

What's in the Proposed 2017-2018 State Budget for the Average Coloradan

by Marianne Goodland,
The Colorado Independent

Today, the state Senate began the process of reviewing a \$26.8 billion budget that will cover the operations of state government for the year beginning July 1st, 2017.

That \$27 or so billion represents every penny the state is expected to collect and every penny it expects to spend from July of this year through June of 2018.

Under the proposed spending plan, for every dollar you pay in income and sales taxes, almost 40 cents would pay for K-12 education, a little more than a quarter goes to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (which pays for Medicaid), not quite a dime would go to higher education and eight cents goes for the Department of Revenue, which collects income and sales tax, the Division of Motor Vehicles,

for state government operations for 21 state agencies, including the Department of Revenue, which collects income and sales tax, the Division of Motor Vehicles,

it by covering shortages with “borrowed” funds that almost never get paid back. Two years ago, the General Assembly borrowed \$20 million from severance tax funds to cover shortfalls in the 2015-16 budget. Severance taxes are taxes that oil and gas and mineral companies pay. That money is intended to pay local communities for the impact of those activities, such as wear and tear on roads caused by heavy truck traffic. Some of those dollars also pay for water projects. Over the past half-dozen years, the General Assembly has “borrowed” \$400 million from the severance tax fund to cover shortfalls.

down this way: Out of that \$27 billion in revenue, the largest chunk, more than \$10 billion, comes from Colorado taxpayers in the form of income and sales tax. The federal government kicks in the second largest chunk, about \$8.3 billion, which includes matching dollars for health care costs. The federal government also covers most of the budget for the state Department of Public Health and Environment and about half the funds spent by the Department of Labor and Employment.

Another \$7.5 billion comes through what are known as

STATE
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“...how to get more money to education.”

of Human Services, which provides services to the disabled and runs the state’s mental health and youth corrections facilities.

the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Public Safety, which operates the state patrol.

What’s left, not quite 20 cents per dollar, would pay

By law, Colorado’s budget is required to be balanced, although lawmakers fudge

The budget basically breaks

County Commissioners Win 2017 Nobel Prize for Peace!!!

by George Gramlich

In a surprising move, the Nobel Prize Committee in Stockholm, Sweden, announced yesterday that the 2017 Nobel Prize For Peace has been awarded to our new Custer County Board of Commissioners, self-proclaimed “Dream Team”; Bob “Katnip” Kattnig, Jay “Princess” Printz and Donna “Minnie Pearl” Hood. The awards ceremony will take place April 1st in Westcliffe, CO.

The leading contender for the award was believed to be President Assad of Syria, but a surge of letters and emails from the liberals in Custer County to the Nobel Prize Committee in the last two months swung the decision to our “Republican” Dream Team. We are so blessed.

The Nobel Selection Committee said that within minutes of the Dream Team being inaugurated in January, an overwhelming sense of peace, contentment, security and harmony came over Custer County, replacing the distress, fear and terror that has gripped the county for the last eight years. Another factor that gave the Dream Team the win was their commitment to making the whole of Custer County a “Dark Skies” county where electricity and automobiles are banned. Commissioner Katnip explained recently in a public meeting that he didn’t have electricity and automobiles when he grew



The New Custer County Nobel Laureates: left to right: Commissioner Jay “Princess” Printz, Commissioner Bob “Katnip” Kattnig and Commissioner Donna “Minnie Pearl” Hood at a recent Commissioners meeting. The award ceremony will be at the ‘Cliffs, at sunrise, April 1st.

ment to making the whole of Custer County a “Dark Skies” county where electricity and automobiles are banned. Commissioner Katnip explained recently in a public meeting that he didn’t have electricity and automobiles when he grew

up in the county and we don’t need them now. He said light pollution is the biggest threat to mankind and the convenience of seeing something at night is a small price to pay for saving mankind and being a liberal nut-case mecca.

He is not worried about anybody not wanting Dark Skies, stating “We’ll have a couple of fake public meetings and then mandate the ruling in an illegal executive session. Heck, it’s the only way to do business here in Custer County.”

Photo by George Gramlich

All three new Nobel Laureates have interesting personal histories. Commissioner Katnip was raised in Custer County and left when he turned eighteen

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The righteous
cry out,
and the Lord
hears,
And delivers
them out of all
their troubles
Psalm 34:17 NKJV

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of Conservative
Colorado!*



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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The Sentinel: Custer County's Paper of Record

Our Opinion... From the Editorial Board



Who Are We To Believe?

Last Friday the American Health Care Act (AHCA) was pulled from the U.S. House floor prior to a vote. What is hard to determine is exactly what the facts are. Shakespeare said something was "rotten in Denmark." Many of us have learned that there has been, for a long time, something is "rotten in Washington D.C."

We citizens don't always know exactly what we can or cannot believe from our elected representatives. Speaker Paul Ryan said that the AHCA bill repealed Obamacare. The Freedom Caucus in the House of Representatives, as well as some conservative senators like Cotton, Paul and Lee, said that wasn't the case. They said it did not repeal Obamacare which the Republicans have promised to do for over five years, and that it still contained too much federal government involvement and too many subsidies.

They called it Obamacare Lite or Obamacare 2.0. Several others, including some well-respected conservative think tanks like the Heritage Foundation, backed up the congressmen and senators opposing the bill as written. It has even been called RINOCare. So, what's the truth? It's hard to determine that at this point but we offer some thoughts on the matter.

The establishment Republicans said the complete repeal of Obamacare had to be done in phases because of the senate rules of "Budget Reconciliation." At first that seemed reasonable and we thought that the three-phased approach made some sense. Then the members of the Freedom Caucus spoke out. The Freedom Caucus was created when conservatives in America began to elect "Tea Party" candidates to serve in Washington D.C. We have always supported the "Tea Party" principles

and the actions of those candidates who made it to our highest levels of government. Those "Tea Party" representatives changed the entire conversation in Washington D.C. At long last the Republican leaders had to deal with the constitutional issues that many conservative Americans wanted dealt with. These House members were joined by other "Tea Party" type voices like Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) and Senator Mike Lee (R-UT). These are politicians we have come to respect and so it makes us wonder. Was Speaker Ryan (a Boehner protégé) telling us the whole truth? Did they have to leave so much of Obamacare in place? We are not sure anymore. Since the AHCA bill was pulled last Friday we have learned that maybe the three-phase program wasn't due to the Senate rules. It seems

odd we never heard from the Senate Leader, Mitch McConnell (R-KY). Why didn't he speak out and defend Speaker Ryan if we were being told the truth? Why didn't he get a ruling from the parliamentarian, or make a ruling himself, about what would be allowed to pass the Senate with 51 votes? We believe the silence was deafening. Several opponents have stated that Obamacare can be completely repealed and replaced using budget reconciliation. Senator McConnell did not come out and dispute that.

This has given us great cause to rethink the current AHCA bill as written. The Republicans promised us repeal. President Trump promised us repeal. It needs repealed. It is a flawed and unsustainable program. It is good that the bill has been delayed. We need to know the truth, the

whole truth and nothing but the truth. We don't need any more "poppycock" from the establishment politicians in Washington D.C. At this point it's not clear if we can trust the Republican leaders. President Trump may have been misled also. We hope he learned a great deal on this initial effort and will deal with the lifelong politicians as they deserve to be dealt with. The Freedom Caucus is not the President's enemy. We believe Obamacare will eventually get repealed. But we want it done right. Promote the repeal bill that's been passed already in both houses of Congress and let the Democrats filibuster it if they wish. Then Obamacare remains squarely on their shoulders. Americans are smart enough to understand. The Republicans need to show some courage and unity and get this done for America.

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“We the People” Speak Letters to the Editor



Please send your submissions to us at sdcsentinel@gmail.com, mail them or bring them in to the office at 610 Main St., Westcliffe CO 81252.

Rules: We will print, at our discretion, the thoughts and ideas of our fellow citizen-patriots. Please limit your offerings to 500 words or less. No profanity or vulgarity, no personal attacks, and please sign your name and give us the general location of your residence. Also please provide your phone number or email - for confirmation only. *The opinions expressed here are solely those of the author; they do not reflect the opinions held or endorsed by the Sentinel.*

Socialized Broadband: A Lot of Dollars, Little Results

Letter to Editor;

I have repeatedly tried to write an analysis of the Custer County Economic Development Corporation’s Phase 2 and Phase 3 documents that were recently released. The documents were prepared by CenterLine Solutions for the CCEDC. All of this is paid for by you, the taxpayer. And because of that, I feel like you should know how your money is being spent and because I know a little about the subject, I feel like you shouldn’t be led down the primrose path.

For the last couple years, the Custer County Economic Development Corporation has been talking about increasing the broadband availability in the county. Their Phase 2 and Phase 3 documents were recently released. And since the CCEDC’s plans for broadband will be partially paid

for by the taxpayers of Custer County, I feel that it’s important to understand what they’re up to.

First of all, we need to understand that the CCEDC and their friends on the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) want to create a public utility (think phone company or electric company – one that has a monopoly and can charge whatever they want.) It will probably be run by the CCEDC which could make a lot of money on the deal, whose principals stand to make lots of money on the deal.

The CCEDC spent \$34K on these reports and is flashing them all over the county. The documents are available online and you should check them and not just take my word for it. Fair warning – their math is so unreliable it makes evaluating these docu-

ments nearly impossible.

Let’s start with the Phase 2 document. Table 2 says that there are currently 9,328 addresses served by broadband but it also says that there are only 6,553 addresses in the county. According to the Assessor’s Office, though, there are 9,122 parcels county-wide. Head-scratching. . . (The number 9,328 is calculated by adding the column in Table 2.)

If you add the column that lists the percentage served by each existing tower, you come up with 142.35%. You would think that these numbers by themselves would have been enough to put an end to the boondoggle being pitched by the CCEDC. But, no, they either also can’t do such complex math as addition or they don’t care, they just want more money and power.

Municipal broadband is a

colossal failure across the nation and just this simple math problem shows you why. If you look at the tables on pages 6, 7 and 8 of the Phase 2 document, you see this scenario played out in every table. And the bottom line of all of this is that if millions of tax dollars are spent on building six-more towers, 870 more addresses will have access to broadband. Access – Not Service. Those 870 more addresses will have to pay for service – just like we all do and those services will be subsidized by additional tax money. Then many more millions of tax dollars can be pocketed by those running the utility.

And who are those people who will profit? It’s probably wrong to paint every supporter with this brush but the CCEDC members that I know about are Charles Bogle, Dale Mullen and Wilson Jarvis and they

have already approached the towns and the county trying to get tax dollars to fund this fraud. And why is Commissioner Kattnig such a big supporter? And why does he get so mad when I refer to this as socialized broadband? I wouldn’t expect someone who has fed at the public trough almost his whole life to understand, but the legitimate role of government is not competing with private enterprise and using tax dollars to have an unfair advantage.

We currently have two wireless providers as well as a hard line provider (let’s ignore existing satellite). Much of the county has access to broadband with today’s technology. And that all improves dramatically in the near future. What is on the horizon that will make anything the CCEDC can scheme completely obsolete?

Before looking into the immediate future it is important to remember that both existing providers will add towers and improve the technology as the fiscal incentive merits. Before 2020, less than three years, 5G will deliver gigabit Internet everywhere and really, the theoretical speed could be 10 gigabits per second compared to 4G which is about 100 Megabits per second. Much, much faster. Then there’s the satellite race. Big names like Boeing, Elon Musk, Virgin Galactic and SpaceX among others are launching satellites that will provide Terabit Internet. And this access will be every place on the planet that can see a piece of sky. Even the most remote places on earth will have this access. Google and Facebook have their own proposed solutions

**BROADBAND
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Fund Set Up for Ashley's Children

by Sentinel Staff

A tragedy occurred in our little community this past week. Ashley Brady died of a gunshot wound leaving her three children, eight-year-old Evelyn, five-year-old Elliot and her one-year-old baby behind without a Mom.



Not surprisingly, our little community has come together to support and help these little ones. Sam and Trish Deatherage of Oasis Outdoor Center, Katie Johnson from Groom with a View and Peggi Collins from the 96 Roadhouse are spearheading this fundraising campaign, calling it Ashley's Angels.

There will be donation cans around town until at least Easter, and many businesses are donating a portion of their profits this week to the fund. There will also be t-shirts available for purchase starting Monday, April 3rd at Oasis Outdoor Center, 96 Roadhouse, Loan A Ranger pawn shop and

other participating retailers.

We are thankful for a community that opens their hearts and wallets to help these little angels. Checks should be made out to **The Ashley Brady Fund**.

Businesses supporting Ashley Brady Donations are listed below.

The Ashley's Angels Donation Locations

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The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
The Liquor Cabinet
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"We the People" Speak Letters to the Editor The Slow-down Theory

Dear Editor;

So, all the talking heads are trying to figure out why a party, the Republicans that did nothing to slow down the Obama agenda for eight years, would hand the Trump administration a defeat on Obamacare. They have, as guest members of the Freedom Caucus, explained what they did and why they did it. The financial talking heads are now blaming the markets' performance on the "slowing of the Trump agenda."

Meanwhile, the media left is saying that "the Trump agenda is dead." Personally, as a conservative, I would never take political advice from the Democrats

in DC or those in the media. All these people are looking in the wrong place.

Trump will face a headwind for four years because of one very important campaign promise. He will thwart elected officials from getting those six and seven figure jobs as lobbyists after they get voted out of office or retire. That's right, for elected officials and White House staffers, there is an enormous pot of gold waiting. Part of this scheme is the media giants, like CBS, NBC, ABC, *The NY Times* and *The Washington Post* who can't wait to further fill their ranks with former left wing politicians and political operatives. If you want proof, consider George Stephanopoulos' salary history since leaving the Clinton White House. We also have Dana Perino, Chris Matthews, Joe Scarborough and the late Tim Russert. Trump is against this custom and has signed an executive order to ban holders of public office from taking lobbyist jobs for five years.

Politicians hate this and I believe that they are trying to de-fang the tiger to ensure their gravy train, post politics. To them, Trump must fail so that their future wealth can be ensured. If their constituents have to suffer with 100% increases in health insurance fees, so be it.

Joe Cascarelli
Cody Park

Custer County Economic Development Corporation County Wide broadband survey completed

News Release

—March 26, 2017

With the recent completion of Phase 4 of the DOLA funded county wide broadband survey, potential antenna sites have been identified that can eventually support the doubling of broadband coverage in Custer County. An analysis of current and proposed antenna sights has been finalized to price and prioritize six antenna locations that

will provide the best system improvements in coverage. While the analysis has been primarily done to address the continued improvement of broadband coverage, there has been collateral benefit in improved cellular phone coverage. The schedule for the accomplishment of these improvements is highly dependent on the availability of grant funding and the negotiation of contracts with various broadband and cellular phone providers to host their equipment on the towers.

A Drop Box Link to pdf copy of Final Report CC Broadband Infrastructure Expansion Design Study_2017 03 24:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/0gfi4i0rpngifq8/Final%20Report_CC%20Broadband%20Infrastructure%20Expansion%20Design%20Study_2017%2003%2024.pdf?dl=0

For additional information contact the Custer County Economic Development Corporation. ccEconDevC@gmail.com.

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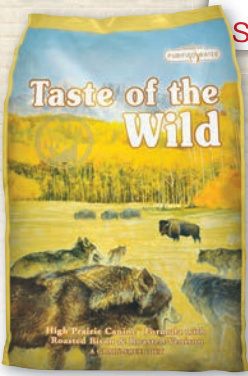
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Local Mountain News & Notices

Grant Funds Awarded for Children's Health Projects

WESTCLIFFE / SILVER CLIFF, Colorado

—March 24, 2017

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (WMVCF) is pleased to announce the 2017 grant awards in the amount of \$29,050 from the High Mountain Hay Fever Children's Health Fund. Awards are going to Club America for the Elementary Swim Program and Triathlon and for the Preschool and Parent-Child Aquatics; to Excellence in Education to fund the Sources of Strength and Summer Engagement Outreach programs for the C-1 School District; to the Custer County Early Childhood Council; and to the

Koons Foundation/Saddle Club for the Country Strong Teens program with the possibility of an additional matching grant.

The *Elementary School Swim Program and Triathlon* provides all 4th, 5th, and 6th graders, including homeschoolers, the opportunity to learn to swim at no cost to them or their families. The program culminates in the Bobcat Triathlon in May.

The goal of the *Preschool and Parent-Child Aquatic Program* is to have all Custer County preschool aged children able to be safe in and around water, and to provide preparatory skills for learning to swim and thereby reducing the

risk of drowning.

The *Sources of Strength* funds will help provide the third year of training and support this strength-based comprehensive wellness program that focuses on suicide prevention, bullying, substance abuse, and violence.

The *Summer Engagement Outreach* objective is to provide educational, artistic, and physical activities that foster good lifestyle choices, connect to community and create a sense of pride in high school aged at-risk youth.

The funding for *Custer County Early Childhood Council* will be used for

operations and staffing to create an Early Childhood Council for Custer County. The mission of the Early Childhood Council is to serve as a diverse, active network that collaborates and advocates to enrich and strengthen the lives of children, families and the community.

The *Country Strong Teens* program works with students in the Equine Assisted Learning and Activities Method. The equine activities are designed to empower students to learn and develop coping skills, creating emotionally and socially healthy young adults.

About the organizations

The High Mountain Hay Fever Festival Association has worked with the WMVCF to establish a designated fund to improve children's health in Custer County. In 2017, the Festival Association donated \$20,000 to the HMF Children's Health Fund, and the WMVCF is managing the distribution of the gift to the community based on a grant application and review process.

The High Mountain Hay Fever Festival Association is a nonprofit organization run by a group of volunteers who work year-round to produce the annual bluegrass festival. The Festival Association sponsors the annual High Mountain Hay

Fever Bluegrass Festival. In 2015-16, the Association distributed \$47,000 to local nonprofit organizations.

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation was founded in 1999, and since that time has distributed over \$3.3 million to just over 100 nonprofit organizations in Custer County. Grants and gifts have been given to the arts, education, recreation, historic preservation, emergency services, health care, land conservation and related fields of service.

For more information contact: kidshealthfund@gmail.com or visit the High Mountain Hay Fever web-page at www.wmvcf.org.

A Discussion on PTSD

Press Release
West Custer County Library

Post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, is often associated with the military, but it has many causes and victims. Gain a better understanding of how people develop PTSD, symptoms, and strategies to move past it at a free seminar on Saturday, April 8th at 10 a.m. in the West Custer County Library's Community Room.

According to the National Institute on Mental Health, PTSD "is a disorder that develops in some people who have experienced a shocking, scary or dangerous event." Every person's experience will differ, but some symptoms can be debilitating enough to affect relationships or work.

Local resident, author and presenter Susan Brace has a background of helping people cope with post-traumatic stress disorder. She began her medical career as a registered nurse and eventually became a licensed clinical psychologist. "You cannot change the memories, but you can change what the memories mean," said Brace. "The goal for victims is to identify and manage triggers to regain control in their lives."

The presentation is open to anyone in the community and will be followed by a question and answer session. For more information on this free library event, please contact Cathy McCarthy at (719) 783-9138.

After Prom Begins Fundraising: Talent Show Coming Soon!

Press Release

CCHS STUCO

As the days get warmer and students return from spring break, two big events are coming up for the school- Prom and After Prom. This year's Prom will be held on Saturday, April 22nd, at The 96 Roadhouse. The After Prom activity is sponsored by the CCHS STUCO and is a drug and alcohol-free party hosted by parents and teachers following the Prom dance. This year, the activity will begin at Tony's Pizza, then on to Cliff Lanes for bowling and games, then back to Tony's Pizza for breakfast and prizes. Traveling throughout the county in the middle of the night on the school "party bus" has become an "After Prom" tradition for CCHS students.

The After Prom committee consists of parents, students, teachers and involved community members. The goal of the committee is to raise \$5,000 that will be used for food and towards purchasing prizes to give away to students who spend the entire evening at the After Prom party. Last year students won nearly \$4,500 worth of prizes. "The After Prom party is an

all-night, substance-free event designed to insure the safety and well-being of our high schoolers on prom night," noted Stacey Schoch, parent and member of the After Prom fundraising committee. "The students really seem to look forward to this event every year and it appears to be a great way to keep them off the streets at a supervised event and not driving around looking for excitement. Our community really comes together and supports this event through donations and prizes for the students who attend. After Prom also provides a chance for the high schoolers to have one more special night together before graduation."

A big part of the fundraising effort is the "Westcliffe's Got Talent" show that has become a fun tradition each spring. **The talent show will be held on Thursday, April 6th, in the west gym of the school.** It is open to the community. The audience helps decide the winner by buying tickets to vote for their favorite act. "The concept of the audience voting with their pocket book is a great way for us to raise money and celebrate our local talent," noted After Prom committee member Troy Bomgardner. "It is al-

ways exciting to see students bring their talent to the stage and it is just a really fun night. I encourage the entire community to come out and celebrate our local talent!" Entry applications for the talent show are in the high school office and the entry fee is \$10 for individuals and \$15 for groups.

The After Prom committee would encourage the community to consider donating to the After Prom fundraising effort. In the past, numerous \$25 and \$50 donations help substantially in fundraising. Every donation helps to keep the youth of Custer County safe on Prom night. Checks can be written to CCHS After Prom and dropped by the school office on Monday-Thursday 8-4 p.m. Questions on ways to support the After Prom event can be directed to Troy Bomgardner at 783-4927.

The Booster Club has gathered a number of items for auction this year. Items will be auctioned off while the talent show winner is determined. Items range from bakery pies to items from local stores to gift certificates for ATV tune-ups. All proceeds go to support the After Prom.



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Local Mountain News & Notices



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 3/6, five firefighters responded in two fire apparatus to an auto rollover on St. Hwy. 69 North in extremely hazardous conditions. The fire crews handled traffic control while the Sherriiff's Office made fast work of investigating the scene due to black ice conditions. The driver had self-extricated, was unharmed and the vehicle posed no fire threat. On 3/6, three firefighters in one engine responded to a CO alarm on Spruce Road off CR 255. After extensive searching the culprit was identified as hydrogen out-gassing from a solar battery pack due to extremely high winds back-drafting a vent. The crew also uncovered a broken plumbing vent pipe in the attic area. On 3/9, four firefighters in two engines responded to an ambulance that had become stuck in deep snow in the Tanglewood area. One engine winched the unit out while the other engine tied in with a third engine and one firefighter to set up a landing zone for a medevac helicopter to transport the patient. On 3/11, four firefighters in two engines responded to report of a deck on fire in Silver Cliff. The fire was out upon arrival, but the crew overhauled the scene to make sure the fire, caused by an errant cigarette, was totally extinguished. On 3/13, three firefighters in one engine responded to reports of a possible propane gas leak at Club American on Main Street. Firefighters cleared the building of any hazard and tracked the probable cause to a tank that had been just filled blocks west of the Club facility. On 3/14, six firefighters in three engines responded to reports of wood smoke nine miles east of Silver Cliff. The culprit was found to be another wood-fire exterior boiler that typically emit huge amounts of smoke upon re-fueling or start-up. The owner was advised to call Dispatch any time the boiler was re-fueled to eliminate false alarms, and immediately acquire a smoke arrestor cap for the unit. On 3/19, two firefighters in one vehicle responded to a CO alarm at the Episcopal Church. The detector was found to be in need of batteries. On 3/20, two firefighters in one engine put water on a grass fire near the Cowboy Church. The cause was determined to be a chain dragged by a trailer that ignited grass by the edge of the highway. On 3/20, three firefighters in two engines responded to St. Highway 69 North to reports of a motorcycle accident. The crew handled traffic control while the Sheriff's Office investigated the scene and EMS did a medical assessment of the driver, who received minor scrapes. On 3/20, two firefighters responded in one engine to report of a campfire at Lake DeWeese during the initial days of the Stage 1 burn ban. There was no active fire and the Sheriff's Office conducted an investigation of the scene.

Bobcats Sport Schedule

MS Traveling Basketball When: Fri, March 31, 8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Where: West Gym	Goal Miners Soccer When: Sun, April 2, 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Where: West Gym
HS Track Meet - La Junta Open <i>Departure TBD</i> When: Fri, March 31, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Where: La Junta	Tentative MS/HS Band Solo/Ensemble Recital When: Mon, April 3, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Where: MPR
JV Baseball HOME v Cotopaxi When: Fri, March 31, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	MS Traveling Basketball When: Fri, April 7, 8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Where: West Gym
HS Track Meet - Sangre de Cristo Thunderbolt Invitational <i>Departure 5:45 a.m.</i> When: Sat, April 1, 8:15 a.m. – 4 p.m. Where: Mosca	HS Track Meet - Warren Mitchell Invitational <i>Departure 4:15 AM</i> When: Sat, April 8, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Where: Limon



Bobcat Menu • April 3 - April 6, 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. Chicken Patty Sand. Oven Fries Carrots & Fruit Milk	Lunch Elem. Meatballs w/gravy Mashed Potatoes Fruit Milk	Lunch Elem. Sausage Pizza Green Beans Fruit Milk	Lunch Elem. Pancakes Sausage Links Tater Patty & Fruit Milk
Lunch MS & HS Chicken Parmesan Roll or Pasta Mxd Veg & Fruit Milk	Lunch MS & HS Meatball Sub Oven Fries Bkd Beans & Fruit Milk	Lunch MS & HS Sausage/Veg Pizza Tossed Salad Gr Beans & Fruit Milk	Lunch MS & HS Waffles Sausage Links Tater Patty & 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			

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KIDS Friday, March 31, 2017

The Alaska Purchase

In 1725, Czar Peter the Great of Russia commissioned Vitus Bering, a Danish sea captain, to explore the North Pacific region. The Czar was interested in knowing if Asia and North America were connected by land. Bering and his men built a ship and sailed through the Bering Strait but never saw the North American mainland due to fog. They became the first Europeans to reach the St. Lawrence Island. In 1741, Bering led a second expedition and returned to Russia with sea otter furs.

In 1799, Russia chartered a fur trading company, Russian-American Company. This company prospered under Alexander Baranoff's management. In 1817, he was replaced. Competition from Americans, Canadians and the British made it difficult for Russia to sell furs profitably.

After the Crimean War (1853-1856) the Russians were struggling with debts accrued during the war, making them eager to sell Alaska. In December 1866, Baron Eduard de Stoeckl, Russian Minister to the United States, was instructed by Emperor Alexander II to approach the United States with negotiations for its sale of Alaska. Stoeckl approached William Henry Seward, the Secretary of State for President Andrew Johnson. Seward agreed to buy the region for \$7.2 million, approximately two cents per acre. On March 29, 1867, the two men completed the draft of a treaty and it was signed the next day.

Many Americans opposed the purchase. They called Alaska such names as *Seward's Folly* and *Seward's Icebox*. The treaty was submitted to the Senate for consent on March 30, 1867, and it passed the Senate on April 9th. On October 18, 1867, the America flag was raised at Sitka.

In 1896, a major gold deposit was discovered in the Yukon, and Alaska became the gateway to the Klondike gold fields.

During World War II, the United States recognized the military importance of the territory. Military installations were built and maintained in Alaska. In 1942, the government built the Alaska Highway as a military supply road.

On June 30, 1958, congress voted to admit Alaska into the Union. On January 3, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued a proclamation declaring Alaska the 49th state.

In 1968, two oil companies made one of the greatest oil discoveries of all time at Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic Coastal Plain. It is believed to be the largest in North America.

The Capital of Alaska is Juneau and in 2016, the estimated population of Alaska was 738,432.

by Audrey Slater, Sources: Britannica.com, World Book Encyclopedia

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

*“And whoever lives and believes in Me
Shall never die. Do you believe this?”*

John 11:26 NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

Health Fair Break-the-Fast

Press Release

The American Legion
Post 170

—March 27, 2017

The American Legion Post 170 will be serving breakfast during the Channel 9 Health Fair at Custer County School on Saturday, 8 April 2017, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Breakfast will be served in the Agriculture Classroom west of Custer County School across the parking lot. This year the menu will include breakfast burritos (eggs, bacon,

sausage, hash browns & green chili), biscuits and sausage gravy. Meals include coffee and / or orange juice. A basic breakfast will be \$7 to \$9 with a-la-carte items \$3 each.

This annual fund raiser helps support Veteran's programs throughout Custer County. Join us for a great breakfast value following your visit to the Health Fair.

For information contact; Joy Lowe at 783-4095 (joyfulnls@aol.com) or Larry Weber at 783-9468 (larrywrcs@yahoo.com)

See page 19 for
Health Fair Ad

Sheriff's Report...

On the dates below, there were **229** calls for service to the Sheriff's Office, **11** to EMS, and **4** to the Fire Department. As of March 26th, there were **11** males and no females in the county jail.

3/20/17:

Arrest: EMS, a sheriff's deputy and the Wet Mountain Fire Department were dispatched to Highway 69N MM 87 for a motorcycle accident. Nicky Doren of Salida was arrested for driving a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 or more and issued a summons for failing-to-drive in a lane and careless driving.

Prisoner Issue: EMS was dispatched to the Sheriff's Office for a behavioral emergency involving one of the detainees.

Equipment Taking: A deputy took a report involving a former property owner removing utility equipment from the home repossessed by the bank.

Domestic Disturbance: A deputy was dispatched to Bunker Hill Road in Silver Cliff Ranch for a domestic disturbance.

3/21/17:

Unconscious Male: EMS and a sheriff's deputy were dispatched to Wolf Street in Lake DeWeese for an unconscious male. The patient could not be revived and the County Coroner was dispatched to the scene.

Mischief: A party contacted the Sheriff's Office to file a report of criminal mischief to his automobile while parked at Lake San Isabel.

Menacing: A deputy took a report of menacing at Hermit Lane and Edwards Avenue.

3/22/17:

Prowler: Two deputies were dispatched to CR 341 to investigate a report of a prowler.

Bad Dawg: A deputy was

dispatched to CR 215 regarding a report of a dog killing chickens.

3/23/17:

Traffic Summons: Michael Conway of Westcliffe for speeding 20 - 24 over.

Arrest: Deputies responded to Highway 67 for a report of domestic violence in progress. Jeffrey Flores, of Wetmore, was arrested and booked into the Custer County Jail on charges of false imprisonment and domestic violence.

3/24/17:

Arrests: A deputy conducted a traffic stop on Highway 96 and arrested Rachel Ruiz, of Pueblo, on charges of driving on a revoked license for an alcohol related offense, violation of a protection order and possession of a controlled substance; and Nevin Sisneros, of Denver, on three counts of unlawful possession of a controlled substance and unlawful use of a controlled sub-



stance. Additional charges may be pending.

Traffic Summons: Rand Hoffman, of Highlands Ranch, for speeding 20 - 24 over.

3/25/17:

Suspicious Camper: A deputy responded to CR 310 on a report of a suspicious campsite with a camper.

Burglary: A deputy was dispatched to a residence on CR 291 to investigate a report of a cold burglary.

Traffic Summons: Edye Lucas, of Pueblo, for speeding 70 mph in a 55 mph zone.

Vehicle Break In: A deputy responded to Bishops Castle to investigate a report of a vehicle break in.

3/26/17:

Child Abuse: A deputy took a report at the Sheriff's Office for child abuse.

STATE from page 1

cash funds — that includes the money that comes from such things as state park admissions fees, severance taxes, college tuition, and the much-debated fee hospitals pay, which is matched by the above-mentioned federal dollars and then used, among other things, to cover healthcare costs for low-income patients. Cash funds are restricted, and are supposed to go back into program funding.

As the state Senate begins discussing the year's new

spending plan, two major topics are expected to dominate. The first is how to get more money to education.

The state cut funding for education by about \$1 billion in 2010, a move that was unsuccessfully challenged in court. The state has paid back only a small portion of that funding, and this year because they didn't fully fund education as required by law, that amount that is supposed to go to education grew, from about \$831 million to \$881 million.

Sen. Chris Holbert of Parker,

the Senate Majority Leader, pointed out that funding for public schools will increase by \$185 per student in 2017-18. But that is still less than is required by a 2000 law approved by voters that requires school funding to be increased annually according to the state's population and the state's cost of living.

The second big issue is what to do about the hospital provider fee. The money that fee brings in, about \$700 million, is counted as revenue under the voter-approved Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, which has caps on

how much money the state can bring in (and therefore spend). In order to keep from hitting the cap, and triggering the tax refunds that come with it, the proposed budget instructs hospitals to reduce the amount of revenue they send in by \$264 million. But losing that money also means sacrificing the matching federal dollars and would represent a significant cut in the funds to the hospitals, many of them rural, that rely on the provider fee dollars. That isn't sitting well with the hospitals nor rural lawmakers.

One way out is the path Democrats long have been

clamoring for: reclassifying the fee so that it no longer counts against TABOR limits. Last week, they were joined in that call by a surprise ally: Republican President Pro Tem Jerry Sonnenberg of Sterling.

Sonnenberg, who has 11 rural hospitals in his district, said he intends to sponsor a bill to reclassify the provider fee. His announcement won praise from the Colorado Hospital Association. The association called the proposed cuts "unsustainable" and said they would force some hospitals to reduce services and eliminate jobs, while others may have to close.

"There is growing consensus among Republicans and Democrats in the Senate and House that doing nothing would have broad and devastating impacts on very basic hospital, road and education programs, especially in rural Colorado," said Kevin Stansbury, CEO, Lincoln Community Hospital in Hugo.

The Senate is expected to debate the state budget on Wednesday and vote on it Thursday. It then heads to the House.

Please see: <http://www.coloradoindependent.com/164597/2017-2018-state-budget-preview>



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Help Wanted

The Custer County Road & Bridge Department is accepting applications for the position of **Truck Driver/Equipment Operator** in the Westcliffe area. The applicant must have a Class A CDL license with tanker endorsement, be able to lift 50 pounds and pass a pre-employment physical and drug and alcohol screening. Starting wage is \$16.00 per hour. Applications are available at the Road & Bridge Department in Westcliffe from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association is seeking a **Communications Specialist** at its Buena Vista headquarters. Responsibilities include planning, development and implementation of communications, marketing, and community involvement. Professional writing and proofreading skills are required. A college degree in communications, marketing/advertising or a related business field and at least two years of experience in a communications position are preferred. Proficiency with personal computers and software related to job duties is required. Knowledge of the rural electric industry is preferred. This is a full-time position.

Applications will be accepted through April 10.
Background checks and a pre-employment drug test are required following offer of employment but prior to beginning work.
For a full position description and application, visit Sangre de Cristo's website at myelectric.coop or email hr@myelectric.coop.

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Events Calendar

Friday, March 31, 9 a.m. & 7 p.m. BOCC Meetings Boardroom	Tuesday, April 4, 5:30 p.m. Westcliffe Town Meeting Westcliffe Town Hall
Friday, March 31, 9 a.m. – Noon <i>Sangres Shooting Sports Club</i> South Hwy 69	Wednesday, April 5, 9 a.m. BOCC Meeting Boardroom
Friday, March 31, 2017, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. <i>Indoor Star Gazing</i> West Custer County Library, 209 Main St., Westcliffe	Wednesday, April 5, 4 p.m. <i>Girl Scout Meeting</i> CC School Library
Friday and Saturday, March 31 and April 1 at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, April 2 at 2 p.m. <i>"John Wick: Chapter 2"</i> Action Crime Thriller R THE JONES THEATER \$\$ Westcliffe	Thursday April 6, 5-9 p.m. Talent Show West Gym
Saturday, April 1 All Day April Fools	Friday April 7, 9 a.m.–Noon <i>4-H Club Training</i> Sangres Shooting Sports Club S Hwy 69
Monday, April 3, 5:30 p.m. Silver Cliff Town Meeting Silver Cliff Town Hall	Saturday April 8, 8a.m. – 12 Noon <i>Amish Breakfast Fundraiser for WMPD</i> 6020 North Oak Grove Circle. Go N to Copper Gulch. Take Copper Gulch Road 1 mile past where pavement ends to 6020 North Oak Grove Circle.
Monday, April 3, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. <i>Saddle Club - Membership Meeting & Pot Luck</i> 90 CR 241, Westcliffe	Saturday April 8, 7 a.m. – 12 Noon Health Fair CC School West Gym
Tuesday, April 4, 9 a.m. BOCC Meeting Boardroom	

Services

Club America 50 E. Main Street Silver Cliff, CO 81252 (719) 783-0750	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.
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.	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.
Custer County Community Sharing Center Inc. 120 N. 3rd St. Westcliffe, CO 81252 (719) 783-3303 Fri. 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Wet Mt. Rotary Van Service For transportation needs, contact Van Dispatch <i>Special 5-Stop Van Route: Mondays 1:30 p.m.</i> (719) 783-2343 Mon. – Fri. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
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Happy Anniversary
Barbara and Terry!

Help Wanted: Detention Deputy

Starting Salary: \$12.00 (Min) to \$17.00 (Max)
Applications always accepted.

Applications available at 702 Rosita Ave, Westcliffe, CO 81252 or send an email to: cbarr@custercountygov.com Applications can be emailed.

Detention Deputy Job Description

A Detention Deputy with the Custer County Sheriffs Office has many duties. A deputy for this office is responsible for the adhering to Statutory Requirements, supervises activities of offenders of an assigned unit, coordinates the handling of high risk, complex, or sensitive incidents or cases. Performs the full range of duties of detention deputies, such as offender management, booking, drug screening, intervening in disputes, cleaning and organizing detention areas, safety security of jail operations, writing reports, preparing legal paperwork, and victim notification. Performs general jail operations such as cooking, cleaning and organization of jail, collection of fees, computer entry in record management system supervision of offenders in court, and transporting offenders to court and to medical appointments.

A detention deputy for this agency will be expected to arrive to work on time, work shift work, work holidays, work assigned shifts, occasionally work overtime and maintain a pleasant atmosphere for the citizens and staff they are in contact with. This office is an emergency service agency and lunch breaks are a paid working lunch and at times you may be expected to work through your lunch break. A detention deputy is required to stay alert to their surroundings and ready to respond to situations within a jail setting.

Full Custer County benefits are included in this job opening. These benefits include medical insurance, sick time accrual, vacation accrual, and retirement.



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An Update on the Ashley Brady Death Investigation

Press Release
Custer County Sheriff's Office
—March 28th, 2017

On March 22nd, 2017, at approximately 2:05 a.m., the Custer County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a male party stating his wife was unresponsive and cold to the touch in their residence. The emergency dispatcher directed the reporting party to begin CPR and then dispatched deputies to the residence. Sheriff's Deputies responded to 728 Ohio Street, Silver Cliff, where they found a male party, known as Michael Ratliff, and a female party, Ashley Brady, who had suffered an apparent gunshot wound to her chest. While attempting to assess the status of Brady, Ratliff, who was highly intoxicated, repeatedly attempted to interfere with the responding deputy and was later tased after assaulting the deputy.

Michael Ratliff was taken into custody for 2nd Degree Assault on a Peace Officer and Obstruction. Mr. Ratliff was at no time considered a suspect in the death of Ms. Brady and no additional charges against him are expected in the future. He was granted a personal recognizance bond and released from custody on March 23rd after being advised of the charges against him.

Mr. Ratliff and Ms. Brady were common law spouses who had separated for several weeks and were not living together at the time of the incident. There is no significant law enforcement history of issues between the couple and they have three children together.

The Custer County Sheriff's Office is the lead agency and The Colorado Bureau of Investigations and 11th Judicial District Attorney's Office are assisting with the investigation. It is

important to note all deaths are treated as homicides until the incident is investigated and the evidence indicates the results. On Friday, March 24th, an autopsy was conducted by the El Paso County Coroner's Office and the official report will not be available for two weeks.

Currently the death of Ms. Brady is still being considered suspicious.

A memorial service [was] held for Ms. Brady on Wednesday, March 29th, 2017, at Valley Bible Church in Westcliffe, Colorado, at 2 p.m. We would like to offer our thoughts and prayers to the family of Ms. Brady. We wish them peace during this difficult time.

No additional information to be released.

For further information contact Sheriff Shannon Byerly or Undersheriff Chris Barr at 719-783-2270.

HAM RADIO Class and Testing!

Press Release

A HAM radio class is being organized and is contingent upon no less than 20 persons enrolling. It is currently planned to be held at the Community Room at the Custer County Library. This exciting opportunity is non-profit and the class and test will be conducted by a Volunteer Examiner (VE) of Patriot Group VE, and will be coordinated through Mr. Nick Meacher of Patriot Group VE. Despite the offering of a day-long class prior to a testing session, it is strongly recommended you do a self-initiative book study in ample time before the class begins. There are multiple resources available through

an internet web search and there are knowledge-specific technical questions in the module-testing needed to pass the test for the HAM Amateur Radio Technician FCC license.

The dates of the class will seek to be on a Saturday and will be projected approximately a month out from the time when 20 or more persons are enrolled. That "month out" projection from enrollment fulfillment is to allow people a chance to study and make advance arrangements to attend. We don't get opportunities like this very often here and you won't want to miss it.

HAM radio is a fun and

exciting way and means to be able to communicate and in our mountainous region that has occasional cell phone and power outages or fire emergencies. A HAM radio license can also be a great way to think "safety" within the community and with emergency authorities and others. The class and test being offered for Amateur Radio Technician is the first step to take before other forms of HAM Radio License can be tried for in the future. Without the license, you can only legally "listen" to a HAM radio, but not speak unless it is a very serious emergency. Today's HAM radios, aside from being fairly low cost lately, offer different platforms of trans-

mission modality and function that can also include text, phone and other forms of non-profit radio-to-radio use. The Volunteer Examiners (VE) typically do not charge anything for the class and test; it is free. Once 20 persons have committed, Mark Howard will seek to have a date and time set and post those interested with further updates by email or phone call.

The enroll contact is mark-howard2012@gmail.com or (719) 582- 3235 for voice mail. Please let others know about this opportunity and we are certainly not limited to just 20 people for the class and test, but you must be pre-enrolled with Mark to attend.



Come and Worship



Christian Science 9:30 a.m. Worship 8 Bassick Place Westcliffe	Wednesday, 7 p.m. Bible Study 0157 County Rd. 27A Cotopaxi 719/942-3526	7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study 603 Leon Street Walsenburg (719) 251-9053	3rd & Rosita Streets Westcliffe 719/783-2477	116 Hermit Lane Silver Cliff 719/783-9050
Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Worship Wedn. 6 p.m. Worship 818 Ohio Street Silver Cliff 719/783-4601	Cotopaxi Community Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study 20326 Hwy. 50 Cotopaxi 719/942-4339	Hope Lutheran Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship 3rd & Powell Streets Westcliffe 719/783-9773	St. Patrick's Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 401 South Second Street Westcliffe 719/783-2500	Westcliffe Community Church 10 a.m. Worship 103 N. Adams St. Westcliffe 719/783-2545
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg. 12:10 p.m. Sunday School 240 Ridgeline Drive Westcliffe 719/404-4585	First Baptist Church of Westcliffe 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship 417 S. 6th Street Westcliffe 719/783-2498	Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo 11 a.m. Sunday Mass 10 a.m. Wednesday Mass 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. Wedn. Adoration 109 S. 5th Street Westcliffe 719/783-3507	Sangre de Cristo Fellowship Sundays, 10 a.m. Meet and Greet Sundays, 10:15 a.m. Service 120 Jerry Court Westcliffe 719/783-0903	Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship Junction of Hwy 96 & 67 Wetmore 719/371-1230
Community United Methodist Church 8 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Worship 202 S. 6th Street Westcliffe 719/783-2511	High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 110 Rosita Avenue All Aboard Westcliffe Bldg. Westcliffe 719/783-9045	Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass, 3rd Sunday of month 210 S. 2nd Street Westcliffe 719/783-2491	Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship 6160 County Rd. 130 Westcliffe 719/783-2447	Wetmore Community Church 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 699 County Rd. 395 Wetmore 719/784-0596
Cody Park Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Tuesday, 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg.	Huerfano Community Bible Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship	St. Luke's Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	Sacred Heart Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo Saturday Mass 4:00 p.m. Highway 69, Gardner 719/738-1204	Wild West Cowboy Church 4 p.m. Worship Followed by Potluck Tuesdays 6 p.m.: Bible Study 60260 Hwy. 69 North Westcliffe 719/783-2676
			Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship	

Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Custer County Planning Commission will hold a public meeting on April 4, 2017 at 1:30 P.M. Custer County Courtroom. The following will be considered.

1. Presentation for Westcliffe Supply Company LLC / Special Use Permit, 228 County Road 251, Custer County Colorado.

The agenda is posted on the bulletin board located in the hall of the Custer County Courthouse. Copies of the agenda are available in the Custer County Planning and Zoning office.

Anyone wishing to comment may do so at the Hearing or by mail to Custer County Planning and Zoning office, P.O. Box 203 Westcliffe CO 81252; by fax 719-783-9907 or by e-mail Jackie@custercountygov.com

Publication: Sangre de Cristo Sentinel, Westcliffe, CO 81252
Published 03/24/2017, 03/31/2017

NOTICE
Notice to Creditors

Estate of Jeffrey T Roby
Deceased
Case Number 16PR12

All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative on or before August 1, 2017 or the claims may be barred forever.

Matthew Roby
2017 Mohawk Rd
Pueblo, CO 81001

or The District Court of Custer County Colorado

Publication: Sangre de Cristo Sentinel, Westcliffe, CO 81252
Published 03/24/2017, 03/31/2017

Notice of Rate Change Effective May 1, 2017
SANGRE DE CRISTO
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Sangre De Cristo Electric Association proposes to amend its lighting rate schedule effective May 1, 2017. No change is proposed to rates for currently installed lights. It is proposed all lights installed in the future will be LED lights and billed as follows. Rates are per light per month.

Up to 50 Watt light	\$14.46
51 to 100 Watt light	16.00
101 to 200 Watt light	17.50
201 to 300 Watt light	33.69

It is also proposed that consumers shall execute an agreement for service for a period of not less than three (3) years when they request the installation of a new light or change to a new fixture.

The proposed and present rate schedules are available for examination and explanation at the offices of Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, 29780 North US Highway 24, Buena Vista, Colorado. Comments about the proposed changes may be filed in writing with the Association at PO Box 2013, Buena Vista, Colorado 81211.

Publication: Sangre de Cristo Sentinel,
Westcliffe, CO 81252
Published 03/31/2017

Custer County
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Tentative Agenda

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 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
- Library Annual Report – A. Moulton
Staff Reports:
- Airport (9:30)
- Public Health (10:00)
- Veterans (10:30)
- Human Services (11:00)

WORKSHOP

CCOERA Presentation – Jake Kuijper (1:00 PM)

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, and are also available online at www.custercountgov.com on the Commissioners page.)

Publication: Sangre de Cristo Sentinel, Westcliffe, CO 81252
Published 03/31/2017

Custer County
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Agenda

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 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:
- Road & Bridge (9:30)
- Landfill/Recycle (10:00)
- HR/Finance (10:30)
- Treasurer (10:45)
- OEM (11:00)
- Planning & Zoning (11:30)

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, and are also available online at www.custercountgov.com on the Commissioners page.)

Publication: Sangre de Cristo Sentinel, Westcliffe, CO 81252
Published 03/31/2017

INVITATION TO BID

Custer County Courthouse
205 South Sixth Street
Westcliffe, Colorado 81252

Silverwest/ Custer County Airport is seeking bids to replace an existing fuel dispenser. The successful bidder will be required to provide Liability insurance and proof of certification to service and install aircraft fueling systems. The fuel system carries 100LL AVGAS. The system is a suction system.

The Custer County Commissioners will receive sealed bids up to the hour of 2pm on the 26th day of April, 2017 at the office of the Board of County Commissioners , 205 South 6th St., PO Box 150, Westcliffe, Co 81252, Attn: Airport Fuel System.

SCOPE OF WORK:

1. Lock-out/tag-out all electrical connections associated with existing dispenser.

2. Properly disconnect all piping/fittings associated with existing dispenser.

3. Remove existing dispenser and properly dispose of in accordance with State and Local regulations.

4. Supply and install (1) new, Wayne Reliance Fleet single product, suction pump fuel dispenser, G5200 series, or equivalent.

5. Properly connect all piping associated with new Wayne Reliance suction pump fuel dispenser.

6. Properly connect all wiring connections, to include wiring for existing Fuel Management Pedestal and verify proper operation.

7. Supply and install all required decals for new dispenser.

8. Verify proper operation of new fuel dispenser, and calibrate such dispenser.

9. Clear the work site of all excess packaging, parts and trash, and remove from premises.

Desired start of project: May 8, 2017. Completion deadline, May 24, 2017

The bids will be opened at the Board of Custer County Commissioners meeting on April 28, 2017. The meeting will commence at 9 a.m. At the Custer County Courthouse Boardroom, 205 S. 6th St, Westcliffe, CO 81252

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of public liberty and happiness.
Samuel Adams - Founding Father

Bobcats Tryout

Pueblo Early Bird - March 1



Front row from left: Emma Aldrich, Alisha Dryer, Kaylee Chase, Manager Kaylee Chase. Middle row from left: Kirsten Florom, Curtis Martin, Steven Bonilla, and Serenity H. Back row from left: Tyler Ferron, Damien Day, Adam Sapp, Jerald Taylor, McKensie Penkoff, Luke Canon, and Haylee Hutterer.



Practice Makes Perfect

Track Team

1th at CSU-Pueblo Stadium



la Spencer, Brittany Benoit, Kylinn Wisecup, and
Benoit, Haidan Leboeuf, Jessie Henrich, Katie
am. Back row from left: Elias Zeller, Jaden Florom,
and Aaron Pollack. Not available for photo: J.J. Brady,



kes Perfect





Proposed Colorado Pot Home-Grow Limit Upped to 24 Plants

by Peter Marcus,
ColoradoPolitics.com

Legislation aimed at cracking down on marijuana home-grows was heavily amended Wednesday to allow medical cannabis patients and caregivers to cultivate up to 24 plants.

House Bill 1220 started with a limit of 12 plants before lawmakers upped the count to 16.

In the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday – in what some described as a Kumbaya moment between law enforcement, patients and Gov. John Hickenlooper’s office – lawmakers again amended the bill to allow for up to 24 plants, but with stipulations.

The amended bill passed the committee unanimously.

Patients and caregivers would be allowed to grow up to 24 plants if they register with the state, though patients would not have to disclose what medical condition qualifies them for use of medical marijuana.

If patients and caregivers don’t register larger grows under the proposed legislation, then they would be limited to 12 plants per household. Recreational growers would be limited to the constitutional six-plant limit per person, up to 12 per household.

The legislation also protects local control by allowing towns and cities to limit the number of marijuana plants that may be grown at home, or expand the statewide cap.

If the local jurisdiction does not have a limit, patients and caregivers growing up to 24 plants would have to provide notice to the local government, though that notice would not be a public record in an effort to ensure privacy.

Lawmakers also amended the home-grow bill on Wednesday to tighten up the definition of a “plant.” A plant would be defined as being in a container that is more than four inches wide by four inches high, or a flowering plant regardless of size. The first definition lawmakers came up with would have defined a plant as being more than eight inches wide by eight inches high.

The idea behind the “plant” definition is to avoid people being arrested for having several seedlings. Not all seedlings become mature plants, so lawmakers wanted to allow flexibility.

Lawmakers also agreed to once again ease criminal penalties associated with violating the proposed home-grow limit.

A first violation would be a petty offense subject to a \$1,000 fine. Second or subsequent offenses would carry a misdemeanor penalty for an unregistered home-grow that is more than 12 plants up to 24. Second or subsequent offenses for more than 24 plants would carry a felony penalty.

Lawmakers started by making any offense a felony, then they lowered a first violation to a petty offense, and

then they reduced second or subsequent offenses from a felony to a misdemeanor.

The legislation has been a priority for Hickenlooper, who believes the state is inviting federal intervention with loose cannabis laws.

Colorado law allows patients to grow up to 99 plants if their doctor determines that there is a medical necessity for more than six plants. A caregiver can grow medical marijuana for each of the patients they serve.

Colorado is more generous than other states that allow home grows. California, for example, limits home grows to six plants.

A recent Keating Research poll stated that there is broad support for limiting home grows to 12 plants. Colorado voters favor the 12-plant limit by 21 points, 57 percent to 36 percent, according to the survey.

Supporters of the home-grow limit say it would curb illegal diversion. Growers are cultivating dozens of plants at home legally using loopholes, but then diverting the product out of state to the black market.

Law enforcement agencies last week busted large-scale marijuana grows at what is believed to be 20 locations across the Front Range.

Please see: <http://coloradopolitics.com/proposed-marijuana-home-grow-limit-upped-24-patients-register/>

Knife Law Reform on Hickenlooper’s Desk

by Dean Weingarten,
GunWatch.Blogspot.com

Colorado is working hard to reform its antiquated knife bans. In the late 1950’s and early 1960’s, a wave of bans on knives swept the nation. They were propelled by emotional tirades of a New York congressman, and fueled by allegations of widespread use by gangs, in spite of a lack of data. There was no wave of knife violence. But the fake media of the day was able to sweep bans on “gravity” and “switchblade” knives through legislatures across the country. A federal ban in the interstate shipping of automatic knives was enacted into law in 1958, and is still in effect.

Colorado passed its ban on “gravity” and “switchblade” knives in 1963. During the last 50 plus years, unknown numbers of people have had their property taken, their lives disrupted and their reputations ruined through unknowing violation of these obscure and technical knife bans. As knives tend to be less expensive than firearms, knife bans tend to be enforced more strongly against less prosperous members of society.

According to Colorado law, an automatic knife with a three inch blade is a prohibited weapon; a Bowie knife with a 12 inch blade is not. Either one may be carried concealed. The three inch automatic knife would be illegal, the Bowie would not, so long as it was carried without the intent to use it as a weapon.

Legislatures all across the country have been reforming these ill conceived laws and restoring the law to a more reasonable condition. It is practical for automatic knives to be treated the same as other knives, whether fixed blades or

folding pocket knives. Reforms that eliminate the needless and antique bans on automatic knives and gravity knives have been passed in New Hampshire, Maine, Missouri, Kansas, Alaska, Indiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, Nevada and Wisconsin. Knives are arms protected by the Second Amendment of the Constitution. Knives have been carried in conflicts as long as humanity has existed.

The reform bill passed the House on March 9th with a vote of 56-6. It passed the Senate on 1 February with a vote of 32-2. **SB 17-008** was sent to the governor on 15 March, 2017.

The reform is a bipartisan measure supported by both parties. The Democrats have a majority in the House and the Republicans have a majority in the Senate. The Governor, John Hickenlooper (D) is in his second term, and may not run for a third consecutive term.

Once the bill has been sent to the Governor Hickenlooper, he has three choices. He can sign it, and it becomes law; he can ignore it, and it becomes law; or he can veto it. If he vetoes the bill, the legislature can override with two thirds votes in both the House and the Senate. In the case of SB 17-008, the bill was sent to the Governor while the House is in session. Governor Hickenlooper has 10 days to veto it or it will become law. By my count, that would be the 26th of March, 2017.

(Editor/GG: Bill got signed by Governor Hickenlooper this week and goes into effect August 9, 2017.)

©2017 by Dean Weingarten: Permission to share is granted when this notice and link are included. Please see: <http://gun-watch.blogspot.com>

Former Colorado GOP Chief Charged With Voter Fraud

By Dan Njegomir,
ColoradoPolitics.com

Steve Curtis has been off the statewide radar for a number of years since leading Colorado Republicans in the 1990s, maintaining a more modest profile as a talk-show host on Denver’s KLZ-560 AM radio. Now his name is back in the news, and in a way, it involves politics once again: He has been charged with voter fraud and forgery for casting his ex-wife’s mail-in ballot in last November’s election.

Reports Denver’s Fox 31-TV:

“Weld County Prosecutors discovered the forgery when (former wife) Kelly Curtis called the Weld County Elections Office in October asking how she could vote since she had just moved to South Carolina but was still registered

to vote in Colorado.

That’s when she said an election worker told her she had already voted by mail, and the elections office already had her ballot.

...verification judges for the Weld County Clerk and Recorder’s Office got involved. “We compared her (ballot) signature just to the signatures on her registration,” said Weld County Clerk and Recorder Carly Koppes, who quickly determined the signatures didn’t match but noted the the ballot was sent from Steve Curtis’s home in Firestone, CO.”

Curtis appeared in court in Greeley Tuesday and was allowed to leave afterward. He could be sentenced to up to 18 months in jail for the misdemeanor count of election fraud and up to three years in prison for the felony count of forgery, ac-

cording to Fox 31.

Curtis was chair of the state GOP from 1997 to 1999, a tumultuous tenure riven with factional infighting that pitted his hardline, pro-life, religious wing of the party against more moderate elements that included then-Gov. Bill Owens.

Longtime observers may recall Curtis, a staunch anti-abortion activist and onetime death-penalty advocate, had been a victim in a horrific homicide in 1989 at his southeast Denver home. He was shot and left for dead alongside a roommate who was killed. Recounts the Denver Post:

“Prosecution witness Frank Magnuson was killed by two gunmen at a home in Denver’s Bonnie Brae neighborhood. Magnuson was a key witness to a robbery at Denver’s Parkside Cafe.

Also killed was Magnuson’s friend, Dan Smith; another friend, Steve Curtis, was wounded. Curtis went on to become the chairman of the Colorado Republican Party. The murders occurred on the eve of the trial of Roger Young. Magnuson — a busboy at the cafe — was going to testify against Young.

Authorities later proved that Young masterminded and directed the attack from his prison cell. In February 1991, Young also plotted the murder of his wife, but she survived five bullets and later testified against him.”

(Editor/GG: As they say in the mob movies, the fish rots from da head.)

Please see: <http://coloradopolitics.com/former-state-gop-chief-steve-curtis-charged-forging-exs-ballot/>

*Blessed is the man who endures temptation;
for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life
which the Lord has promised to those who love Him*

James 1:12 NKJV





Colorado State News

Obamacare Gets Deconstructed by Colorado Millennials

by Joey Bunch,
ColoradoPolitics.com

The upstart Millennial Policy Center think tank in Denver has published its first policy paper, and it's worth a read for a fuller perspective on Obamacare.

From a young conservative perspective, Revitalizing Healthcare in America takes on the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

"Obamacare's stated goals are to 'increase the quality and affordability of health insurance, lower the uninsured rate by expanding public and private insurance coverage and reduce the costs of healthcare for individuals and the government,'" states the report by Millennial Policy Center fellows Juliana Darrow, Charlie Katebi and Dr. Michael T. Parra, with president and CEO Jimmy Sengenberger.

"Unfortunately for Americans of all generations, these objectives have simply not been achieved. Several statistics demonstrate how the tremendous promises that the ACA made were consistently broken."

The researchers found Obamacare is a bad deal for millennials, many of whom won't qualify for government subsidies while they pay taxes to support those who do.

"The average monthly premium for a 27-year-old purchasing an unsubsidized benchmark insurance plan on the individual market in 2017 is \$302 a month," the report says. "Most millennials will find spending \$3,624 in premiums a year in addition to co-pays, deductibles and other out of

pocket expenses unaffordable."

The solution?

"By unleashing individual choice, opportunity and market incentives, a truly vibrant health insurance market will start to replace a stagnant system utterly lacking in innovation and bound up in red tape," the report states. "Meaningful access to quality care, as well as real choice and competition, will trump top-down controls that stifle innovation, increase costs and limit market options."

Sengenberger said patients are the best stewards of the healthcare, but Obamacare's regulations and costs have "strangled" that opportunity.

"The nation's healthcare system must be revitalized, and we are excited to offer our thoughts on how to accomplish that objective," he said in a statement about the report.

The Millennial Policy Center launched last year and is a program of the nonprofit Liberty Day Institute, to hear from and speak for millennials, those born between 1981 and 1998.

The think tank is supported by the Millennial Policy Foundation, a group of advisers that includes some of the state's best-known policy and political leaders, including former state Sen. John Andrews, former U.S. Rep. Brandon Schaffer, Independence Institute honcho Jon Caldarara and Michael Barone, a senior political analyst for the Washington Examiner and a Fox News contributor.

Please see: <http://coloradopolitics.com/obamacare-deconstructed-millennial>

Representative Jim Wilson
HD 60

—March 26, 2017

Last week's article referenced "Stayin' Alive", but in light of the Joint Budget Committee's (JBC) recently completed work on the state budget, "Money, Money, Money" would be an appropriate theme song for this week. AB-BA's 1976 hit bemoaned the fact, "All the things I could do if I had a little money" – well, that basically describes the JBC's recommendations for the Colorado State Budget.

When all the smoke cleared over the March Revenue Forecast, and all the easy adjustments were made, a \$400 million hole remained to balance the \$28 billion 2018 budget. Out came the scissors and the cutting began... Colorado hospitals will lose more than \$500 million, schools will lose \$50 million and taxpayers will not see any TABOR refunds in 2018.

Not a rosy picture as rural hospitals will be placed in jeopardy of closing their doors and the so-called negative factor for schools will increase to \$880 million. In addition, the JBC's budget will reduce the required state reserve, take \$46 million from severance tax collections on oil and gas and pull \$26 million from a state employee reserve fund. If this sounds like robbing Peter to pay Paul, it is...

But wait...there is one cut that

was not made. The Governor had proposed a reduction in the property tax exemption for seniors aged 65 and older. The Senior Homestead Exemption survived unscathed, but the casualty was deeper cuts to hospitals. Colorado's hospitals pay fees to the state based on patient stays and the money is matched by the federal government on nearly a dollar-to-dollar basis. The problem is that the hospital provider fees count toward the state's revenue under TABOR. So, in order to stay under the TABOR cap, the hospitals took a hit.

The state budget bill, known as the "Long Bill" (literally because of its length), will begin its journey through the legislative process this week. It is scheduled to start in the Senate, then move to the House. After it goes through both chambers with a myriad of amendments, it will return to the JBC where the three Democrats and three Republicans will ultimately make the final adjustments. It is all about "Money, Money, Money". Hang on – this ride is just beginning...

Speaking of money, the proposed transportation sales tax bill, HB 17-1242, passed out of the House Transportation Committee last week. The bill would send a tax measure to the ballot in November that would raise the state sales tax by .62% for 20 years. The proposal would raise an estimated \$677 million in net revenue the first year to fund road con-



struction and other transit projects. There were a reported 49 amendments for the bill during the marathon hearing on March 22nd. However, with most of the amendments going down 5-8 on a party line vote, the amendment sponsors eventually just gave up. Watch for the resurrection of many of those amendments in the 18-17 Republican Senate.

More bills usually mean more money and the final bill total keeps inching upward. To date, 253 bills have been filed in the Senate and 289 bills filed in the House (542 total). I foolishly thought last session's mark of 680+ bills was out of reach this session, but late bills keep pouring in...

As the "Battle of the Budget" begins under the Golden Dome, and you have questions about the money, please feel free to call my office in the Capitol at 303-866-2747 or send me an e-mail: wilsonforhd60@gmail.com or james.wilson.house@state.co.us.

Republicans Kill Ban on Conversion Therapy Bill

by Joey Bunch,
ColoradoPolitics.com

The Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee voted down a ban on gay conversion therapy for the third year in a row Wednesday.

House Bill 1156 would have prevented licensed mental health counselors in Colorado from providing conversion therapy on minors to amend their sexual preferences or gender identity.

Republicans on the committee said that while they don't support abusive psychological practices that some witnesses talked about in the nearly four hours of testimony, they support parents' rights to choose.

Sen. Vicki Marble, R-Fort Collins, said she has known people who found the therapy beneficial.

"All therapists are not created equal," she said. "There are good ones and bad ones, and are we going to throw all of them out, because some didn't do right by their clients and others did, very much so?"

Sen. Owen Hill, R-Colorado

Springs, said laws already protect people from abusive mental health therapists.

"If that's the motivation, if that's the basis for the bill, we have laws to deal with this," he said. "What my genuine concern on this bill is, is [that] it takes away the right and ability of minors and their parents to seek [the] help they desire."

Owens said he sometimes disagrees with decisions other parents make regarding their children, but it's their choice.

"The notion that this is parental abuse in every situation belies Colorado facts," he said, nothing the law already allows anyone 15 years old or older to obtain conversion therapy without the consent of their parents.

People testified Wednesday that it helped them, while others testified that it wrecked their sense of self-worth as counselors tried to convince them their feelings were wrong.

Sen. Steve Fenberg, D-Boulder, sponsor of the conversion therapy ban, referenced that the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Associ-

ation have condemned the practice as ineffective, at best, and potentially damaging.

Homosexuality hasn't been listed as a mental illness by the APA since 1973.

"If we as a body believe being gay isn't a mental illness then we shouldn't allow mental health professionals to cure it," Fenberg said.

Jody Ryan, a Denver psychiatrist, told the committee that health policy can't be independent of mainstream professional organizations' guidance, "or else we're all sc***ed."

Sen. Lois Court, D-Denver, noted that those older than 18 could get any kind of therapy they want, because the conversion therapy ban applied only to minors. The proposed law would not have applied to clergy or family, but only licensed therapists.

Christian Home Educators of Colorado opposed the bill. "Parental rights have long been established as an unalienable, fundamental rights in the United States," said Carolyn Martin, legislative liaison for CHEC. "The Supreme

Court has acknowledged that parents, not the state, are responsible for the care, custody and control of their children."

Laura "Pinky" Reinsch, the political director for One Colorado, the state's largest advocacy organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Coloradans, said Senate Republicans bypassed the chance to "do right by LGBTQ young people in our state."

"Instead — for the third year in a row — legislators have chosen politics over banning a harmful, discredited and dangerous practice that attempts to change their sexual orientation or gender identity," she said in a statement. "This bill would have safeguarded LGBTQ minors from being subjected to harmful and abusive practices trying to change who they are or who they love.

LGBTQ young people who undergo this so-called 'therapy' are proven to be at risk of long-term depression, guilt, rejection and even a heightened risk for suicide."

Reinsch said the committee disregarded both science and testimony from LGBTQ witnesses who spoke of the therapy's bad effect on them.

"It's clear that the Republican members of the committee did not have the future of LGBTQ young people — who are some of the most vulnerable in our state — in mind when casting their votes," she said. "We will hold them accountable."

Please see: <http://coloradopolitics.com/conversion-therapy-ban-colorado/>

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

—Will Rogers

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



Dawson Ranch Stables Offers Trail Rides to the Public

by Charlotte Burrous

It's been a dream of Valerie and Dwayne Williams since opening Dawson Ranch Stables. Now it's a reality as they brought in 10 horses just in time to start the horseback riding as of March 21st.

Located at 1745 Mariposa Road in Cañon City, the trail rides will begin a couple months earlier than the Williams planned.

"We weren't going to do anything until May," she said. "We were able to get 10 of them in now. We're ready to do trail rides. We'll offer one and two hour trail rides. We have about 120 acres we have trails cut through. We've been thinking about this for three years and trying to get it going. Finally everything is falling into place."

To ride the trails, interested individuals are asked to make reservations at 719-244-6034. The website is www.dawsonranchstables.com, but it is not quite up and running yet.

"They're building it still as we speak," Valerie said.

She said the trail rides will be offered from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. seven days a week as long as the weather is nice. The last ride will go out at 5 p.m.

In conjunction, Dawson Ranch Stables also plans to offer chuck wagon western style dinners with live entertainment in the future, as well as offer a wagon lunch ride. Participants will ride on the trail to a certain location, where they will en-

joy a lunch meal on a nice grassy area.

"It will be about an hour and a half deal," Valerie



Valerie Williams stands by two of the horses that will take participants on trail rides at Dawson Ranch Stables, starting this week. To reserve a spot, interested individuals are asked to make reservations at 719-244-6034. The website is www.dawsonranchstables.com, but it is not quite up and running yet.

weddings at the Abbey or at Robison Mansion or wherever else.

She also plans to offer the

Photo by Charlotte Burrous

buggy rides during First Friday events and other downtown events, as well as rides for people to celebrate their birthdays, anniversaries or special occasions.

"We also do dinner rides on Main Street," Valerie said. "We'll pick folks up. They get chocolate and wine. They can drink the wine on the carriage. They get a half hour carriage ride and we drop them off at whatever restaurant they pick. Then, after about an hour, we pick them up and take them back over to their vehicles."

In addition, the stables offer horse boarding, riding lessons and much more.

For more information, call 719-244-6034.

Florence City Council Approves Letter of Support for Arkansas Riverwalk Trail Extension

by Charlotte Burrous

During the March 20th meeting, the Florence City Council approved a letter of support for the Arkansas Riverwalk Trail Extension project, which will consist of a trail from Florence River Park to the trailhead on MacKenzie Avenue.

"We're trying to get a vote for a letter of support (that's) basically going to go into a grant as a concept paper to the grantors Colorado," said City Planner Wade Broadhead. "We've got a grant with CDOT to do the design of this project. The design and all the easements are going to be taken care of. We're going

to use that as leverage to go for a \$2 million GOCO grant. What happens first is a concept paper. We pitch them our concept then they invite certain people to apply."

At this stage, the grantor want letters of support who put money in or own the property where the project is going to take place. Cañon City Recreation District Executive Director Jim Hoar attended the meeting, showing his support for the project, as well.

"It's just a letter of support that it's a good idea to have a non-motorized trail from Tunnel Drive to Florence River Park," Broadhead said. "We're going to be going for the \$2 million

grant. We already have the grant for the design. If we get this, this is also a \$2 million construction project that's going to be going on. We could talk trails and not everybody uses them, but we're talking about a \$2 million construction project. I don't know how long it will take to build. That's a number of months that money is going to go into our economy."

The City of Florence will manage the money for the design with CDOT money while the Recreation District will be the main applicant for the GOCO grant

**COUNCIL
see page 23**

Events March 31-April 30

- **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.**
- **Free lunch to those in need will be offered from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. the third Saturday of the month in the Fellowship Hall at the First United Methodist Church at the corner of Ninth and Main Streets.**

March 31 and April 1, Second Annual "A Very Foolish Sale" will be held from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Main Street in Florence.

March 31 and April 1, Home Town Gun Show will be held Friday 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the 4-H Fairgrounds in the Rodeo grounds at 1595 S. Ninth St.

April 1-2, Ullr Sports presents Cactus Flats first AR15 Drag Race from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Cactus Flats, 4312 CR 123 in Penrose. For more information, call William at Ullr Sports at 289-4972 or Susan at 372-3600 or cactusflats.weekly.com.

April 22-23, Escape in Time to Steampunk and Wine will hold its third annual festival in Florence, Colorado coming at Pioneer Park. Events include Gold Canyon Gunfighters, group marriage vow renewals, carriage rides from Dawson, entertainment by Midnight Sun playing at the Steampunk Ball from 7 to 11 p.m. The Frost Mountain Clan, Bobby Dean, Sons of the Republic and the Bent Fork Family Band will also be performing.

Rescue Runway Raises Money for Animals at Humane Society

by Charlotte Burrous

It's not the normal fashion show, but it will be fun when the Humane Society presents its Second Annual Rescue Runway on April 8th at Quality Inn at 3075 E. U.S. Hwy 50.

The festivities kick off at 4 p.m. for cocktails, followed by a plethora of fun.

"It's our largest fundraiser of the year," said business officer manager Crystal Pemberton. "(We'll have) a silent auction and a live auction. We have dinner then we have a fashion show, featuring the clothing line of Barn and Barrel from Florence."

Models walk dogs and other animals along the run-

way, showing off the clothing along with the animals from the Humane Society.

"It's very, very exciting," Pemberton said. "We expect it to be bigger and better this year. I think it's going to be good stuff."

She noted there are 15 human models as well as animal models.

"All the funds go to supporting the animals," Pemberton added.

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$400 for slobber zone tables and may be purchased at Humane Society of Fremont County at 110 Rhoades Ave. in Cañon City.

"We only have one (slobber zone table) left," Pemberton said.

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.

Spying on a President by a “president”

James Rosen of Fox News reports that Capitol Hill sources claim “The intelligence is said to leave no doubt the [Sic] former administration, in its closing days, was using the cover of legitimate surveillance on foreign targets to spy on President-elect Trump, according to sources. The key to that conclusion is the unmasking of selected U.S. persons whose names appeared in the intelligence, the sources said, adding that the paper trail leaves no other plausible purpose for the unmasking other than to damage the incoming Trump administration.” This information comes on the heels of a news conference by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes, (R-CA), documenting the ex “president” spied on the President-Elect.

Nunes dropped a bombshell saying, “I recently confirmed on numerous occasions the intelligence community incidentally collected information about U.S. citizens involved in the Trump transition. Details about U.S. persons associated with the incoming administration, details with little or no apparent foreign intelligence value, were widely disseminated in intelligence community reporting...I have confirmed that additional names of Trump transition team members were unmasked...None of the surveillance was related to Russia, or the investigation of Russian activities, or of the Trump team.” In other words, the ex “president” and his minions spied on President-elect Donald Trump and shared the information across many intelligence agencies. Now Fox News sources claim the ex-“president” intended to damage the incoming presidency.

This entire ruse that Russia somehow colluded with the Trump campaign to alter the election is ridiculous. Americans voted and the Russians

did not hack voting machines to change election results. This ruse is being used to accrue very publicly reported investigation after investigation insinuating that Trump and Russia have some plan to undermine America. The real intent is for Trump opposition to incrementally reduce his credibility with the public and prevent him from governing as elected. If you look at who had pre-election deals with Russia, Hillary Clinton and the ex-“president” would be poster children. Hundreds of millions of dollars exchanged hands between Russia and the Clinton Foundation when Clinton was Secretary of State in the ex-“president’s” administration, and these deals were supported by the ex-“president.”

A short list while Clinton was Secretary of State: Nuclear grade uranium to Russia scoring \$145 million to the Clinton Foundation, Bill Clinton’s \$500,000 speech in Moscow, Clinton campaign Chairman John Podesta’s \$35 million energy deal with Russia, Clinton Foundation receipt of \$2.35 million in donations from Ian Telfer, head of Russia’s uranium company, and the list goes on and on. The more the ex-“president” and his minions deny spying on the Trump transition team, the more we will find they spied. The more they push Russian ties with Trump, the more deals they did with Russia themselves. This is all an effort to foment rebellion and inability to govern. As said in 2 Timothy 3:13, “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” This is some of the worst deception of this generation.

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!

Bill Wilson

www.dailyjot.com
Reprinted with permission.

by Robert Gore,
Straight Line Logic

The battle lines are forming.

You’re standing on the prow of an ocean liner cutting through the icy waters of the North Atlantic. A huge iceberg looms dead ahead. You’ve seen it for some time, but now it’s too close, and the liner too big and fast, to avoid the collision. You quietly make your way to the lifeboats, knowing they’re the only chance for saving yourself and your loved ones. Below decks, an orchestra plays a waltz and oblivious revelers dance.

Most people don’t foresee the world’s inevitable collision with the iceberg of unsustainable fantasy. When it happens, they’ll respond predictably, with panic and cowardice. Those who’ve seen it coming and moved to the lifeboats will experience their own roiling emotions, attenuated by recognition of the logic behind the disaster. While the forewarned have dreaded impact, many will also welcome it, in the way one welcomes an unpleasant medical procedure: let’s get it over with. The motive is not malice, but conviction born of experience that

“...they’ll respond predictably, with panic and cowardice.”

actions have consequences and there’s no escaping them. After seemingly inexplicable and interminable delay, consequences shall arrive, amplified by the tawdry stratagems that promoted delay.

It will come as a surprise to many, but governments cannot suspend reality. Their arsenal, when things break down, comes down to their arsenal: the capacity to coerce. Violence or its threat enables governments to exact compliance. Proponents of government power invariably see themselves exercising

it. Once the ship hits the iceberg, it will be obvious that governments’ guns are not wands, freeing citizens from the necessity of producing as much or more than they consume. They cannot compel innovators to innovate or producers to produce. While coercive

“Take away the undeserved from the undeserving and you get a tantrum.”

power comes from one end of a gun, none of the powers that produce progress (and the gun) magically materialize at the other end.

It is said that America is a society divided. True enough, but the important question is: along what lines? Crisis and social breakdown will provide clarification: it’s governments and their beneficiaries versus producers. In other words, those who don’t do useful things versus those who do.

Huge shifts in social mood and direction are presaged. President Trump’s election presages the coming division. Among the analyses of the election, few noted an obvious dividing line. Trump’s supporters by and large do useful things, or are angry because they’re prevented from doing useful things. They build, engineer, manufacture, plant, grow, operate, maintain, repair, transport and sell the things we find useful or essential. When we ram the iceberg, their skills, brains and adaptability will be sorely needed.

Politicians and bureaucrats and the millions dependent on them for their fake jobs, income, food, shelter, transportation and medical care will find little demand for their skills, such as they are. The useful may well conclude that keeping them alive is more trouble than it’s worth. There will be those who are too young, old or infirm to produce, but whom the useful will support out of friendship or kinship. However, it

would be surprising if they felt anything but contempt for the faceless hordes demanding that someone, anyone, take care of them.

Take away the undeserved from the undeserving and you get a tantrum. Steal the earned from those who earned it and you get righteous rage. One’s a firecracker, the other a volcano. The game has been to impress upon the useful a moral obligation to support the useless, but the volcano’s about to blow, burying that obscene morality in lava and ash. Given the staggering levels of accumulated debt and promises, the useful know their talents, skills, hard work, productivity and futures have been mortgaged for the useless. This is the salient and intractable social

“Slavery cannot support the police state necessary to impose it”

division. No reconciliation is possible between the useful and those who believe themselves entitled to their enslavement. The Trump fissure will become a yawning chasm when the Good Ship Profligate Government collides with the iceberg.

Centralization serves the needs of government and its dependents. Honest production and exchange require little government, perhaps none at all. Those who believe current arrangements should persist have to believe that the useful who support those arrangements will provide more and more while receiving less and less. The implicit premise has to be that when it all finally breaks down, the useful can be brutally subjugated—but kept producing—while receiving nothing more than their subsistence. Slavery cannot support the police state necessary to impose it, much less a modern economy. Those who believe any outcomes other than destruction and

death are possible are delusional. If those are the outcomes they anticipate and desire, they’re homicidally and suicidally psychopathic.

Governments will have their surveillance apparatuses, police, militaries, prisons, torture chambers, concentration camps, killing fields and the like. The useful will have their minds. Totalitarian accounting is daunting. All that money going out for suppression, so little coming in from a populace whose best and brightest have been imprisoned or murdered, or who produce the minimum necessary to survive. The day comes when the policeman, soldiers, and guards can’t be paid with anything of value and all h*** breaks loose. Or, less colloquially, centralization gives way to decentralization.

To what depths governments will descend and how long they will survive as agents of repression is unknowable, but their dissolution is foreordained. They cannot commandeer the resources necessary to sustain the current level of tyranny. The useful will vote with their feet and if that’s not possible, bullets will be their ballots. They will establish enclaves and

“The useless depend on the useful, who of course don’t need them at all.”

protect themselves from the tantrums, chaos, and depredations of the useless. (Useful in such a context may require nothing more than a willingness to work hard.) The useless depend on the useful, who of course don’t need them at all. The useful will eventually triumph, if the species survives (not a sure thing). Tragically, the butcher’s bill is likely to be exorbitant.

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Idaho Boy Sprayed by Cyanide Planted by U.S.D.A.— Dog Killed

by Herschel Smith,
The Captains Journal

Fox59:

POCATELLO, ID – The family of a teenage boy sprayed by a cyanide explosive that killed their dog is outraged they weren't told the device was planted near their home, reports East Idaho News.

Canyon Mansfield, 14, went on a walk [on a] Thursday afternoon with his family's three-year-old yellow Labrador, Casey, on a hill behind their Pocatello home on Buck Skin Road.

"I see this little pipe that looked like a sprinkler sticking out of the ground," Canyon told EastIdaho News.com. "I go over and touch it. Then it makes a pop sound and it spews orange gas everywhere."

The orange gas was cyanide, and it sprayed into Canyon's left eye and on his clothing.

The teen grabbed some snow and washed his eye out but then realized Casey was having problems.

"I look over and see him having a seizure," Canyon

said, holding back tears. "I ran over and he had these glassy eyes. He couldn't see me, and he had this red stuff coming out of his mouth."

Canyon ran down the hill and inside the house to his mother.

gency crews arrived and help from multiple agencies to learn Casey had died from exposure to an M-44.

M-44s are spring-activated devices that release cyanide when they are activated through upward pres-

gered Thursday was planted on the borderline of their property.

"We weren't aware, and nobody told us," Theresa said. "There was nothing posted up on the hill saying to beware or be careful."

There shouldn't have had to be notifications, as this should never have been done to begin with by the Department of Agriculture. So boys and girls, I've seen a lot of dumb a** things by the government in my years, but this one takes the cake. Let me introduce you to the most idiotic government program ever concocted by mankind. Spring-activated cyanide bombs as a part of the war on animals paid for by your tax dollars.

This is a bad, bad solution in search of a problem. Here is a list of effective Coyote control devices, in order: 5.56mm / .223, .22 WMR, and 17 HMR (if you don't want to shoot anything larger such as you would with a mule deer or moose). As for federal government, you withdraw from any program like this, let the states handle their own animal control issues

and make decisions when a herd, pack, drove or flock needs to be culled, and the state makes an announcement about renewed or extended hunting season so that the states can conduct scientific game management and herd control techniques with tags and bag limits.

If this even needs to occur. Good Lord! These are indigenous creatures, predatory of course, but there are many predatory animals in this part of the nation. The state should be able to figure out quite well what needs to be done, if anything. Automatic poison ejection devices aren't even legal in warfare according to the Geneva convention. Yet for some reason, bureaucrats and Forestry majors on the government dole and paid for by your tax dollars can decide to poison animals without so much as consultation with anyone around them.

I wish this family would consult a lawyer and seek remedy in court for this against the Department of Agriculture, but my guess is that any federal court would tip their hat to gov-

ernment employees and grant them immunity from prosecution of any kind. Yet these are the sort of "intolerable acts" that caused our founders to separate from England. I'll write the Department of Agriculture and ask what statutory framework even allows this. I doubt I will get a response.

In this case, the least we should justifiably expect would be to gut this worthless government department, deliver pink slips to them, and send them packing to find real jobs. That something so simple got so out of hand is a tragic testimony to how out of touch and out of control the federal government is. What could have been handled by hunters with pleasure and sport, perhaps with their own sons, redounded to a little boy being poisoned and his childhood dog being killed.

Good Lord.

Please see: <http://www.captainsjournal.com/2017/03/21/idaho-boy-sprayed-by-cyanide-planted-by-u-s-department-of-agriculture-dog-killed/>

"Spring-activated cyanide bombs as a part of the war on animals paid for by your tax dollars."

"He said, 'Mom, Mom, there's something wrong with Casey,'" Theresa Mansfield recalled. "We ran back outside and up the hill and by the time we got there, Casey had died."

Theresa called the police and then contacted her husband, Mark, who is a medical doctor.

"I hurried home, and the first thing I did was try to resuscitate the dog," Mark Mansfield said. "Unfortunately, I exposed myself to cyanide and had no idea."

It took hours after emer-

sure or pulling. The U.S. Department of Agriculture uses the devices to control coyotes and other predators.

"We didn't know anything about it. No neighborhood notifications and our local authorities didn't know anything about them," Mark said. "The sheriff deputies who went up there didn't even know what a cyanide bomb was."

The Mansfields have lived in their home nearly 10 years and have never seen M-44s in their neighborhood. They say the one trig-

Is Europe Lost?

by The Zman

Imagine an island populated with a tribe of people. The Blue People have been a stable population of about 9,000 people, distributed over three generations. One day, a new people be-

thankful for the sanctuary.

The demographics of both groups are reasonably stable, with the slight difference in fertility rates. The Blue People have a TFR of 2.0 and the Red People are at 2.5. To keep this simple,

generations, the number of Red Children will equal the number of Blue Children.

Now, let's imagine that the Red People have fertility rates closer to what we see in the Muslim world. That means they will rival the Blue population in just five generations. If the Blue People see their fertility rates drop to something closer to modern European rates, the populations on our island are equal in three generations. It's why the question of Europe's future is, first and foremost, a math question. Which is why, as Steve Sailer pointed out, no one likes talking about demographics in Europe these days.

While demographics are destiny, things change quickly. Arab fertility rates have been plum-

meting for more than a decade. Iran has a TFR below replacement. The same is true of the Turks, who are also suffering a brain drain. Then there is the political dimension that can seemingly turn on a dime. This is why the political season in Europe

The fact is, Europeans are starting to notice the numbers. It may not be so easy, as the Red People and Blue People on our imaginary island, but Europeans can spot a Moroccan when they see one. They notice that the guys rioting are Turks and the guys stabbing peo-

the new normal.

Even so, it is hard to get away from the math of it. Europe is old and barren, while the swarthy invaders are young and fruitful. Demographic transformation can happen quite quickly, which is why the natives are now rightfully fearful of islamification. A majority population, increasingly worried about the foreign minority population, ruled by a governing class paralyzed and unable to respond, is a recipe for a very bad result. Europe will quickly reach a point where they have to abandon social democracy in order to survive.

The alternative is Europe ceases to be Europe.

Please see: <http://thezman.com/wordpress/?p=9870>

"...natives are now rightfully fearful of islamification."

gin to arrive. The island of the Red People exploded and refugees are floating up on the beaches of the Blue People island. The result is about one thousand Red People are now living on the island. It is an accommodation the natives are happy to provide and the newcomers are generally

we'll assume war, famine, disease and so forth are not issues. Think of this as an economics model, where reality is excluded, in order to make a point. Even though the Red People are breeding at a slightly higher rate, the differences are so slight that hardly anyone notices. Even so, in ten

As Steve Sailer pointed out, "no one likes talking about demographics in Europe these days."

is a fixation of the global press. Normally, these elections are just ceremonial, as the political parties agree on most everything, except who gets to steal first from the treasury.

ple on trains are always yelling "Allahu Akbar" while doing it. They also notice that the people in charge have no answer. They are left with trying to convince people that this is



*Is life so dear or peace so sweet
as to be purchased at the price
of chains and slavery? Forbid
it, Almighty God. I know not
what course others may take, but as for me,
give me liberty or give me death!*

Patrick Henry, speech in the Virginia Convention, March 23, 1775

Sponsored by Critical Path Metalworks, Westcliffe, Colorado

"The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts."

— John Jay 1784

Visa Overstays Create Illegal Immigrant Crisis

by Judicial Watch

While the Trump administration focuses on securing the southern border, most illegal immigrants enter the United States legally and stay after their visa expires, a new study reveals. That’s because, incredibly, the U.S. doesn’t have an adequate system to assure the foreigners leave when they’re supposed to. This has been a serious problem for years and in fact some of the 9/11 hijackers overstayed their visa to plan the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil. More than a decade and a half later, little has changed. Securing the famously porous southern border is essential to national security but so is a reliable system that cracks down on visa overstays.

How bad is the problem? More than half of the undocumented people living in the U.S. entered the country with visas that expired, according to a report issued this month by a New York-based think tank

dedicated to studying international migration. The study analyzes Department of Homeland Security (DHS) statistics from 2014 and finds that two-thirds of foreigners who arrived **did not** cross the border illegally, but rather were admitted on non-immigrant temporary visas and overstayed their period of admission or otherwise violated the terms of their visas. “Overstays accounted for about two-thirds (66 percent) of those who arrived (i.e., joined the undocumented population) in 2014,” the report states.

Visa overstays exceeded illegal border crossings, Entries Without Inspection (EWI), every year since 2007, the report says, and 600,000 more overstays than EWIs have arrived since 2007. Most illegal immigrants in the U.S. come from Mexico, the DHS figures used to compile the report show, about one-third of them are visa overstays. This translates into 4.5 million visa

overstays from Mexico in the year that was studied. California has the largest number of overstays (890,000), followed by New York (520,000), Texas (475,000), and Florida (435,000). Not surprisingly, California and Texas have the biggest chunk of illegal border crossers from Mexico, with 1.7 million and 1.3 million respectively. Other states, such as Hawaii, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, also have large numbers of visa overstays, the report states.

The study was actually published to make a case *against* building a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, but in the process, highlights the visa overstay crisis which compromises national security just as much as the porous border. Judicial Watch has reported on both for years and obtained public records that help illustrate the severity of the matter. The bottom line is that Islamic terrorists are using both avenues to en-

ter the U.S. As part of an ongoing investigation on the Mexican border, Judicial Watch has published a series of articles documenting how Middle Eastern terrorists have joined forces with Mexican drug cartels to infiltrate the U.S. and train in southern border towns near American cities. Sources include local, state and federal law enforcement officials as well as military figures on both sides of the border.

The threat created by visa overstays has also been well documented. Just last year Judicial Watch obtained DHS figures showing that more than half a million foreigners with expired visas —like four of the 9/11 jihadists— remained in the country, thousands of them from terrorist nations like Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Syria. More than 45,000 Mexicans overstayed their visa, according to the DHS records, and thousands more from El Salvador, Ecuador,

Venezuela and China. The visas are granted for “business or pleasure” and the foreigners come via sea or air port of entry. For nearly a decade a number of federal audits have offered the alarming figures associated with visa overstays, including one released back in 2011 that estimates half of the nation’s illegal immigrants entered legally with visas.

A few years after the 2001 terrorist attacks Congress launched a system that was supposed to track the entry and exit of foreign nationals by using electronically scanned fingerprints and photographs. But five years and \$1 billion later, the system, U.S. Visitor and Immigration Status Indicator Technology (US VISIT), still had serious flaws. A few years later the investigative arm of Congress, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), published

a report confirming that nearly half of the nation’s illegal aliens entered the U.S. legally and overstayed their visas undetected. In the years that followed the government did little to improve what has developed into a dire national security disaster. In 2011, yet another federal audit confirmed that the U.S. had lost track of millions who overstayed their visas and two years later the crisis intensified when DHS lost track of 266 dangerous foreigners with expired visas. The government determined that they “could pose a national security or public safety concerns,” according to the director of Homeland Security and Justice at the GAO.

Please see: <http://www.judicialwatch.org/blog/2017/03/focus-border-wall-visa-overstays-create-illegal-immigrant-crisis/>



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The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand



2017

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

A Psalm of David, Psalm 144:1

Walther CCP Pistol RECALL

—March, 2017

(Editor/GG: If you know anybody who has one of these Walthers let them know about this recall. It is serious.)

Walther Arms has identified a potential condition in Walther CCP pistols that could potentially cause it to discharge if dropped whether the manual safety is engaged (on) or disengaged (off). The safety of our customers is our paramount concern so we have voluntarily initiated this recall because of the possibility of a drop-fire occurring.



Please do not load or fire your Walther CCP pistol and contact us immediately to arrange to have your pistol upgraded free of charge.

If your pistol has already been upgraded, there will be a dot milled onto the back side of the magazine opening.

The upgrade will be done at no charge to you. For free shipping, please enter your information here, and complete the online form, making sure to include the serial number. After completion of the form, a confirmation email will be sent, including shipping information.

Please note: The serial number is located on the right side of the pistol (circled in red below)



Please submit your information here – <http://www.waltherarms.com/ccp-information-submission/>.

Please check this website and all safety notices on a regular basis for current information about your firearms. You may also contact us by phone at 1-866-503-3389, by email at ccprecall@WaltherArms.com or by mail at Walther Arms, Inc., 7700 Chad Colley Boulevard, Fort Smith, AR 72916.

The current time to repair your CCP is approximately three weeks from the time we receive it.

We appreciate your assistance and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Please see: <http://www.waltherarms.com/ccp-recall/#>

Colorado House Dems Kill Gun-Rights Bills

by Marianne Goodland,
The Colorado Independent

Just one bill to expand gun rights in Colorado is still standing after a state House committee dispatched three pro-gun bills Wednesday.

That last remaining bill, which is likely destined for the same House “kill” committee — State, Veterans and Military Affairs — would allow any person who is legally allowed to buy a handgun to carry it without a concealed weapons permit. The measure passed the Senate Thursday morning on a party-line 18-17 vote, with Republicans carrying the day.

The straight party-line vote was a marked difference from the other three bills the Senate approved on gun rights, all of which managed to draw modest Democratic support, most consistently from Democratic Sens. Leroy Garcia of Pueblo and Cheri Jahn of Wheat Ridge.

Still, the three, as expected, survived one chamber only to die in the next. All dead-ended in party-line votes in the Democratic-controlled House State Affairs committee, with six Democrats against and three Republicans in favor. The hearing on Wednesday drew a standing-room only audience to the state Capitol, but the crowds thinned quickly after the first bill died.

The first would have allowed sheriffs to provide handgun training to school employees, who would then be allowed to carry concealed handguns on school grounds.

Rep. Jovan Melton, an Aurora Democrat, questioned whether every sheriff in Colorado could provide

that training, pointing out that sheriffs are elected and are required only to be 18 years of age, without any background in law enforcement. Michael McGuire of Denver said that arming school staff would make the school environment more dangerous, as the training would not be adequate to handle the chaos when a school shooting takes place. “But accidents with guns can happen eight hours a day, five days a week,” he said.

The second failed measure would have allowed active-duty military under 21 to obtain a concealed weapons permit. Current state law requires permit-holders to be at least 21 years old or older. Supporters have pointed out that those serving in the military are already allowed to carry weapons as part of their duty, and that those between the ages of 18 and 21 should be allowed to obtain a concealed weapons permit.

But Democratic Rep. Mike Weissman of Aurora pointed out that even the military requires its service members to be 21 years of age to carry concealed weapons.

The last bill was a fifth unsuccessful attempt by Republicans to repeal a 2013 law that limits the size of ammunition magazines. That 2013 law capped the size at 15 rounds. Backers, including Republican Rep. Lori Saine of Firestone, argued that the 2013 bill cost Colorado an ammunition magazine manufacturer. However, *The Colorado Independent* reported in 2014 that the company had sought incentives from at least two other states to relocate, and had done so at least a year before the

2013 law was passed.

House Republicans also sponsored their own version of the repeal bill, which was killed by the same committee last month.

In the aftermath of the vote, House Democrats and Republicans continued to wage the battle over gun rights and reform with dueling press releases.

From the Republicans: House Minority Leader Patrick Neville of Castle Rock said “Democrats continue to reject even the most common sense pro-gun legislation. Reasonable changes like safety training for teachers who want to protect their students and military carry for 18-year-old soldiers were killed.”

“Democrats should start listening to Coloradans instead of taking marching orders from the likes of Michael Bloomberg and other anti-gun special interests,” Neville added.

From the Democrats: “I’ve heard from parents and teachers and so many constituents in my district—they don’t want this and they don’t feel it would make them any safer,” said Rep. Susan Lontine of Denver. “Teachers should not be asked to take on the role of law enforcement or security guards. Teachers are in schools to teach.”

Melton said the bill “may create an opt-in for school districts, but it wouldn’t be an opt-in for the parents who don’t want their kids to be in a classroom with an armed teacher.”

Please see: <http://www.coloradoindependent.com/164544/senates-gun-rights-bills-gone>





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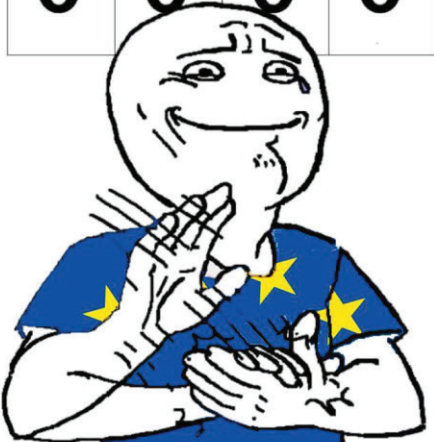
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STAYSAFE.COM

Shoot a Glock? Check Out This Safety ‘Gadget’

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

Despite lacking any manual safeties or disconnects, Glock pistols are perhaps the world’s most popular duty and defensive pistols. But with the rise of Appendix Inside the Waistband (AIWB) carry, some have wondered how suitable the platform is, especially when holstering in such a sensitive area. The guys with Tau Development Group have developed a simple enhancement that may put those fears to rest.

While this is touted as being especially worthy for those who carry their concealed weapon inside the waistband, The Gadget Striker Control Device (SCD)* is solid bit of kit for those who carry outside the waistband as well. There are numerous stories every year of someone cranking a round off as the shooter re-holsters. In most of these events—including two near-negligent discharges I’ve personally witnessed—either clothing or range debris snagged the trigger and started to depress it as the shooter was putting his gun away with his finger high on the

slide as he was supposed to do. In the first instance an instructor just happened to see shirt tail and was able to shout out a warning



that kept the shooter from pushing the gun deep enough to fully depress the trigger and fire the round. If it weren’t for the instructor being very focused and happening to look at that



shooter’s holster at that time, we would have likely witnessed a negligent discharge.

The other incident involved a shooter who had The Gadget installed on his G19.

This shooter had his thumb on The Gadget as he re-holstered and felt the resistance of the device as the trigger started to move rearward. He immediately stopped his attempt to reholster, and cautiously removed his pistol. When he looked into the holster, he saw a glob of red clay with a piece of gravel in it that had started to depress the trigger. He passed his G19 to his left hand and removed the obstruction with his right. The clay and mud were introduced to

stalled, he may have pushed the pistol into the obstruction far enough to fire a round through the bottom of his holster.



I’ve heard some express doubts about The Gadget, wondering if it would make it more likely for dirt and debris to be introduced to the rear of the gun and causing a malfunction. There were several Glockes in that very same muddy class, and I didn’t see any of them suffer malfunctions, no matter how muddy the guns were. The Gadget has been heavily tested by a number of firearms instructors and high-end shooting enthusiasts in all sorts of environments before it went on the market, and their reactions have universally been positive, at least among those I know who have tested it.

Part of the reason I prefer shoot-

ing DA/SA hammer-fired pistols is that I’ve taught myself to place my thumb on the hammer when re-holstering and still feel any resistance and trigger movement that may come from an obstruction in the holster. To me, it offers an extra layer of safety and confidence in my equipment. It’s one of several advantages that cause me to prefer a pistol with an external hammer in an age where striker-fired handguns are dominant. The Gadget striker control device gives Glock shooters a very similar tactile response, and an extra added layer of security when used properly by the shooter.

You can read more about The Gadget at the Tau Development Group Facebook page.

* Bearing Arms is not sponsored by Tau Development Group, nor do we have any personal or financial ties with anyone in the company. We just like to pass along good gear ideas to our readers.

Please see: <https://bearingarms.com/bob-o/2017/03/19/shoot-glock-check-gadget/>

“Universal Background Checks” Stopped in New Mexico Legislature

by Dean Weingarten,
GunWatch.Blogspot.com

Michael Bloomberg has continued to pump money into state politics to find ways to infringe on the Second Amendment. His latest attempt was stopped in New Mexico on Monday, 13 March, 2017. A key vote against the measure came from Representative Eliseo Alcon (D) Milan. From nmpolitics.com:

A legislative committee on Monday effectively killed a bill to expand background checks for gun purchases — an issue that drew large crowds to the Capitol as well as big campaign contributions and

intense lobbying and advertising. The House Judiciary Committee voted 7-6 to table House Bill 548 after a lengthy hearing. It marked the defeat of the most recent gun-control bill sponsored by Rep. Stephanie Garcia Richard, D-Los Alamos.

Democrat Eliseo Alcon of Milan joined the six Republicans on the panel to stop the measure, which would have required background checks on all sales of firearms at gun shows and from advertisements on the internet or print publications.

Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund spent \$250,000 in New

Mexico elections in 2016. From everytown.org:

In total, Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund spent more than \$250,000 during the 2016 election in New Mexico.

The NRA only spent \$10K in 2016, but spent \$44,377 in 2017 opposing the current gun control scheme in New Mexico. The money went to buy Internet ads to oppose the “Universal Background Check” measures.

Representative Eliseo Alcon of Milan did not receive any money from Everytown or from the NRA in 2016. Eliseo, who is called “Lee” by friends and sup-

porters, is a disabled Vietnam veteran. He was a judge before being elected to the legislature. Milan is a small town of 3,600 people that is located about half way between Albuquerque and the Arizona border.

Thirty-two or thirty-three New Mexico sheriffs opposed the legislation. From abquournal.com:

Opponents say the regulations wouldn’t actually deter criminals, who would just ignore them, and merely inconvenience law-abiding citizens. Sheriffs across New Mexico have turned out to oppose the legislation and say it wouldn’t have prevented Webster’s death because dangerous criminals will

still find a way to get firearms.

New Mexico is a moderately gun-friendly state that leans Democrat. It is also a mostly rural state that does not like to be pushed around by out of state interests. Democrats hold majorities in both houses. Second Amendment supporters count on rural Democrats like Representative Eliseo Alcon, to honor their oath to support the Constitution.

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Honest INJUN’S Quip PiK

*Guns are like
Potato chips—
You can’t have just one.*

Thomas Jefferson Quote

I became of course the butt of every thing which reason, ridicule, malice and falsehood could supply. they have concentrated all their hatred on me till they have really persuaded themselves that I am the sole source of all their imaginary evils.

- to Richard Mentor Johnson, 10 March 1808

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Politics & The Bible From Pastor Jim



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

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

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.



Recommended Therapy

Even the most dedicated political junkie should step away from the din of the fray occasionally. The lack of sound reasoning that is often featured on the media is enough to drive a sane person to the brink of Wack-a-Doodle Ville. A periodic retreat to a far less complicated world is essential therapy...with the announcement of spring, fishing is a recommended remedy. Chased by thoughts of hungry trout, I recently found myself in the store purchasing some fishing flies. This led me to questions that were not very productive. The problem is, even when on mental vacation, the habit of investigating liberal logic is a menacing ghost that pops up at the most inconvenient times. For example, if I were an evolutionist, I would need to know how and why there are several varieties of trout. Surely somewhere back on the scale of evolutionary progression, there was just one kind of trout, but now there is the rainbow, the brook, the brown, the cutthroat, the laker, et cetera. I suppose the scientific answer is mutations, but that makes me wonder which one was the original and how we can know. Perhaps the hybrids like kamloops and cutbows contribute to the dilemma, except they are incapable of reproducing—is there a deviate gene that turns a hybrid into a mutation? But wouldn't we need the mutation before the hybrid...I am confused.

Further considerations are even more baffling—who equipped fish to divide H₂O into three parts in order to utilize the oxygen in water. In Malay there is a fish with bifocal eyes. Why don't flounder and catfish have them? In California the female grunion lays her eggs in the sand exactly fifteen minutes after high tide (she reads the tide tables and sets her watch according to the observatory in Greenwich, England) the night after the "fortnight" high tide. The egg has to be fertilized by the male within thirty seconds (don't worry, they all carry stopwatches, and they have a repair shop just forty miles off Santa Barbara). By this method the eggs are safe until the next high tide. By that time the egg has hatched and the new born "small fry" are washed back into the sea to swim when the salt-water touches them on the next tide. Who synchronized the incubation periods with the next high tide with all the tides changing every week? How did the grunion learn these things, and how did they survive during the learning period of several thousand years?

A female mackerel lays 500,000 eggs at one time. A ten year progeny of this laying (if all survived) would fill the Atlantic and Pacific oceans full of mackerel to a depth of 20,000 feet. If the same thing happened with herring (all eggs hatched and survived), in twenty years they would equal the size of the earth. Isn't it remarkable

forethought that evolution remembered to kill 90 percent of the eggs that fish lay?

All of this fishing is beginning to give me a headache, so I shall turn my attention to something loftier—say, birds. How did the reptiles learn to sing after turning into birds? The migrating birds who fly from Alaska to Hawaii to join their parents simply take off and fly over 2,000 miles without a chart, compass, map, previous instructions or guidance. A tagged Baltimore oriole can take a trip to South America and return to the same elm tree that he left in New York. The golden plover goes 2,500 miles from Newfoundland to Columbia. The shrike travels 3,500 miles to French Equatorial Africa from Central Asia. Not one bird in the bunch needs a planned itinerary, a guide or a pilot. Only man requires these things—are we really at the top of the evolutionary ladder?

Fishing birds have barbed hooks on the back of their claws to match the serrations on the front. Did you ever try to pick up a catfish and hold it in the water? How many fish did the fishing birds lose while trying to develop a bone which had to originate from putting their feet in water? Undoubtedly 500 million of them starved to death before 100 million B.C.

All of these thoughts about fish and our feathered friends have cluttered a mind seeking relaxation—necessity demands something as simple as the spider on the outside of my window. OH NO! I am reminded of a spider on the Pacific Coast that lifts a shell 12-20 inches above the ground on two silk cables by putting one wet thread on it at a time until the threads dry and gradually lift the shell up—the equivalent of a man raising 3,600 tons of concrete in the air. This is accomplished without instructions from any outside source. Having lifted his shell, the spider lines it up with silk and cuts a door in it.

Question: How many spiders since 70 million B.C. tried to do this and failed? And why did they continue until they prevailed when there were better than 50,000 failures a week? Isn't this learning something "the hard way"? All attempts to think these wonders through from an evolutionary viewpoint are wearing me out. I think God's annotation will serve me the best: "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, for it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness." (I Corinthians 3:19) If a person truly desires to find evidence of random chance with no further explanation of existence, they may be well-served to investigate the halls of Congress. There are creatures in those caverns that defy all forms of logical plan or purpose. As for me, I agree with Simon Peter when he said "I go a fishing."

A Sheepdog Barks!

Last week I started clearing up a lot of little issues I wanted to "bark" about. This week I'm going to continue my Sheepdog "Potpourri." This allows me to keep cleaning up my "piles" and pleases the Sheepdog Wife. That, in turn, makes sure I get continued access to my favorite dog foods. It's a win-win situation for me which I know you would support. So here goes:

ISSUE: Senator McCain unplugged. This guy needs to pipe down, especially when he is out of the country. I'm really sick and tired of this RINO causing President Trump (PT) more trouble. It's tough enough draining the swamp but especially tough when one of the biggest swamp creatures purposely plugs the drain hole. McCain has 6 years left without the concern of being reelected and I suspect he will cause a tremendous amount of dysfunction for the president and his agenda. McCain was a horrible candidate and he is so full of sour grapes he is a human wine vat. Just shut your pie-hole senator. WOOF!

ISSUE: Yoga Pants. For 99% of women in America yoga pants are not for public wear. Please stop! For the other 1% they are just fine. Thank you! WOOF!

ISSUE: Activist Judges. The hearings for Judge Neil Gorsuch have been enlightening. He's being criticized by the Democrats for being too rigid in following the law and the Constitution. Really? One liberal Justice actually said a few years ago that the Justices should consider foreign law when they rule on cases. Senator Kamela Harris (D-CA), the former California Attorney General, has said she cannot vote for Gorsuch because he only considers the intent of the law and not how his ruling might affect the people. WOW? Can they get any more stupid? Yes they can. Go listen to Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). She wants an activist justice as long as they are liberal. WOOF!

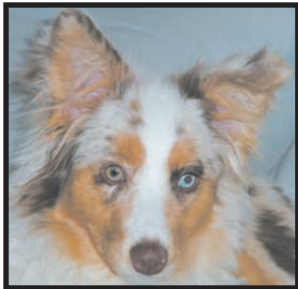
ISSUE: LPSD Wackos. Senator Corey Booker (D-NJ) says that President Trump is "creating a toxic environment." Toxic for whom? And based on what facts? I find the environment President Trump is creating to be just fine. LPSDs are extremists. I love to watch them struggling and it's going to get better and better. WOOF!

ISSUE: Deportation. Supposedly Obama deported over three million illegals in his eight years. Not a smidgen of outrage by the media. Then one single ICE raid by the Trump administration and they go nuts. BTW, the numbers for Obama were phony and inflated. The MSM now wants to give him "credit" for being tough on illegals and deporting more than Bush. Fake news. Obama changed the definition of what constitutes a deportation. Under Bush those that were turned back at the border were classified as "returns" and didn't count as a deportation. Obama added those numbers to the "removals" giving him credit for tens of thousands of illegals being "deported" by his administration. Just more LPSD hypocrisy. When the LPSDs take credit for anything conservatives stand for we need to be very suspect. You just cannot trust them. WOOF!

ISSUE: The Truth. I saw this list the other day and it made sense to me. Things that tell the truth: small children, drunks and yoga pants (sorry I know I already used this one). Years ago a preacher told me how to confirm our priorities in life that we like to claim. He said write your priorities down and then review your checkbook register for the last year. Ouch! I didn't even have to do that and I knew the truth. What else "always" tells the truth? Let me know. WOOF!

ISSUE: CHOICE. LPSDs only care about choice when it involves terminating a life, not when it comes to educating one. Their treatment of Betsy DeVos was horrible. They have ruined most of our public schools as they feel compelled to protect all the teacher unions. School choice is a great option and we should see much more of that happening very soon in America. Another Trump promise being delivered. WOOF!

ISSUE: Personhood. LPSDs have put a stop to unborn human babies being protected by any degree of legal "personhood." But animals are okay. A liberal lawyer is pursuing a case for "Personhood for Apes" before the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court. Makes me wonder WHY this case is even being heard. Let's start with the unborn humans shall we?



LPSDs disgust me. WOOF!

ISSUE: State's Rights. The 17th Amendment ruined the perfect constitutional plan of our Founding Fathers when it provided for U.S. Senators to be elected by popular vote. It was intended that senators would be appointed by the state legislatures and eliminating that was the beginning of the end to State's rights. What a difference we might be seeing if senators had to really care about how legislation would affect their home states only. There would be for less grandstanding and traveling all over the world. I think the 17th Amendment was extremely harmful to the 10th Amendment (which is in the Bill of Rights). Big Mistake! WOOF!

ISSUE: Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Several years ago I quit contributing to the BSA. Both of my sons were involved in the scouting programs and it taught them to be prepared along with respecting God and Country. Then the BSA decided that homosexual leaders could take the boys camping out into the woods. SMH! That was the end of my support and I didn't think it could get any worse. I was wrong. The BSA has now decided that transgenders can be "boy" scouts. In other words young girls can now be "transboy scouts", if they are so inclined. Will the LPSD insanity ever stop? WOOF!

I'll close today with two anonymous quotes I have seen recently:

"There's always 'free' cheese in a mousetrap." Yep!

"Man has also destroyed the unity and beauty of our human family by creating social structures which perpetuate poverty, ignorance and corruption." Amen!

One last thought: HiLIARy, please go back into the woods. It's been SO NICE! WOOF!

May God Have Mercy On America! JMH



BROADBAND
from page 3

which involve covering the whole planet as well. As we have repeatedly seen, the competition will expand the quality and services while driving down prices. Without wasting tax dollars.

Why? Because the Free Market always, always does better than central government control. As technology improves, more and more people depend on that technology. That's right Kommisar Kattnig, the unleashed productivity of the market does much better than command and control bureaucrats will ever do.

First, I'm astounded that the CCEDC spent \$34,694 tax-

payer dollars (grants don't come from nowhere folks) with a firm that can't get the math correct. Apparently, Centerline Solutions can't even get the name of the company who hired them correct. Their study documents all refer to the Custer County Economic Development Board instead of corporation. Maybe the contractor thinks they're working for a government agency instead of a private business.

Second, I'm flabbergasted that the CCEDC thinks the voters of Custer County are stupid enough to pay millions in new taxes so that a few more people will have access to Internet. Internet is a product, not a right. But, maybe, just maybe, the CCEDC has worked it all

out with the sitting Commissioners and there won't be a need for a silly vote.

Lastly, I'm dumbfounded that, in this day and age when the evidence of colossal failures of municipal Internet ventures is so readily available, any sane person would propose creating another municipal Internet venture.

Unless there's big money for someone. And as always, follow the money. Who will benefit?

Dan Bubis
Rural Custer County

(Editor/GG: go to Sangre deCristoSentinel.com/archives to see the web address for the complete CCEDC report.)

Colorado House Passes Student Free
Speech on College Campus Bill

by Colorado House
Republican
Communications Office

DENVER—Today (Editor/GG: March 21, 2017), the House unanimously passed Senate Bill 62, sponsored by Representative Steve Humphrey (R-Eaton). The bill would protect the free speech and expression rights of students anywhere on campus granted that they don't

interfere with academic studies and classes. Currently, institutions have the ability to restrict legitimate expression to designated free speech zones on campus.

"Institutions of higher education are a place of free expression and a marketplace of ideas and students should be able to express their views freely on campus," said Humphrey. "While still

protecting the academic process, this strong bipartisan bill expands students' rights to publicly express their views on college campuses throughout Colorado, and I am glad to see it going to the Governor."

Having passed the Senate on a 32-2 vote, the bill should arrive on the Governor's desk shortly.

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because that is their main focus, he added.

"It's one of the coolest projects I've been on," Broadhead said. "Each agency does what it's supposed to well. If we get that \$2 million grant, we'll be a part of that, but the Recreation District will be managing it."

This also will be a benefit for Fremont Sanitation District.

"We can upgrade their land, actually be a benefit for them," Broadhead said. "It's a pretty cool place to build a trail."

Charlette Henager noted that the master plan said this is needed.

"I don't know how many people have been hit on Highway 115," she said. "This is a connection that's just going to make our community even stronger."

Councilman Paul Villagrana said he had been on council for many years.

"It has been talked about (and) worked on, but now with Jim (Hoar) Wade (Broadhead) and (Henager) all get together, it looks like it's going to be done," he said. "This has been a long time coming."

After several more minutes, the council approved the letter of support.

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.
They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22 -23 NKJV

NOBEL
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due to a lack of food here. He spent many years wandering the United States looking for the perfect Krispy Kreme doughnut, finally resulting in him writing the famous tome, "My Krispy Kreme Trauma Resolved". He then attended college in Arizona and received a PhD in Oratory. He recently moved back to his Custer County ranch which dominates the west side of the valley. His booming voice can often be heard from miles away as he sings songs from "Riverboat" while he works his ranch.

Jay "Princess" Printz was born in New York City but spent most of his adult life in urban Texas. He was a television celebrity with his TV show, "Pawn Shop Wars:

Taking Pennies from the Poor" which had a ten-year run. He then became a lawyer in Texas doing foreclosure work for the big banks there. He left Texas under dubious circumstances arriving in Happy Valley with tons of cash. His favorite hobby is trolling Facebook where he likes to write comments with sad face emoticons on all the charity work he does locally and threatening to sue people who he doesn't like. A true Nobel Laureate.

Donna "Minnie Pearl" Hood built a vacation horse ranch in the valley a few years ago. She grew up just outside of Philadelphia, PA, in an urban environment and has a life-long phobia of horses. She says she is close to being able to ride a horse now but it still might take some time. "The more time I spend vacationing in Custer County at my horse ranch

the better I am around those animals." Her and her husband own a famous pharmaceutical company near Philadelphia whose claim to fame is that they have the best lethal injection chemicals used to execute criminals on death row. This product, "Donna's One Shot" is used throughout the United States. They also just opened an office in Iran to market the product there. Commissioner Minnie Pearl has been featured in many issues of Colorado Western Life modeling her unique western "rap" clothing line.

One Custer County employee in the Zoning Department noted that before the crowning of the new Custer County Royalty in January, all county employees came to work every day fearing that they would be fired or reprimanded for some minor reason. It was "a terrible place to work"

she said. Within mere minutes of the crowning of the Commissioners in January, she said "a sense of peace and yes, even harmony, descended on the courthouse complex which brought joy to all." Buddhist prayer wheels were donated by Commissioner Minnie Pearl to all county employees with instructions to spin them whenever a Commissioner approaches. Another employee in Road and Bridge said that even though all county employees are now required to lower their gaze when approached by a Royal Commissioner, the gesture is freely given, "It's a small way to love them back."

The Commissioner Laureates demanded that the awards and prize money (\$100,000, split among them,) be given to them here in Custer County. The ceremony will be held this Sunday, April

1st, at sunrise, at The Bluffs. All county employees are required to attend and bring a candle to light when the money is handed over to our new Royalty. Charles Bogle, of our local Economic Development Corporation will be the featured speaker. His speech will be on "Follow the Grant Money to the Executive Session". The Custer County Democrat Party will open the ceremony with prayer and a Bible study on Psalm 14:1 and 53:1, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

The Sentinel will provide full coverage of the awards ceremony in next week's edition.

We all are looking forward to a wonderful, harmonious, four years of Laureate rule.

Congratulations to our Nobel Prize winners.

FYI...
for your information...

The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel is published every Friday.
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Colorado's 64 County Clerks Meet for Training

by Lynn Bartels
and Julia Sunny

Colorado Secretary of State Wayne Williams told county clerks at a regional gathering this week that his office is reviewing how to implement voter-approved ballot measures, including one that changes signature gathering for ballot proposals.

Amendment 71 requires that any new constitutional amendment pass with 55 percent of the vote instead of a simple majority. In addition, a percentage of the signatures to put the measure on the ballot must be gathered in all 35 Senate districts, which will change how the state reviews peti-

tions to determine whether backers collected enough valid voter signatures.

Williams addressed early-voting requirements and ballot drop boxes, when he spoke Wednesday to clerks from the state's southern region at their conference in Cañon City.

"Our job is to help you and to help the voters," Williams told the clerks. "You're the ones out there on the front lines."

When Williams asked how many clerks had fewer than five voters the first Saturday they were required to open for early voting, almost everyone raised their hand. Montezuma County Clerk Kim Percell was an

exception, saying her office handled 20 voters the first Saturday but she noted she "really advertised it a lot." Even then, she said, the 20 came in the last of the four hours her office was required to be open.

A bill winding through the Colorado Legislature would allow clerks to lessen requirements at the start of early voting so that resources can be directed closer to the election, when business is brisk. Williams recently published a piece in *The Denver Post* saying counties need flexibility to better serve their voters.

Clerks had plenty of kudos for Williams and his staff, including the office's assistance in helping pay for 24-hour secure ballot drop boxes.

Susan Balicki, the elections supervisor for Park County, singled out two Secretary of State staffers, Ben Schler and Jessi Romero, for their assistance during a recall election. "They were such a help," she said. "I just want you to know."

As for ballot measures voters approved in 2016, Williams addressed the portion of Amendment 71 requiring signature collection in all Senate districts.

"Instead of just collecting signatures in Denver if it's a liberal issue or El Paso County if it's a conservative



Colorado Secretary Wayne Williams, (third from left in the back row,) Custer County Clerk Kelly Camper, (fourth from the left, middle row,) and other Colorado county clerks who attended a regional meeting this week in Cañon City.

(SoS photo)



Colorado Secretary Wayne Williams with Kelley Camper, Custer County Clerk.

(SoS photo)

issue, petition signature gatherers have to visit the rest of the state," Williams said. "So they actually have to go into (Alamosa Republican) Larry Crowder's Senate district and they have to go into (Montrose Republican) Don Coram's Senate district. You might actually see, for the first time ever, some petition gatherers in some of your counties."

Senate Bill 152, which implements the changes made by Amendment 71, has passed the Senate and is in the House.

Williams also addressed Propositions 107 and 108.

The first requires the state to hold presidential primaries, and allows unaffiliated voters to participate without affiliating with a major party. The latter allows unaffiliated voters to participate in primary elections held every two years in June, again without affiliating.

"Proposition 108 provides that unaffiliated voters get a ballot or they get two ballots or they get some combination of that," Williams said. "We're working with a group of county clerks to come up with a system that allows us to comply with the law that got passed and be able to accurately canvas

the election."

He said he hopes to release preliminary regulations in the next few months.

"We're doing that so that as you put together your budgets you know what the costs are because there is going to be an increased cost. You're going to have to mail to 50 percent more people on average," Williams said.

Colorado's county clerks are divided into four regions: central, west, east and south. Clerks in those regions meet for training and such. Twice a year, all the regions gather for the winter and summer conferences.

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12-15 oz.

2 FOR \$4.00

Jif Peanut Butter
12-16 oz.

\$1.78

Ritz Crackers
10-13 oz.

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