819.57
Valley Assisted Living, Inc.	\$14,910.00	\$1,969.65	\$16,879.65
Valley Parks & Recreation Youth Center	\$1,220.00	\$258.42	\$1,478.42
West Custer County Library District	\$7,360.00	\$1,011.37	\$8,371.37
Westcliffe Center for the Performing Arts	\$12,205.00	\$1,901.84	\$14,106.84
Wet Mountain Fire Protection District	\$21,145.69	\$4,180.22	\$25,325.91
Wet Mountain Valley Community Service, Inc (Rotary Van)	\$3,345.00	\$512.51	\$3,857.51
Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation	\$5,125.00	\$1,109.24	\$6,234.24
Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club	\$795.00	\$173.70	\$968.70
Wet Mountain Wildlife	\$6,425.00	\$994.88	\$7,419.88
Wet Mountain Valley Community Clinic	\$7,064.50	\$1,192.44	\$8,256.94
Wetmore Community Library	\$3,087.50	\$771.24	\$3,858.74
Wetmore Volunteer Fire Department	\$5,297.50	\$1,235.32	\$6,532.82
Totals as of Jan 17, 2017	\$303,095.69	\$50,804.93	\$353,900.62
Match % =	25.25212772		

Scenic Byways Reception

Press Release

—January 16, 2017

The Board of Frontier Pathways Scenic & Historic Byway held a Photo to Finish Reception on Jan-

uary 11th at El Pueblo Museum to congratulate the winners of the 2016 Photo Calendar Contest. The reception featured a display of enlarged copies of the winning photographs. The Grand Prize Winner was

“View of Beckwith Ranch” by Rowedeane Doss.

Members of the Board presented a short history and explanation of the Byway and an explanation of the conservation plan, includ-

ing grants that have been received to bring awareness to the Byway.

Future contests and driving tours will be decided on and announced by the Board.



Back row L to R: Dave Kersten, Sara Dembowski, Sarah Bunting. Front row L to R : James Thompson, Deb Straub, Rowedeane Doss and Dave Hayden.

Photo Courtesy of Frontier Pathways

Middle School Bobcats Play Pirates and Burros with Hussle and Enthusiasm

by Shelley Penkoff

The Custer County Middle School played two games this past week. The team hosted Cotopaxi on Tuesday and traveled to South Park on Friday.

The B Team came out strong on Tuesday against Cotopaxi. The first wave of players scored early in the first half and at halftime was winning 11-7. The second and third wave of players kept the Bobcats in control of the game. It was an exciting game with lots of support from the community. The Bobcats came away with the win. Cameron Penkoff was high scorer on the day with eight points. Tucker Jewel scored an impressive three free throws. Chad Lewis had four points, AJ Stolfus and Andrew Slawski each scored two points, and Sam Babcock had one point.

The A Team was ready for the game and came out strong in the first half. The momentum swung Cotopaxi’s way in the second half and it was a close game right down to the end. At one point in the game, the Bobcats were leading by 10 points. Cotopaxi put in two three-point shots which catapulted them into the lead in the last minute 30-29. Cotopaxi put in one more basket along with some free throws to beat the Bobcats in a heart-breaker 33-29. Ben Penkoff led the scoring with nine points, Garrett Stepanich had eight, Wesley Curtis - four points, Dillon Kinsey - three points, and Wyatt Aldrich with one free throw.

The Bobcats traveled to South Park to take on the Burros on Friday. The Boys C Team showed a lot of hussle and enthusiasm. Jake Lafary and Tony To-

massoni rebounded the ball well and got a lot of good shots. The guards did a great job seeing the court and playing good defense. The C Team ultimately lost to South Park by a score of 18-11 but got a lot of game experience. Tomassoni led the team with four points and showed incredible defensive play, staying in the game with four fouls! Tucker Jewel had three points with Weston Jones and Jake Lafary each putting in two points.

The Bobcats B Team played with a lot of heart. The Bobcats were trailing by three points at halftime. The team came out in the second half and played an impressive game. The Bobcats beat the Burros in a close game in the last minutes, matching them point-for-point with a score of 18-17. Zach Fischer came out confident with his shooting and was high

scorer for the team with eight points. Cameron Penkoff and Chad Lewis each had four points on the day and Sam Babcock had two points.

The A Team rounded out the day with a fast-paced game against the Burros. The Burros were leading at halftime by two points. The Bobcats were defensively very strong but came up short on making some key shots. The Burros were able to pull out the win 47-37. Ben Penkoff and Matthew Kienbusch tied for high scorer with 10 points, Wesley Curtis made an impressive three ending the day with seven points, Garrett Stepanich and Dillon Kinsey each had four points and Chad Lewis put in a basket for the day.

The Custer County team travels to Cripple Creek on Friday for the League tournament.

Learn How to Backup Computer Files

Press Release

A blank stare, an awkward pause, and then the realization hits: “Does that mean the files are gone?” If that sounds familiar, it may be time to find out how to avoid falling prey to one of the most common computer mistakes. Learn a method to optimize data storage and

back-up your computer files at an upcoming free workshop at the West Custer County Library on Friday, February 10th at 1 p.m.

Attendees are asked to bring their laptops, power pack and mouse or note-taking materials for those with desktop computers.

Presenter and valley res-

ident, Jeff Mowry, will share his computer expertise to navigate the sometimes-challenging aspects of data back-up. Mowry is a local small business owner who builds and repairs computers and operates an industrial design firm.

According to Mowry, many people do not back up their

computers. Once users are familiar with methods to back-up data, they can prevent loss of important files, photos and music when a hard drive fails.

For more information on this free West Custer County Library event, please contact Cathy McCarthy at (719) 783- 9138.

Then you will call upon Me
and go and pray to Me,
and I will listen to you.

Jeremiah 29:12 NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

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The Custer County School
District has an opening
for a **secondary English/
Language Arts teacher**
for the 2017-2018 school
year. Applications are
available online at custer-
countyschools.org under
the Employment link. This
position will remain open
until filled.

In compliance with Titles
VI & VII of the Civil Rights
Act of 1964, Title IX of the
Education Amendments of
1972, Section 504 of the
Rehabilitation Act of 1973,
the Age Discrimination in
Employment Act of 1967,
the Americans with Dis-
abilities Act, the Genetic
Information Nondiscrim-
ination Act of 2008, and
Colorado law, Custer Coun-
ty School District C-1 does
not unlawfully discriminate
on the basis of race, color,
sex, religion, national ori-
gin, ancestry, creed, age,
marital status, sexual ori-
entation, genetic informa-
tion, disability or need for
special education services
in admissions, access to,
treatment or employment
in educational programs
or activities which it oper-
ates. Complaint procedures
have been established for
students, parents, employ-
ees and members of the
public. The following per-
son(s) have been identified
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Events Calendar

Friday, January 27, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Bingo - Saddle Club
90 CR 241, Westcliffe

Sunday, January 29
2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
In Concert - Altius Quartet
THE JONES THEATER \$\$ Westcliffe

Tuesday, January 31, 9 a.m.
BOCC Meeting
Boardroom

Wednesday, February 1, 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Meeting
Custer County School
Relocated to teacher's lounge or art room

Friday, February 3, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Girl Scout Cookie Sale @ Basketball Game
Custer County School

Friday and Saturday, February 3 and 4, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, February 5 at 2:00 p.m.
"Hidden Figures"
Biography | Drama | History | PG
THE JONES THEATER \$\$ Westcliffe

Saturday, February 4, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Spring Musical Pit Orchestra

Rehearsal #2
Custer County School Band Hall

Monday, February 6, 5:30 p.m.
Silver Cliff Town Meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 9 a.m.
BOCC Meeting
Boardroom

Tuesday, February 7, 5:30 p.m.
Westcliffe Town Meeting

Wednesday February 8, starting at 9 a.m.
Invention Convention
for 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders
In the School Library
Students will be displaying their inventions
Open to the Public

Thursday, February 9, 7 p.m.
Back Room Series: Hal Walter;
Endurance for Life, 103 South 2nd Street,
Westcliffe

Friday, February 10, 1 p.m.
Learn how to back up your files
Please bring your laptop, mouse, and power pack.
West Custer Library Community Room

Recurring Events

Monday

6 - 7 p.m. Closed Step Study Alcoholics
Anonymous at St. Luke's Episcopal
Church in Westcliffe.
Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172
or Emily at (719) 371-5974.

3rd Monday

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Writers group at
the Library. If you write or would like
to start writing, please join us in the
Community Room for peer editing,
feedback, ideas, comradery, and more.

Tuesday

12 - 4:30 p.m. Bridge Club meets in the
Library Community Room in down-
town Westcliffe.
6 p.m. Bible Study at Wild West
Cowboy Church. Call 719-783-2676.

1st Tuesday of the Month

6:30 p.m. at Cliff Lanes
American Legion Post 170 monthly
meeting.
6:45 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary monthly
meeting (March - October) at the
Saddle Club.

Wednesday

9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Line dancers meet
at the Methodist Church. Call Clem at
(303) 909-7370.
6-7 p.m. Closed Big Book Study Alcohol-
ics Anonymous at St. Luke's
Episcopal Church in Westcliffe. Call
Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172 or
Emily at (719) 371-5974.
6:30 p.m. Men's and Women's Bible
Study. First Baptist Church of West-
cliffe Call 719-783-2498.

6:30 - 8 p.m. Custer County Community
Band practice in the band room at the
high school.

2nd and 4th Wednesdays

3 p.m. Scrabble Group West Custer
County Library.

Last Wednesday of the Month

11 a.m. Book Club meeting at the West
Custer County Library. Open to the
public.

Thursday

Second Thursday of the Month
10 a.m. - 11 a.m. "Ask a Nurse" at
the library.

Friday

6 - 7 p.m. Open Discussion Alcoholics
Anonymous meeting at St. Luke's
Episcopal Church. Call Jim at 783-2053
or (360) 509-9172 or Emily at (719)
371-5974.
7 - 8 p.m. Bible Talks with Domenic
Enrietta and John Hartig. At the Library
Community Room. All welcome. No
charge.

Third Friday of the Month

Camp Happiness for 0-6 yrs old.
1-2:20 p.m. at West Custer Library.

Saturday

10 a.m. Wet Mountain Al-Anon Family
Group meets at St. Luke's Episcopal
Church. Call Dee (719) 404-1851 or
Jean (719) 371-1229.
2 p.m. Laughter Yoga at the West Custer
County Library. Open to the public.
3 p.m. Open Drum Circle at the West
Custer County Library. All ages wel-
come! If you have a drum, please bring
it. We have a few spares.

3rd Saturday of Month

9 a.m. VFW meeting at Cliff Lanes
Conference Room for more info call
Commander Randy Knight 783-9340.

Services

Club America
50 E. Main Street
Silver Cliff, CO 81252
(719) 783-0750

Custer County Senior Center
612 Main St.
Silver Cliff, CO 81252
(719) 783-9508
Lunch; Mon., Tues. & Thur. at
Noon. **RSVP by 9:30 a.m.**

**Custer County Community
Sharing Center Inc.**
120 N. 3rd St.
Westcliffe, CO 81252
(719) 783-3303
New Fri. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Lighthouse Pregnancy
Resources**
417 Cliff Street
Silver Cliff, CO 81252
(719) 783-4357
Mon. and Thur. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fri. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

West Custer County Library
209 Main Street
Westcliffe, CO 81252
(719) 783-9138
Tue. - Fri.: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sat.: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wet Mt. Rotary Van Service
For transportation needs,
contact Van Dispatch
(719) 783-2343
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Coming Up! Custer County School District Invention Convention February 3 & 4

CCSD's 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will be holding an Invention
Convention at CCSD on Friday, February 3rd and Saturday,
February 4th. The students inventions will be on display. Please
drop by and see the budding scientist's ideas.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Varsity Lady Bobcats Dominate; JV wins over Sargent

by Kirsten Foster

The teams traveled to Coto-paxi. The JV girls fought a close game by the score of 17-14. Lindsey Gillmore had eight points, while Jessie Henrich added 6 points.

The Varsity girls dominated the Pirates with a score of 55-23. Serenity Ham had a season high score of 20 points and also added five steals and three rebounds. Elizabeth Mullett's shot was on as well. She added 14 points, 10 rebounds, nine steals and one assist. McKensie Penkoff added seven points, nine rebounds, six steals and two assists. Tisha Schlabach also had seven points and added three steals and a rebound. Lindsey Gillmore added five points for the Lady Bobcats.

The Junior Varsity girls game against South Park was cancelled due to South Park suffering injuries.

The Varsity Girls Team took down the South Park Burros with a score of 39-25. Senior, Serenity Ham, led the Lady Bobcats with 15 points, two rebounds, three steals and one assist. Tisha Schlabach had nine points, four rebounds and four steals. McKensie Penkoff had eight points, nine rebounds, four steals, one assist and took



#23 Kathryn Mullett keeps the pressure on Pioneers.

Photo by Jennifer Russ

a great charge. Athena Wisecup added four points, a rebound and a block. Elizabeth Mullet made three from the line and had 11 rebounds, two steals and two blocks.

The girls were on the road again to Sargent. The JV girls WON an exciting game with a score of 22-18. Lindsey Gillmore led her team with seven points, Emma Aldrich had six points, Katie Florom had five points, while both Kylinn Wisecup and Grace Flynn each added two points for the Lady Bobcats.

The Varsity girls were in a great physical battle with the Sargent Farmers. Our Lady Bobcats ended up winning with a final score of 38-32. Serenity Ham had another great game, with 14 points, two rebounds, one steal and an assist. Elizabeth Mullet dominated the boards with eight rebounds, 11 points, three steals and an assist. McKensie Penkoff added in eight points, four rebounds and two steals. Tisha Schlabach contributed with five points, five rebounds, team leading six steals and an assist.

Sheriff's Report...



On the dates below, there were 184 calls for service to the Sheriff's Office, 18 to EMS, and 2 to the Fire Department. As of January 17th, there were 11 males and no females in the county jail.

1/14 17:

Traffic Summons: Sara Andres of Florence for speeding 10 - 19 over.

James Vidamour of LaVeta for speeding 10 - 19 over.

Charles Wilson of Westcliffe for speeding 10 - 19 over.

Marvin Deboy of Westminster for speeding 10 - 19 over.

Arrests: A deputy on routine patrol on Highway 96 observed a vehicle cross over the double yellow center line and onto the fog line several times. The driver was pulled over. Amelia Montoya of Cucamonga, CA, was arrested and charged with driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs or both, failing

to present evidence of insurance, and failing to drive in a single lane (weaving). Jaysen Lopez of Greenwood Village, CO, a passenger in the vehicle, was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order, violation of bail bond condition, and the prohibited use of weapons.

1/15 17:

Traffic Summons: David Jacobson of Alamosa for driving a motor vehicle with license under restraint (denied).

1/16 17:

Theft: A deputy was dispatched to a merchant on Main Street in Silver Cliff regarding the theft of a cell phone.

1/17/17:

Fraud: A deputy was dispatched to S. Adams Blvd. to take a report regarding possible fraudulent activity.

Custer County Realty

902 Main St. • Westcliffe, Colorado 81252
719.783.9221



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Monday through Friday
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719-783-9338



Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES



Semi Annual Report of Custer County Treasurer July 01, 2016 Through December 30, 2016

Custer County
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Tentative Agenda

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2017

9 00 AM
Meeting Location:
Commissioners Boardroom

- Call meeting to order
Pledge of allegiance
Roll Call
Amend agenda
Approval of minutes
Audience introduction
Public Comment
Commissioner Items
Attorney Items
Executive Session
New/Old Business
- Review vouchers and sign checks
 - BZA & Planning Commission board appointments
 - Lease Agreement with Wet Mountain Broadcasting
 - Early Childhood Council MOU – L. Lockhart/Butch Gemin

NOTICE TO PUBLIC: To meet publishing deadlines, all agenda items must be submitted either by calling the Commissioners Office at 719-783-2552; in writing to the Commissioner’s Office at PO Box 150, Westcliffe, CO 81252; or by e-mail to brenda@custercountygov.com no later than 9:00 AM on the Monday of the week prior to the BOCC meeting. Items not submitted in time may be tabled for one month so they may be properly published. True emergency items will be heard. (Audio recordings of the BOCC meetings are available for public review or purchase for \$10 per CD.)

FUND	REVENUES					DISBURSEMENTS				
	BEGINNING BALANCE	CURRENT TAX	DELINQUENT & INTEREST	SPECIFIC OWNERSHIP	RECEIPTS & MISCELLANEOUS PAID	WARRANTS PAID	TREASURERS FEES	TRANSFERS & MISC.	ENDING BALANCE	
COUNTY GENERAL FUND	388,610.19	79,820.92	3,395.73	72,913.71	1,073,024.93	-1,584,497.34	-3,991.06	-15,147.65	14,129.43	
ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	1,934,674.93	36,298.73	1,544.21	33,157.66	706,432.43	-897,301.35	-8,226.64		1,806,579.97	
CONTINGENT	63,341.39								63,341.39	
SELF INSURANCE FUND	168,969.47	10,889.62	463.27	9,947.28	5,886.90	-33,052.98	-544.48		162,559.08	
TRAFFIC FINES	2,128.00				9,279.50			-7,982.00	3,425.50	
HUMAN SERVICES	221,450.65	5,444.81	231.62	4,973.64	179,611.08	-218,784.36			192,927.44	
AIRPORT	10,430.07				21,791.48	-21,533.71	-117.89	5,000.00	15,569.95	
LODGING/TOURISM	23,680.89				23,735.67	-7,698.05	-1,101.77		38,616.74	
ADVANCE TAX	65.79								65.79	
PUBLIC TRUSTEE	14,918.16				194,171.65			-194,157.03	14,932.78	
LIEU OF TAX	1,351,959.87							-150,000.00	1,201,959.87	
CAPITAL	604,309.82				332,131.06	-259,273.22			677,167.66	
SALES TAX	489.87								489.87	
SANITATION DISTRICT	19,664.74	3,644.38	162.54	2,630.46			-182.23	-25,919.89	0	
FIRE DISTRICT	54,636.05	26,278.58	1,111.88	23,610.54			-1,313.93	-104,323.12	0	
UPPER ARKANSAS										
WATER CONS. DIST.	7,153.52	3,419.10	145.34	3,123.31			-170.95	-13,670.32	0	
SILVER CLIFF	12,407.61	3,194.25	138.42	1,579.93	1,688.50		-78.17	-18,930.54	0	
WESTCLIFFE	28,959.98	3,706.79	170.85	3,763.34	1,643.50		-88	-38,156.46	0	
C-1 SCHOOL DIST. GENERAL FUND	41,181.96	162,817.00	6,908.32	147,127.41	459.94		-407.03	-332,670.42	25,417.18	
C-1 SCHOOL DIST. CAP.	0								0	
C-1 SCHOOL DIST. B & I	6,967.00	27,012.95	1,146.17	24,409.90				-55,319.06	4,216.96	
RE2J GENERAL FUND	1,109.28	2,655.03	126.49	3,651.44	8.2		-6.64	-6,912.99	630.81	
RE2J CAP. RES.	0								0	
RE2J BOND & INT	727.64	1,711.56	81.53	2,353.91				-4,467.99	406.65	
RYE FIRE PROTECTION	3,684.25	2,090.05	93.13	2,086.48			-104.5	-7,849.41	0	
COUNTY SCHOOL	0				468.14			-468.14	0	
TOTALS	5,733,737.92	451,155.57	19,200.22	409,376.10	4,511,575.59	-3,594,669.97	-19,715.90	-2,792,798.94	4,717,860.59	

I, VIRGINIA TRUJILLO, County Treasurer in and for Custer County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Colorado, do hereby certify that the above is a true statement of condition of the various funds as they appear from the records in my office at the close of business, December 30, 2016.

Virginia Trujillo
Custer County Treasurer

Bank Balance \$320,162.59
Cash \$7,763.27
Investments \$4,389,434.73
PT Petty Cash \$500.00
Total \$4,717,860.59

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §8- 38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 12-16

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:

On October 27, 2016, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Custer records.

Original Grantor(s)	Mayra S Speer
Original Beneficiary(ies)	Washington Mutual Bank
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt	JPMorgan Chase Bank , National Association
Date of Deed of Trust	January 19, 2008
County of Recording	Custer
Recording Date of Deed of Trust	January 29, 2008
Recording Information	209587 Book: 600 Page: 159
(Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.)	
Original Principal Amount	\$222,159.00
Outstanding Principal Balance	\$194,694.91

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN THE STATE OF COLORADO, COUNTY OF CUSTER, WITH A SITUS ADDRESS OF 12100 COUNTY ROAD 255, WESTCLIFFE CO 81252-915 CURRENTLY OWNED BY SPEER MAYRA S HAVING A TAX ASSESSOR NUMBER OF 0010148862 AND BEING THE SAME PROPERTY MORE FULLY DESCRIBED AS TR 45 MC KINLEY MTN RANCH ESTATES.

Also known by street and number as: 12100 County Rd 255, Westcliffe, CO 81252.

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE

The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 03/01/2017, at the office of the Custer County Public Trustee, 205 South 6th Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)’ heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys’ fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

IF THE BORROWER BELIEVES THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN SECTION 38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN SECTION 38-38-103.2, THE BORROWER MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE FEDERAL CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB), OR BOTH. THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS.

Colorado Attorney General 1300 Broadway, 10th Floor Denver, Colorado 80203 (800) 222-4444 www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov	Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau P.O. Box 503 Iowa City, Iowa 52244 (855) 411-2372 www.consumerfinance.gov
--	---

DATE: 10/27/2016
Virginia Trujillo, Public Trustee in and for the County of Custer, State of Colorado

The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:

Klatt, Augustine, Sayer, Treinen & Rastede, P.C. 710 Kipling Street, Suite 402, Lakewood, CO 80215 (303) 232-5606
Attorney File # CO160290
The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.

Published 1/6/ 2017, 1/13/2017, 1/20/2017, 1/27/2017
Name of Publication: Sangre de Cristo Sentinel

Custer County Board Meetings Online
Audio of January 20, 2017, BOCC Meeting; GOTO <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67sKzkCackI&feature=youtu.be>
Or GOTO Youtube and find the Sangre de Cristo Sentinel account.



Westcliffe Mortgage

P.O. Box 806

Westcliffe, CO 81252

Phone: 719-783-2370

Cell: 719-371-5545

Custer County Middle and High School Bands Participate in Southern Colorado Honor Band

Held Monday, January 16, 2017, at Cañon City High School Auditorium. The ensembles were created through director recommendations. From Custer County Middle School: Wyatt Aldrich, Sam Babcock, Kylie Carter, Wesley Curtis, Morgan Foster, Chase Hatton, Kaya Huffman, Jake Lafary, Kyleigh Martin, Wulfgar Parmenter, Sheyenne Shy and Andrew Slawski. From Custer County High School: Michael Batson, Kayla Carter, Thomas Dryer, Tyler Ferron, Dominic Garcia, Curtis Martin, Holly Wenger, and Emilee Woolery. Participating Schools: Cañon City MS and HS, Cotopaxi HS, Custer County MS and HS, Florence MS and HS, Harrison MS, Pueblo County HS and Pueblo West HS.



Artistic Edge Dance School Schedule			
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
3-4 p.m. Studio 2 Adult Clogging	8:15-9:15 a.m. Studio 2 Healthy Heart Cardio	4:15-5:15 p.m. Studio 2 6 and up Beginners Contemporary	8:15-9:15 a.m. Studio 2 Healthy Heart Cardio
4:14-5:05 p.m. Studio 2 4-6 year olds Tap/Ballet	2-3 p.m. Studio 2 Adult Tap	5:15-6:15 p.m. Studio 2 12 and up intermediate Contemporary	4:15-5:15 p.m. Studio 2 10 to 12 year olds Tap
4:15-5:15 p.m. Studio 1 Intermediate/Teen Ballet	4:15-5:15 p.m. Studio 2 8 and up Lyrical	6:15- 7:15 P.M. Studio 2 Adult Lyrical	5:15-6:15 p.m. Studio 2 6 to 11 year olds Hip Hop
5:15-6:15 p.m. Studio 2 7-10 year olds Tap/Ballet	5:15-6:15 p.m. Studio 2 6-9 year olds Jazz	7:15-8:15 p.m. Studio 2 Adult Jazz	6:15-7:15 p.m. Studio 1 12 and up Hip Hop
6:15-7:15 p.m. Studio 2 13 and up Tap	6:15-7:15 p.m. Studio 2 10 o 12 year olds Jazz		6:15-7:15 p.m. Studio 1 12 and up Hip Hop
	7:15-8:15 p.m. Studio 2 13 and up Jazz		7:15-8:15 p.m. Studio 1 Adult Contemporary

DANCE from page 1

Ms. Becky Thompson, who owns Second Street Dance Studio and has her main shop in Pueblo West, shares this location with Artistic Edge where she offers (three times weekly) her signature competitive dancing in contemporary style and jazz.

This location is a one stop shop for all dance aficionados. With a recital scheduled for the spring time, registration is short; only until the end of the month (January). It will be a busy summer with

sessions and many performances planned. New registrations for each session beginning in the summer already being accepted. Ms. Simmons also announces that a scholarship fund has been established to assist in the training of talented dancers. The Artistic Edge Dance Scholarship Fund is ready to accept contributions; simply call (719) 285-3672 for details and more information.

Remember, life may not be the party we hoped for but while we’re here...we should dance.



Rachael Simmons

Photo by Fred Hernandez

ELK from page 1

approximately 8,840 in 2006 but since dropped 55 percent to an estimated 4,020 in 2016.

“We have also witnessed time and time again that pro-wolf groups seek to ignore agreed upon population recovery goals, thus moving the goals posts, so to speak, by filing obstructionist lawsuits designed to drag out or deny the delisting process al-

together and allowing wolf populations to soar well above agreed upon levels,” said Allen. “These groups totally ignore what they themselves agree to once they get wolves on the landscape and they use lawsuits to manipulate the system, ignoring state-based management. And, in many cases the American taxpayers are paying for their legal fees,” Allen added.

Animal rights groups filed at least nine lawsuits regarding wolf populations

in the Northern Rockies and at least six others affecting wolves in the Western Great Lakes, as well as several others that have impacted the listing status of wolves across the contiguous 48 states. Currently, two cases are pending in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, affecting listing status in Wyoming and in the Western Great Lake states.

As part of the wolf reintroduction efforts in the mid-1990s, federal and state

agencies agreed to delist wolves and place them under state management when the original minimum recovery levels reached 100 wolves each in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Wolves met those delisting standards in 2002 but 2015 minimum populations were nearly 500 percent above that—786 in Idaho, 536 in Montana and 382 in Wyoming. The original population objective for wolves in the Western Great Lakes was 1,350 but at last count

the overall minimum population numbered greater than 3,600.

Though well above minimum population levels, federal protections remain in place for wolves in the Western Great Lakes region and Wyoming due to environmental lawsuits.

“An unhealthy and litigious precedent has been set that once pro-wolf groups get a foot in the reintroduction door, they kick it open and file lawsuit after lawsuit to

stymy the delisting process while using the wolf as a fundraising tool. Colorado’s elk population will be next in the crosshairs,” cautioned Allen. “And by the way, wolves are nowhere near endangered.”

If you have questions about the RMEF or are interested in receiving background materials or arranging interviews, please contact: RMEF Director of Communication Phone: 1-800-225-5355, Ext. 481. E-mail: publicrelations@rmef.org



Give a New Year’s Gift of Conservative News! Discount Subscription Available

From now until **January 31st**, current subscribers can give their neighbors, children, relatives and friends a **SIX MONTH** discounted subscription to **The Sentinel**.

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Please indicate that you’re purchasing a gift subscription in order to get the discount. Fill out the subscription form on page 23 of this issue or Call 719-783-3360.

**Enjoy featured columns; The Daily Jot, A Sheep Dog Barks and Pastor Jim Modlish.*

Let no one deceive you with empty words,
for because of these things
the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Ephesians 5:6 NKJV

BACK ROOM SPEAKER SERIES

103 South 2nd Street, Westcliffe, Colorado

All talks are free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted and given to the speaker’s charity of choice. Due to limited seating, reservations are suggested. Reservations and inquiries: backroom2ndst@gmail.com



January 12, 2017, 7:00 PM
MARK PAYLER – *The Future of Education in Rural America*

Rural America is facing huge challenge. We face declining enrollment. This talk will focus on the impact of technology on rural education to help rural education to thrive in the 21st century.

See page 5 for details if you missed it!



February 9, 2017, 7:00 PM
HAL WALTER – *Endurance for Life*

In an effort to raise awareness about autism and neurodiversity, Hal will discuss physical and emotional strength and determination, and embraces the gifts of patience, humility and empathy.



February 19, 2017, 4:00 PM
MARK PAYLER – *Is it Art? Art and Photography in the Age of Digital Manipulation*

This theme explores digital art manipulation in contrast to the darkroom and how it will influence our future while also being at odds with the past.



March 23, 2017, 7:00 PM
BAR SCOTT – *Death is Hard to Talk About, Let’s Do It Anyway*

The discussion will revolve around the reality of death: how to prepare for it, how to manage grief, and how to talk about it with loved ones when death is near.



April 13, 2017, 7:00 PM
MICHAEL HAYES – *Grain Silo Living and Domestic Violence*

Using the Japanese pecha kucha format Michael will share two very different presentations. One will be on the process that he and his wife, Kristine, went through to design and build their tiny “silo” house. The other will focus on Michael’s work developing public policies and programs designed to serve survivors of domestic violence and support their ability to live safe and free from violence.



May 11, 2017, 7:00 PM
PAUL PARSONS – *Managing Conflict in an Anxious World*

Any relationship - family, community, organization, or even a nation - can become destructively anxious. Most of the ways with which we react to those on the ‘other side’ only serve to deepen the conflict. Yet there are choices we can make and behaviors we can adopt that offer the best possibilities for managing, if not redeeming, crippling conflicts. Paul will draw upon a career in peacemaking among warring communities.



The 2017 Colorado General Assembly: Important Bills YOU Should Know About; Part 2 of 2

by George Gramlich

This article features information about important bills from the 2017 Colorado Assembly, Representative Jim Wilson’s take on them and if appropriate, the Republican Caucus’s view on a bill, and occasionally, the *Sentinel’s* view.

We encourage our readers to ENGAGE our representatives with regards to your opinion on these bills BEFORE THEY ARE VOTED ON. Make your voices heard. Contact information for our local representatives is at the end of the article.

The *Sentinel* will be tracking these bills during the legislative session and will keep you updated on their status. We will also include new bills when they are introduced and track them also.

You can view additional information on each bill, including the whole bill, its status and all the sponsors at: leg.colorado.gov and click on the “Find a Bill” icon.

Colorado Senate Bills:

SB17-03 Repeal Colorado Health Benefit Exchange
Senate Sponsors: J. Smallwood (R)
House Sponsors: P. Neville (R)

Status: In Committee

Description: In 2010, pursuant to the enactment of federal law that allowed each state to establish a health benefit exchange option through state law or opt to participate in a national exchange, the general assembly enacted the ‘Colorado Health Benefit Exchange Act’ (act). The act created the state exchange, a board of directors (board) to implement the exchange and a legislative health benefits exchange implementation review committee to make recommendations to the board. The bill repeals the act, effective

January 1, 2018, and allows the exchange to continue for one year for the purpose of winding up its affairs. The bill also requires the board, on the last day of the wind-up period, to transfer any unencumbered money that remains in the exchange to the state treasurer, who shall transfer the money to the general fund.

From Representative Jim Wilson:
Our Republican Caucus has not met to determine a Caucus position on this bill. My opinion – because this bill messes with Colorado’s “ObamaCare”, I am going to assume that it will be

opposed in the House by the D’s. Even though it is starting in the Senate, I am hearing that there may not be enough R votes to make it through. If it does clear the Senate, it will have no chance of passing the Democrat-dominated House. I will support the bill, but will not have the chance to hear it because I am sure if it makes it to the House, the bill will be assigned to the House State Affairs Committee (the House “Kill Committee”).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
see page 23

Lessons Learned: A Closer Look at How the GOP Lost Colorado in 2016

by Thomas E. Cronin and Robert D. Loevy, ColoradoPolitics.com

A lackluster performance in three of Colorado’s strongest Republican counties — including El Paso County (Colorado Springs) — cost Republican Donald Trump Colorado’s nine electoral votes in the 2016 presidential election.

The official county votes were certified by Colorado Secretary of State Wayne Williams just prior to the Electoral College meeting that voted Trump into the White House.

Trump did well enough in El Paso, Douglas (Castle Rock), and Weld (Greeley) counties, but he needed to really sweep those three traditional centers of GOP voting power if he was going to defeat Hillary Clinton in Colorado. As a result, Clinton edged Trump out with strong Democratic support in the Denver/Boulder area.

In El Paso County, Trump received 62 percent of the two-party vote. That was down 6 percentage points

from the 68 percent of the two-party vote that Republican President George W. Bush polled in El Paso County in the 2000 presidential election 16 years earlier.

El Paso County is the second most populous county in Colorado, narrowly trailing Denver. In a county

with so many voters, that six percent drop in Republican support is a lot of votes.

Donald Trump’s unorthodox campaign style, filled with startling statements and criticism of other politicians, probably had something of a cooling effect on his support in highly urban-

ized but very conservative El Paso County.

Just to the north of El Paso County lies Douglas County, a distant suburb of Denver. Douglas County dropped its Republican percentage

LESSONS LEARNED
see page 19

“Takin’ It To The House...” A Calendar And Commentary From The Golden Dome

by Jim Wilson

The first full week of the 71st Colorado General Assembly was overshadowed by the Inauguration of the 45th President of the United States. President Obama stepped down, and Donald Trump was sworn in. (I know that is not a news flash for most readers...) This next statement, however, may be news considering all the protests going on. Here it is – all 45 presidents in the history of the United States have been lawfully elected (except President Ford, who was neither elected as President nor Vice-President)! In my

lifetime, whether I voted for Kennedy, Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Bush I, Clinton, Bush II, Obama or Trump, as a citizen of the U.S.A., every one of them was (and is) my president (whether I liked them or not...). The law of the land is very clear – the Electoral College elects the president. If we do not like the law of the land, it is possible to change the law because we live in a constitutional republic.

One of the special things that happens at the Colorado Capitol each year is the Legislators’ support of the National Western Ju-

nior Livestock Sale. Every year the House and the Senate challenge each other to see which chamber can raise the most money towards purchasing a Colorado steer at the National Western Junior Livestock Sale. This year, the Senate won the fundraising battle. However, the real winner was Charlee Jo Teague of Ft. Morgan. Senators Baumgardner, Coram and Sonnenberg, along with Senate President Grantham plus Representative Valdez and myself were on hand to do the bidding as we bought her 1,505 lb., second place crossbred steer for \$11,000! By pooling money from

both chambers and soliciting donations from friends and supporters, we were able to purchase the steer and put \$1,760.85 into the

WILSON
see page 19

CU’s New Regent Wants More Conservative Voices on Campus

by Chris White, Daily Caller News Foundation

The University of Colorado’s (CU) new regent said she is committed to injecting more conservative voices into the school’s classroom to make the school more politically diverse.

Heidi Ganahl, CU’s newly elected regent, believes the school needs to foster political diversity by introducing conservative thought at the student, staff and faculty levels. Her November victory keeps Republicans in the majority on the board of regents, 5-4.

“Well, I think that’s a national problem,” she said in a wide-ranging interview earlier in January about the lack of conservatives on college campuses. “So, it’s something that I certainly want to dig into a bit and address and make sure that students are hearing both sides of the story. It’s very important to me.”

Ganahl, the founder of dog day care company Camp Bow Wow, managed to overcome a well-funded environmentalist-led campaign to take over UC to force the school to divest from fossil fuels.

Now Ganahl is taking on the liberal bias she thinks permeates every aspect at UC, a school with a \$3.5 billion budget, which is nearly twice the amount of Denver’s city budget.

One way to balance out the political atmosphere on campus, she said in the interview, is to introduce classes that are co-taught by liberals and conservatives. It gives students a wider understanding of political thought, according to Ganahl.

“And the kids love it. It’s always full, there’s always

a waiting list to get a class, and that’s just an example of how students really do want to hear both sides of the story and have feisty debate about tough issues and have conversations about things that they really need to figure out where they stand on,” she added.

The Colorado Republican’s comments and her Election Day win comes a few months after professors at UC Colorado Springs told incoming students last year to drop their classes if they intended on debating climate change in class.

UC Colorado Spring’s sister campus, University of Colorado Denver, meanwhile, is offering a three-credit course for the spring 2017 semester called “Problematising Whiteness: Educating for Racial Justice,” a course attracting more liberal students than conservative ones.

UC should stop treating its students with kiddie gloves and instead respect the rights of conservatives to invite controversial speakers to campus, Ganahl said, referring to a student-led move to invite alt-right firebrand Milo Yiannopoulos to two Colorado campuses.

“Well, I think that student groups invited him and sponsored his appearance, and we need to recognize their right to bring a variety of speakers and events to campus,” Ganahl said, adding that, UC is a place “where open debate, discussion, are encouraged, even from speakers that we disagree with or may have views that we don’t all agree with.”

Read more: <http://daily-caller.com/2017/01/17/cus-new-regent-wants-more-conservative-voices-on-campus/#ixzz4W7X-9k7JA>

Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

IMPORTANT DATES IN FREMONT
School Board Meetings:
Cañon City
Fremont RE-1
2nd and 4th Mon
5:30 p.m.
101 N. 14th St, Cañon City
Florence-Penrose
Fremont RE-2
2nd Mon. at 7 p.m.
403 W. 5th St. Florence

Cañon City City Council
1st and 3rd
Mondays at 6 p.m.
City Hall
128 Main St.
Cañon City
County Commissioners
2nd and 4th Tues.
9:30 a.m.
615 Macon, Rm. 105
Cañon City

Royal Gorge Tea Party
2nd Thursday
6:30 p.m.
Core Knowledge School Gymnasium,
890 Fields Ave.
Cañon City
www.royalgorgetea-party.com

Fremont Republican Central Committee
4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
603 Main Street

Southern Colorado Survivors
1st Sat at 10 a.m.
El Alazan Mexican Restaurant
1925 Fremont Dr.
Cañon City

Please let us know about an upcoming event or meeting you would like to see printed here, or covered in an upcoming issue.
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

More Troubles at the Fremont County Sheriff's Office; Sheriff Beicker Gives On-Camera Statement

by Barbara Penezic

As one might expect from an ongoing investigation, the on-camera statement from Sheriff James Beicker has left us with more questions than answers. The Fremont County Sheriff's Department was recently named in a federal law suit filed in Denver. The suit filed in connection with the death of inmate John Patrick Walter becomes last week's news as we are now being told that evidence from an unsolved murder case was found in a storage locker.

In an on-camera statement Sheriff Beicker had this to say:

"I wanted to make a brief comment about an evidence investigation that you all became aware of. As you understand this is an active investigation, I won't be taking questions or answering any details about this but would like to make a brief comment to you. On Friday, December 8, 2016, about mid-afternoon, it became known by me that a local resident here in Cañon City had purchased items from a personal storage unit here in Cañon City and that possibly some of those items might be things that belong to the Sheriff's Office. I personally contacted that resident and spoke with him. They fully cooperated, agreed and allowed myself and Captain Jim Worley of the Sheriff's Office to meet them at the

storage unit and view the contents. We did meet that person up there late that afternoon and I briefly looked at the items that remained in the storage unit. I immediately contacted the Colorado Bureau of Investigations (CBI) regarding the matter. With their consultation and cooperation, they asked myself and Captain Worley to catalogue and photograph the items that were in the unit and to collect and secure them and bring them to the Sheriff's Office to place in our evidence lockers. On January 3, 2017 they agreed and sent two agents to meet me here at the Sheriff's Office and I turned the entire matter over to CBI for further investigation. As a result of that investigation we have placed Lt. Detective Robert Dodd of the Fremont County Sheriff's Office on routine administrative leave pending the outcome of that investigation and because it is active, as you understand, until they are able to complete their investigation we will not be able to release any further information. I appreciate your coming on short notice but I will not be able to take any questions. Thank you."

The evidence in question was discovered by Rick Ratzlaff in a storage locker that had been auctioned for lack of payment, according to reports. The locker in question was alleged to have a uniform bearing the name of Lt. Detective



Sheriff Jim Beicker

Dodd. Envelopes clearly marked "Evidence" and some bloody items that may relate to an unsolved murder case dating back to 2014.

A 17-year-old victim, Candace Hiltz, was found dead of multiple gunshot wounds in a Copper Gulch family home on August 15, 2006. Her brother was viewed as a possible suspect for a brief period but no charges were filed. The family of Candace Hiltz do not believe her brother was involved and worry that their daughter's killer is still at large. They had little confidence in the murder investigation at the time.

The possibility that the evidence found in the storage locker may be tied to the murder of Candace Hiltz presents some with a troubling puzzle; how or why the bloody rope and axe would be thought linked to this 2014 murder case in which the victim died of gunshot wounds? Hopefully the light will shine a little brighter at the conclusion of the CBI investigation.

Be Informed...
Get Involved

Zoning and Building Codes VS Business and Industry

by Barbara Penezic

—CAÑON CITY, Colorado

The question of regulation versus business has been the elephant in the room for a long time in Cañon City. City Administrator Tony O'Rourke and council members are addressing this situation and hoping to find a way to maintain public safety without breaking the entrepreneur's budget.

Somewhat like walking a tightrope without a net. Strong regulations equal empty storefronts and loss of tax base. Weak regulations could leave the door open to dangerous situations for the public and lawsuits for the city.

At a recent Royal Gorge Tea Party meeting, Mr.

O'Rourke and Councilman Jim Meisner reminded the members of the recent tragedy that occurred in Oakland, CA. The warehouse fire that claimed numerous victims could have been avoided if codes had been enforced.

Somewhere there is a balance and that is what the council is now looking for in the ongoing negotiations with Hale Pet Door. The following is an excerpt from a city report courtesy of Cañon City:

In 2015, Mr. Hale purchased a property at 2113 South Eighth Street and 215 South Seventh Street. Mr. Hale's intention was to manufacture pet doors. Mr. Hale soon encountered problems; the property was zoned C- Commercial and manufacturing business

are not permitted by right, however, they may be allowed through approval of a special review use (SRU.)

Prior to Mr. Hale's purchase, the property had been vacant for some time but most recently the building fronting Eighth Street had housed an office. A computer recycling and a furniture manufacturing business were located at the site prior to a fire in 2008. Both of the latter businesses would have been considered illegal, nonconforming as they are not permitted uses in the C-Commercial zone. The start-up of this business constituted a "change in use."

The Planning Commission, on November 15, 2016, approved a Special Review Use with conditions 7-0, for Hale Pet Door.

The city has been negotiating with Mr. Hale on a very regular basis. They have waived the site drainage plan, the need for a formal site plan map and fee, as well as, the building permit for an interior wall constructed without a building permit. The city will not require parking on new pavement next to the currently occupied building nor the installation of trash enclosures.

Building, electrical and plumbing permits will be required for improvements. These all have fees.

Since September 7th, there has been continual communications between city staff and Mr. Hale. There were six contacts in October, three in November, eight in December and five in January. On January 11, 2017,

Mr. Hale sent a letter to council, staff, and Planning Commission and among other statements, withdrawing his application.

Mr. Hale had indicated he had an OSHA inspection report, however an online search failed to produce a copy of the report.

Mr. Hale stated during a telephone conversation that he felt frustrated and thought the council was trying to make him comply with the wrong building codes. Rob Brown has offered to assist Mr. Hale through the negotiations and find a workable solution that would keep this business open.

Be Informed...
Get Involved

Events January 27-31

- **COG lunch is served at noon every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday** at 100 Railroad St. in Florence. Call 784-6493 before 9:30 a.m. for reservation. Meals cost \$2 for 60 and older and \$6.50 for 59 and younger.
- **Free lunch is served from noon-1 p.m. Tuesdays** at **Mercy Today Ministries** in the back of the First Christian Church at 320 N. 16th St. in Cañon City. For more information, call 276-9242.
- **Lunches are served at noon Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Penrose Center** at 405 Broadway in Penrose. Everyone is welcome. Meals are \$3 per person. Please call 372-3872 for reservations. Thrift Store is open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- **Friends of the Penrose Community Library hosts its weekly used book sales** from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. every Wednesday in the shed behind the library at 35 Seventh Ave. in Penrose.

January 27-29, Fremont Civic Theater will present **"Bad Year for Tomatoes"** at 7 p.m. on January 27-28, and at 3 p.m. on January 29th at Rialto Theater at 209 W. Main St. in Florence. Tickets are \$7 for seniors and students, \$10 for adults and an additional \$3 for preferred seating. Tickets are available by calling 275-8989.

January 28, First Fremont County March for Life on Saturday, from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. in Veterans Park, Cañon City. The rally begins at 1 p.m. with speakers and testimonies followed by a march with signs down Royal Gorge Blvd to 9th Street and back.

Health Fair

OWN YOUR HEALTH

Custer County

This Year's Fair

Saturday, April 8th, 2017

7 a.m. - 12 noon

We couldn't put on this event every year without dedicated volunteers like you.

Interested in helping this year??

Please call 783-3369 or email rhonda.7@aol.com with the following...

- What area you'd like to help in
- If you'd like a red T-shirt for \$5.00 & what size
- If you'd be available to help setup or take down



The Daily Jot

Daily reporting and analysis of current events from a biblical and prophetic perspective.

NOTE: When writing about God and Jesus, The Daily Jot means YHVH as God and Yeshua Ha Mashiach as Jesus--the actual original names and the true nature and character of them.

Left's Dark Take on Trump Speech Exposes Graft to Light

The Marxist globalist left's talking points across the Democratic Party and the mainstream news media characterized President Donald Trump's inauguration speech as "dark" and "Hitlerian," but in reality his populist speech exposed the establishment's cabal of graft and corruption to the light. Again, these perpetrators of darkness continue to project what they have been doing for decades as something evil when it exposes their deeds. Perhaps most Americans have over spiritualized the very physical manifestation of Ephesians 6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against, powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Trump plainly said in some 16 minutes what America and the rest of the world have been experiencing without exception prior to and immediately after the presidency of Ronald Reagan— "For too long, a small group in our nation's capital has reaped the rewards of government while the people have borne the cost. Washington flourished -- but the people did not share in its wealth. Politicians prospered -- but the jobs left, and the factories closed. The establishment protected itself, but not the citizens of our country. Their victories have not been your victories; their triumphs have not been your triumphs; and while they celebrated in our nation's capital, there was little to celebrate for struggling families all across our land."

It took great courage to say these words when the very generations of those complicit in what Trump exposed were sitting right behind him—from Jimmy Carter to the Bush's to the Clintons to the immediate past "president," all participated in a corrupt globalist agenda that worked counter to the well-being of every American they swore to uphold and protect, so help them God. The oath of office didn't mean anything to them because "God" in their public statements was whatever anybody thought at any given time. They all have said that allah and God were the same, indicating they were no respecter of the one true God and that their "god" was the god of this world. They showed by their actions the realm of wickedness in high places.

For the past eight years in particular, Americans have heard nothing but lectures of how bad we are, how Christians were akin to radical insurgents, how we were culpable for all the woes on earth. The highlight of the globalist agenda was to demonize all that is good and celebrate all that is evil, and wrap it in some strange form of patriotism. No, Trump's speech was not dark, it was exposing these people and their agenda to the light so that all can see. The immediate response from the antichrist crowd was to swear to fight him at every juncture, a call for no quarter. All of God's people are in a battle against this spiritual wickedness. Trump set a record for the number of prayers lifted up on inauguration day. Let us solemnly engage by not allowing others to speak evil of our good. May we shine the light of Christ across our land.

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!
Bill Wilson
www.dailyjot.com
Reprinted with permission.

Why Millennials Are Behind: They Earn 20% Less Than Boomers Did at the Same Age

by Tyler Durden, Zerohedge.com

Over the past few years, as the Millennial generation has grown into its own, in 2016 surpassing Baby Boomers as the nation's largest living generation according to the Census (Americans aged 18-34 in 2015 now number 75.4 million, surpassing the 74.9 million Baby Boomers aged 51-69), in the process becoming the fulcrum support of the U.S. economy, it has also prompted many questions: why aren't Millennials investing in the stock market? Why aren't they starting families and buying houses? Why are they living in their parents' basements well into their thirties? Why don't they just... spend?

The latest answer to all these questions came yesterday following a new analysis of Federal data by the Young Invincibles group, according to which with a median household income of \$40,581, despite being better educated, millennials now earn 20% less than boomers did at the same stage of life in 1989, who earned \$50,910 some 25 years ago.

The analysis released on Friday shows other disturbing trends, which confirm that America's troubling generational divide is all too real and helps explain much of the anxiety that defined the 2016 election. Some examples: millennials have half the net worth of boomers; their home ownership rate is lower, while their student debt is

drastically higher.

The generational gap is a central dilemma for the incoming presidency of Donald Trump, who pledged a return to the prosperity of post-World War II America. The analysis also hints at the issues of culture and identity that divided many voters, showing that white millennials—who still earn much more than their Black and Latino peers—have seen their incomes plummet the most, relative to boomers.

Andrea Ledesma, 28, says her parents owned a house and were raising kids by her age. Not so for her.

Ledesma graduated from college four years ago. After moving through a series of jobs, she now earns \$18,000 making pizza at Classic Slice in Milwaukee, shares a two-bedroom apartment with her boyfriend and has \$33,000 in student debt.

"That's not at all how life is now, that's not something that people strive for and it's not something that is even attainable, and I thought it would be at this point," Ledesma said.

Her mother Cheryl Romanowski, 55, was making about \$10,000 a year at her age working at a bank without a college education. In today's dollars, that income would be equal to roughly \$19,500. Romanowski said she envies the choices that her daughter has in life, but she acknowledged that her daughter has it harder than her. "I think the opportunities have just been fading

Figure 1.2 - Today's young adults with debt and a degree earn same as workers with no degree earned in 1989

25-34 Year Olds			
	Degree w/o Debt	Degree w Debt	No Degree
1989	\$75,422	\$67,880	\$49,024
2013	\$61,886	\$50,727	\$36,523

* % Change
Young Invincibles Analysis of Survey of Consumer of Finances adjusted to 2013 dollars

Table 1.2 - Median Income

25-34 Year Olds	Degree w/o Debt	Degree with Debt	No Degree
1989	\$75,422	\$67,880	\$49,024
2013	\$61,886	\$50,727	\$36,523

Table 4.1 - Millennials' Wealth Half of Boomers at Same Age

	1989	2013	Percent Change
25-34 year-olds			
All	\$25,035	\$10,900	-56%

Figure 4.2 - Young Student Borrowers and non-College Educated Have Similar Net Wealth

25-34 Year Olds		
	1989	2013
Degree w/o Debt	\$120,000	\$75,000 (-40%*)
Degree w Debt	\$90,000	\$10,000 (-92%*)
No Degree	\$30,000	\$15,000 (-53%*)

* % Change
Young Invincibles Analysis of Survey of Consumer of Finances adjusted to 2013 dollars

away," she said.

The Federal data shows the extent of the decline. It compared 25 to 34 year-olds in 2013, the most recent year available, to the same age group in 1989 after adjusting for inflation. Education does help boost incomes. But the median college-educated millennial with student debt is only earning slightly more than a baby boomer without a degree did in 1989.

The home ownership rate for this age group dipped to 43 percent from 46 percent in 1989, although the rate has improved for millennials with a college degree relative to boomers. The median net worth of millennials is \$10,090, 56 percent less than it was for boomers.

Whites still earn dramatically more than Blacks and Latinos, reflecting the legacy of discrimination for jobs, education and housing. Yet compared to White baby boomers, some White millennials appear stuck in a pattern of downward

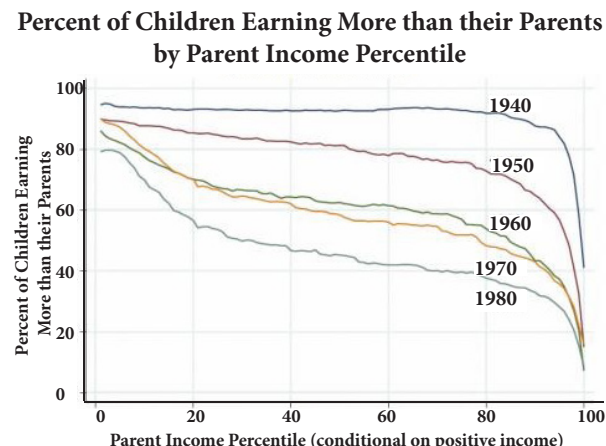
mobility. This group has seen their median income tumble more than 21% to \$47,688. Median income for Black millennials has fallen just 1.4 percent to \$27,892. Latino millennials earn nearly 29 percent more than their boomer predecessors to \$30,436.

The analysis fits into a broader pattern of diminished opportunity. Research last year by economists led by Stanford University's Raj Chetty found that people born in 1950 had a 79 percent chance of making more money than their parents. That figure steadily slipped over the past several decades, such that those born in 1980 had just a 50 percent chance of out-earning their parents.

This decline has occurred even though younger Americans are increasingly college-educated.

The proportion of 25 to 29 year-olds with a college degree has risen to 35.6

MILINENNIALS
see page 18



VA to Pay Out Billions to Marines Who Drank Toxic Water at Camp Lejeune

by Jonah Bennett, Daily Caller News Foundation

In a historic decision, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has agreed to pay out billions to Marines exposed to toxic water at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Over a period of two years, the federal government will dedicate \$2 billion for disability benefits related to eight medical conditions linked to exposure to contaminated drinking water, the Associated Press reports.

“We have a responsibility to take care of those who have served our nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service,” outgoing VA Secretary Robert McDonald said in an announcement Friday.

There’s now enough scientific evidence to suggest some causal link between contaminated drinking water and conditions like leukemia, cancer and Parkinson’s

disease, among others, according to McDonald.

The benefits will cover active-duty or reserve Marines and National Guard members who were stationed at Camp Lejeune for at

Veterans will have to send in details of their service to the VA to qualify, namely evidence that they served during the 30-year period from 1953-1987 and a diagnosis of one of the eight medical conditions.

According to Dailylocal.com out of West Chester, PA, “In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent, as well as benzene and vinyl chloride, were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985.”

least 30 days from between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987.

So far, there are more than 1,000 applications submitted in the queue to the VA for access to the new benefits.

The VA estimates that 23,000 veterans will apply for assistance, even though potentially up to 900,000 service members were exposed to the tainted drinking water.

“This is good news,” retired Ma-

rine Master Sgt. Jerry Ensminger told the Associated Press. Ensminger’s daughter was born at Lejeune in 1976. She later died due to leukemia.

“This has been a hard, long slog,” Ensminger added. “This is not the end of the issue.”

Ensminger believes the VA should also cover other diseases beyond the eight already listed.

Other former Marines like Keith English are still fighting, as he’s been diagnosed with numerous types of cancers that are not on the approved list of conditions, such as throat cancer, lung cancer and lip cancer.

According to English, the tainted water would have come into contact with two of the three areas where he developed cancerous tissue.

“My cancers are definitely the result of being exposed to that contaminated water,” English said.

English is a part of a class action lawsuit to expand medical conditions eligible for benefits.

The reason the new benefits are historic is because they’re being allocated to service members who did not sustain injuries or diseases in a combat arena.

“It’s a major first,” Dr. Ralph Erickson, a chief health consultant at the VA, told the Associated Press.

(Editor/GG: Here’s the page at the VA website about this and how to apply: <http://www.public-health.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/>. You can also see Tim Swartz at the VSO: 65 Rosita Ave. Westcliffe, CO 81223. P hone: 719-783 940

Please see: <http://daily-callernewsfoundation.org/2017/01/14/va-to-pay-out-billions-to-marines-who-drank-toxic-water-at-camp-lejeune/>

MILLENNIALS from page 17

percent in 2015 from 23.2 percent in 1990, a report this month by the Brookings Institution noted.

The declining fortunes of millennials could impact boomers who are retired or on the cusp of retirement. Payroll taxes from millennials helps to finance the Social Security and Medicare benefits that many boomers receive, programs that Trump has said won’t be subject to spending cuts. And those same boomers will need younger generations to buy their homes and invest in the financial

markets to protect their own savings.

“The challenges that young adults face today could forecast the challenges that we see down the road,” said Tom Allison, deputy policy and research director at Young Invincibles.

For now, despite Obama’s recurring narrative of an economic “recovery” which unfortunately skipped some 75.4 million Americans, and despite Trump’s promises that he will somehow make it better, it remains unclear just how this most important U.S. generation will emerge from its de-

mographic and economic doldrums.

Source: *Financial Health of Young America: Measuring Generational Declines between Baby Boomers & Millennials.*

(Editor/GG: Ah yes, more government, more poverty. More socialism, more poverty. More “free trade”, more poverty. Nobama was the worst and he is still worshiped by these ignorant snowflakes. You reap what you sow.)

Please see: <http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2017-01-14/why-millennials-are-behind-they-earn-20-less-boomers-did-same-age>

Islamic Extremism: The Cause of Persecution in the Most Persecuted Countries

by Lauretta Brown, CNSNews.com

Open Doors USA released its 25th Annual World Watch List (WWL), a ranking of the top 50 countries “where Christians face the most severe persecution for their faith” Wednesday, noting that “Islamic extremism is the lead generator of persecution for 35 out of 50 countries on the list.”

Communist North Korea topped the list for the 16th consecutive year because of the regime’s extreme oppression of Christians. The other nine countries in the top 10 are listed as having either Islamic extremism or Islamic oppression as a main cause of persecution.

The watch list’s top 10 countries for the most Christian persecution are, in order: North Korea, Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Yemen and Eritrea.

Pakistan, which placed fourth on the list, had “the most all-pervasive violence recorded” in the WWL 2017 recording period from November 2015 to October 2016. The 2016 Easter Sunday bombing in Lahore, which killed 74 and injured 320, is one example of the violence Christians have seen in Pakistan over the past year.

World Watch Research also noted in its summary of the watch list’s major trends that “Islamic militancy is gaining ground in many more sectors of society”

in Somalia since, “especially with generous Saudi funding – they are building new networks of extremist schools in Somalia, Kenya, Niger and Burkina Faso, and then targeting local government cadres, asking

Charity were killed in a March attack on their home in Yemen, and an Indian priest who was captured in the same attack is still being held hostage.

Iran, number eight on the watch list, “arrested record numbers of ‘house church’ Christians, and many are losing their livelihoods after having to pay huge fines.”

According to Open Doors/USA CEO David Curry, “2016 was the worst year of persecution on record with a shocking 215 million Christians experiencing high levels of persecution for their faith.”

The report’s fact sheet noted that “in the top 21 countries on the Open Doors World Watch List, 100 percent of Christians experience persecution.”

The list examined the pressures faced by Christians in five spheres of life (private, family, community, national and church), plus levels of violence. World Watch List questionnaires are distributed by field staff and also filled out by external experts. The questionnaires determine the types of Christianity persecuted, the proportion of territory affected, and the intensity and frequency of persecution.

Please see: <http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/lauretta-brown/watch-list-islamic-extremism-cause-persecution-christians-35-out-50-most>

World Watch List's Top Ten
Most Christian Persecution for 2016

1. North Korea
2. Somalia
3. Afghanistan
4. Pakistan
5. Sudan
6. Syria
7. Iraq
8. Iran
9. Yemen
10. Eritrea

for concessions to build mosques and sponsoring those who are running for office.”

Yemen, number nine on the list, joined the top 10 this year with the research group noting that, as Saudis seek to remove the Shia Houthi rebels, the country “has become a waste zone, with many Christians caught in the crossfire.”

As CNSNews.com previously reported, four sisters of the Missionaries of

OBAMA TO RECEIVE MEDALS FROM IRAN, CUBA, SYRIA AND THE P.L.O.



ThePeoplesCube.com

by The Peoples Cube, please see: <http://www.thepeoplescube.com/peoples-blog/obama-to-receive-medals-from-iran-cuba-syria-and-the-plo-t19159.html>

ObamaCare's Impact on Small Business Wages and Employment

by Ben Gitis, Sam Batkins,
The American Action Forum

(Editor/GG: We are printing the summary only here due to space constraints. See the web address of the entire piece at the end of this article. The negative impact that Obamacare has had on our country is immeasurable. Repeal it NOW.)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Research from the American Action Forum (AAF) finds regulations from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are driving up health care premiums and are costing small business employees at least \$19 billion in lost wages annually. These figures varied by state, but in 2015 the ACA cost year-round workers \$2,095, \$2,134, and \$2,260 in Ohio, New York, and North Dakota, respectively. Premium increases, a prospect regulators predicted when issuing the first ACA regulations, also significantly diminished the number of business establishments and jobs nationwide. Across the country, small businesses (20-99 workers) lost 295,030 jobs, 10,130 business establishments and \$4.7 billion in total wage earnings. Florida lost 17,950 jobs; Ohio lost 19,000; Pennsylvania lost 15,680; and Texas lost 28,010 jobs due to higher sensitivity to rising health care premiums and the ACA.

INTRODUCTION

LESSONS LEARNED from page 15

of the vote seven points between 2000 and 2016 – from 67 percent Republican to 60 percent Republican. Again, that kind of percentage drop in a populous county is severely damaging to a political party.

The results for the GOP were a little better in Weld County, a distant outer suburb northeast of Denver. Weld County stayed even in its support for the two Republican presidential candidates, providing 62 percent for George W. Bush in 2000 and 62 percent for Donald Trump in 2016.

The good news for the Republicans in 2016 was the dramatically increased support for Donald Trump in the rural and small-town counties of the state. Trump's reiterated message of distrust of government and his pledge to "Make America Great Again" played unusually well in the outlying areas of Colorado. These rural and small town areas of Colorado can be broken down into four major regions:

- The Eastern Plains of Colorado range from Logan County (Sterling) to the north to Prowers County (Lamar) to the south. This group of farming and ranching counties voted 76 percent for Donald Trump, his highest figure for any region in the state. Some of the vote percentages that Donald Trump rang up on the Eastern Plains were staggering. Eight counties there gave Trump more than 80 percent of the vote.
- The Eastern Mountains are the "lost sheep" counties of Colorado politics. Little attention is paid to places like Park County (Fairplay) and Chaffee County (Salida) which are mountainous but sit on the eastern side of the Continental Divide. These counties are Republican, but not so much as the Eastern Plains. They voted 64 percent for Trump and 36 percent for Clinton. Two of the ten Eastern Mountain counties, Clear Creek County (Georgetown) and Gilpin County (Central City) voted narrowly for Hillary Clinton. Both counties border on the Denver Metropolitan Area.
- As for the Western Slope

Two years ago, AAF examined the intersection of rising premiums, ACA regulations and the impact on the labor market. We found \$22 billion in lost pay and hundreds of thousands of fewer

"...the rise in premiums has been associated with \$19 billion in lost wages,"

jobs in small businesses. After two years of additional data, premiums continue to rise, and with a greater ACA regulatory burden, the effects on the labor market are just as dire.

Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), AAF once again examined the impact of premiums on weekly pay, employment, business establishments and total wage earnings before and after the ACA became law. Studying the effect of ACA regulations on the average premium, average premium paid by employers, and average premium paid by employees, AAF employed a series of regression analyses to test the impact of rising premiums on the labor market.

We found that since the ACA became law, among small business-

es, the rise in premiums has been associated with \$19 billion in lost wages, 10,130 fewer business establishments, and nearly 300,000 lost jobs, with seven states losing more than 10,000 jobs, all re-

sults consistent with our previous research. Given the premium spikes in some states, 17 percent to 47 percent, it is not difficult to understand how the labor market reacts to the significant increase

in health care costs. In fact, regulators predicted many of these increases when they first implemented the law.

OVERVIEW OF OBAMACARE AND SMALL BUSINESSES

As AAF has detailed during the past six years, regulations from

the ACA have imposed significant burdens on individuals, states and small businesses. According to the latest data, final rules alone have generated \$51 billion in costs and more than 172 million hours of paperwork compliance. To put that in perspective, it would take more than 86,200 employees working full-time (2,000 hours annually) to complete a year of new ACA paperwork, roughly the population of Miami Beach, FL. It should come as no surprise the paperwork imposition of the Department of Health and Human Services is at an all-time high.

What do those figures mean for the average American? Regulatory costs are generally borne in

three ways: lower pay for employees, lower returns for shareholders, or higher prices for consumers. For the ACA's litany of regulations, higher health care premiums are highly probable. AAF has displayed ample evidence of significant increases and when regulators first implemented parts of the ACA, they

predicted notable spikes as well.

For example, in its interim final rule for preventive care, the administration concluded, "premiums will increase by approximately 1.5 percent." Likewise, in a post-ACA rule for preexisting conditions, regulators predicted annual premiums could increase by up to 6.6 percent. Regulators understood that by adding hundreds of new regulations, mandatory coverage, and a web of insurance rules that limit low-cost options, premiums would spike. It turns out that regulators were largely correct. Premiums have risen considerably across the nation since the ACA became law. Based on the most recent MEPS data, employer premium increases in states have averaged 26.7 percent.

The nation should not expect that mandated coverage, \$51 billion in regulatory burdens, a 26 percent increase in employer health care costs, and 172 million in paperwork burden hours to exist in a vacuum. For the smallest businesses, with the narrowest of margins, these burdens have resulted in lower employee pay, fewer establishments, and nearly 300,000 fewer jobs.

To read the entire article please see: <https://www.americanactionforum.org/research/update-obamacares-impact-small-business-wages-employment/#ixzz4WDn9KQX0>

WILSON from page 15

National Western Scholarship Trust. Pretty neat, huh? It was a fun evening for us and a great opportunity to invest in the youth of Colorado!

Things will really crank up this week as all the House Committees begin working on their 2017 calendar of bills. The first of my bills was heard in the House Education Committee Monday afternoon. It was HB17-1042, "Concerning Increasing The Supplemental Kindergarten Enrollment For Purposes Of Calculating Public School Finance", or –Reader's Digest version– "How To Increase Kindergarten Funding By .08 %".

In 2008-09, the Colorado Legislature increased half-time kindergarten funding by .08 percent to .58 percent per student. The intent written in the statute was to continue to incrementally increase the funding annually to achieve full funding. Unfortunately, the recession interfered! While education costs have increased over 16.5 percent, funding

for kindergarten has not increased at all. My bill would simply reinstate the intent of previous legislative action and begin to pay off our previous obligations before funding new or additional programs. What a novel concept!

One of the major education issues on the horizon for the 2017 legislative session is a "Universal Mill Levy" for school finance. Since transportation and education funding are the two "biggies" this year, there will be several attempts to address the shortfalls. The UML discussion will be a heated one, as mill levies vary district to district from an approximate low of less than two mills to the ceiling of 27 mills.

If you have any questions during the first weeks of the session, or would like to schedule a visit to the Capitol, feel free to call my office in the Capitol at 303-866-2747 or send us an e-mail at wilsonforhd60@gmail.com or james.wilson.house@state.co.us. Have a great week!!!

Yours for HD 60,
Representative Jim Wilson

"THERE IS NO WORSE TYRANNY THAN TO FORCE A MAN TO PAY FOR WHAT HE DOES NOT WANT MERELY BECAUSE YOU THINK IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR HIM."

–Robert A. Heinlein, "The Moon is a Harsh Mistress"

FN Announces Latest Addition to MILITARY COLLECTOR SERIES



Semi-auto FN M249S™ Para



MCLEAN, Virginia
— January 04, 2017

FN America, LLC is pleased to announce the latest addition to the FN Military Collector Series - the semi-auto FN M249S™ Para or Paratrooper model, originally developed for airborne troops. Building on the company's unique tradition of offering semi-automatic variants of the most popular military-designed firearms, the rifle will join the full-size FN M249S Standard and the FN 15™ Military Collector M4 and M16.

"The M249S Para is the fourth in our series of classic, semi-automatic FN military rifles and like the Standard, the Para is authentic to the last possible detail," said John Keppeler, Senior Vice President of sales and marketing for FN America, LLC. "You'll

notice only two major differences between the semi and full-auto versions - the barrel length and reconfigured internal components to change the rifle's operation from open-bolt to closed-bolt. Authenticity was critical in this series and we changed as little as possible."

The rifle features a machine gun-grade, 16.1-inch, cold hammer-forged barrel, closed bolt for semi-automatic only operation, classic M249 flip-up feed tray, integrated steel bipod, robust gas-piston system, and the iconic telescoping and rotating buttstock, making it lighter and more compact. Rifles will be available in either black or Flat Dark Earth (FDE). Detailed specifications are listed in Figure 1.

For more information and full product specifications

on the new FN M249S Para or the full FN Military Collector Series, please visit us online at www.fna-merica.com or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. (Editor/GG: Got one on order....)

Figure 1: Specifications for the FN M249S™ Para	
Caliber	5.56x45mm
Operation	Semi-automatic, closed bolt, gas piston
Color(s)	Black or FDE
Overall Length	31.5" – 37"
Stock	Rotating, telescoping buttstock assembly with hydraulic recoil buffer system and nonslip buttplate
Receiver	Formed steel frame with claw extractor design, fixed and pivoting ejector with side ejection of spent cases, top cover with integrated MIL-STD 1913 mounting rail.
Capacity	200-round ammunition box or 30-round GI-pattern steel magazine
Magazine	(1) GI-pattern steel magazine
MSRP	\$8,799 (Black); \$9,199 (FDE)



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2016 Record Year for NICS Background Checks

by Bob Weingarten,
GunWatch.Blogspot.com

Last year has become the year with the most gun sales ever. The 2016 NICS checks have surpassed those for 2015, the previous record holder. In December, 2016 there were 2,771,159 National Instant Checks done. In 2015, the number done in December was 3,314,594.

December 2016, after the election of Donald Trump, slumped to only the third highest number of NICS checks in a month, the second highest being December, 2012, at the height of the Obama push for more infringements on the Second Amendment. There were 2,783,765 NICS done that month. December, 2016 was the end of a 19 month streak of record breaking numbers at NICS.

In 2015, the total NICS checks for the year were 23,141,970 . In 2016, they were 27,538,673. That is 4,396,703 more than the total for 2015.

2016 ended 19% ahead of the previous record set in 2015.

The common wisdom was that with the election of Donald Trump, the record breaking pace of NICS checks would slow. It did, but the number of NICS done is still high.

There are 15 years where we can compare the NICS background checks to the actual addition to the private firearms stock, as reported to the ATF. During that period there have been about .6 firearms added for each NICS check.

The NICS checks are done for more than new firearms. They are done for used firearms as well. They are done when trade ins are sold at gun shops or when used guns are sold at gun shows. NICS checks are done for gun carry permits, which are also breaking records every month. In most states, once a person has a carry permit, further NICS checks are not required to purchase a firearm.

We will not know exactly how many guns have been added to the private stock in 2016 until late January, 2018. The numbers will be reported to the ATF shortly.

The ATF is required by law to hold them from public view for a year, to prevent proprietary information from being released.

It is easy to see how one manufacturer would like to know exactly how many guns of certain models and calibers their competitors are selling.

Given the NICS numbers, there will probably be 16.5 million guns added to the private stock in 2016. That would increase the total number to 404 million private firearms in the United States.

The private firearm stock in the United States will have increased by nearly 100 million firearms, or 30%, during the two terms of the Barack Obama presidency. The increase will likely be 96 million firearms. We will have to wait for 2018 to determine a more precise number.

Many indicators show a soaring and diverse level of gun ownership. Carry permits are burgeoning, approaching 15 million and more. Gun ownership among women and minori-

ties is at an all time high.

President Barack Obama became the record setting, all time champion, gun salesman. The total NICS checks were 253,217,165 by years end. That will be

over 153 million firearms added to the private stock in the last 18 years. Over 37% of the private firearms stock will be less than 18 years old.

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ten: Permission to share is granted when this notice is included. Please see: <http://gunwatch.blogspot.com/2017/01/2016-record-year-for-nics-background.html>



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Politics & The Bible

From Pastor Jim



Walsenburg. Pastor Modlish believes the Bible is the greatest political science textbook on earth, and that all current events should be examined under the searchlight of Scripture.

All Scripture taken from the King James Version.

Jim Modlish has been in ministry 50 years, pastoring churches from upstate New York to Washington. He holds a doctorate in theology, but frequently states: “I have education, but I got over it.”

Southern Colorado natives, Jim and his wife, Linda, happily returned to their home state in 2006. He is currently the founding pastor of Huerfano Community Bible Church in



SERIOUS REFLECTIONS

“American carnage” are the words President Trump used to describe the nation’s economic and social landscape. Moments after his sixteen minute inaugural speech, media critics were describing it as “dark and divisive,” but they dared not address the specifics he mentioned. Can anyone legitimately deny that manufacturing has largely relocated, the middle class is hurting, our infrastructure is in disrepair, the public educational system is in shambles, our borders are porous to terrorists and criminal elements, welfare is out of control, low life gang bangers rule vast sections of our large cities and Washington politicians continue to prosper on the backs of a depleted public?

Here is a newsflash for NBC, CBS, ABC, CNN and even some at Fox News.... truth often has a dark side, but it simultaneously possesses the uncanny ability to shine light on darkness which is quite necessary for the blind leading the blind. “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts...” (I Corinthians 4:5) Of course, the media mongrels failed to identify any protestors as “divisive,” but the man who is accurately detailing present conditions was charged and convicted by the peers of the press.

An artist painted a lovely but melancholy picture of a lonely wilderness cottage surrounded by a canopy of towering trees. A certain gloominess was accented by a cloudy twilight that offered little hope. When the painting was thought complete the portraitist changed the entire image with two or three strokes of his brush; a dark window was filled with bright yellow light. Suddenly despair was dismissed with the advent of expectation. Every viewer arrives at their own impression of any picture, but the one I took away from Mr. Trump’s last brush strokes was a beckoning to return home to common sense values and principles. Although we may not all agree with the doctrine of some who prayed at the inauguration, it was refreshing to see an emphasis on that exercise.

President Eisenhower initiated his 1953 inaugural speech with: “My friends, before I begin the expression of those thoughts that I deem appropriate to this moment, would you permit me the privilege of uttering a little private prayer of my own. And I ask that you bow your heads: Almighty God, as we stand here at this moment my future associates in the Executive branch of Government join me in beseeching that Thou will make full and complete our dedication to the service of

the people in this throng, and their fellow citizens everywhere.

Give us, we pray, the power to discern clearly right from wrong, and allow all our words and actions to be governed thereby, and by the laws of this land. Especially we pray that our concern shall be for all the people regardless of station, race or calling.

May cooperation be permitted and be the mutual aim of those who, under the concepts of our Constitution, hold to differing political faiths; so that all may work for the good of our beloved country and Thy glory. Amen.”

A brief reflection on the fifties may be beneficial. In spite of under the desk school drills, most Americans felt safe while few were unemployed. Welfare was minimal and the vast majority of the products we bought were American made. We prayed at school, saluted the flag and were taught about the founders of our country and the documents they produced. It is safe to say that by today’s standards, 98% of our citizens were conservative.

The Liberals are constantly reminding us that we live in a divided country, while implying that the fault for the acrimony lies at the feet of the Right. The obvious question is ---who departed from the foundation’s stones we all at one time stood upon? Is it not the deserters who are responsible for the discord? Major societies have long dealt with left leaning progressives attempting to drag their own cultures into the abyss of social and moral decay. Was there ever an occasion when any nation benefited from that path?

“Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.” (Jeremiah 6:16) This verse is what progressive evolutionists would call “reactionary.” They think any move backward is bad while any step forward is good. For my money it’s time to recapture some Eisenhower attitudes. One leader is seldom sufficient to turn the wagon train; a vast army of teamsters must join the effort.

“And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.” (Isaiah 58:12) Alexis de Tocqueville said: “The greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.” May God strengthen the minds, hearts and hands of all who engage in this laborious exercise!

A Sheepdog Barks!

America is off to a great start, Baby! It’s been exactly one week since that worthless community organizer flew away from the U.S. Capitol on a marine helicopter. What a wonderful sight that was. I still have a smile on my face and my sheepdog wife told me I am sleeping so soundly that I’m not even snoring. She also said I’m sleeping with a smile on my face. WOOF!

President Trump (PT) hit the ground running and started annoying the LPSDs immediately. That was exactly what needed to happen. He’s done more good for America in seven days than Obama did in eight years. And the good part is as he did many of the good things he was undoing many of the bad things done by Barack. It’s gonna be a fun time! Double WOOF!

Tomorrow begins the Chinese Year of the Rooster. I think that’s a great symbol even for PT. He is clearly a fightin’ rooster. Two of my favorite roosters are Foghorn Leghorn and Rooster Cogburn. Both of these remind me of Trump. Foghorn repeats himself a lot just like “the Donald” and Cogburn was John Wayne. It would do well for PT to emulate one or both of those characters. His actions in the first week are worthy of a big Cock-a-Doodle-Do! You go PT! WOOF!

The LPSDs hated PT’s inaugural speech. They bemoaned how dark and ominous it was. Funny how Americans can hear such different things from the same speech. I thought it was great. Rachel Maddow (MSNBC) said it reminded her of the “very dark echoes in American History.” HUH, that’s crazy. What it did was properly described how bad the American situation is as Obama leaves office. It also served notice on the “establishment” politicians who have created the swamp of corruption in our nation’s capitol. It served notice on them all. The best line in my opinion was when PT said this election didn’t transfer power from one party to another party but transferred power back to the people. WOW! What a refreshing, encouraging

and much needed statement. There are clearly two Americas. It took a long time to divide us and it will take some time to help unite us even a little. We will never be a completely united people again. Too much socialism has been introduced and accepted by far too many Americans. Look, almost 70 elected Democrats boycotted the ceremony. What purpose did that serve? Nothing but more division. The last president spent eight years telling us that diversity and diplomacy was going to bring us all together with the rest of the world and create a utopia. Many of us never ever bought into that insanity. Diversity got us nowhere. We are more racially and ethnically divided than ever before. Barack is totally responsible for that. Diplomacy got us nowhere. We have more turmoil in the world than ever before. We are more at risk than ever before. We are less safe and less secure than ever before. Barack is totally responsible for that also. President Trump is indeed the last great hope. He understands what will really bring us more together – security, prosperity and jobs. And he’s off to a great start in fixing those things. Only those with dark minds could possibly think that PT’s speech was ominous and negative. One LPSD commentator said he thought America was more divided than we were in 1861 right after the Civil War. He’s right but he got the reason wrong. It’s not because of PT; it’s because of the president that just left. WOOF!

All the LPSDs I know and see on TV all suffer from TDS – Trump Derangement Syndrome. That’s just too bad because they will continue to suffer until PT has some time to heal America and put it back to work. I believe that after the first 100 days, it will be like Obama was never there. He will be fully erased. There was a dark period in American history– it was 2009-2016. Thankfully the great American nightmare is over. Let’s move on. WOOF!

And one more thought about how terrible it was in Obama’s last days. His commutation of Bradley Manning’s prison



term of 35 years is unforgivable and very damaging to our national security. Manning was a “poster child” traitor. He could have justifiably received the death penalty. Thirty-five years was already a light sentence. Obama said he thought seven years was harsh enough punishment. The more I think about this the angrier I get. I am happy, however, that there were no pardons for Clinton or Bergdahl. We can still hope for some real justice. WOOF!

PT has accomplished a lot in his first week. Lots more goodness is on the way. For me his executive orders re-establishing the ban on any American money going to foreign abortionists was one of the greatest things he could have done. It solidifies for me that he is truly pro-life and that bodes very well for his Supreme Court nominee. This is truly a time of a renewed righteousness for America. WOOF!

I’ll end today with another story of how the LPSDs continue to screw up the country. A transman (that’s a woman who thinks they are a man) wanted to join a sorority. So let’s break that down. A woman with a female body, but with a man’s brain, wanted to join a female organization because that’s where she/he (?) would feel more comfortable. Really? Such confusion. I know a lot of men that would have loved to live in a sorority while in college. They all had a dirty old man’s brain, no confusion there. This LPSD insanity has no end. There are “gender identity” issues coming that cannot even be imagined now. It was so much simpler when men were men and women were women and there wasn’t much confusion about which bathroom to go in. God forgive us! WOOF!

May God Have Mercy On America! JMH



GENERAL ASSEMBLY
from page 15

SB17-004 Access To Providers For Medicaid Recipients
Senate Sponsors: J. Tate (R)
House Sponsors: C. Wist
Status: In Committee

Description:
Under current law, recipients of services under the Colorado medical assistance program (Medicaid) are not responsible for the cost of services by a medical provider or the cost remaining after payment by Medicaid or another private insurer, regardless of whether the medical provider is enrolled in the Medicaid program, unless the medical services provided are nonreimbursable by Medicaid. The bill amends the statute so that the prohibition on charging Medicaid recipients for medical services applies only if the medical provider is enrolled in Medicaid.

Prior to providing medical services to a Medicaid recipient, a non-enrolled provider must enter into a written agreement with the recipient as specified in the bill. If the requirements are met, the Medicaid recipient would be responsible for the cost of the medical services.

From Representative Jim Wilson:
Our Republican Caucus has not met to determine a Caucus position on this bill. My opinion – because this bill addresses Medicaid, I am going to assume that it will be opposed in the House by the Dem’s. Because it is starting in the Senate, this bill will probably make it through with no chance of passing the Dem-

ocrat-dominated House. I will support the bill, but will not have the chance to hear it because I am sure when it comes to the House, the bill will be assigned to the House State Affairs Committee (the House “Kill Committee”).

SB17-005 Handgun Safety Training For School Employees
Senate Sponsors: Chris Hobert (R)
House Sponsors: P. Neville (R)
Status: In Committee

Description:
A person who possesses a valid permit to carry a concealed handgun (permittee) who is employed by a school district, charter school, or institute charter school may carry a concealed handgun onto the grounds of any school or charter school of the district or of the institute charter school if:

- The permittee has successfully completed a school employee handgun safety course provided by a county sheriff;
- The local board of education of the school district (local board) or, in the case of an institute charter school, the state charter school institute, has approved the curriculum of the sheriff’s department that provided the handgun safety course;
- The permittee has received permission from the local board or, in the case of an institute charter school, from the state charter school institute, to carry a concealed handgun onto school grounds; and
- The permittee has notified the administration of the school, charter school, or institute charter school that he or she may be carrying a concealed handgun on

school grounds.

Each local board and the state charter school institute may:

- Establish a maximum number of employees who may carry a concealed handgun in each school, charter school and institute charter school; and
- Deny permission to carry a concealed handgun to any employee if granting permission to the employee would result in such a limit being exceeded.

From Representative Jim Wilson:
Our Republican Caucus has not met to determine a Caucus position on this bill. My opinion – this is another “statement bill”. This bill will probably make it through the Republican Senate, with no chance of passing the Democrat-dominated House. I will support the bill, but will not have the chance to hear it because I am sure when it comes to the House, the bill will be assigned to the House State Affairs Committee (the House “Kill Committee”).

SB17-007 Repeal Ammunition Magazine Prohibition
Senate Sponsors: V. Marble (R)
House Sponsors: S. Humphrey (R), L. Saine (R)
Status: In Committee

Description: The bill repeals statutory provisions:

- Prohibiting the possession of certain ammunition magazines; and
- Requiring certain ammunition magazines that are manufactured in Colorado on or after July 1, 2013, to include a permanent stamp or marking indicating that

the magazine was manufactured or assembled after July 1, 2013.

From Representative Jim Wilson:
Our Republican Caucus has not met to determine a Caucus position on this bill. My opinion – this is another “statement bill”. This bill will probably make it through the Republican Senate, with no chance of passing the Democrat-dominated House. I believe I have signed on as a House co-sponsor of the bill, but will not have the chance to hear it because I am sure when it comes to the House, the bill will be assigned to the House State Affairs Committee (the House “Kill Committee”).

SB17-008 Legalize Gravity Knives and Switchblades
Senate Sponsors: O. Hill (R)
House Sponsors: S. Lebsock (D)
Status: In Committee

Description: The bill legalizes the possession of a gravity knife or switchblade knife by removing such knives from the definition of ‘illegal weapon’.

From Representative Jim Wilson:
Our Republican Caucus has not met to determine a Caucus position on this bill. My opinion – I have no idea where this one came from! I have not heard discussions over Gravity Knives and Switchblades literally for decades! This is one I have not looked into as of yet and will reserve my legislative opinion until I have researched it further. With a Dem as the House sponsor, it may have a chance, but I would not bet on it at this point...

SB17-055 Concerning The Prohibition of Discrimination

Against Employees Based on Labor Union Participation
Senate Sponsors: T. Neville (R), L. Crowder, K. Grantham (R), plus nine others.
House Sponsors: J. Everett (R), J. Wilson (R), plus twenty one others.
Status: In Committee

Description: The bill prohibits an employer from requiring any person, as a condition of employment, to become or remain a member of a labor organization or to pay dues, fees, or other assessments to a labor organization or to a charity organization or other third party in lieu of the labor organization. Any agreement that violates these prohibitions or the rights of an employee is void.

The bill creates civil and criminal penalties for violations and authorizes the attorney general and the district attorney in each judicial district to investigate alleged violations and take action against a person believed to be in violation. The bill states that all-union agreements are unfair labor practices.

From Representative Jim Wilson:
Our Republican Caucus has not met to determine a Caucus position on this bill. My opinion – this is another “statement bill” on Right To Work. I am a House co-sponsor. Again, this bill will probably make it through the Republican Senate, with no chance of passing the Democrat-dominated House. Obviously, I am in support the bill, but will not have the chance to hear it because I am sure when it comes to the House, the bill will be assigned to the House State Affairs Committee (the House “Kill Committee”).



Islamic principle of Tawriya: It is OK to break the intent of an oath as long as you do not break the letter of it or creative lying. A common Islamic response is to say “I wish you the best”, with the intent that the receiver thinks this is in their interest but in fact the sender means, convert to Islam or suffer the consequences.

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Our State Representatives

Contact Information:

- House District 60 Rep. Jim Wilson:**
james.wilson.house@state.co.us,
capital phone: 303-866-2747
- House District 47 Rep. Clarice Navarro:**
clarice.navarro.house@state.co.us,
capital phone: 303-866-2905
- Senate District 35 Senator Larry Crowder:**
larry.crowder.senate@state.co.us,
capital phone: 303-866-4875
- Senate District 2 Senator Kevin Grantham:**
kevin.grantham.senate@state.co.us,
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Birth, Engagement, Wedding Announcements and Obituaries are also printed free of charge with a 350 word maximum and one photo included.



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but whether our government is controlled by the people.

January 20th, 2017, will be remembered as the day the people became the rulers of this nation again.

The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer. Everyone is listening to you now. You came by the tens of millions to become part of a historic movement, the likes of which the world has never seen before.

At the center of this movement is a crucial conviction that a nation exists to serve its citizens. Americans want great schools for their children, safe neighborhoods for their families and good jobs for themselves.

These are just and reasonable demands of righteous people and a righteous public.

But for too many of our citizens, a different reality exists.

Mothers and children trapped in poverty in our inner cities, rusted out factories scattered like tombstones across the landscape of our nation.

An education system flush with cash but which leaves our young and beautiful students deprived of all knowledge.

And the crime and the gangs and the drugs that have stolen too many lives and robbed our country of so much unrealized potential. This American carnage stops right here and stops right now.

We are one nation, and their pain is our pain.

Their dreams are our dreams, and their success will be our success. We share one heart, one home, and one glorious destiny.

The oath of office I take today is an oath of allegiance to all Americans.

For many decades we've enriched foreign industry at the expense of American industry, subsidized the armies of other countries while allowing for the very sad depletion of our military.

We've defended other nations' borders while refusing to defend our own. And we've spent trillions and trillions of dollars overseas while America's infrastructure has fallen into disrepair and decay.

We've made other countries rich while the wealth, strength, and confidence of our country has dissipated over the horizon.

One by one, the factories shuttered and left our shores with not even a thought about the millions and millions of American workers that were left behind.

The wealth of our middle class has been ripped from their homes and then redistributed all across the world. But that is the past, and now we are looking only to the future.

We assembled here today are issuing a new decree to be heard in every city, in every foreign capital and in every hall of power. From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land.

From this day forward, it's going to be only America first, America first. Every decision on trade, on taxes, on immigration, on foreign affairs will be made to benefit American workers and American families. We must protect our borders from the ravages of other countries making our products, stealing our companies and destroying our jobs.

Protection will lead to great prosperity and strength. I will fight for you with every breath in my body, and I will never ever let you down.

America will start winning again, winning like never before.

We will bring back our jobs.

We will bring back our borders.

We will bring back our wealth, and we will bring back our dreams.

We will build new roads and highways and bridges and airports and tunnels and railways all across our wonderful nation.

derful nation.

We will get our people off of welfare and back to work, rebuilding our country with American hands and American labor.

We will follow two simple rules: buy American and hire American.

We will seek friendship and goodwill with the nations of the world, but we do so with the understanding that it is the right of all nations to put their own interests first.

We do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but rather to let it shine as an example.

We will shine for everyone to follow.

We will reinforce old alliances and form new ones and unite the civilized world against radical Islamic terrorism, which we will eradicate completely from the face of the earth.

At the bedrock of our politics will be a total allegiance to the United States of America, and through our loyalty to our country we will rediscover our loyalty to each other.

When you open your heart to patriotism, there is no room for prejudice.

The Bible tells us how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity. We must speak our minds openly, debate our disagreements honestly, but

always pursue solidarity. When America is united, America is totally unstoppable.

There should be no fear. We are protected and we will always be protected. We will be protected by the great men and women of our military and law enforcement. And most importantly, we will be protected by God.

Finally, we must think big and dream even bigger. In America, we understand that a nation is only living as long as it is striving. We will no longer accept politicians who are all talk and no action, constantly complaining but never doing anything about it.

The time for empty talk is over. Now arrives the hour of action.

Do not allow anyone to tell you that it cannot be done. No challenge can match the heart and fight and spirit of America. We will not fail. Our country will thrive and prosper again.

We stand at the birth of a new millennium, ready to unlock the mysteries of space, to free the earth from the miseries of disease, and to harness the energies, industries and technologies of tomorrow.

A new national pride will stir ourselves, lift our sights, and heal our divisions. It's time to remember that old wisdom our soldiers will never forget, that whether

we are black or brown or white, we all bleed the same red blood of patriots.

We all enjoy the same glorious freedoms and we all salute the same great American flag.

And whether a child is born in the urban sprawl of Detroit or the windswept plains of Nebraska, they look up at the same night sky, they fill their heart with the same dreams, and they are infused with the breath of life by the same almighty Creator.

So to all Americans in every city near and far, small and large, from mountain to mountain, from ocean to ocean, hear these words: You will never be ignored again. Your voice, your hopes and your dreams will define our American destiny. And your courage and goodness and love will forever guide us along the way.

Together we will make America strong again, we will make America wealthy again, we will make America proud again, we will make America safe again.

And, yes, together we will make America great again.

Thank you.

God bless you.

And God bless America.

Courtesy of The Daily Signal. Please see: <http://dailysignal.com/2017/01/20/read-the-full-text-of-president-trumps-inauguration-speech/>



Market

Your Neighborhood Grocery Store



Lowes Sandwich White Bread Loaf

2 FOR \$1.00



Doritos Pre-Priced Doritos

\$4.29

\$1.98



Banquet Pot Pies

7 oz.

69¢



Gravy Train Dog Food

15.4 Lb. Bag

\$5.99



Fresh Ruby Red Grapefruit

4 FOR \$1.00



Bone-In Beef Rib Eye Steak

\$6.99 lb.

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