

Spruce Beetle Epidemic Continues to Expand, Kill Trees in Colorado

Press Release
by the Colorado State
Forest Service (CSFS)

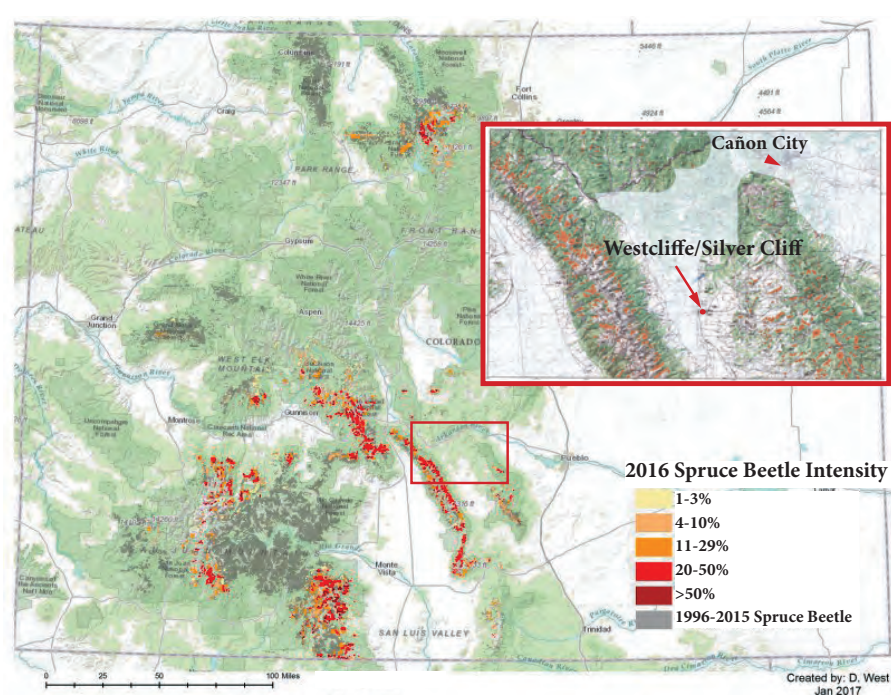
FORT COLLINS, Colorado
—January 25, 2017

Spruce beetle was the most damaging forest insect pest in Colorado for the fifth consecutive year, based on a 2016 forest health aerial survey conducted by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Rocky Mountain Region. Douglas-fir beetle populations also continued to expand, while mountain pine beetle, western spruce budworm and Douglas-fir tussock moth populations continue to decline. Every year the CSFS and USFS work together to aerially monitor forest health

conditions on millions of forested acres across the state.

Spruce beetle populations continued to cause widespread tree mortality, impacting 350,000 acres of higher-elevation stands of Engelmann spruce statewide. The largest infestations were detected primarily in southern and central Colorado, with more than one-third of those acres “new” or not previously impacted. Blow-down events in Engelmann spruce stands, combined with long-term drought stress, warmer temperatures and extensive amounts of older, densely growing trees, have contributed to this ongoing epidemic.

SPRUCE BEETLE
see page 23



Spruce Beetle Intensity 2016
Map courtesy of CSFS. Insert from January 2017 draft updates, USFS.

Sangre Shooting Sports Club Annual Meeting



Sangre Shooting Sports Club Board, left to right: Russ Payne, Don Bishop, President Grant Lewinski, Vice President Mike Allen, Regis Frank, Steve Cocks, and Peggi Collins.

by George Gramlich

The Sangre Shooting Sports Club's (SSSC) Annual Meeting at the Cliff Lanes Community Room, Saturday, January 21st, was again a full house with approximately 58 members showing up for an information-filled hour and a half.

Board President Grant Lewinski got the ball rolling with a Call to Order, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of silent prayer.

Vice President Mike Allen reported he was in talks with the Colorado branch of Appleseed to bring another event to the club's range this summer or fall. Bill Baker, head of the 4-H Club's shooting program said they had a very successful

program last year and had signed up a lot more kids for this year's program.

Board member Regis Frank reported the club has held ten Range Safety Orientation classes with 86 members attending. He also reported that the club held three concealed carry classes with a total of forty participants.

Certificates of Thanks were given to three members and an entity: Steve Schwall for the many, many hours of trenching he did to bring electric to the clubhouse and range; the First State Bank of Colorado for their bridge loan for the power project; to founding board member Chris Ueberoth for his years of dedication to the club; and to Bryan

Callahan for his donation of a high grade first-aid kit.

Under New Business, President Lewinski stated that the Custer County Sheriff's Office has the whole range for training purposes, all day, every second and third Wednesday of every month. No one else is allowed on the grounds on those days.

Range Cleanup Day this year will be Saturday, May 13th.

By unanimous vote, the current Board was reelected and Bill Baker offered to fill a vacant seat on the Board.

For more information on the club: Email: sssc8@live.com, website: sangreshooting.com, call President Lewinski at 719-371-6236 or Vice President Allen at 719-337-7900.

Photo by George Gramlich

Custer County Core Of Chaplains Launched

by Fred Hernandez

A first in the history of Custer County took place on Tuesday, January 31st at the Silver Cliff Mountain Inn and Restaurant. A core group of Chaplains for Custer County was officially launched in a meeting chaired by Chaplain Eric Foster, Head Chaplain, members of the Sheriff's Office including Sheriff Shannon Byerly and Undersheriff Chris Barr and two of the Elder Chaplains, Dr. Andrew Zeller, PhD Theology and Mrs. Pamela Hernandez LMFT, MA, a licensed therapist.

A big development in our county, this new ministry, God's Own Ministry, is designed specifically to assist and give support to members of fire, police, ambulance, Search and Rescue, Posse and those who work in the clinic and other organizations that help those who are in moments of distress and difficulty. The mission statement is simple yet says it all: TO SERVE THOSE

WHO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY. There are three main groups in the ministry: Emergency Response Chaplains (ERC) composed of three chaplains who will be available to first responders who, in their work, experience traumatic events and assist the victims of these events (fire, police action, accidents, and other such traumas); The second group, Core Chaplains (CC) are the Chaplains who work with the general public if and when called to do so and the third group, Elder Chaplains (EC) will specifically serve the other two groups of chaplains when they themselves, due to their experiences in helping first responders, are in need of spiritual and emotional guidance and support. The community welcomes this new addition to the service of those who serve us as well as everyone else in our Custer County family. For more information please call the Sheriff's Office at 719-783-2270 and ask for Paula.

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**PATRIOT
ALERT!**
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Turn us back to You,
O Lord,
And we will be
restored;
Renew
our days of old.
Lamentations 5:21 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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Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

The Alternative March



Last week we wrote about the Women's March the day after President Trump was inaugurated. We believe it was an uncoordinated mix of everything and anything one could hate about the new president. The speakers were horrible and spoke of nasty and vulgar things. Many wondered why there were no speakers from the pro-life movement, or an expert on the environment, or a leader on improving education or work place inequality. Or someone to speak about the human rights of women around the world, especially in the Middle East? Instead it was controlled by a small group of hate-filled celebrities that ranted mostly about abortion and the incestuous thought of Pres-

ident Trump. It was disorganized and disjointed and didn't help women's causes very much. Eliminate the potty-mouth celebrities and the movement will gain some credibility.

About a week later, on Friday, January 27th, a different kind of march happened in Washington D.C. It was called the March for Life and hundreds of thousands gathered to walk for the rights of the unborn. The 2017 walk was the 44th annual one. It started right after the controversial *Roe v. Wade* decision. This year was special as Vice President Mike Pence attended and spoke. He told the attendees that life is precious and "life is winning again." All across America pro-life

policies and laws are improving. Since the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision in 1973 over 58 million babies have been aborted in America. The good news is that the numbers are declining as technology has improved. The younger generations across America are starting to reject abortion, especially as a means of birth control. A Gallup poll last spring revealed that 47% of Americans are pro-choice, 46% are pro-life. That is a big improvement. The president of Walk for Life is Jeanne Marcini. She is very optimistic that the pro-life platform of this new administration will help Americans understand that the fetus is not "a lifeless blob of tissue." It is an unborn human.

The march was a beautiful thing to watch. No vulgar signs, no offensive language and no undignified costumes. Instead there was a culture of life portrayed by all and an historic participation by President Trump's administration. Earlier in the week Presi-

dent Trump reinstated the ban on American money being used by foreign organizations for abortions. This is a great policy and needs to be followed up in America with defunding Planned Parenthood.

America has been so foolish with its money. Over the years our federal government has decided that America needs to fund the whole world. It's crazy and unnecessary. Take for example the reaction of the Dutch government to the announcement that President Trump had reinstated the "Mexico City" policy described above. The Dutch authorities put 10 Million Euros into an international fund to finance access to abortion in developing nations. The fund, known as the "She Decides" fund, will make that money available to "women and girls being abandoned by the United States decision." According to Lilianne Ploumen, the Dutch Minister of Foreign Trade and Development, this will allow them "to de-

cide for themselves if they want children, with whom and when." We agree the world's women and girls should have their choices. We just believe they need to make their choices without using abortion and without American taxpayer money. This Dutch action makes one wonder why we ever started paying for the world's abortions in the first place. Without so much American money maybe the rest of the world will contribute.

All in all, the Walk for Life was a great success, especially in contrast to the Women's March the week before, where pro-life women were not welcome. It doesn't speak well for the women in America that choose celebrities to speak for them! May God bless all of those who want to protect the life of the unborn. President Trump has selected a new conservative Supreme Court justice. We hope there is a future in America without *Roe v. Wade*.

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Coming Up!

Custer County School District

Invention Convention

February 8th, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

CCSD's 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will be holding an Invention Convention at CCSD . The students inventions will be on display in the School Library.

Please drop by and see the budding scientists' ideas.

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"The box modern feminism wished to define me by was way too small"

Letter to the Editor;

I have had a few comments on my mind for quite some time and January the 21st women's march pushed me to finally write them down. This is my opinion on modern feminism I have been sharing when the march is brought up:

Since my university days ('80's) when I first was introduced to and seriously thought about the Modern Feminist movement I have rejected it. In university, I took women's studies courses and studied the material in earnest, but I found that the box modern feminism wished to define me by was way too small for me to fit into. Their complaints never resonated with me, nor have I ever felt oppressed in the way that they express. It is not that I haven't been hurt,

but instead of viewing it as a systematic problem that our whole society must change to fix it, I view it as an individual problem and that person needs to be changed. I am thankful that I was born in America and that I have been able to thrive and take advantage of all the opportunities available to me here.

To me what ought to be the centerpiece of a legitimate women's movement should be standing against:

- the sex slave industry
- genital mutilation
- forced female abortions (China)
- unequal treatment of women by law enforcement and the law in the Arab nations
- unequal access to education and work in the Arab nations
- and more....

And they should be standing for promoting self-respect and the privacy of our bodies, to educate women in self-respect and self-reliance while recognizing the importance and beauty that can be fulfilled by sharing our lives with men in loving, committed, monogamous relationships. It should include men as our equals and partners, not as our enemies to be conquered (demasculinized).

Nothing has changed in forty years and the women's march in Washington DC proved it. Women protested by reducing themselves to the importance of one body part by either dressing up as a vagina, wearing symbolic vaginas on their heads (pink has been ruined for me), running around naked and/or by holding signs and/or saying the most vile, gross and violent things.

This is supposed to empower women? Celebrities said either disgusting or violent things. How can this be what American women work so hard to achieve? What are you trying to achieve?

I am embarrassed by my fellow women. I do not find anything to admire about today's women's movement. There is nothing in it that promotes self-respect, nobility, intelligence, tolerance or love.

In all of my days on earth it only has been women (and men that go along with it) who think like this that have criticized my choices. Their box is still too small for me to fit into!

Sincerely,
Ingrid Snellings
Jackson County, Oregon

Free or Low Cost Medical Clinic Open

Press Release

Dr. Richard Amesquita announces the opening of his exciting, new concept to Medical Service to the community of Custer County: A Direct Primary Care Income Based Medical Service at Patient Centered Practices (PCP) office on designated Saturdays in Westcliffe.

Here is how it works: one Saturday a month, Dr. Amesquita will see as many people as possible in his office at 218 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO. Anyone may come by and may show any kind of proof of household income as they feel comfortable. A Medicaid or Medicare card will do in most cases, last paystub(s) may be needed for others. Once established in the system no further proof of income is needed for one year.

Services offered include: Basic health care screening/maintenance, well child/adult checks, acute illnesses/acute minor trauma management, one-time bridge non-controlled medication refill, school/sports physical exams, and other acute care needs as able, given the short patient contact periods which will average about 15 minutes.

Services not offered include: controlled substances Rx, OB/GYN, surgery, continuing care of chronic medical conditions, anything outside his scope of practice.

Services coming soon: Osteopathic Manipulative Treatments.

Fee due upon services rendered are based upon the U.S. Federal Government poverty chart. See below.

For most people the fee will be zero or just \$10 Medications and supplies are not included.

Medications and supplies may be offered at low or no cost depending upon community support in the future.

Special hours and fees start January 28th.

Depending upon response and support of the community additional Saturday Clinics may be added to accommodate the needs of the community.

2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Household Size	100%	133%	150%	200%	250%	300%	400%
	No cost	No cost	No cost	No cost	\$10	\$15	\$25
1	\$11,880	\$15,800	\$17,820	\$23,760	\$29,700	\$35,640	\$47,520
2	16,020	21,307	24,030	32,040	40,050	48,060	64,080
3	20,160	26,813	30,240	40,320	50,400	60,480	80,640
4	24,300	32,319	36,450	48,600	60,750	72,900	97,200
5	28,440	37,825	42,660	56,880	71,100	85,320	113,760
6	32,580	43,331	48,870	65,160	81,450	97,740	130,320
7	36,730	48,851	55,095	73,460	91,825	110,190	146,920
8	40,890	54,384	61,335	81,780	102,225	122,670	163,560

Household Size	500%	550%	600%	650%	700%	750%	800%
	\$35	\$40	\$45	\$50	\$55	\$60	\$65
1	\$59,400	\$65,340	\$71,280	\$77,220	\$83,160	\$89,100	\$95,040
2	80,100	88,110	96,120	104,130	112,140	120,150	128,160
3	100,800	110,880	120,960	131,040	141,120	151,200	161,280
4	121,500	133,650	145,800	157,950	170,100	182,250	194,400
5	142,200	156,420	170,640	184,860	199,080	213,300	227,520
6	162,900	179,190	195,480	211,770	228,060	244,350	260,640
7	183,650	202,015	220,380	238,745	257,110	275,475	293,840
8	204,450	224,895	245,340	265,785	286,230	306,675	327,120

Above 800% of the poverty level is the regular price is \$100.00. Medications and supplies not included.
Medications and supplies may be offered at low or no cost depending upon community support in the future.
Special hours and fees start 1/28/17.
Depending upon response and support of the community additional Saturday Clinics may be added to accommodate the needs of the community.
I invite all Custer County Churches, businesses, and interested parties to come by and show their support. Donations of time, money, supplies, office supplies/equipment and Livingroom furnishings are greatly appreciated.
Please contact Dr. Rick Amesquita, DO at patientcenteredpractice@yahoo.com or call me at 719 281-4020 for more information.

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"We the People" Speak Letters to the Editor



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Adjectives, Assumptions and Bias

Letter to the Editor;

I wonder how many people pick up on the adjectives used against the new president. What struck me was questioning the "legitimacy" of Trump's presidency. Since when did it ever enter the realm of illegitimacy? (John Bussey, *Wall Street Journal*) Jenna Lee on Fox news mentioned the "world turned upside down" just because liberals lost. Chris Wallace (liberal??) uses words like "aggressive" and "complicated" to describe the congress agenda over the next few months and it is likely to cause "heartburn". He also used the phrase "sweeping executive action". I wonder if he ever said that about the former president. David Muir of ABC had an interview with Donald Trump in which

he badgered Trump on who will pay for the wall, not accepting the answer that Mexico will pay now or pay later. Muir said the millions of illegal voters and votes was "debunked". I wonder how he knows that when the investigation hasn't even begun. Oh, and I almost forgot the CNN reporter Acosta who verbally assaulted Trump in a White House briefing. What a shameful disrespect for the president. The 10-year-old son of Drew Carey ("The Price is Right" and "Drew Carey Show") said "sc*** the president" and admitted to helping start fires during the DC riots. Meanwhile his dad was hosting the Veterans Inaugural Ball in Washington, DC. CBS' webpage ran a story trying to figure out how to oust Trump by calling him "erratic", *The Washington*

Post called him "crazy" and the famous *New York Times* (remember- "We are not going to be biased any more") called him "absolutely mentally ill." Maybe ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, MSNBC et al, are "illegitimate" and "mentally ill" or maybe they are just "drive-by media". Even if you watch Fox News you will pick up on key words used by many of their hosts and reporters that tell you where they are politically (Shep Smith, Howie Kurtz, Rick Leventhal). There are not as many conservatives there as one might think so be cautioned to take what they all say with a grain of salt, be skeptical of every source of news, be completely informed and ready for November 2018. The Economist Intelligence Unit (UK) has labeled the United States a "flawed de-

mocracy", noting the low voter turnout, distrust of governing officials, government shutdown and income inequality among other noted items. They say Trump tapped into the deep distrust of government. That may be so but now I hear spoken in Washington things that I would say if I were president. I feel like my voice is finally echoed in Washington.

I have heard some in the Republican Party (not McCain or Graham) say the new cabinet picks are "true patriots" and "best choice for the job". That's reassuring. Freedom is like a fistful of dry sand, you can hold it as long as you hold tightly but when you let loose it flows away rather quickly.

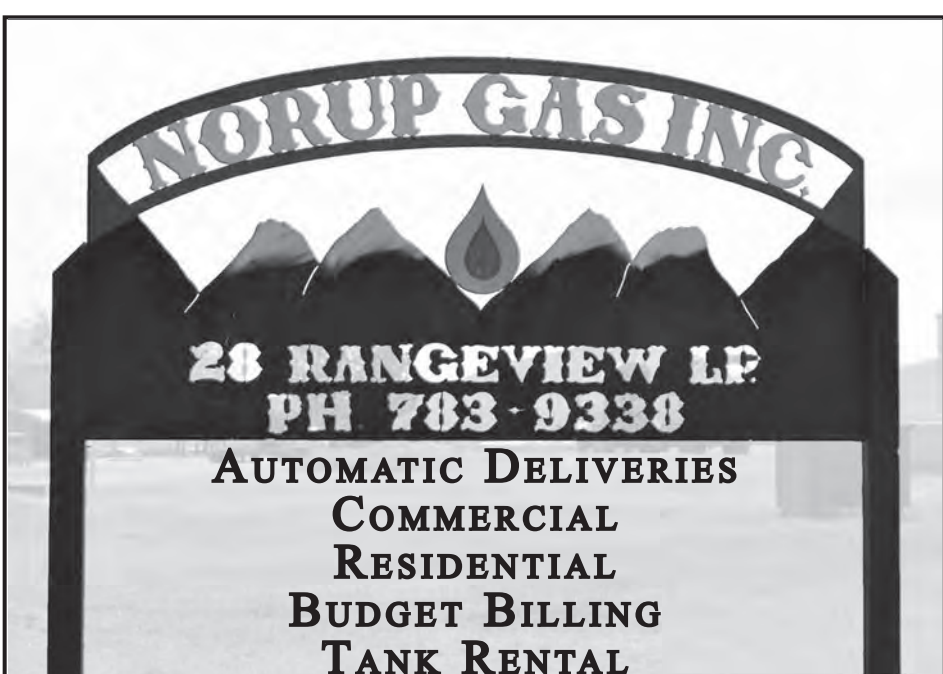
Bill Bailey
Custer County, CO

I Survived Obama



Steve Cuzzacrea of Minvera, NY, is a devoted *Sentinel* reader. A lifelong hunter, NRA member and Navy veteran, Steve was ecstatic over Trump's win and wanted to share his thoughts on the last eight years with our readers. We concur.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

School Board Meeting: Holly Anderson Resigning

Larry Luikart,
Reporter

—January 17, 2017

President Davis called the meeting to order at precisely 4:30 p.m. leading the assembled group in the Pledge of Allegiance. All board members were present for Roll Call. The agenda was approved with minor corrections to Personnel Items. There was no correspondence to the Board and no Public Comments in the First Session.

Minutes from the December 13, 2016, meeting were approved with no reports from students and staff for this meeting. Amy Perschbacher offered her Monthly Overview of the District Financial Position.

Lori Short from Excellence in Ed reported they raised around \$5,000 for projects at the school. She is working with Superintendent Payler on specifics to distribute the funds.

The Action/Informational Items included a presentation by Neal Cocco from the Colorado Department of Transportation and Kathy Reis from Westcliffe regarding a request to provide a drainage easement

along the west edge of the school property behind the Administration building. The request is in conjunction with the planned street and curb improvement plan for Westcliffe. The Board took no official action at this juncture.

The following individuals were approved as substitute teachers, Sondra Tuttle and Diana Santos Mafnas. Holly Anderson, Elementary School Principal resigned effective June 1, 2017. She indicated her decision was difficult but she needs to spend more time with family. High School Language Arts teacher Kailynn Hatelr also resigned effective at the end of the school year. Check Vouchers and Financial Reports were approved by the Board.

The Board heard a proposal for a new Tax Exempt Lease/Purchase for a Blue Bird school bus. After considerable discussion, the Board voted unanimously to turn down the current proposal. The bus being considered has a gasoline engine and the Board asked for more information regarding a diesel bus.

The Board listened to a

proposal for Emergency Facility usage presented by Superintendent Payler. After some discussion, the Board decided to turn down the current proposal. A new proposal will be presented after concerns raised by the Board are rectified.

The Board approved a revised Budget presented by Amy Perschbacher.

President Davis presented an informational package regarding the by-laws of Custer County Schools. These by-laws cover Board of Education duties, power and duties, committees and relationships and procedures to amend the by-laws.

The Elementary and Secondary AD reports were heard. Principal Holly Anderson discussed the ongoing analysis of their 90-Day Plan. The Dibels Reading Test results recently completed, indicate gains in kindergarten, first and fifth grade. Second and third grade broke even, while fourth grade showed a decline.

The Christmas program was a great success under the direction of Sarah Thompson. Principal Anderson recognized Brenda

Benoit and the volunteers for raising \$460 in the "Penguin Patch".

Secondary Principal/Athletic Director Christensen's written report contained information he will use to conduct a staff meeting to work toward completing their 90-Day goals.

Superintendent Payler discussed the Strategic Plan. He talked about the upcoming "Immersion Experience for Prospective Teachers" being held February 8-10. This out-of-district funded program will bring prospective teachers to Custer County for three days to experience the rural Colorado teacher environment. He also discussed the progress on the Teacher Housing Project. The Business Office will be introducing new software which will reduce paper work, improve efficiency and make reporting clearer. The BEST Grant process continues.

There were no Public Comments for the second part of the meeting. The Board concluded the Public portion of the meeting by adjourning into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Common Cents: Eating Well on \$6 a Day: A Seminar

Press Release

West Custer County Library

Studies show that food is the third largest category in the average American's budget at 13 percent behind housing at 35 percent and transportation at 16 percent. The typical American spends almost half of their food budget on dining out. Get tips on maximizing a food budget at the upcoming free workshop *Common Cents: Eating Well on \$6 a Day* at the West Custer County Library on Wednesday, February 15th at 5:30 p.m.

Light snacks will be served, and one lucky participant will receive a door prize.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a favorite budget-friendly recipe to share with the class. The West Custer County Library is proud to partner with Common Cents for Colorado to continue to offer financial educational opportunities for the community.

Cathy McCarthy, Adult Services Librarian, will lead the workshop. "Making a few small changes in your food and shopping habits will put extra dollars back into your budget without sacrificing nutritional value," said McCarthy.

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



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcat Boys Played Hard

by Jim Silver

Three games were on the schedule for the past two weekends, but another game on Saturday, the 28th made for a full load for the Bobcats. The Sangre de Cristo Thunderbirds came to town to make up games previously canceled on December 17th, before Christmas vacation. A look back at these four games gives a picture of the progress the boys are making on their way toward playing some pretty good basketball.

The South Park Burros played on the Custer County court on Friday, January 20th. The Bobcats nearly matched the visiting Burros point-for-point all four quarters of play. This ‘nearly’ made for a good outing for our home team and the Bobcats even outscored their opponent 22-21 in the fourth quarter. Consistent performance by Custer County against the higher-ranked South Park team made for a good game over-all, though the Bobcats were behind 50-58 at the final buzzer. David Kinsey paced the Bobcats in points scored. This 5’10” junior couldn’t miss his outside jump shot, hitting six of seven from behind the 3-point line and adding on five shots in the 2-point range! David scored 30 of his team’s 50 points. He also made seven rebounds, following Billy Berry’s eight.

The Bobcats traveled to Del Norte the next day, Saturday, the 21st. The Bobcats had their hands full with the Tigers-- 9-3 for their season thus far. The final score was 20-60, with Kobe Lewsader’s five points leading the Bobcats in scoring.



A David Kinsey jump shot.

Photo by Jim Silver

The first of this weekend’s home court games was against the Sanford Indians on January 27th. Sanford looks a lot like South Park in the State-wide standings of 2-A teams—7-4 and 7-5 respectively. But the game each team plays differed greatly. The half-time score says it all—the Bobcats were behind 9-12. The margin increased by the end of the third quarter—13-20. The Bobcats were still in the game, pretty evenly matched with the Indians. A strong defensive effort by all five on the floor at a given time kept the Indians in check for three quarters. Nevertheless, Sanford put on a scoring surge in the fourth quarter—17 points to Custer County’s five. The Bobcats were on the short end, 18-37, at the final buzzer of a rather unusual game to watch.

Sangre de Cristo is a 1-A school, so Saturday’s game was a non-conference match-up. A quick look at the Thunderbirds’ most recent outing gave a hint that the game they came to Custer County to play would be of a different style than the Bobcats’ Friday night opponent, Sanford.

The T-birds, on a three-game winning streak, had defeated their Friday opponent 70-57. They came out quickly against the Bobcats, ran the court and shot well. Half-time showed the Bobcats behind 11-35. Our team fared much the same in the third quarter, ending at 15-49. The Bobcats didn’t give up, though, and managed to pick up 13 points in the fourth quarter to lose 28-59.

Not giving up and playing as a team is the name of the game for this slim roster of eight Bobcats. Much growth in individual skills is evident, as the season has gone on. They and their coaches are to be encouraged on in the remaining three weeks of the season!

Cripple Creek-Victor will play here on Friday, February 3rd at 3 p.m. The Bobcats travel to Antonito on Saturday. Crested Butte is an away game on the 10th, and the final home game is on Friday, February 17th against Center. An away game against Cripple Creek-Victor the next day wraps up this season.

GO BOBCATS!

JT Taylor and Coach Jesse Taylor Receive Awards



Above L to R: JT Taylor, Coach Jesse Taylor and Principal/Athletic Director Jack Christensen.

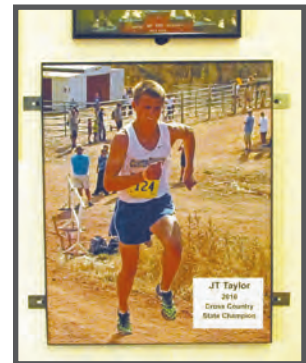
by Jim Silver

Between varsity basketball games on Saturday, January 28th, senior cross country runner Jerald (“JT”) Taylor was awarded a plaque by Athletic Director/High School Principal Jack Christensen. JT won first place in 2A Cross Country in League, Regional and the State finals. In addition to the award, a photo of JT was

placed on the wall at the entry of the gym, among other notable athletes from the Bobcats sports past.

Jesse Taylor, JT’s father and the 2016 Cross Country Coach of the Bobcats, was honored along-side his son with a plaque, voted “Cross Country Coach of the Year, Southern Peaks League.”

Congratulations to the Taylors, father and son.



JT’s photo placed among CCHS notable athletes outside the school gym.

Photos by Jim Silver



by Coach Shannon Byerly

We probably played the best game in two years against South Park as we competed well and executed the game plan. We actually hit more baskets than the Burro’s but lost at the free throw line. That was a tough loss as it was certainly in our grasp. We also played pretty well at Del Norte. We really competed with a very good team. The score didn’t reflect a good game, but I thought we played pretty well considering they were simply better than us. The kids accepted the challenge and worked really hard which is what all coaches ask of their players.

Sanford was a game that

Coach’s Corner

surprised me. Our players accepted the challenge and came out with a lot of energy. They competed at a high level and to hold a strong team like Sanford to 12 points in the first half underscores the kids are starting to understand what it takes to challenge the better teams. I was proud of them and although the game got away from us in the second half, I was proud of their effort.

Sangre De Cristo was a game that really exemplified what we have struggled with all season. We couldn’t put the ball in the hole on offense and then got outworked through the first half. We shot five for 16 from the free throw line and missed so many shots

in the paint that you can’t expect to win games when you fail in those areas. I really thought this was a winnable game as well but we continue to hurt ourselves by not executing when we need to. I thought we worked extremely hard in the second half and did some good things but we didn’t stay close enough in the first half to be able to close the gap like we needed to.

We will continue to work on the same things we have been doing all season. Taking care of the ball and being able to score when you have good opportunities is what will lead to wins. Once we start doing those things you will start to see more W’s in the win column.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Oak Creek Grade Volunteer Firefighters



A big thank you to the Tallahassee F.P.D. for a donation of fire bunker gear to the Oak Creek Grade Volunteer Firefighters.

Bobcats Sport Schedule

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

Where: Wrestling Room

Elementary Youth Wrestling
When: Thur., February 9, 6:25 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.
Where: Wrestling Room

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

Wrestling Regionals
When: Fri, February 10, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Where: Custer County High School

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

HS Boys & HS Girls Basketball AWAY v Crested Butte –
Departure TBD
When: Fri, February 10, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Where: Crested Butte

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

Elementary Basketball Program
When: Sat, February 11, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Where: East Gym

Goal Miners Soccer
When: Sun, February 5, 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Where: West Gym

Wrestling Regionals
When: Fri and Sat., February 10,-11, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Where: Custer County High School

Elementary Youth Wrestling
When: Tue, February 7, 6:25 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.

TEENS to Create Fine Art at the Library

Teens will be channeling their inner Van Gogh, Picasso, Monet or whatever their personal style may be at West Custer County Library's latest event, "Teen-o-Easel" on Thursday, February 9th from 4:15 - 6 p.m. Students in grades 6 - 12 will

create individual paintings which will be combined as a mural for the library's teen area. Instruction and guidance will be provided by local, professional artist Jacqueline Keller. All materials, supplies and snacks will be provided. Artwork will be returned to students

when the exhibit closes next year.

This event is free thanks to the generous contributions of the Friends of West Custer County Library. For more information, please call the library at 783-9138 or email jessica@west-custerlibrary.org.

Club America Swim Club Announces Winter Classes

Press Release

Winter swim classes will begin next week at Club America WMV for Afternoon Preschool and Early Elementary students.

- Class Dates: Wednesday, February 1st; Thursdays, Feb. 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16; and Wednesday, March 29th
- Class Times: Afternoon Preschool – 4:15 – 4:45 p.m.; and Early Elementary – 4:50 – 5:30 p.m.
- Cost: \$45 if payment is made by Jan 30th; after Jan 30th fee is \$50
- Registration forms are available at Club America, and have been

provided to Afternoon Preschool students as well as those in Kindergarten and 1st Grade through Custer County School.

- Water Safety Instructors are certified by American Red Cross
- Afternoon Preschool class is limited to six students
- Fun activities guide, water orientation, breath control and relaxation

This is a great time for your child to initially learn or become reacquainted with water safety practices and swimming skills. Swimming, a team and inde-

pendent sport, can provide excellent aerobic exercise, and is helpful in developing physical and mental coordination, agility, strength and endurance. Swimming provides a non-weight bearing activity in a refreshing environment for an entire lifetime and opens doors to a wide variety of fun and exciting aquatic activities.

For more information about these and other aquatic classes contact Lisa Kaufman at 783.4468 or at Club America. Drop by the club to speak with club manager Jules Sapp about a swim class scholarship or call 783.0750.



Bobcat Menu • Feb. 6- Feb. 9, 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Breakfast Choice of Cereal Fruit Milk	Breakfast Choice of Cereal Fruit Milk	Breakfast Choice of Cereal Fruit Milk	Breakfast Biscuit & Gravy Fruit Milk
Lunch Elem. Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potato w/gravy Blueberry Muffin & Fruit Milk	Lunch Elem. Beef & Bean Burrito Rice Corn & Fruit Milk	Lunch Elem. Mac N Cheese Mini Corn Dog Carrots/Celery & Fruit Milk	Lunch Elem. Pancake and Sausage Link Potato Wedge Fruit Milk
Lunch MS & HS Chicken Mashed Potato Bowl Blueberry Muffin & Carrots Fruit Milk	Lunch MS & HS Smothered Burrito Rice & Beans Corn & Fruit Milk	Lunch MS & HS Mac N Cheese Tossed Salad & Mxd Veg Fruit Milk	Lunch MS & HS Pancakes/Scrambled Eggs Sausage Link Potato Wedge & 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, February 3, 2017

January 28, 1977

The Blizzard of '77

On Thursday, January 27, 1977, I watched the evening weather report. The weather man was predicting a major snow storm. In Buffalo, New York, snow storms were nothing new. He was saying wherever you are tomorrow at 11 a.m. you will be there for the next four days. Well, knowing I had to work at the hospital the next three days I started to make preparations. I made arrangements for my mother to pick up my children from day care and packed a small bag with essentials and a clean uniform.

The next day I informed my supervisor that a storm was headed our way and I would be willing to work a double shift if they would put me up for the night so I wouldn't have to drive home and back in the morning in a storm, little did I know what I was getting myself into.

At 11 a.m. the storm hit. We could see nothing outside the windows but white. A blizzard of epic proportions struck southern portions of the province of Ontario and parts of western and northern New York State. The temps plunged to near zero Fahrenheit and hurricane force winds roared across the frozen surface of Lake Erie. Temperature and wind combined to create a wind chill of 60 below zero. Wind gusts over 50 miles per hour were recorded each day with official peaks ranging between 69 and 73 miles per hour.

Lake Erie, the shallowest of the Great Lakes, has a surface area of ten thousand square miles. That year it was frozen by December 14th, an early freezing record. The hurricane force winds swept across that desert of ice with no natural barriers to break the wind force. Deep snow had built up on the lake and had not melted due to the cold January. So 10,000 miles of snow powder blew inland, burying people in their cars and homes and stranding people in office buildings, schools, police stations, fire halls, bars, factories and cars. By Monday the mayor of Buffalo closed all streets except for emergency vehicles only.

Many people have stories of surviving the Blizzard of '77 and many did not survive.

The final price tag for the Blizzard of '77 was 300 million dollars. There were 23 deaths in the Buffalo area as a result of the storm.

Moral of the story: Pay attention to weather warnings and always be prepared.

by Audrey Slater, Sources: whitedeath.com

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

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Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God.
Benjamin Franklin - Founding Father

Local Mountain News & Notices

Custer County Chamber of Commerce Awards Presentation February 9th; *Willie Quinney* *Named Citizen of the Year*

Press Release

On February 9th, the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an awards presentation for the 2016 Citizen of the Year. The selection process was conducted the second week of January and included Silver Cliff Mayor Laswell, Westcliffe Mayor Patterson, County Commissioner Kattnig, and Rotary President and School Board Member Monty Lee.

It is the pleasure of the Chamber to announce Willie Quinney as Citizen of the Year.

The public is invited to a presentation reception to honor Mr. Willie Quinney for his many contributions in his support of both individuals and the greater community. The presentation will be held at the Chamber of Commerce building at 107 N 3rd Street, in Westcliffe, on February 9th, at 6 p.m.

In June, 2013, Willie and his wife, Cheryl, moved to the valley. They opened Silver Cliff Mountain Inn Restaurant on December 1, 2013. Having changed occupations and having no

experience in the industry, they developed their business into one of the most frequented restaurants in the area. Since their arrival, he has taken his chosen occupation in the restaurant industry and used it to share his resources to meet the many needs of our citizens. With Cheryl at his side, Willie has contributed the services of his employees to the community, as well as donated products to support fundraising efforts for individuals in need, sponsored school field trips, student equipment needs, senior center support, veterans needing various types of assistance, and organization sponsored events. A most notable effort was feeding weary fire fighters during the most recent fires in the county, at his own expense. Willie accomplished these deeds without any expectation of recognition.

Friends who know Willie are aware of his sensitivity to those in need and his willingness to give time, money and resources. He has been known to provide clothing and shelter, household appliances, Christmas gifts for those without, and

money from his own pocket. It cannot be overlooked that he has gone so far as to provide food, shelter and water for unwanted kitties, and even seeing to the needs of those who sometimes have difficulty providing food for their own cats.

Custer County Chamber of Commerce is inviting the public to help celebrate this most thoughtful and generous Citizen of the Year. Please help us honor Willie Quinney, on February 9th, at 6 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce.

(Editor/GG: Sorry about this announcement being a week late. The Custer County Chamber of Commerce did NOT send it to us but they did manage to get it to the other paper in Westcliffe for their last week's edition. We had to email the Chamber and request that they send us the press release. In any event, we congratulate Willie on being selected 2016 Citizen of the Year. He and his wife, Cheryl, have contributed a lot to the community and we applaud and thank them for it.)

THE CUSTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS OPENINGS FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS AT ALL LEVELS

Applications are available at the administration office Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. or please visit the district's webpage at <http://www.custercountyschools.org/#!/employment/c17c>; scroll down to the section marked "Applications" to download and complete the "Substitute Application". Applicants will need to be licensed through the Colorado Department of Education. For more information, please contact Kathy Schickling at (719)783-4950.

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 Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and Colorado law, Custer County School District C-1 does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, disability or need for special education services in admissions, access to, treatment or employment in educational programs or activities which it operates. Complaint procedures have been established for students, parents, employees and members of the public. The following person(s) have been identified as the compliance officer for the district: Secondary Principal, 709 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252. (719)783-2291

*By this we know love, that He laid down
His life for us, and we ought to lay down
our lives for the brothers.*

1John 3:16 ESV

Events Calendar

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

Saturday, February 4, 6 a.m. – 2 p.m.
MS Knowledge Bowl
Ft Carson

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

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, 9 a.m.
BOCC Meeting Boardroom

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

Wednesday, February 8, 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Mtg
Teacher's Lounge or Art Room

Thursday, February 9, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
National Honor Society/Valentines Project School Kitchen

Thursday, February 9, 6 p.m.
Chamber Awards Presentation
107 N 3rd Street, Westcliffe

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

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

Friday and Saturday, February 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 12 at 2 p.m.
"Hacksaw Ridge"
Drama | History | War | R
THE JONES THEATER \$\$ Westcliffe

Wednesday, February 15, 5:30 p.m.
Eating Well on \$6 a Day
West Custer Library Community Room
209 Main Street in Westcliffe.

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 downtown 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 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.
6:30 p.m. Men's and Women's Bible Study. First Baptist Church of Westcliffe 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

2nd 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.

3rd 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 welcome! 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
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
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Local Mountain News & Notices

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Help Wanted

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The Custer County School
District has an opening for

elementary teachers for the 2017-2018 school year. Applications are available online at custercountyschools.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 Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and Colorado law, Custer County School District C-1 does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, disability or need for special education services in admissions, access to, treatment or employment in educational programs or activities which it operates. Complaint procedures have been established for students, parents, employees and members of the public. The following person(s) have been identified as the compliance officer for the district: Secondary Principal, 709 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252. (719)783-2291

The Custer County School
District has an opening for an **assistant principal** for the 2017-2018 school year. Applications are available online at custercountyschools.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 Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and Colorado law, Custer County School District C-1 does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, disability or need for special education services in admissions, access to, treatment or employment in educational programs or activities which it operates. Complaint procedures have been established for students, parents, employees and members of the public. The following person(s) have been identified as the compliance officer for the district: Secondary Principal, 709 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252. (719)783-2291

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Please call 719-783-3360 or email
sdc.sentinel@gmail.com to place your ad.
The deadline for getting your information into the
Classifieds is Monday at 4 p.m. for that week's edition.

Custer County Wrestlers on the Road

by Mike Ham, CCHS
Wrestling Coach

The Bobcats wrestling team traveled all the way to the Western Slope on January 20th through the 21st for two days of competition in Paonia where twenty-some schools were represented in the tournament. This was the hardest meet of the season so far, with state-ranked wrestlers in every bracket. Our wrestlers did very well and saw up-close what they need to focus on, looking forward to District (Feb.10,11) and then State (Feb.16-18).

The Custer County wrestlers who attended and how they matched up are the following:

- Dalton Wommack (Soph., 113 lbs.) placed 3rd, winning 3 and losing 2 matches.
- Ray Perez (Soph., 132 lbs.) placed 6th, with 2 wins and 2 losses.
- Aaron Anderson (Jr., 145 lbs.) placed 6th, with 2 each.
- Andy Feldmann (Sr., 152 lbs.) placed 5th, with 3 wins and 2 losses.
- John Feldmann (Soph., 160 lbs.) no placement, with 0 wins and 2 losses.
- Jakob Morris (Soph., 182 lbs.) no placement, with 0 wins and 2 losses.

The past weekend the team boarded the bus at 3:45 a.m. on Saturday, January 28th for the long ride into

the San Louis Valley and the "Valley Classic" meet in Center. Once again, the Bobcats met up with stiff competition from state-ranked wrestlers throughout all brackets. The boys wrestled their hearts out but fell short of a tournament championship.

These are the Bobcats who made this trip and how they placed:

- Dalton Wommack placed 4th, with 4 wins and 1 loss.
- Ray Perez, no placement, winning 1 and losing 2.
- Aaron Anderson, no placement, with no wins.
- Andy Feldmann placed 5th, winning 3 and losing 2.
- John Feldmann, no place-

ment, with 2 losses.

We will travel to Crowley County for a meet on Saturday, February 4th. Custer County has the privilege of hosting the DISTRICT TOURNAMENT on February 10th and 11th. The State Tournament is February 16th to the 18th. More details will follow for these final two events of the season.

And here's a reminder to parents of future Bobcats wrestlers. Pee wee practice is Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30-7:45 pm. For more details please call Coach Mike Ham at (719) 371-7203.

GO BOBCATS!

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Animal Hospital

Dr. Kayla Ingram

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Local Mountain News & Notices



CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

Custer County BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Tentative Agenda

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017
9:00 AM**

**Meeting Location:
County Courthouse /Commissioners Room**

Call Meeting to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Amend Agenda
Audience Introduction
Public Comment
Approval of Minutes
Commissioner Items
Attorney Items
Executive Session
New/Old Business
Staff Reports:
- Airport
- Extension
- Veterans
- Human Services

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.)

Published 02/03/2017
Name of Publication: Sangre de Cristo Sentinel

Custer County BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Tentative Agenda

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017
9:00 AM**

**Meeting Location:
County Courthouse /Commissioners Room**

Call Meeting to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Amend Agenda
Audience Introduction
Public Comment

Approval of Minutes
Commissioner Items
Attorney Items
Executive Session
New/Old Business
- CCEDC Status Update – C. Bogle
Staff Reports:
- Road & Bridge/Landfill/Recycle
• Cuerno Verde Speed Limits
• Oak Creek Grade Speed Limit
- Public Health
- Human Resource/Finance
- Treasurer
- OEM
• Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution
- Planning & Zoning

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.)

Published 02/03/2017
Name of Publication: Sangre de Cristo Sentinel



Wet Mountain Fire Protection District *Report*

For more information about WMFPD or to donate, call (719) 783-9245 or contact firechiefwmfpd@centurytel.net. P.O. Box 342, Westcliffe CO 81252

On January 3, three firefighters responded in two fire engines to establish a landing zone in northern Custer County for a Flight For Life helicopter. Due to poor weather, the helo had to land near Cañon City to receive the patient from Custer EMS. Wet Mountain was stood down at the county line when Fremont County took over the landing.

On January 4, two firefighters in one apparatus responded to reports of a fire alarm going off in an assisted living residence. It was determined that the alarm itself needed to be replaced and the owner was advised to contact their alarm company.

On January 6, four firefighters in two engines responded to an automobile roll-over on an icy State-Highway 69 south. The vehicle was on its top but the occupants were able to escape without extrication. Firefighters checked the vehicle for hazmat issues and helped direct traffic.

On January 7, two firefighters in one engine responded to reports of an active fire alarm. After checking for smoke, carbon dioxide and hotspots, the alarm itself was found to be defective. The owner was advised to replace the alarm as soon as possible.

On January 7, two firefighters in one engine assisted the Sheriff's Office deputies with traffic control and retrieval of a vehicle that slid off the road in icy conditions.

On January 7, one firefighter responded to a request from Custer EMS for a lift assist of a patient in Silver Cliff.

On January 9, four fighters in two engines responded to a carbon dioxide alarm in the Junkins Park area. The residence was thoroughly checked and the problem turned out to be an alarm in need of new batteries.

On January 10, one firefighter in one engine responded to reports of major smoke in the Rosita area. It was determined that the start-up of an outside wood-burning boiler was the culprit.

On January 19, two firefighters in one engine responded to the request of the Custer County Clinic to check out an apartment complex in Westcliffe where one occupant had been complaining of headaches and nausea. The building was thoroughly checked and no indications of any contaminants were found.

On January 20, two firefighters responded in one engine to a report of a motor vehicle accident on State Highway 69 north. The single occupant was out of the heavily damaged vehicle, so firefighters checked for leaks, declared the vehicle safe, and

helped direct traffic.

On January 20, firefighters returned to a Westcliffe apartment building to double check for possible CO or CO2 concerns. The building was declared absolutely clear of any contamination.

On January 20, two firefighters in two apparatus returned to the scene of an earlier automobile accident to help provide traffic control during retrieval of the vehicle by a wrecker.

On January 21, one firefighter in one vehicle responded to a request by the Westcliffe building official to check for possible gas leaks in a residence. After careful checking, no contamination was found and the residence was declared safe according to the Fire Department's four-gas sniffer.

On January 23, four firefighters in two engines responded to a motor vehicle accident in the area of Reed Road. The occupants were able to leave the vehicle and walk to a residence close by for assistance, and ultimately assessed by Custer EMS. The firefighters checked the heavily damaged vehicle for leaks and declared the vehicle clear of issues.

On January 26, two firefighters in two engines responded to the school athletic field to light and oversee the Winterfest Bonfire.

Sheriff's Report...



On the dates below, there were 261 calls for service to the Sheriff's Office, 8 to EMS, and 2 to the Fire Department. As of January 30th, there were 8 males and no females in the county jail.

**1/23/17:
Traffic Summons:**

Beverly Beardon of Bosque, TX, for speeding 10 - 19 over.

Elk in Fence: A deputy was dispatched to CR 328 MM 3 for a report of an elk caught in a barbed wire fence.

Accident: EMS, the Wet Mountain Fire Department, and a Sheriff's deputy were dispatched to CR 203 for a single vehicle accident.

Fraud: A deputy met with a party in the lobby of the Sheriff's Office who filed a report of fraudulent activity in her checking account.

**1/24/17:
Traffic Summons:** Miranda Sapp of Florida, for speeding 34 mph in a school zone.

Frank Searight of Silver Cliff for speeding 10 - 19 over.

Benjamin Rusher of Westcliffe was issued a summons for operating an uninsured vehicle.

Summons: Ben Zeppelin of Westcliffe was issued a municipal summons for improper disposal of rubbish.

**1/26/17:
Traffic Summons:** Jimmy Coslett of Kingfisher, OK, for speeding 10-19 over.

David North of Westcliffe for speeding 10 - 19 over.

**1/27/17:
Traffic Summons:** Joseph Calabrese of Oklahoma, for speeding 24 over.

Jacob Yates of Trinidad for speeding 10 - 19 over.

Larry Kleven of Cañon City for speeding 10 - 19 over.

Theft: A deputy took a report of a theft on Rio Alto Avenue. The matter is under investigation.

**1/28/17:
Traffic Summons:** Gerald Deshirlia of Wimberly, TX, for speeding 10 - 19 over.

Identity Theft: A deputy was dispatched for a case of identity theft involving a party on Gabbert Drive in Rosita Hills.

**1/29/17:
Traffic Summons:** Reena Carter of Denver for speeding 10 - 19 over.

**1/30/17:
Traffic Summons:** David Clemens of CR 323 for speeding 78 in a 55-mph zone.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES



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

SEMI ANNUAL REPORT OF CUSTER COUNTY TREASURER JULY 01, 2016 THRU DECEMBER 30, 2016									
FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	REVENUES			RECEIPTS & MISCELLANEOUS	DISBURSEMENTS		TRANSFERS & MISC.	ENDING BALANCE
		CURRENT TAX	DELINQUENT TAX & INTEREST	SPECIFIC OWNERSHIP		WARRANTS PAID	TREASURERS FEES		
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 IMPROVEMENTS	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	0.00
FIRE DISTRICT	54,636.05	26,278.58	1,111.88	23,610.54			-1,313.93	-104,323.12	0.00
UPPER ARKANSAS WATER CONS. DIST.	7,153.52	3,419.10	145.34	3,123.31			-170.95	-13,670.32	0.00
SILVER CLIFF	12,407.61	3,194.25	138.42	1,579.93	1,688.50		-78.17	-18,930.54	0.00
WESTCLIFFE	28,959.98	3,706.79	170.85	3,763.34	1,643.50		-88.00	-38,156.46	0.00
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. RES.	0.00								0.00
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	8.20		-6.64	-6,912.99	630.81
RE2J CAP. RES.	0.00								0.00
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			-104.50	-7,849.41	0.00
COUNTY SCHOOL	0.00				468.14			-468.14	0.00
EMERGENCY SERVICES	253,427.33	14,519.50	617.69	13,263.08	32,349.98	-199,646.13		-6,346.87	108,184.58
REDEMPTIONS	3,460.28				60,838.69			-60,838.69	3,460.28
M. V. L.	0.00				372,815.42	-372,815.42			0.00
CONSERVATION TRUST	15,435.30				16,344.06	-67.41			31,711.95
VARIOUS/AUTO TAX	0.00				84,784.85			-84,784.85	0.00
GRAZING	0.00								0.00
RECORDING/RESTORATION FUND	60,026.43				13,346.00			-16,807.77	56,564.66
TREASURER'S FEES	0.00				15,207.51			-15,207.51	0.00
WEST CUSTER CO HOSP DIST.	112,456.43	54,088.94	2,289.04	48,597.61			-2,704.45	-214,727.57	0.00
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND	1,750.54								1,750.54
WEST CUSTER CO LIBRARY DISTRICT	28,199.49	13,563.36	573.99	12,186.40			-678.16	-53,845.08	0.00
CLERKS FEES	176,853.10				1,030,601.37			-1,034,375.86	173,078.61
EMERGENCY RESERVE FUND	117,300.00								117,300.00
HEALTH INSURANCE FUND	3,307.89				334,954.73			-334,889.72	3,372.90
GRAND 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

Published 02/03/2017

Name of Publication: Sangre de Cristo Sentinel

(The above document was printed with data missing on 01/27/2017. This is the correct version.

The Sentinel apologized for this error.)

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 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	09587 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 81252-9515 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 4503
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, 2/03/2017
Name of Publication: Sangre de Cristo Sentinel

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Winterfest 2017



Winterfest Royalty from left: King Steven Bonilla, Queen Ashley Gillum, Senior Attendants Daniel Brinkley and Skylar Smith, Junior Attendants Thomas Dryer and McKensie Penkoff, Sophomore Attendants Chad Lewenkamp and Morgan Nelson, and Freshman Attendants Hunter Speer and Sydney Cooper.



Where's the 'Front Range'? In Politics, It's Where the Votes Are

by Thomas E. Cronin, Robert D. Levy, ColoradoPolitics.com

The words “Front Range” are often used in Colorado, particularly in newspapers, but few in Colorado seem to know exactly what the words mean. When asked about the Front Range, many Coloradans will answer, “The range of mountains that run to the west of Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, etc.”

To political leaders and demographers, however, the Front Range is the heavily urbanized north-south strip of cities and suburbs that sits at the foot of the mountains, extending from Pueblo to the south through Colorado Springs and Denver Metro to Fort Collins and Greeley on the north.

Further confusing the situation, there actually is a Front Range of mountains. They form the western boundary of Boulder County and are one of the mountain ranges running along the Continental Divide through Rocky Mountain National Park.

Front Range is used even if its exact meaning is unclear. There are more than 60 businesses with Front Range in their name listed in the Colorado Springs telephone directory.

For purposes of voting analysis, we define the Front Range as the

populous counties, plus Broomfield and Teller Counties, that run south to north from Pueblo to Fort Collins and Greeley. Thus: Pueblo, El Paso (Colorado Springs), Teller (Cripple Creek), Denver, Douglas (Castle Rock), Jefferson (Golden), Arapahoe (Littleton), Adams (Brighton), Broomfield, Boulder, Larimer (Fort Collins), and Weld (Greeley) Counties.

This is also the definition of Front Range used by the Colorado demographer in the state Department of Local Affairs.

The Front Range constitutes Colorado’s mini-version of a megalopolis, a string of cities linked together in a corridor. It is our own little Bos-Wash (Boston to Washington), the interconnected urban area that runs up the northeastern coast of the United States.

For people who like cities, and the intellectual and cultural activities that flourish in cities, the Front Range is a major addition to their quality of life. It is loaded with some of the state’s best public colleges and universities (University of Colorado, Colorado State University, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State-Pueblo, etc.). Art museums, local musical venues, and theater groups thrive up and down the Front Range.

The Front Range is also known for its congested and drab strip retail streets, such as Colfax Avenue in Denver and Academy Boulevard in Colorado Springs.

Most Coloradans understand that the state’s population is concentrated on the Front Range. Year in and year out, it contains more than 80 percent of the people in Colorado. In the 2016 presidential election, 83 percent of the statewide two-party (Democrat/Republican) vote in Colorado was cast on the Front Range.

Because rural Colorado (actually non-Front Range Colorado) is so Republican, the Democrats have to poll a formidable lead on the Front Range in order to win Colorado statewide elections. That is what happened in 2016. Democrat Hillary Clinton polled 55 percent of the two-party vote on the Front Range, enough to enable her to carry the state with 53 percent of the two-party vote.

One effect of so many people living and voting on the Front Range in Colorado is that candidates for statewide office can campaign up and down I-25 and reach most of the state electorate without having to drive great distances. Short detours off of I-25 are required – U.S. 36 to get to Boulder, U.S. 85 to get to Greeley, and U.S. 24 to get to Woodland Park.

Candidates who want to campaign up in the mountains or out on the Eastern Plains must do a lot of driving (or flying sometimes) to reach relatively small numbers of voters. What many statewide candidates do is visit the mountains and the Eastern Plains early in the campaign, then concentrate those last critical weeks before Election Day pursuing votes on the Front Range.

By the way, the word “Front” underscores that our nation grew from east to west and this was the first, or “Front,” range of mountains. Note that we don’t refer to Rifle, Ridgway, and Durango as on the Back Range, but rather on the “Western Slope.”

Then there is “Post Card” Colorado. It sits in a rough quadrangle from Cañon City to Estes Park to Craig and to Sawpit (okay—that’s near Telluride) and then back to Cañon City. Within or close to this quadrangle are most of Colorado’s 14,000-foot mountains, its several national parks, its destination ski areas, its best rivers for fishing and rafting, and many of its national forests.

Only about seven percent of the two-party presidential vote was cast in Post Card Colorado in 2016, but this is the Colorado we play in – and came to, or stayed in Colorado to be close to.

The tourist brochures and the calendars disproportionately concentrate on this part of Colorado. There are some splendidly scenic spots on the Front Range, such as the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs, Red Rocks amphitheater outside of Denver, the Flat Irons in Boulder, etc., but the incomparable natural beauty of Colorado is in the Post Card part of the state.

Post Card Colorado has wealthy areas, such as Aspen and Vail, although few Front Range residents get to these upscale places except for meetings and conferences. Post Card’s economy is a blend of tourism, agriculture, mining and energy. Post Card Colorado splits its vote. The ski resort areas trend Democratic while the less-gentrified counties like Delta and Montrose trend Republican.

There are other areas of the state including the Eastern Plains, Southern Colorado and greater Grand Junction. Each of these is distinctive and has natural beauty and appeal. But, in general, the vast majority of Coloradans live along the Front Range and regularly plot to head westward to recreate and savor the ever-beckoning Post Card Colorado.

Please see: <http://coloradopolitics.com/insights-wheres-front-range-politics-votes/>

Party Poopers: Colorado Dems Kill Pizza Box Tax Repeal



by ColoradoPeak Politics.com

Last week, Democrats killed a common-sense repeal of a stupid tax on, simply put, pizza boxes in Colorado. House Bill 1009 would have gotten rid of what amounts to a double taxation for Colorado’s families on items that restaurants and food providers are taxed on such as packaging, sauce packets, straws, napkins and containers. The tax was part of the Dirty Dozen taxes passed in 2010.

The Denver Post did an in-depth story on the issue and explained that “a quirk in Colorado tax law, introduced in 2010, began charging sales taxes on food-related items deemed “nonessential” to the consumption of a meal — a broad and, at times, confusing category that includes napkins, nonreusable grocery bags, condiment packets and some kinds of containers, but not others.”

An example The Post cited was that if a consumer

bought ketchup or mustard at the grocery store, it would be tax-free as food is not taxed at the state level in Colorado; however, if a McDonalds worker throws ketchup packets in with your fries, the ketchup is taxed.

According to a press release sent by the State House GOP, around 80% of Colorado restaurants are small businesses, and the restaurant industry makes up the second largest private industry in the state. According to The Post, this tax costs a typical restaurant \$5,000 to \$7,000 per year. That’s a significant number for a small business. Remember this party-line vote when Democratic leadership claims to be proponents of families and small businesses. Democrats’ actions just don’t deliver.

Please see: <http://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2017/01/27/party-poopers-democrats-kill-pizza-box-tax-repeal-on-party-line-vote/>

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

by Representative Jim Wilson – HD 60

—January 29, 2017

The first month of the 71st Colorado General Assembly is in the books, and the “Can’t we all just get along?” attitudes are becoming a thing of the past. The gloves may not be off, but the laces are obviously untied as the State Affairs Committees (“kill committees”) are loading up their calendars with partisan bills. Ultra-Liberal bills face an abrupt end in the Senate, and ultra-Conservative bills face a similar fate in the House. Bills that “make a point” - from either side of the aisle are heard, postponed indefinitely (killed), enjoyed a fleeting moment in the press and are shelved until next session. Personally, I came to Denver not to make a point, but to make a difference...

We heard one of those “make a point” bills in the House Education Committee this week. Rep. Joe Salazar (D-Thornton) presented HB 17-1022: “Concerning Teaching Civil Government in Pub-

lic Schools, Including the History, Culture, and Contributions of American Indians, Hispanic Americans, African Americans, and Asian Americans”. At first glance it appeared to be a well-intentioned bill, but hidden in the details were unfunded mandates on schools, loss of local control and government imposed curriculum requirements. I anticipate that Rep. Salazar’s HB 17-1022 will follow the same path as his “Homeless Bill of Rights” and changing Columbus Day to “Indigenous People’s Day” bills of previous sessions...

My kindergarten bill, HB 17-1042, cleared its first hurdle last week. It passed out of the House Education Committee on a 9-4 vote. Even though full-day kindergarten funding has been in State Statute since 2008-09, there is a reluctance on the part of legislators to fund prior obligations before funding new programs. That is a concept I do not understand! Because of that reluctance, HB 17-1042 faces an extreme uphill challenge in the Appropri-

ations Committee.

Two more of my bills that I am excited about will be scheduled for committees soon: HB 17-1070 “Study Drone Use By Public Safety Agencies” -- Concerning the use of unmanned aircraft systems to perform government functions relating to public safety, and, in connection therewith, requiring the center of excellence within the department of public safety to perform a study and operate a pilot program and HB 17-1098 “Tax Credit Employer-Assisted Housing Projects” -- Concerning the creation of a credit against the state income tax to promote employer-assisted housing projects in rural areas.

Both of these bills will have a direct effect upon HD 60, as well as rural areas across the state. The use of drones is a “tsunami” that is approaching quickly. I feel it would be good to study potential applications before we are run over by a flood of ideas that have not been thoroughly vetted. Affordable/Attainable Hous-



ing is on the radar in every part of the state. HB 17-1098 will incentivize employers to work directly with their employee base rather than to depend upon a myriad of community efforts.

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

Yours for HD 60,

Representative Jim Wilson



Colorado State News



Which Way Will Colorado Dems Go On State Energy Committee

by Simon Lomax,
CompleteColorado.com/
pagetwo,
The Independence Institute

Energy policy and environmental regulation have been hot topics in Colorado politics for a long time. But at the Colorado State Legislature this year, there's a new twist: A special committee devoted to energy and environmental issues in the Republican-run Senate.

The new committee turns the tables on Democrats, because they proposed the same idea just weeks before Election Day. Back then, Democrats expected to win full control of the state Legislature with the help of California billionaire Tom Steyer. Hillary Clinton was expected to win the White House.

The new committee would have pushed the anti-fossil fuel agenda of Steyer, Clinton and the outgoing Obama administration. But Clinton lost and the GOP

maintained its one-seat majority in the state Senate. So the Republican leaders of the new committee will focus instead on "expected policy changes from the Trump administration" and how they will affect Colorado, one of the nation's top producers of oil, natural gas and coal. No surprises there.

But there's still a big unanswered question about the new committee: Which side of the Democratic Party will show up?

On one side, there's the Steyer wing of the party, which wants to rid the state of fossil fuels, mandate the use of much more costly renewable sources, and give the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's expansive new powers over the state's energy sector. On the other side, you have the blue-collar wing that supports oil, natural gas and coal production, and worries about job losses from anti-fossil fuel laws

and EPA regulations.

In 2016, Steyer and national environmental groups made a huge play for dominance within the Democratic coalition. Together they spent well over \$100 million, according to the *Washington Post*, in a crusade to make the environment – and especially climate change – a top campaign issue.

But the move backfired. It angered organized labor and some trade unions openly attacked Steyer's agenda. "His vision of leaving oil, natural gas, and other fossil fuels in the ground kills jobs, drives up energy costs, and threatens to strangle our economy," the Laborers International Union of North America warned months before the election. But the climate push continued, eroding Clinton's support among blue-collar voters, especially in the industrial Midwest.

Nationally, the Steyer wing

of the party refuses to give any ground after its humiliating defeat. "[I]n terms of what we did, and the strategy we took, we wouldn't do anything differently," Steyer told *Reuters*. And the California billionaire continues to minimize the importance of fossil-fuel jobs.

For now at least, Democrats on the new energy committee are adopting the same post-election strategy. They will "stand strong," Senate Minority Leader Lucia Guzman (D-Denver), a member of the panel, told *The Colorado Statesman*. "Colorado has been at the forefront on moving toward cleaner energy and we don't want to slide back," she added.

Guzman is joined on the committee by State Sen. Matt Jones (D-Louisville), who also holds the newly created position of Deputy Minority Leader for Conservation, Clean Energy and Climate Change.

According to the *Durango Herald*, Jones "has led many of the anti-fracking fights at the Capitol." He's also been a staunch supporter of EPA regulations that crack down on fossil fuels, especially coal.

"We have to be very aggressive with these rules," Jones told an EPA field hearing in Denver. "EPA, stay strong." Elsewhere, Jones has been dismissive of energy and mining and their critical role in the state's economy. "We need to keep Colorado an attractive state and not an extractive state," he said on Facebook.

Unfortunately, this kind of rhetoric puts Jones and Guzman on a collision course with reality. True, Colorado has a sizable renewable energy industry and the state has imposed some aggressive – and controversial – renewable energy targets for the future. But at the same time, 89 percent of the energy

consumed in Colorado still comes from oil, natural gas and coal, according to 2014 data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Over time, as renewables get cheaper and more reliable, this will most likely change. But trying to force that transition with anti-fossil fuel policies will jeopardize thousands of jobs in Colorado's energy sector and across the broader economy.

Blue-collar Democrats get it. Steyer Democrats apparently still don't.

Simon Lomax is a consultant who advises pro-business groups and an associate energy policy analyst with the Independence Institute, a free market think tank in Denver.

Please see: <http://completecolorado.com/pagetwo/2017/01/25/which-way-will-dems-go-on-state-senate-energy-committee/>

All the Colorado Taxes You Cannot See

by Jon Caldera,
The Independence Institute

Seeing is believing. So, it's no wonder many in government prefer to work in the dark.

It's not just that they don't want us to know what they're fully doing. They don't want us to know what we're fully paying. The reason for this emotional manipulation is clear. If the cost of government is hidden into the cost of our daily lives, we feel like we're not paying as much as we really are.

As the state legislative session gears up our governor will try to get you to feel you're not paying a massive tax called the Hospital Provider Fee. He, in concert with everyone who wants to increase taxes in every conceivable way except actually asking voters first, will pressure the legislature, via the new senate president, to embrace this dark money ploy.

This is nothing new. Colorado is chalk full of schemes to turn your tax money dark.

One of the biggest emotional manipulations is employee withholdings. Why in the world is it our employer's job to collect our taxes? Imagine how you'd feel about your money going to government if you had to write out a check every month along with your other bills. And you think you gripe about your cable bill?

At least your withholdings show up on your paystub, but of course you never look at your electronic paystub (and you know it). Most employees don't even know, no less feel, that half of their FICA taxes are paid by their employer. Why not give everyone a 7.5 percent raise and let workers pay their own full amount to the state? The answer is obvious.

Doesn't it feel great when you talk to friends on the east coast and find they pay so much more for their home's property tax? **Thank our "Gallagher" law for giving you the illusion you pay less.** It shifts the property tax burden from your home to commercial properties, which pay about three and a half times more. But businesses don't pay taxes. People pay taxes. Businesses raise the price of their goods and services to cover their tax expenses, like any other expense. So, when King Soopers pays three and a half times the property tax you do, they just raise the prices of the food we buy. This is evil genius! You vote to raise your home's mill levy "for the children," not connecting that you're raising your food prices (along with everything else).

If you spend the night in a Colorado hospital you're paying a hidden bed tax which goes to Colorado's Medicaid system. By state law, hospitals aren't allowed to break out this

charge on your bill.

Think about that a second. The state is using the force of law to keep you from knowing what you are being taxed. So, your anger goes to the hospital.

Interesting that every other state calls this ploy a "Hospital Provider Tax" or a "Bed Tax." Colorado is the only state to call it a "fee." This leads us to the greatest dark money scam of all.

Our Taxpayer's Bill of Rights requires that we get to vote on raising taxes or debt. But our state Supreme Court, which seems to have a jihad against TABOR, ruled all government has to do is label a tax a "fee" and it doesn't have to go to a public vote. It can go dark when the politicians wish.

So now over half, over half, the money we Coloradans pay to the state is dark money which falls outside the bounds of TABOR. Conveniently, this means they don't have to ask us when they create a new "fee," nor ask us to keep excess revenue when it goes over TABOR limits.

That's exactly what the governor hopes happens to this Hospital Provider Fee, some \$800 million a year and growing. He wants the legislature to turn it dark, away from we voters and away from our prying eyes.

Please see: www.i2i.org/all-the-taxes-you-cannot-see/

Colorado Dems Kill Bill Protecting Religious Freedom

Press Release
by the Colorado House
Republicans

DENVER, Colorado

Democrats on the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee, killed, on a party-line vote, a Republican-led effort to protect Colorado citizens' right to free exercise of religion. The bill, House Bill 1013, sponsored by Representatives Steve Humphrey (R-Eaton) and Dave Williams (R-Colorado Springs) is similar to the 21 other state laws that protect religious freedom.

"Religious freedom is the

primary right of all Americans, and it is unfortunate that here in Colorado there is no protection for the free exercise of religion as guaranteed by the Bill of Rights," said Humphrey. "Business will continue to thrive, as they do in Indiana and the majority of states that have strong legal protections against religious discrimination – we need to get the balance right for our citizen's here in Colorado!"

Representative Williams added:

It's troubling that Democrats are willing to violate the sincerely held

beliefs of an individual. Millions Coloradans agree that they should be free to practice their faith without the threat of reprisal from government or political extremists whose ideology denies our fundamental First Amendment rights.

During the committee hearing, two Democrats, who were NOT members of the committee, were given unprecedented permission to question witnesses. Those additional members brought the total number of Democrats to eight, compared to only three Republicans on the committee for debate.



God gave us free will and has infinitely demonstrated that he has not, does not, and will not interfere with that right no matter how poorly we use it. The left would strip you of all rights because they "know" better than you what is "best" for you. It's abundantly clear who has your best interests at heart, yet we ignore God and follow the mindless, "good little pet" dribbling's of the left. Technology has created such decision overload that we mindlessly follow the lies of the mass leftist media like cattle being led to the slaughter. When in fact the source of our rights is also the only answer in our best interests; return unto God that right of free will and ask him to direct our decisions.

Sponsored by Critical Path Metalworks, Westcliffe, Colorado

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

Fremont BOCC Says 'NO' to 20% DA Budget Increase

by Barbara Penezic

If the DA's Office had hoped for a honeymoon period from Fremont County Board of Commissioners, resolution No. 7 just closed and locked the door on that happy thought. There will not be a 20 percent budget increase and sharing funds belonging to the Sheriff's Office is undetermined.

Several issues were noted by the District Attorney in support of the 20 percent budget increase. The increase in felony cases particularly in Fremont County are said to be more complex than in past years. The loss of revenues that will occur when the State-wide Discovery Sharing System becomes functional is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$100,000. The funding of the DA's Office over the past decade has not kept pace with rising costs, including health care.

The funding issues pointed out by the DA's Office are the same issues that plague every county department, office and agency. The county is still in recovery from the recession years and the hardships created during that period. We are reminded that frustrations

were necessarily dealt with. Office hours were cut back to save on operating costs. County retirement contributions were eliminated; the Board now must balance the needs of all county-funded services in the effort to restore and increase the level of service offered to the taxpayers of Fremont County.

The surge in felony case filings can be attributed to 'drug cases'. The DA further indicated the increase in case filings can be attributed, in part, to the hiring of additional deputies by the Fremont County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Beicker, however, states that new personnel are still in training and have sent no cases to the DA. The DA is not happy with the increased budget for the Fremont County Sheriff's Office. This increase is a result of a one percent sales tax, passed by the taxpayers and limited to 10 years. The funds are to be used for new equipment and much needed capital improvements to the county jail. The board has not been convinced that these expenditures have impacted the District Attorney's budget.

The Fremont County Sheriff's Office has indicated a

willingness to meet with the DA and discuss the possibility of sharing funds between the two offices in order to meet current budgetary needs, however, the DA did not express a desire to move in that direction.

District Attorney Molly Chilson has not been shy in expressing her displeasure. She pointed out that Fremont County was the only hold-out in the 11th Judicial District. Chilson has threatened to take the matter to the courts and stated that she will proceed as if the increase had been approved.

The Board expresses admiration and respect for the dedicated attorneys and staff that work in the DA's Office, adding that we all owe them a debt of gratitude. However, the final conclusion by the Board found that a 10 percent increase is reasonable and necessary, but a 20 percent increase is not.

(Reporter: This budgetary shortfall may lead to more pleas and less justice; Lady Justice may be blind but she still requires funding if Justice for All is to be maintained.)

Be Informed...Get Involved

Events February 3rd-13th

- **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.

Feb. 4, Wellspring Church will host a breakfast fundraiser from 7-10 a.m. in Chili's at 106 Latigo Lane in Cañon City. Breakfast is \$7 per adult, \$5 per child under 12. Get your tickets today. Seating is limited and are available by calling 429-0350 or Kelly at 429-7778.

Feb. 4, The Friends of the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and Local History Center will host a panel program on "Colorado Penitentiary Remembrances" at 1 p.m. at 612 Royal Gorge Blvd. with moderator Ed Norden. Randy Froshee, Eli Atcheson, Bud Gentry and Jody Tinsley Jacobshagen.

Feb. 11, The Cañon City Music & Blossom Festival will host its 15th annual **Chocolate Lovers Walk** from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., starting at 1101 Main St. behind Ann's Serenity Day Spa. Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce at 403 Royal Gorge Blvd. or at 275-2331; Ann's Serenity Day Spa at 1101 Main St. or by calling 269-9994.

Feb. 11. Cañon Rose Acoustic Society will feature **Phil Volan and Jolene Bell in concert** at 7 p.m. at the Fourmile Community Building at the corner of Steinmeier and E. Main St.

Feb. 13, Pamper Your Heart will be featured from 4:30-7 p.m. at Evangelical Free Church. Sponsored by St. Thomas More Hospital, join them for a free heart healthy dinner, presentations by health experts, a variety of heart health screenings, education and resources. Register online at stmhospital.org/calendar or call 285-2179.

15th Annual Chocolate/Art Walk: February 11th, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Press Release

February 11th, 2017, The 15th Annual Chocolate/Art Walk, begins at 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This year the Cañon City Music & Blossom Festival will be holding their 15th Annual Chocolate Walk and will be joining with local artists in the area who will be designing unique chairs. The chairs, called 'Chair-ity Chairs', will be located in several participating downtown stores to be voted on during the Chocolate Walk. On the first Friday in March,

chairs will be auctioned off at 715 Main Street and the proceeds will be divided between CASA and the Blossom committee.

Tickets can be bought for \$20 which will include a Chocolate Bar, a colored bag designed by our local elementary school children. (Thank you to the Sutton's who are teachers at Florence and Cañon City.) Over \$30, in increments of \$20 to \$50 can be found in any chocolate bar. These 'Blossom Bucks' can be used as cash at any participating downtown store. Dave and Lynda

Lambert, Cañon Signature Mortgage, provided the chocolate bars from The Chocolate Therapist, in Littleton, Colorado.

So far, we have 45 merchants sign up and only 350 tickets will be sold. You can buy your tickets now at the following locations: Chamber of Commerce, Vintage Revival, Pedal Pusher Flowers and Altered Antiques. Every year we sell out. Starting point will be 1101 Main Street. If anyone would like to decorate a chair, please call Kathleen at (719) 429.5344.

Photos from 2016 Chocolate Walk



The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture State, National, & World

"All That Is Necessary for the Triumph of Evil Is That Good Men Do Nothing"

Edmund Burke

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.

Media Reform and Discerning the Truth

The mainstream news media must be reformed otherwise our nation is in great peril. The media, using half-truths, "if-then" scenarios, and alarmist statements of fear mongering criticizes every move that President Trump makes. If only, we as Christian Americans would stand in solidarity on behalf of restoring the truth and stop reading, listening to, or watching the mainstream media, perhaps the drop in ratings and revenue would result in change. We also must call out the lies and interpretations of the news based on a Marxist world-view. Remember a little bit of truth makes a better lie. Many like the idea of turning off the media, but they, wishing to be informed, ask how they could do this and still be responsible citizens.

This comes down to two basic concepts: 1) no longer patronize the news media, and 2) discerning the truth. People ask how I do this. First and foremost, I pray and ask guidance from the Holy Spirit. I stopped watching the news about 10 years ago. I get my news through sources and by visiting a very small handful of websites, starting with The Drudge Report. Drudge is a news aggregator. It has the stories from all the major and many minor news outlets. It writes its own news very little. On this site, one can compare what the various news outlets are writing about a certain topic. When reading the stories, I also look for clues to go to the original source--If a speech is quoted, for example, I find the text. If a source is quoted, I go to that person's or organization's website and read all of what was said in its context.

There are assumptions that I make. If the story is written by a mainstream

media outlet, I assume that it is lying and that there is an opposite point of view. Then I look to find what others have written or find the actual source of the story. It's easier than you think. If something is reported that is outlandish, it's probably not true. I avoid sites like Snopes because they are funded by George Soros or other leftists and only perpetrate lies. One has to be careful not to fall into "group think"--that is what you see when all the reporters are using the same words to describe something, as if they are using talking points. Judge every story as to what the angle is and try to boil it down to one fundamental statement.

For example, President Trump is ending the immigration policy of the previous administration, including federal funding to sanctuary cities that harbor illegal aliens. The news media, however, reports that he is jack-booting immigration and stirs fear that families will be deported. These people, however, are here illegally. Laws are on the books to protect citizens. Illegals chose to break the law. This is part of boiling down the news to a fundamental statement. It is just an example. Discernment and truth are important and we need to know how to detect them before media reform can occur. Jesus said in Matthew 24:4, "Take heed that no man deceive you." It is your responsibility to judge properly and not be deceived. You can do a little journalistic work and be well informed each day in the same time you would normally watch the news. Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!

Bill Wilson

www.dailyjot.com
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Illegals Send BILLIONS Out of the U.S.A.

by Mark Browne,
CNSNews.com

—MEXICO CITY, Mexico

Most of the billions of dollars in cash sent to Mexico by Mexicans living in the U.S. is transferred by "undocumented" workers, and the total was expected to top \$26 billion in 2016, according to research by the Washington institute Inter-American Dialogue.

Mexico is the fourth largest recipient of all cash transfers – known as remittances – worldwide, according to the Congressional Research Service.

"Remittances....[which] exceeded \$70 billion U.S.dollars in 2015, are playing a key role in the region's economic development...."

A survey by Inter-American Dialogue of remittances to Mexico found that a majority, 67 percent in 2013, were sent by "undocumented" individuals living in the U.S.

Of all of the remittances sent to 11 countries in Latin America from the U.S. in 2015, Mexico received the largest share by far at 36 percent – four times more than the closest competitor, Guatemala, at nine percent, the survey found.

"Remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), which exceeded US\$70 billion dollars in 2015, are playing a key role in the region's economic development," according to the institute's 2016 "Remittances scorecard."

The majority of remittances to Mexico, 88.2 percent, are sent using the services of companies like MoneyGram and Western Union, the institute found.

It said the cash transfer industry has "expanded dra-

matically," and now helps migrants in the U.S. pay their bills in Latin America.

But while services have expanded, the cost of sending money to Latin America and the Caribbean has dropped to below five percent of the transfer amount.

Ira Mehlman, media director for the Federation for American Immigration Reform, says the cash transfers reveal a "hidden cost of illegal immigration because you have millions of dollars being taken out of local communities."

"Remittances being sent out of the country represent a substantial economic impact on local communities because that money is not circulating in those communities," Mehlman told CNSNews.com.

"On top of that, a lot of

"....\$130 billion is transferred out of the U.S. each year by more than 35 million migrants."

the people generating this money are working off the books and there are no payroll taxes being taken," he added.

In remarks published in the Inter-American Dialogue's "Remittance Industry Observatory" newsletter last November, Manuel Orozco, a member of the institute's Financial Services Advisor board, said that "at least" \$130 billion is transferred out of the U.S.

each year by more than 35 million migrants.

Data gathered by the

"In 2015one-third (29.6 percent) of all of the remittances sent from the U.S. to Mexico originated in California"

Mexican government and BBVA Research shows that in 2015, nearly one-third (29.6 percent) of all of the remittances sent from the U.S. to Mexico originated in California. Just over 14 percent was sent from Texas, and 5.1 percent from Illinois.

In 2015, remittances sent to Mexico totaled 2.3 percent of the country's GDP, the data showed.

Forbes has reported that the money sent from the U.S. to Mexico by migrants "replaced oil revenues as Mexico's number one source of foreign income" in late 2015.

Some 90 percent of all remittances sent worldwide are in cash, rather than by

electronic or bank transfer, according to Alix Murphy, director of mobile partnerships at the remittances company WorldRemit, which operates in 47 states of the U.S.

She said the market for money transfer services in the U.S. was "very diversified".

"We're talking hundreds of companies that are regulated by the states."

Individuals using the cash transfer services are required to show identification, but not immigration

status, Murphy said.

Foreign-issued IDs, however, can be used, according to a 2016 analysis by the Congressional Research Service.

The Remittance Status Verification Act, introduced by then-Senator David Vitter (R-LA) in 2014 but never passed into law, would have fined senders of international cash transfers seven percent of the transfer amount if they could not show "proof of status under U.S. immigration laws."

If enacted, such a law could slow the flow of remittances considerably, according to David Landsman, executive director of the National Money Transmitters Association.

In remarks published in the "Remittance Industry Observatory" newsletter last November, Landsman said that "[f]orcing remittance companies to be immigration enforcement agents would make remittance volumes plummet in the best of times."

"Their transactions would then go through more informal methods, and become completely opaque to law enforcement."

Please see: <http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/mark-browne/survey-shows-most-billions-mexico-bound-cash-remittances-each-year-are-sent>

**You also be patient. Establish your hearts,
for the coming of the Lord is at hand.**

James 5:8 NKJV

Obama First President to Spend More on Welfare Than Defense

by Terence P. Jeffrey,
CNSNews.com

Barack Obama was the first President of the United States to spend more on “means-tested entitlements”—AKA welfare—than on national defense, according to data published by his own Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Historical tables that the OMB posted on the Obama White House website, include annual totals for both “national defense” spending and “means-tested entitlement” spending going back to fiscal 1962—which is three years before President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation creating the Medicaid program, a means-tested entitlement that together with the Children’s Health Insurance Program enrolled 74,407,191 beneficiaries as of November 2016.

In every year, from fiscal 1962 through fiscal 2014, total national defense spending exceeded means-tested entitlement spending.

In fiscal year 1962, for example, the federal government spent more than twelve times as much money on national defense (\$52,345,000,000) as it did on means-test entitlements (\$4,300,000,000).

However, national defense spending peaked in 2011, when it hit \$705,554,000,000. By contrast, means-tested entitlement spending has increased each year since 2012.

Finally, in fiscal 2015, it exceeded national defense spending for the first time.

In fiscal 2014, according to OMB Historical Table 3.2, “total national defense” spending was \$603,457,000,000. That same year, according to OMB Historical Table 8.1, “means-tested entitlement” spending was \$601,700,000,000.

But in fiscal 2015, total national defense spending declined to \$589,965,000,000 while means-tested entitlement spending climbed to \$666,900,000,000. Thus, fiscal 2015 became the first year that means-tested entitlement spending—welfare spending--exceeded national defense spending.

The fiscal 2016 num-

bers published in the OMB’s Historical Tables are estimates, but they show means-tested entitlements exceeding national defense spending \$709,600,000,000 to \$604,452,000,000.

The federal government accounts for “national defense” spending as budget function category 050. As summarized by the House Budget Committee, it includes “the military activities of the Department of Defense (DoD), the nuclear-weapons related activities of the Department of Energy (DoE) and the National Nuclear Security Administration.” It also includes “the national security activities of several other agencies such as the Selective Service Agency, and portions of the activities of the Coast Guard and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.” It further includes “the pay and benefits of active, Guard, and reserve military personnel” and the “health care for military personnel and dependents.”

The introduction to the OMB’s Historical Tables defines and lists the means-tested entitlements included in Table 8.1. “These programs include entitlement programs that limit benefits or payments based on beneficiary income and/or assets,” it says. “Also included are payments from refundable tax credits that are phased out at certain income (generally, Adjusted Gross Income) levels.”

Among the 26 means-tested entitlement programs listed by the OMB are: food stamps, Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the Supplemental Security Income program, refundable Earned Income Tax Credits. It also includes “Veterans’ Pensions benefits.” This program is not counted as a part of category 050 national defense spending but category 700 veterans spending. “The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers pension programs for certain low-income veterans and their surviving spouses and dependent children,” the Congressional Research Service explains.

Please see: <http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/terence-p-jeffrey/obama-was-first-president-spend-more-welfare-defense>

Rand Paul's ‘Obamacare Replacement Act’ Deserves Trump’s Attention

by Michael Hamilton,
The Heartland Institute

President Donald Trump and Congress should seriously consider adopting the “Obamacare Replacement Act,” the latest and possibly best Republican proposal aimed at repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The plan would lower the cost of insurance by eliminating various mandates and increasing patients’ health care buying power by expanding the use of health savings accounts (HSAs).

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) tweeted a photograph of the first page of the draft bill on Saturday, January 14th, with the caption, “Coming this week: THE Obamacare replacement bill.”

Although Paul has yet to introduce his plan as legislation in the new Congress, he revealed its central components this week on various television networks, reiterating guideposts he sketched in an op-ed for the news and commentary site ‘Rare’ on January 2nd. Paul wrote:

“What should we replace Obamacare with? Perhaps we should try freedom:

1. *The freedom to choose inexpensive insurance free of government dictates.*
2. *The freedom to save unlimited amounts in a health savings account.*
3. *The freedom to buy insurance across state lines.*
4. *The freedom for all individuals to join together in voluntary associations to*

gain the leverage of being part of a large insurance pool.”

These points boil down to putting patients, instead of government and industry cronies, at the center of our health care system. Paul’s freedom strategy would increase the influence consumers have over the products insurers price and sell. It would open up insurance-buying opportunities for consumers other than the binary “employer-sponsored” and “individual” markets. And it would make consumers instead of their employers the target audience of insurance products, and help people pay for their health care and insurance, too.

The key to insuring a great-

er number of people than are insured under ACA is insurance, “which means “getting rid of Obamacare mandates on what you can buy,” Paul told Jake Tapper on State of the Union on January 15th. As a rule, ACA fines people who have not purchased an insurance plan compliant with the law’s 10 mandates for minimum essential coverage.

Each ACA-compliant plan must cover outpatient care, emergency room services, hospitalization, pregnancy and newborn care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, prescription drugs, post-injury rehab, labs, preventative care, and

RAND PAUL
see page 23

The Seven Most Egregious Acts of ‘Social Justice’ in Obama’s Military

by Jonah Bennett,
Daily Caller News
Foundation

Former President Barack Obama left a legacy of radical social change in the military, but aside from major shifts like allowing women in all combat roles and repealing the ban on open transgender service, many cases of rampant political correctness have been memory-holed.

Here are just seven egregious examples of social justice that crept into the armed forces over the last eight years.

1. Handbook tells soldiers not to criticize pedophilia

A proposed U.S. Army handbook from 2012 ordered soldiers not to make any nasty comments about the Taliban or criticize the common practice of pedophilia in Afghanistan. The handbook also suggested that the West’s failure to grasp culture in Afghanistan was partially responsible for the spate of insider attacks. In 2012 alone, insider attacks accounted for 63 deaths of members of the U.S. coalition.

According to a draft of the document leaked to *The Wall Street Journal*, the document urges troops to stop “advocating women’s rights,” or bring up “any criticism of pedophilia,” or “anything related to Islam.”

Commands to ignore pedophilia in Afghanistan have by no means been limited to the 2012 draft handbook. Rather, *The New York Times* reported in 2015 that troops have been told repeatedly to ignore cases of pedophilia and extreme sexual assault — even on U.S. military bases.

2. The Bible disrespects diversity

In December 2014, the Army punished Chaplain Joseph Lawhorn for listing Bible verses as an optional resource in a suicide prevention training class. While his training was very well-received, one soldier complained and contacted an outside organization to put pressure on the military. Army Col. David Fivecoat, Lawhorn’s superior, condemned him for supposedly violating Army policy. Fivecoat told him he was to stop mentioning the Bible because it disrespects diversity.

3. An Air Force base banned the greeting, “Have a blessed day”

The Robins Air Force Base in Georgia banned the greeting “Have a blessed day” in March 2015 after a non-religious, anonymous airman bitterly complained that the greeting made him feel as though he was supposed to believe that a higher power affected the course of his day. Just over 10 other airmen joined in his objection to the greeting.

The old greeting was replaced with a new phrase of, “Have a nice day.” But after attention was raised to the issue, the backlash on social media was so swift and severe that Air Force officials outside the base stepped in and reversed course, allowing the original greeting to stand.

4. Army ROTC cadets pressured to walk around in bright red heels for social justice

In April 2015, Army ROTC cadets at Arizona State University said they were pressured by leadership to

walk around in bright red high heels as part of the university’s “Walk A Mile In Her Shoes” event. The event was intended to raise awareness about sexual violence faced by women. While event participation was officially listed as voluntary, cadets said if they dodged attendance, they’d face repercussions. The Army’s own website about the event in 2014 confirmed that there was a push to get as many participants as possible.

“Walk a Mile [in Her Shoes] is open to everyone,” said Army Sgt. 1st Class Aretha Garrett. “We are trying to get maximum participation and even if they can’t be there, we still encourage them to make a donation.”

5. DoD-approved training listed the Declaration of Independence as a document that perpetuates sexism

Again in April 2015, *The Daily Caller* broke the story that a Department of Defense-approved training course referred to the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Bible as “historical influences that allow sexism to continue.” This presentation was created by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. The training states the Bible is full of quotes that could be interpreted as sexist. And of course, the Declaration of Independence only mentions “men,” and does not include the word “women.”

6. Navy domestic violence training said traditional gender roles are an example of male privilege

The *Daily Caller News*

Foundation exclusively reported in November 2016 that a training lesson on domestic violence in the Navy stated that abusers use male privilege by “insisting on traditional gender roles.”

“I was considering joining the Navy, to get away from all this sjw [social justice warrior] crap in college and to serve my country, but this makes me have second thoughts. Is it that bad or is this just a one-off kinda thing?” one Reddit user asked in response to the training.

7. Navy tried to fire a chaplain for Biblical teaching on sexuality

Navy Chaplain Wes Modder, who retired in 2016, declared in an interview as he was leaving that the military has become openly hostile to Christianity, and his own experience bears witness to this fact.

“If you’re a Christian and you come into the military today, it’s going to be difficult for you,” Modder said.

The Navy tried to fire Modder after a gay activist officer tried to bait him into answering controversial questions on homosexuality and same-sex marriage. After answering from a Biblical perspective, the Navy removed Modder from duties. It was only when Modder contacted the legal defense group, First Liberty, that he was able to retire without trouble.

Read more: <http://daily-caller.com/2017/01/23/the-7-most-egregious-acts-of-social-justice-in-obamas-military/#ixzz4WgzxUDCo>

Planned Parenthood's Prenatal Care Deception Exposed

by LiveAction.Org

Washington, D.C.

—January 24, 2017

Today, Live Action released a new investigative video debunking Planned Parenthood's claim that it provides critical prenatal care to pregnant women. The abortion giant has insisted that prenatal care is one of its core services that women will lose if its taxpayer funding is cut off. But Live Action's investigation proves those services are virtually nonexistent at the abortion chain.

"The Prenatal Care Deception" is the first in Live Action's "Abortion Corporation" series of investigative videos highlighting Planned Parenthood's own employees saying its focus is providing abortions, not women's health care. Live Action is releasing the investigative series as Congress plans to redirect Medicaid dollars away from Planned Parenthood to local health clinics and also vote on the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

"The Prenatal Care Deception" video: <https://youtu.be/ekgiScr364Y>

Although Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards told the media in 2011 that "Prenatal care – these are the kinds of services that folks depend on Planned Parenthood for," Live Action investigators searching for such services at Planned Parenthood were turned away by 92 of the 97 centers they contacted. They received responses like:

"Planned Parenthood offers abortions, so they don't offer prenatal care."

– Tempe, AZ, Planned Parenthood

"No, we don't do prenatal services. I mean, it's called Planned Parenthood, I know it's kind of deceiving."

– Merrillville, IN, Planned Parenthood

"No, see, we don't see pregnant women as a way of giving prenatal care, we see pregnant women, um, you know, if they are considering other options."

– Santa Fe, NM, Planned Parenthood

"Planned Parenthood says it's a champion of women's health care, yet prenatal care, which is an essential service for expectant moth-

ers, is virtually nonexistent," said Lila Rose, president and founder of Live Action. "Our investigators who wanted to keep their babies were turned away by 92 out of 97 Planned Parenthood centers. It's clear that despite its claims, abortion is the priority and the only option for pregnant women that visit Planned Parenthood."

Live Action is investing \$500,000 in a digital ad campaign to push the video series out to millions of Americans. Future videos will further expose Planned Parenthood's lack of health care services and include the testimonies of former Planned Parenthood managers.

"The upcoming 'Abortion Corporation' investigative videos, combined with our recent video that debunked Planned Parenthood's claim that only three percent of its services are abortions, are a powerful argument to defund Planned Parenthood of its half a billion dollars in taxpayer funding," said Rose.

Live Action's previously released "3 percent" video uses Planned Parenthood's

own numbers to prove it doesn't perform a single mammogram, and it performs less than two percent of all women's cancer screenings in the United States, yet it commits over 30 percent of America's abortions: 887 abortions a day and over 320,000 abortions last year alone.

"Our investigators who wanted to keep their babies were turned away by 92 out of 97 Planned Parenthood centers."

Planned Parenthood is so focused on abortion that it aborts 160 children for every one child it refers out for adoption.

A challenge from Lila Rose

"I anticipate Planned Parenthood will respond as it usually does by denying the overwhelming findings of this investigation," said Rose. "That's why I encourage media outlets to contact any of the 97 centers that Live Action did – or any others – and ask them if they offer prenatal care, how long they've been doing so, and then ask for proof. The media will

find results similar to ours: Planned Parenthood's prenatal care claim is bogus.

"We know from past experience that Planned Parenthood is untrustworthy and lies repeatedly to the public, as it did during Live Action's 2011 child sex trafficking exposé. Last

week, Live Action released public records that show Planned Parenthood failed to report child sex traffickers to local authorities as it had claimed. Planned Parenthood also lied about retraining thousands of its staff to identify and report sex traffickers. Instead, a former manager says the sessions were used to train staff how to identify undercover journalists. You can read the article and see the evidence here." (<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/jan/17/planned-parenthood-failed-take-sex-trafficking-ser/>)

About Lila Rose and

Live Action

Lila Rose is the president and founder of Live Action. Over the last decade, she has been responsible for undercover investigations that exposed Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry providing sex-selective abortions, covering up the sexual abuse of minors and child sex trafficking, accepting racially motivated donations, disseminating medical misinformation, and participating in other abuses of women and children. Live Action has one of the largest grassroots bases in the pro-life movement and reaches 15-25 million people online every month.

Live Action Facebook: [facebook.com/liveaction](https://www.facebook.com/liveaction)

Live Action Twitter: @LiveAction

Live Action Instagram: @LiveActionOrg

Lila Rose Facebook: [facebook.com/lilagracerose](https://www.facebook.com/lilagracerose)

Lila Rose Twitter: @LilaGraceRose

Lila Rose Instagram: @LilaRoseOfficial

Please see: <http://liveaction.org/defund-debate-hits-live-action-exposes-planned-parenthoods-prenatal-care-deception/>

Surprise? Massive Federal Spending on Schools Utterly Failed

by Greg Piper,
The College Fix

In his inaugural address, President Donald Trump said the educational system was "flush with cash" and yet "leaves our young and beautiful students deprived of all knowledge."

It wasn't much of an overstatement.

As one of its last acts before the peaceful transfer of power, the Department of Education published its findings on the impact of "one of the Obama administration's signature efforts in education," *The Washington Post* reports:

The School Improvement Grants program has been around since the administration of President George W. Bush, but it received an enormous boost under Obama. The administration funneled \$7 billion into the program between 2010 and 2015 — far exceeding the \$4 billion it spent on Race to the Top grants.

The money went to states to distribute to their poorest-performing schools — those with exceedingly low graduation rates, or poor math and reading test scores, or both.

Schools had to adopt one of four measures to get up to \$2 million a year for three years:

"....replacing the principal and at least half the teachers, converting into a charter school, closing altogether, or undergoing a 'transformation,' including hiring a new principal and adopting new instructional strategies, new teacher evaluations and a longer school day."

It completely bombed, possibly because half the schools chose "the least intrusive option" of "transformation."

The administration refused to change course even as interim evaluations showed it wasn't working: The most recent in 2015 found a third of targeted schools "showing no improvement or even sliding backward."

The final results:

Test scores, graduation rates and college enrollment were no different in schools that received money through the School Improvement Grants program — the largest federal investment ever targeted to failing schools — than in schools that did not.

American Enterprise Institute resident fellow Andy Smarick is gobsmacked by the billions the feds spent – most of it from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which former Education Secretary Arne

Duncan promised to monitor like a hawk – giving empty promises to kids in failing schools "things were going to get better":

Smarick said he had never seen such a huge investment produce zero results.

That could end up being a gift, he said, from Duncan to Betsy DeVos, President Donald Trump's nominee for education secretary and is a prominent proponent of taxpayer-supported vouchers for private and religious schools.

Results from the School Improvement Grants have shored up previous research showing that pouring money into dysfunctional schools and systems does not work, Smarick said: "I can imagine Betsy DeVos and Donald Trump saying this is exactly why kids need school choice."

(Editor/GG: It ain't the money folks. Trillions of wasted dollars later, the politicians are still throwing away our tax money. The solution, as it ALWAYS has been, is leadership, innovation, and accountability. WE finally woke up last year and voted a businessman into office. Let's pray it is not too late.)

Please see: <http://www.thecollegefix.com/post/30832/>

Anti-Planned Parenthood Ad Yanked Off Air

by Rachel Stoltzfoos,
Daily Caller News
Foundation

Washington, D.C., radio station has pulled a pro-life ad off the air, after people took offense to the way it highlighted Planned Parenthood's dealings in the body parts of aborted fetuses.

"It's a fact," the ad begins. "Planned Parenthood is America's largest abortion business. Nearly a million abortions in the last three years. Its executives were caught on tape bragging about selling baby body parts. Under federal investigation, Planned Parenthood spent \$30 million last election on political activism — not women's health care."

WTOP initially agreed to run the ad, which was paid for by the pro-life group Susan B. Anthony List (SBA), and placed it on the air for about two-thirds of its paid run-time. The radio station changed its tune, however, after getting negative feedback from listeners, and asked the Susan B. Anthony List to provide a less inflammatory edited version for the remainder of the ad's run time. The group refused, and the ad was pulled.

The ad ends with a call on Congress to defund Planned Parenthood and re-

direct those funds to community health centers that do not provide abortions. But at issue in the dispute between WTOP and the pro-life group was the use of the term "bragging" in the description of the fetal harvesting scandal. The Susan B. Anthony List refused to change "bragging" to "discussing."

"People are complaining like crazy over the SBA ads," a WTOP representative said in an email reported by *The Washington Free Beacon*. "Can you get them to forward you the backup (article etc.) for the discussing sale of aborted fetus parts ascertain." And in a later email, the representative reportedly asked whether it's "possible to get new copy that reads 'discussing' rather than 'bragging.'"

WTOP Station Manager Joel Oxley disputed SBA's account of the dispute, telling *The Free Beacon* the decision was not a result of listener feedback, but of criticism from station management: "In our view, 'bragging' constituted a subjective characterization while the word 'discussing' is an objective statement of 'fact.'"

SBA labeled the station "shameful" in a statement announcing the decision to pull the ad, and quickly started a fundraising cam-

paign to get the ad out on other stations.

"This regrettable response to our radio spot on one of the lead topics in the current national debate is shameful for a First Amendment institution like WTOP," SBA President Marjorie Dannenfelser said in a statement. "Planned Parenthood speaks boldly of its pride in performing more abortions than any other entity in the United States and packaging the body parts of these aborted children for profitable use. Those are the facts, however uncomfortable they may be for some to hear."

The Center for Medical Progress began releasing a series of videos exposing Planned Parenthood's dealings in aborted fetuses the summer of 2015, releasing embarrassing tapes obtained undercover of top executives discussing fetal harvesting. Congress is moving to defund the organization in 2017, after President Barack Obama vetoed a similar measure last year.

(Editor/GG: Yup, another media (lib of course) outlet censoring the people's voice.)

Read more: <http://daily-caller.com/2017/01/14/dc-radio-station-yanks-uncomfortable-planned-parenthood-ad-off-the-air/#ixzz4VvzGRUfE>



The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand



"Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle—"

A Psalm of David, Psalm 144:1

Whoopsy! Angry Man Pulls Gun on Undercover Cop in Road Rage Incident

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

A Charlotte, NC, man sideswiped another vehicle Thursday afternoon and refused to stop, prompting the driver of that vehicle to follow the hit-and-run suspect while on the phone with 911 dispatchers. The hit-and-run suspect then stopped, and the driver jumped out of the vehicle with a gun in his hand.

That proved to be a bad move, as the vehicle he hit was an unmarked Charlotte-Mecklenburg police car, and the driver was an undercover cop who turned out to be pretty good with a gun.

"Then at some point the vehicle that was immediately in front of the undercover officer's car stopped, driver got out of vehicle, produced a handgun, and shots were fired from the undercover detective, unfortunately striking and killing the driver," Deputy Chief Jeff Estes said.

Estes said the incident was an apparent case of road rage.

"Everything is initial here but that's what it appears — a road rage incident that unfortunately turned out to be tragic, fatal," Estes continued.

Estes said he wasn't sure if [Josue Javier] Diaz, a Hispanic man, fired any shots after getting out of the vehicle.

"I don't know any details about how the weapon was produced," Estes said. "I can tell you we recovered it on the scene right there."

According to CMPD, the officer is also Hispanic. The officer's name is not being released "due to the undercover nature of [his] assignment. Per depart-

ment protocol, the detective will be placed on Administrative Leave, which is standard procedure.

No officers were injured in the shooting.

Predictably, anti-police social justice warriors rushed to the scene to share their abject ignorance.

A small group of people gathered at the scene shortly after the shooting to protest. At one point, after investigators reopened Albemarle Road the group attempted to block traffic.

One man, who asked not to be identified, didn't know Diaz, but came out after hearing the shots.

"They're Hispanic and they could be my brother. But it doesn't matter because he was just doing his job," he said.

Another man was seen repeatedly yelling at police. He told WBTB he didn't agree with what happened to Diaz.

"They've got tasers, they've got pepper spray, there are other ways," he said.

As we've noted repeatedly, pepper spray and tasers (along with less-lethal shotgun baton loads and batons) are equipment for dealing with suspects who are not armed with ranged weapons like firearms. When a suspect has a firearm, the only appropriate counter for law enforcement or any other citizen is a firearm, or to borrow from Wayne LaPierre, "the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun."

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/bob-o/2017/01/27/angry-man-pulls-gun-on-undercover-cop-in-road-rage-incident/>

Congress Reverses Obama's Social Security Gun Grab

by NRA Institute
for Legislative Action

—FAIRFAX, Virginia

The National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA) today scored a significant victory when Congress agreed to review a final rule by the Obama administration that would wrongly strip law-abiding Americans of their Second Amendment rights.

"Congress's decision to review the Obama administration's back-door gun grab is a significant step forward in restoring the fundamental constitutional rights of many

law-abiding gun owners," said Chris W. Cox, executive director, NRA-ILA. "The NRA has been fighting this unconstitutional government overreach since it was first discussed and we look forward to swift congressional action to overturn it."

Last year, the Social Security Administration finalized a proposed rule to ban certain recipients who use a representative payee from owning firearms. This ill-conceived action stripped the right to keep and bear arms without due process from some of the most vulnerable Americans.

The NRA immediately opposed the Obama administration's efforts when the proposal was first announced in summer of 2015. The NRA has fought every step of the way to ensure that social security recipients are not stripped of their rights without due process of law.

Congress is now going to review the Obama administration's unconstitutional ban under the Congressional Review Act (CRA). CRA allows Congress to dispose of any actions an outgoing administration initiates in its last six months. This final rule falls under that time frame, and the review process is

expected to move forward in the House and receive a vote as early as next week.

"We are pleased that Congress is moving swiftly to ensure that law-abiding Americans' constitutional rights are respected," concluded Cox. "We would like to thank Reps. Sam Johnson (R-TX) and Ralph Abraham (R-LA) for leading this effort in the House, as well as with Speaker Paul Ryan for his leadership on this issue."

Please see: www.nra.org/articles/20170125/nra-wins-victory-as-congress-reverses-obamas-social-security-gun-grab

Is Nationwide Constitutional Carry Inevitable?

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

Over at National Review Online this morning the always prescient Charles C.W. Cook treats us to a look at one of the emerging trends in gun rights activism that is sweeping the nation, the reassertion of the core natural right to bear arms without a permission slip from the government.

Its popularity keeps spreading inexorably across the country. And so the train keeps rolling on. For years, advocates of the Second Amendment have fought tooth and nail to ensure that no American was left without the right to obtain a carry permit. Now an even more salutary standard has become fashionable: The abolition of the permitting system in its entirety. In 2015, three states added their names to the growing list of those that have adopted "constitutional carry" — states, that is, in which Americans do not need to obtain permits before legally carrying guns. Last year, another three joined their ranks. This year, the number joining could be as high as five. And after that? *Le déluge*.

Over at the Crime Research Prevention Center, John Lott Jr. notes that the number of "constitutional carry" states will reach 16 or 17 by the end of this year. Given that 15 years ago there was only one (two if you count Montana, which I'd classify as a

"mostly constitutional carry" state) — and that 30 years ago most states had extremely restrictive permitting processes to boot — this is nothing short of remarkable. Elections, as it is said, have consequences.

It's hard for most Americans to come to grips with the fact that federal gun control is entirely a 20th century invention, and stands on very dubious constitutional grounds at best. The Founders were very, very clear in their views that the federal government has no standing to pass gun control laws. "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed" by our federal government is an absolute. These unconstitutional federal laws will either be undone in the high court, or as we're seeing, with the Hearing Protection Act and other proposed bills, via the legislative branch.

The drive for "constitutional carry" that seems to be rapidly gaining steam is part of a larger battle that was joined in the 1980s, as concealed carry reform began at the state level and spread across the nation in fits and starts, and which is nearly complete today.

Americans have seen progressives throwing gun laws up with reckless abandon for over 80 years on the state, federal, and local level, with no discernible positive long-term effects. It's almost like the American people have realized that restricting

liberties is a flawed proposition, and one that doesn't make us safer in any way, shape or form.

Expect to see the constitutional carry movement to move much faster than the fight for concealed carry. The groundwork has already been laid, the old myths are busted, and as Mr. Cook so wryly notes, "Elections have consequences."

Radical progressives, while still firmly entrenched in both the entertainment and news media, are ever-more radicalizing and appear to be collapsing as the dominate force in the Democrat Party, and may even sink the party itself into regionalized, urbanized obscurity. Opposition to constitutional carry laws will be vocal, but thin. As more states pass these laws and suffer no ill effects, the fear-mongering of the "there will be blood on the streets!" shriekers will become nothing more than background noise, and in many places, it already is.

The gun control movement had their play at forcing policy down the throats of citizens for decades, and yet accomplished nothing. Now the pendulum is swinging back the other way towards liberty.

What a wonderful time to be alive!

Please see: bearingarms.com/bob-o/2017/01/25/nationwide-constitutional-carry-inevitable/

**It is God who
arms me with strength,
And makes my way perfect.**

Psalm 18:32 NKJV

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Obama Says Goodbye to America’s Gun Owners with Lead Ammo Ban

by NRA ILA

Gun owners knew that Barack Obama would not leave quietly. The only question was what else was coming.

An answer came late in the day on January 19th. With his successor’s inauguration only hours away, he completed his final assault on gun owners’ and sportsmen’s rights, this time in the form of Director’s Order No. 219 of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The order seeks to expand “the use of nontoxic ammunition and fishing tackle on Service lands, waters and facilities and for certain types of hunting and fishing regulated by the Service” outside of those areas.

The order states that FWS policy will be to “[r]equire the use of nontoxic ammunition and fishing tackle to the fullest extent practicable for all activities on Service lands, waters, and facilities by January 2022, except as needed for law enforcement or health

and safety uses.” It also calls for collaboration with state and fish wildlife agencies in implementing this policy.

The order goes on to outline a series of steps the FWS will take to implement the policy, first and foremost of which is the favored gun control tactic of using “science” to re-enforce pre-existing policy goals, rather than to guide those goals in the first place. Rather humorously, the order states, “The Service will continue to support targeted research to understand the human, fish, and wildlife health benefits of using nontoxic ammunition and fishing tackle.”

And if science were to discover lead wasn’t so bad or non-lead ammunition and fishing tackle could actually lead to adverse health effects of their own? Well, that wouldn’t be ‘targeted’.

The order also requires that “over the next 24

months, each Regional Director, in coordination with relevant Assistant Directors, should work with individual states, regional state fish and wildlife associations, and tribes to identify opportunities to expand existing state, Federal, or tribal requirements for use of nontoxic ammunition and fishing tackle on Service lands, waters and facilities.”

It goes on to state that FWS Regions should enact and enforce on their own lands, waters and facilities, requirements for non-lead ammunition and fishing tackle that have already been enacted by states, tribes, and other federal agencies.

The FWS additionally plans to use “available information” on the negative impacts of lead ammunition or fishing tackle on “sensitive, vulnerable or Service trust resources” to justify “steps to expeditiously require” non-lead alternatives “to the fullest extent practical [sic]... to

benefit such species or resources.”

And, finally, “[t]he Assistant Director, Migratory Birds, in consultation with

National Flyway Councils and individual states, will establish a process to phase in a requirement for the use of nontoxic ammunition for recreational hunting of mourning doves and other upland game birds.”

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which represents the state agencies that manage these resources, had harsh words for the FWS order. Association Pres-

ident Nick Wiley stated, “this action flies squarely in the face of a long and constructive tradition of states working in partnership with the Service to effectively manage fish and wildlife resources.” He also characterized the order as “a breach of trust and deeply disappointing given that it was a complete surprise and there was no current dialogue or input from state fish and wildlife agencies prior to issuance.”

To be sure, this latest development further demonstrates the petty, partisan tendencies of the former president and is as aggra-

vating as it was predictable.

But it should do little to dampen the high spirits of sportsmen and sportswomen as Donald J. Trump takes the oath of office, for it sharpens the contrast between the outgoing and incoming administrations. Like so much of what Barack Obama claimed as “accomplishments”, it will hopefully amount to little more than a symbolic act of defiance by a president with little of substance to show for his eight years in office.

In the meantime, it is yet another reminder that a long, trying epoch for America’s gun owners is finally at an end, and a new day with a new outlook is at hand.

Please see: <https://www.nraila.org/articles/20170120/obama-says-goodbye-to-america-s-gun-owners-with-a-likely-short-lived-lead-ammo-ban>

“This action flies squarely in the face of a long and constructive tradition of states working in partnership with the Service to effectively manage fish and wildlife resources.”



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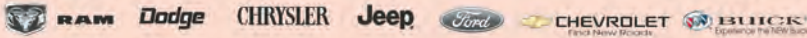


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PETE'S PICKS OF THE WEEK

Pete invites all new, current and past customers, plus his friends to stop by, say hello and see the inventory selections Town and Country Salida has to offer.

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Stk # C16140A **\$10,995**

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Stk # R451A **\$12,988**

2013 Nissan
Rogue S



Stk # J763B **\$12,988**

2011 Kia
Optima LX



Stk # J744A **\$12,988**

2016 Chevy
Cruze LT



Stk # FP852 **\$13,988**

2007 Chevy
Suburban LT 4x4



Stk # PP6012A **\$16,995**

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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.

Pig Politics

Once again, those of us who live in the ding weeds have been reminded that we lack the necessary sophistication to comprehend the complexities of liberal protest marches. The ladies of the Left paraded the promenades of America demonstrating against things that left us, the culturally challenged, confused. Some who were interviewed, stated they were rallying for women’s rights which only compounded the perplexity. Even after applying great mental exercise, I couldn’t think of any rights that have been denied them. To my knowledge, women have the right to murder babies, serve in the military (even in combat zones), become CEOs of large companies, serve in Congress or run for the Office of President. They have the right to declare themselves gay or depressed, transgender or befuddled, Muslim or Christian, even patriot or patrician. Perhaps the beef is equal pay for equal work which we can appreciate, but again, I remain bewildered! The women that worked in Hillary’s Secretary of State Office and presidential campaign made less on average than the men. I suppose the art of protesting is predicated upon proper selectivity...why shoot a skunk when you are hunting bigger game?

Many of these assemblies were punctuated with signs and speeches that utilized profanity and vulgarities for emphasis. This, too, is a cause of puzzlement as we wonder how obscenities actually aid in gaining a civilized conversation. Not that Hollywood and fellow idolaters care (in this case, worship of self), but God weighs in with a powerful proverb: “As a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.” (Proverbs 11:22) In the plainest words possible...a woman can be decorated with incredible physical beauty, but if she lacks discretion, her comeliness is compared to a jewel of gold used to garnish a pig. This pearl of wisdom leads us to wonder....are the police the pigs or are they the plastic petunias in pink?

Discretion is an attribute of God (Jeremiah 10:12), and humanly, it means the ability to discern or discriminate (!) so as to draw a careful and correct evaluation of a situation or problem. Discretion is kin to “humility” as it implies that the discreet person will walk circumspectly (Ephesians 5:15) and not “behave themselves unseemly.” (I Corinthians 13:5) The demonstrators were obviously neither discreet nor humble, nor do they profess to be.

Further evidence of the porker posture is found in Proverbs 19:11: “the discretion of a man deferreth his anger.” Regardless of the complaints being registered, the common denominator that descended on the oppressed was anger. Displeasure was

expressed over the wretched plight of American women, but the general consensus was rage over the results of a democratic election. We must suppose that the protesters would prefer a status quo outcome, leaving our borders open to the infiltration of terrorism, shipping good paying jobs overseas and the continual downgrading of our wall of defense—the military. The cloak of many colors that dresses discretion is common sense, but upon its removal Prudence is left to shiver in the cold until she is numb and frozen.

God, always willing to be politically incorrect, continues to pile on: “It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, (man cave) that with a brawling woman in a wide house.” (Proverbs 21:9) Ten verses later the Lord adds insult to injury: “It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.” I have been considering investing in a tent manufacturing company, based on the expectation of a lot of husbands seeking alternative residence.

Demonstrations of angst and dissatisfaction are nothing new, but a parade of thanksgiving would be totally unique. The imagination runs wild with thoughts of millions of women gathering to express gratefulness for the Biblical foundation stones of America. If Martin Luther King could have a dream, why can’t I?

They were advancing in waves of beautiful, multiple colors. Their clothing suggested joy and a certain brightness but also the freedom of the individual. If there was a commonality in their appearance, it was simply that all were appropriate. Most were smiling, many were laughing as they seemed to embrace a disposition of gratitude and charity. I, the beholder, saw a unique beauty in each face, regardless of age.

A host of placards were present, some with Scripture verses while others duplicated quotes of our forefathers. One large canvas on a pole carried by our two teen-aged granddaughters read: “It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge The Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and to humbly implore His protection and favor.” – George Washington

A temporary platform accommodated several speakers. As I approached, a woman of likely Middle Eastern descent began to address the crowd. She spoke of the brutality she experienced living under Sharia law, but when she and her husband discovered and received the grace of Jesus Christ, their lives were wonderfully transformed. Tears of joy flowed down her cheeks as she expressed her appreciation for America.

Alas, I awoke, and it was but a fading dream, but hope has not diminished!



A Sheepdog Barks!

It’s the end of week two and it gets better every day. The swamp is being drained. Not everyone has the same idea what the swamp is. In my mind the swamp is one full of power and corruption. You work for the federal government now and you face a five year or lifetime ban on lobbying. Great! If you are a life-long liberal State Department employee that doesn’t want to work on conservative things – turn in your letters of resignation and be gone. Wonderful! If you are the acting Attorney General and you don’t want to enforce the law and uphold your oath to the Constitution – you’re fired. Fantastic! Yahooo, the swamp is down already and there’s much more “draining” to come. WOOF!

The LPSDs and elected Democrats are in a complete melt down. The main stream media is coming unglued. And Hollywood is imploding. Can it get any better? I don’t think so. President Trump (PT) ain’t perfect, but he’s the perfect one we need in Washington D.C. breaking all the molds. What a delight. WOOF!

Even the Republicans are angry, especially the RINOs. That’s great also. Business as usual is no longer. This last week a senior GOP aide (probably for McCain or Graham) told Politico White House reporter Josh Dawsey “we are getting tired of the chaos.” Really? Buckle up Buttercup. It’s gonna get a lot worse (aka better) before it gets better. When the “straw lions” run to the press, and mew like the kittens they are, you know things are going well. MEEOW! Thank God things aren’t going along as they always have. There’s a new Bull in the China Shop. Break things, PT. We are with you. WOOF!

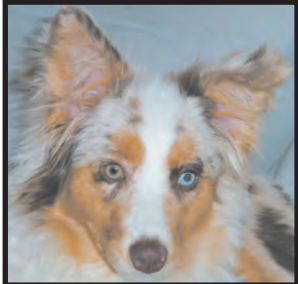
So, the latest number is 20 executive orders and counting. The Dems are screaming: “when will it stop?” HOWL! Who knows? Who cares? Obama signed 18 in the same period and they were all bad. Most of PT’s have been to repeal Obama’s. Like I said, things are off to a great start. Our biggest worries are the Senate Republicans, yes I said Republicans. If the straw lions don’t turn into real li-

ons there will be trouble. If they stay strong and back PT up, there will be no stopping the Trump Agenda or the Republicans. Quit pussyfooting around with Schumer and get these Cabinet picks done. WOOF!

This last week the outcry was about the extreme vetting policy and the temporary restrictions on seven majority Muslim countries. It is past time to get this vetting procedure right. The crocodile tears from the LPSDs (and the Statue of Liberty) are fake. Fake Tears! Didn’t see Senator Chuckie Schumer crying after 9-11 did we? The former president wasted no time speaking out. Ten days was his limit! And, not surprisingly, he lied once again in his first protest. While praising the “rioters” for resisting the religious discrimination (that is the lie) he said “American values are at stake.” Really? Whose values, because they are not my American values. I guess he means LPSD values and I have no respect for those. Obama’s “American values” almost destroyed us. And the LPSDs are still in total denial. Marie Harf, Obama’s old State Department spokesman, said this on Fox News Channel about PT’s executive order on the “Muslim Ban” (another lie and distortion), “some Syrians might die.” Really? This from the woman who’s boss (BHO) watched over a Syrian genocide of over 500,000 men, women and children and did nothing. Shame on you LPSDs. WOOF!

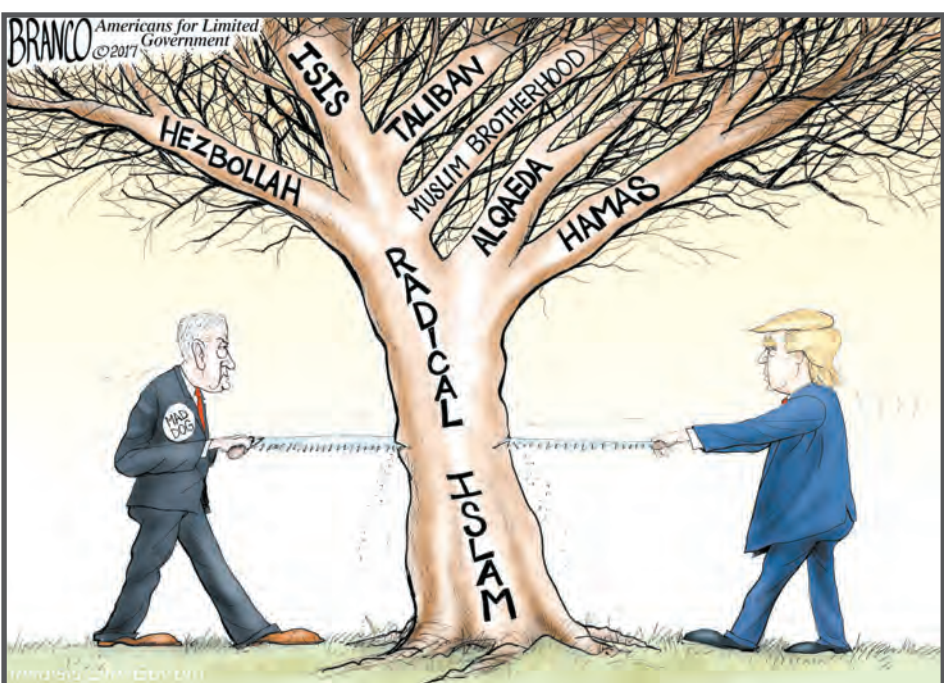
It’s great to finally see some real results that will protect America and Americans. America has always been, and always will be, a place for legal immigrants that want to assimilate. The problem is that’s not what is happening in an LPSD America. I heard it phrased this way recently – “America has been a great melting pot. Those coming in now, specifically Muslims, don’t want to melt.” Bingo! They want enclaves and sharia law. They want to ruin this country like they ruined the one they just left. That is not racist, bigoted or xenophobic. That is just fact. WOOF!

I was talking recently to



one of my sheepdog pups. He reminded me that the LPSD and the mainstream media are right about a “backlash” but they just don’t understand it quite right. The “backlash” IS Trump! “America First” is happening because of the last eight years of globalization and the one world order with no borders. A whole lot of us deplorables decided we had had enough of that crap and elected PT to change things. And he’s doing a great job of implementing real change, not that Obama “change and hope” malarkey. This was indeed a “change” election. Let it flow, baby! I’m beginning to believe that Trump may not really be a Republican president at all. And he is certainly not a Democrat president. He might just be an “AMERICAN” president. Let’s see what happens. The LPSDs are suggesting we shouldn’t try to protect Americans or put America First because that might anger other countries and our enemies and they may harm us. They are even telling us that this “Muslim Ban” is exactly what the Islamic Terrorists needed for recruiting. Really? I don’t think they need any help with that. Their hatred of the West and of infidels runs deep already. Look, the LPSDs have sworn a “scorched-earth” policy in working with PT. Their motto is “not now, not ever.” Good. Let’s get it on and we’ll see who is still standing in 2018 and 2020. If the straw lions in the Senate don’t cower or run and hide the Dems will be destroyed. The liberal anger level in America is at an all-time high. I believe that is caused by them being far too dependent on the government they see being reined in by this administration. Keep it up PT! I look forward to your tweets. WOOF!

May God Have Mercy On America! JMH



RAND PAUL
from page 18

pediatric care (including oral and vision care for children), according to Healthcare.gov.

Moreover, the law’s “guaranteed issue” and “community rating” mandates require insurers to sell insurance to Johnny-come-late-lies who wait to buy it until they are very sick, at the same price insurers sold it to other customers.

These mandates raise the cost of insurance for people who don’t want coverage for services they may never, and in some cases can never, use. Eliminating those mandates would lead to an influx of plans offering so-called catastrophic coverage with high deductibles for lower premiums than the least expensive Bronze plan offered on the Obamacare exchanges.

Expanding HSAs alongside eliminating these insurance mandates will not only give many (if not all) people tax breaks for dollars they spend on health care. It will reinforce the salubrious effects of making patients aware of the costs of their health care.

For example, a natural byproduct of allowing insurers to offer, and patients to buy without penalty, only catastrophic coverage would be people’s tendency to

use insurance less frequently to pay for health care needs. This would make not only insurance, but health care itself, cheaper, for three reasons.

First, people with catastrophic-level deductibles would not try to max out their deductibles each year, which many people now try to do under the illusion they will get free (to them) health care the rest of the year. Instead of chasing their maximum deductible, people would be more likely to pay providers directly for any services they can afford. This would raise price awareness as people calculate whether they should pay providers directly or use insurance instead.

Second, price awareness creates demand for price transparency. Most customers, including and especially responsible low-income people on tight budgets, want to know prices before they buy. To please these patients and earn their business, providers would increasingly post their prices up front, just as the Surgery Center of Oklahoma and Oregon Coast Dermatology do.

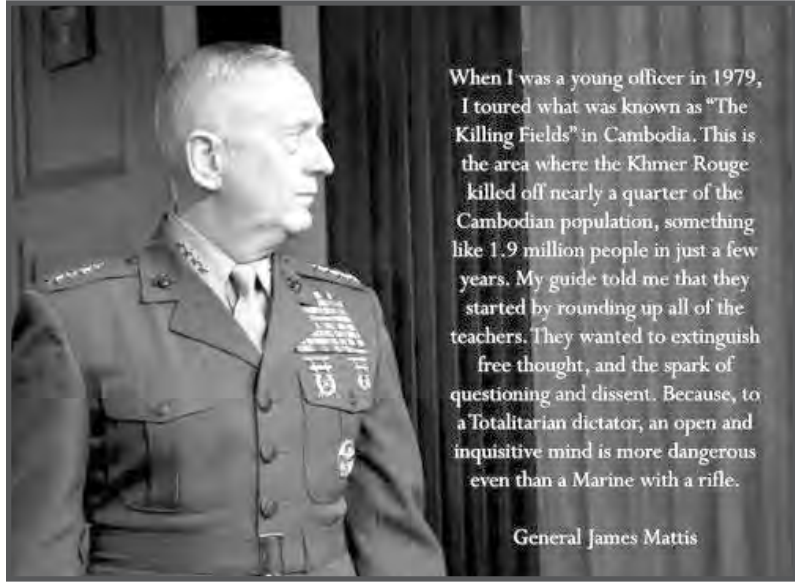
Third, an increasingly price-conscious customer base would give providers a greater incentive to compete on price and quality than the current system gives them, in which patients try to pay as much as possible to make their insurance plan worth the premi-

um. Instead, people would be more inclined to shop around for the best value and even negotiate with providers, who can afford to charge cash patients less when not funneling money through middle-man insurers, and providers would be more responsive to patient negotiations.

The current broken system’s overreliance on insurance for routine services prompts many to conclude, erroneously, that health care markets do not function as other markets do. The opposite is true. The health care market doesn’t look like other markets because regulations have distorted it. We are witnessing the result of policies distancing consumers from knowledge of prices. Our national leaders for at least the past eight years (but actually the past 74 years) have accomplished this using labyrinthine laws implemented by unaccountable bureaucracies.

Paul’s proposal contains important clues for escaping the Obamacare labyrinth. President Trump and Congress should grab hold of it, lest we remain stuck here long after President Barack Obama has escaped.

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Please see: <https://www.heartland.org/news-opinion/news/rand-pauls-obamacare-replacement-act-deserves-trumps-attention>



When I was a young officer in 1979, I toured what was known as “The Killing Fields” in Cambodia. This is the area where the Khmer Rouge killed off nearly a quarter of the Cambodian population, something like 1.9 million people in just a few years. My guide told me that they started by rounding up all of the teachers. They wanted to extinguish free thought, and the spark of questioning and dissent. Because, to a Totalitarian dictator, an open and inquisitive mind is more dangerous even than a Marine with a rifle.

General James Mattis

Democrat Immigration Policy



Folks, remember when President Slick Willie Clinton had his murdering Attorney General Janet Reno order federal goons with machine guns to kidnap at gunpoint a young immigrant Cuban boy, Elian Gonzalez, from his paternal relatives in his new home in Miami AND SEND HIM BACK TO CUBA because Castro was making a stink? He was a minor here legally. And the libs are complaining about Trump and ILLEGAL immigration?

SPRUCE BEETLE
from page 1

Since 1996, spruce beetle outbreaks have caused tree mortality on more than 1.7 million acres in Colorado.

The aerial survey also indicated that activity of Douglas-fir beetle, a close relative of spruce beetle that attacks and kills mature Douglas-fir trees, significantly increased on the Western Slope, with 19,000 acres impacted in 2016. Unlike spruce beetle, populations of this pest tend to erupt in numerous smaller pockets, rather than spreading outwardly from a few main population centers.

Eagle, Garfield and Pitkin Counties, along with most of the Gunnison Basin, were all heavily impacted with pocket activity in 2016.

Conversely, declines in impacted acreage were observed for western spruce budworm, Douglas-fir tussock moth and fungal leaf diseases of aspen trees.

Mountain pine beetle, which impacted nearly 3.4 million cumulative acres statewide over the past two decades, also has declined for years and remains at background levels, with fewer than a thousand acres affected statewide in 2016. But

the Beaver Creek Fire that burned more than 38,000 acres in Jackson County last year, much of it in areas previously impacted by mountain pine beetle, provides an example of how beetle-kill can help fuel large, intense wildland fires.

“Our partnership with the U.S. Forest Service on the aerial survey provides another great example of how working together, we can most effectively address forest health concerns that span property lines, including bark beetle outbreaks,” said Mike Lester, state forester and director of the Colorado State Forest Service. “Infor-

mation we obtain from the survey helps stimulate real work on the ground and allows us to focus our efforts on priority areas.”

Lester says the CSFS is dedicated to providing timely, relevant forestry information to the citizens of Colorado to achieve resilient forests. CSFS publications about spruce beetle, Douglas-fir beetle and many other pests, as well as how private landowners can manage them, are available online at www.csfs.colostate.edu/csfspublications.

The CSFS and USFS are using tools such as the

Good Neighbor Authority to jointly perform watershed restoration and forest management services on National Forest System lands. A Master Good Neighbor Agreement, signed by both agencies in 2015, fosters a collaborative approach and leverages state resources to accomplish work across land ownership boundaries onto National Forest lands.

Good Neighbor projects currently being implemented in Colorado to address spruce beetle-killed trees include an 86-acre timber salvage harvest operation in the CSFS Montrose District, to help address spruce

beetle mortality on the Uncompahgre National Forest, and public permit-oriented wood-removal projects in the Rio Grande National Forest west of Alamosa. Both projects are supplying forest products to businesses and for local use. The USFS and CSFS are working to identify future Good Neighbor projects to protect water supplies, manage insect infestations, reduce wildfire risk and meet other forest management objectives.

To obtain local 2016 Aerial Detection Survey information, contact the nearest CSFS office.

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CenturyLink Grant Funds “Earth and Space” Events

by Christine Schoech
Publicity Committee
Cotopaxi School

Thanks to grant funding from the CenturyLink “Teachers and Technology” grant, applied for by Cotopaxi High School Science Teacher, Randi Dotter, Cotopaxi School hosted several flight directors from the Challenger Learning Center of Colorado who presented a variety of STEM and space-related programs to all pre-K through 12 students throughout the fall semester.

Cotopaxi’s “Earth and Space” day events were held on September 28th. “The Stellar Portal,” a portable planetarium show, took students on a journey through space, ice worlds, and extreme weather events; “The Magic Planet” program, traveled from our Sun to Pluto on a discovery tour of our solar system. “How Does a Plane Fly?,” a hands-on unit about the basic principles of flight, allowed students to design and fly several paper plane models.

The Challenger Center’s flight directors returned on November 16th, for “De-

sign Day.” The “Living in Space” program taught students about space suit design and the hazards of space travel. “STEM Fairy Tales” and “LEGO Design Challenge” lessons provided students a chance to build and program small robots to perform simple tasks. Students also participated in the “Tower Power” design challenge, an activity that teaches the engineering design process using teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking and clear communications.

In addition to these outstanding STEM programs, the grant also funded two live space simulation missions. In early October, the fourth and fifth grade classes combined to successfully navigate the “Moon, Mars and Beyond” e-mission from their very own computer lab. The students employed all their reading, writing, math, and critical thinking skills to work as a team and communicate the position of the lost spaceship “Discovery” and rescue the astronauts! In early March, our ninth through twelfth grade students will travel to the Challenger

Learning Center in Colorado Springs and fly a simulated “Return to the Moon” mission. Students will work as crew members in Mission Control and the spacecraft, to make a safe and successful (simulated) return voyage to the Moon’s surface.

Cotopaxi School wishes to thank the CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation for funding these inspiring, engaging, educational opportunities. Our students, staff, teachers, and community will continue to benefit from the experiences of this year well into the future.



Eighth graders Shealee Coleman and Koylynn Gulliford help a group of first graders through the design and engineering process in the “Tower Power” design challenge.



Fifth grade teacher Guy Kraemer watches as his students navigate their way in the “Moon, Mars and Beyond” e-mission held in October.



Fifth graders Abby Feith and Izzy Donald build and program their own robot for the “LEGO Design Challenge.”

Photos Courtesy of Cotopaxi Schools



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