



Commissioners Updated On Custer County Ambulance Corps Woes

by Paul Sage

Members of the West Custer County Hospital District Board brought an update on the status of the Ambulance Corps to the County Commissioners at their December 30th meeting. Representing the hospital board were Chairman Joe Arbuckle and board members Brent Bruser, Bob Tobin and Chuck Ippolito. Also accompanying the Board were Clinic Director Delwin Lester and Clinic Chief Financial Officer Mary Dice.

Board Chairman Arbuckle asked the Commissioners if they had taken any action on his letter of December 5th requesting that the Commissioners seek an independent review of ambulance operations in Custer County by the Colo-

rado Department of Health and Public Environment, similar to the one done by that agency on the services provided in Fremont County. The Commissioners discussed whether they would have the authority to request such a review, as it would also involve other entities and districts in the county. Commissioner Shy said, "I'd like to see this go to CES (Custer Emergency Services)" so they could have input on requesting such a report. Chairman Arbuckle indicated he thought "it would be best if the Commissioners requested that the state come in and do this assessment. Commissioner Shy indicated that the Board is "always a little nervous about asking the state to come in and look at a business because we've not exactly had a positive experience in some

of our other departments in terms of state intervention." Chairman Arbuckle and the Commissioners agreed to take this up at the next CES meeting on January 8th and to move forward after that.

Chairman Arbuckle then proceeded to explain that "this ties in to the broader strategic question for the county we've brought before you a couple of times, and that is what to do with the EMS operations in Custer County in the future." Commissioner Shy asked if they were "willing to review the agreement between the county and the Hospital District, and Chairman Arbuckle replied "Absolutely!" He emphasized that the important thing would be to figure out where would be the best place to put the ambulance service and have it

adequately funded. He said that they have recommended in the past that "it be severed from the Clinic."

With regard to the ongoing US Department of Labor investigation of the Ambulance Corps staff, Chairman Arbuckle briefed the Commissioners on the progress of the investigation as it stands today. After the auditor spent about five hours in the Clinic on December 10th reviewing records and talking with the staff, he left the huge task for Clinic Director Lester and CFO Dice to "go back through all our records for two years; every single person that has worked in the Ambulance Corps, and every time sheet and charge and shift they pulled and put together a huge spreadsheet on that. This process "encompassed about 45

people" over the two year period. They then provided all of this information to the Department of Labor. According to Chairman Arbuckle, "they're going to get back to us about the 7th of January to give us their judgment on the situation."

Board Chairman Arbuckle further briefed the commissioners that while the DOL auditor indicated that he believed the issues with the Ambulance Corps staff were "unwillful – meaning not intentional and that means no fines and no penalties," he did find three main problem areas in the operation. They were problems with the pay. "We weren't paying minimum wage," according to Chairman Arbuckle. Also, "we

See WOES on page 5

2013 Posse Member of the Year

by Joe Cascarelli

At the Custer County Sheriff's Posse Christmas Party on December 14th, Sheriff Fred Jobe awarded Posse Captain Robin Schmutzler the 2013 Posse Member of the Year award. This is not the first time that Robin has been recognized in the past ten years of the Sheriff's Posse's existence. Captain Schmutzler was one of the charter members and was part of the initial three-person command staff. This kind of continuity is an important factor in the success of the Posse as a support element of the policing function in the county.

Robin has a wealth of knowledge and experience and this enabled him to recognize the need for a clear, written understanding of how the organization would work. Many may not remember this, but Robin was the mission leader for the search for teen, Scott Lancaster, who was attacked and killed in Jefferson County by a mountain lion back in 1991. As soon as the Posse was formed, Robin went to work creating a "Policy & Procedures

manual" for the Posse. He has continued to update and maintain this manual as the Posse's mission evolved.

Carrying a side arm was initially an option and it was Robin that created the qualification process. When the range at the Sangre Shooting Sports Club became unavailable for Posse practice and qualification events, Robin built a range on his own property that the Posse has used for over ten years. He made the targets, established safety rules and is the primary instructor at Posse handgun qualification events. He also developed the handgun course that both new Posse members and the community's concealed carry candidates must take prior to being considered for the privilege of carrying concealed.

In the early days of the Posse, the mounted Posse participated in parades and search and rescue missions. Robin was again on-the-job when he managed to arrange for the City of Pueblo Mounted Unit to come up to Westcliffe to train the dozen or so mounted Posse members and their horses. He also managed to get the

City of Pueblo Bomb Squad to conduct training classes here in Custer County. When it came to School Security, Robin enlisted

the help of Joe Ruffino, school security consultant and terrorism expert, to conduct a class for the Posse and that led to a presentation to the town regarding security matters.

Posse members must attend a class on collapsible baton, felony traffic stops and handcuffing in order to use

these devices while supporting a deputy. It was Robin's idea to provide daily security patrols at C-1 during the school day



Capt. Robin Schmutzler, 2013 Posse Member of the Year

Sentinel photo by Anne Crewdson

and be present at school sponsored athletic and social events. This has been a primary Posse function for over eight years. The Posse provides security at community events such as the Rodeo, the County Fair, Mining Days, local races, and celebratory events. Schmutzler coordinates all of the Posse personnel for these activities. Then there are the real emergencies like forest fires, traffic accidents, prisoner escapes, seniors who wander away and other emergencies. It is Robin's job to fill the Sheriff's request for support and personnel.

Managing an all-volunteer force where members bring different personalities, experiences and skills to the organization is often a sticky business, but Robin has managed to keep the Posse effective. It is great that we have a visionary Sheriff who saw a need and filled it and then picked a man like Schmutzler who made it happen. It is also gratifying to see the Sheriff formally recognize the contribution of Posse Captain Robin Schmutzler. Nice work, Robin.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! WELCOME TO 2014

Westcliffe: All Their Eggs In One Basket? page 5

Mandating Effective Gun Free Zones page 16

Doctors Going Cash Only? page 17

PATRIOT ALERT! Connecticut Gun Registration page 16



Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls.

Matt. 11:29 NIV



Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

HELLO 2014

**SANGRE DE CRISTO
SENTINEL**

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*A different view from
the same mountains!*



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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coloradopress
ASSOCIATION
2013 Associate Member

2013 is in the rear view mirror and 2014 is ticking off already. Only 362 more days until Christmas. We need to slow down already. We hope you enjoyed a safe and Happy New Year last Wednesday. We feel confident some resolutions have already been broken. It’s a special feeling to begin a new year. Many of us have great plans and high expectations. Each year has its highs and lows for all of us. Several families lost loved ones. The community also suffered as a whole with the passing of several long-time and highly respected friends and citizens. They will all be greatly missed. And on the other end of the life cycle many families

and the community gained new members and citizens. 2014 will be an important year for us all. There will be disappointments, great joy and hard work for most of us. Most importantly there will be many opportunities. We will all have the opportunity to grow, better ourselves, learn, love, forgive, be forgiven and do for others. 2014 will mostly be what we make of it. The opportunities will be there. Will we seize them? That’s up to each and every one of us. We are only in total control of one thing – Our Attitude. How will your attitude guide you through the year? It will determine how we all deal with the highs and lows that are nor-

mal and that we know are coming.

This edition of the Sentinel marks our six-month anniversary. We are pleased that we are still around (there were several who predicted we wouldn’t last six weeks) and hope to continue to grow while producing a quality product the community likes. We started this paper to provide a choice. It is clear that the Sentinel is a choice. We are confident it is one that will continue. We’ve gained hundreds of new readers since our inaugural issue of July 4, 2013. We believe most new subscribers know what we stand for and what we are attempting to achieve. However, we

want to repeat for our new readers the philosophies and thoughts that prompted us in starting this weekly newspaper in the first place. We get lots of feedback and take your comments and suggestions very seriously. Much of the feedback is conflicting. We try hard to accommodate all our readers. The most common ones are “your articles/stories are too long” and “your articles/stories are great, it takes me a while to finish but I learn a lot”. Go figure. We will continue to try to strike a balance that everyone can live with. In the New Year we plan to add a feature from time-to-time that highlights a person, program or club that con-

tributes in a positive way to the citizens of this community. If you have any suggestions for the “Sentinel Salutes” please give us a call or email. We will also promote a series of Random Acts of Kindness; gestures that some know as “Pay it Forward”. These are happening now all around the country and we believe we should start and encourage them here. Many of you have been reading about these types of actions, like over 400 Starbuck customers in a row paying for the drinks for the car behind them. Let’s hope that 2014 will find us all participating in similar acts. For our new readers, here is what we want you to know about us:

THE SANGRE DE CRISTO SENTINEL

“A DIFFERENT VIEW FROM THE SAME MOUNTAINS”

OUR PURPOSE

SEN-TI-NEL: A person or sentry set to guard others, to watch over others, to protect others and to warn others of danger.

OUR SYMBOL

Our purpose is symbolized by the Bald Eagle. The Bald Eagle is the symbol of our great nation’s strength and freedom. Uniquely, the eagle can also be a great sentinel. It can “see” far and wide while it soars high above us. From there it can watch over all of us and send warnings to all it seeks to protect.



OUR MISSION

This newspaper’s main objective is to be the sentry for our fellow citizens and patriots, providing truth, awareness and alerts to dangers while protecting our God-given freedoms and our constitutional rights and liberties.

OUR CREED

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.

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OUR PLEDGE

The Mountain Publishing Company, Inc. will work tirelessly to consistently serve, inform and protect the good citizens of this rural and beautiful high country region of Southern Colorado, nestled along the magnificent Sangre de Cristo Mountains. We will be guided by the principles of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the clear intent of our founding fathers. We acknowledge that our basic rights and free doms are granted by God, not by any elected representatives, and are codified in the documents above. We can expect God’s blessings on this country only if we live by and honor our Christian-Judeo heritage and values and respect the principles and laws our founders established and which are passed down for all generations to maintain.

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Your Opinions... “We the People” Speak



Please send your submissions to us at submittals@sdcsentinel.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.*

Why Are We In This Handbasket?

by Connie Miller,
Cañon City

Once saw a bumper sticker that read: “Where are we headed and why are we in this hand basket?” Since I was a kid, I had heard this quote by family members when one was lamenting some sad state of affairs, “We’re all headed to hell in a hand basket.” So, when I saw it, I laughed out loud. Then I started looking for the answer to, “Why are we in this hand basket?”. Here is what I found:

On January 10, 1963 (51 years ago!), an entry was made into the Congressional Record entitled Current Communist Goals, a blatant declaration by the Communist Party of their plan to take over the United States. From that document, I am listing their 45 declared goals:

1. U.S. acceptance of coexistence as the only alternative to atomic war.
2. U.S. willingness to capitulate in preference to engaging in atomic war.
3. Develop the illusion that total disarmament [by] the United States would be a demonstration of moral strength.
4. Permit free trade between all nations regardless of Communist affiliation and regardless of whether or not items could be used for war.
5. Extension of long-term loans to Russia and Soviet satellites.
6. Provide American aid to all nations regardless of Communist domination.
7. Grant recognition of Red China. Admission of Red China to the U.N.
8. Set up East and West Germany as separate states in spite of Khrushchev’s promise in 1955 to settle the German question by free elections under supervision of the U.N.
9. Prolong the conferences to ban atomic tests because the United States has agreed to suspend tests as long as negotiations are in progress.
10. Allow all Soviet satellites individual representation in the U.N.
11. Promote the U.N. as the only hope for mankind.

If its charter is rewritten, demand that it be set up as a one-world government with its own independent armed forces. (Some Communist leaders believe the world can be taken over as easily by the U.N. as by Moscow. Sometimes these two centers compete with each other as they are now doing in the Congo.)

12. Resist any attempt to outlaw the Communist Party.
13. Do away with all loyalty oaths.
14. Continue giving Russia access to the U.S. Patent Office.
15. Capture one or both of the political parties in the United States.
16. Use technical decisions of the courts to weaken basic American institutions by claiming their activities violate civil rights.
17. Get control of the schools. Use them as transmission belts for socialism and current Communist propaganda. Soften the curriculum. Get control of teachers’ associations. Put the party line in textbooks.
18. Gain control of all student newspapers.
19. Use student riots to foment public protests against programs or organizations which are under Communist attack.
20. Infiltrate the press. Get control of book-review assignments, editorial writing, policy-making positions.
21. Gain control of key positions in radio, TV, and motion pictures.
22. Continue discrediting American culture by degrading all forms of artistic expression.... “eliminate all good sculpture from parks and buildings, substitute shapeless, awkward and meaningless forms.”
23. Control art critics and directors of art museums. “Our plan is to promote ugliness, repulsive, meaningless art.”
24. Eliminate all laws governing obscenity by calling them “censorship” and a violation of free speech and free press.
25. Break down cultural standards of morality by promoting pornography

and obscenity in books, magazines, motion pictures, radio, and TV.

26. Present homosexuality, degeneracy and promiscuity as “normal, natural, healthy.”
27. Infiltrate the churches and replace revealed religion with “social” religion. Discredit the Bible and emphasize the need for intellectual maturity, which does not need a “religious crutch.”
28. Eliminate prayer or any phase of religious expression in the schools on the ground that it violates the principle of “separation of church and state.”
29. Discredit the American Constitution by calling it inadequate, old-fashioned, out of step with modern needs, a hindrance to cooperation between nations on a worldwide basis.
30. Discredit the American Founding Fathers. Present them as selfish aristocrats who had no concern for the “common man.”
31. Belittle all forms of American culture and discourage the teaching of American history on the ground that it was only a minor part of the “big picture.” Give more emphasis to Russian history since the Communists took over.
32. Support any socialist movement to give centralized control over any part of the culture--education, social agencies, welfare programs, mental health clinics, etc.
33. Eliminate all laws or procedures which interfere with the operation of the Communist apparatus.
34. Eliminate the House Committee on Un-American Activities.
35. Discredit and eventually dismantle the FBI.
36. Infiltrate and gain control of more unions.
37. Infiltrate and gain control of big business.
38. Transfer some of the powers of arrest from the police to social agencies. Treat all behavioral problems as psychiatric disorders which no one but psychiatrists can understand [or treat].
39. Dominate the psychiatric profession and use men-

tal health laws as a means of gaining coercive control over those who oppose Communist goals.

40. Discredit the family as an institution. Encourage promiscuity and easy divorce.
41. Emphasize the need to raise children away from the negative influence of parents. Attribute prejudices, mental blocks and retarding of children to suppressive influence of parents.
42. Create the impression that violence and insurrection are legitimate aspects of the American tradition; that students and special-interest groups should rise up and use [“]united force[“] to solve economic, political or social problems.
43. Overthrow all colonial governments before native populations are ready for self-government.
44. Internationalize the Panama Canal.
45. Repeal the Connally reservation so the United States cannot prevent the World Court from seizing jurisdiction [over domestic problems. Give the World Court jurisdiction] over nations and individuals alike.

One by one, many of these goals have been met over the last 51 years. Yet, who has sounded the warning? Certainly not Congress. The voices of those few who have tried to warn, have been easily drowned out by the perpetrators of the agenda. And the perpetrators have been aided by society’s deaf and dumb pursuit of the American dream. So, here we are. The take-over is nearly complete. It would seem that we really are “headed to hell in a hand basket.” But that reminds me of another quote. This one is from a better Source, the book of Ephesians, chapter 6: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Our Comfort Zone

by Audrey Slater,
Rural Westcliffe

We were driving west on Hwy. 50 in Cañon City and stopped for gas. Across Hwy. 50 on 4th Street was a young woman standing with a sign, Repent USA.

is partly due to too many of us unwilling to stand up and come out of our comfort zone.

It’s not easy to stand on a corner with a sign, or prayer walk around the school, the courthouse or Main Street. Or maybe



Karen Bore, street evangelist.

Photo by Audrey Slater

By the time Jack was done pumping gas she had put her sign away and disappeared into one of the stores on S. 5th St. I was intrigued as to why she was on the corner, so we went to look for her.

We found her sitting in a hair cutting salon. Her name is Karen Bore; she’s from Pueblo West. She said her daughter was at the library with her tutor and she had two hours to kill so she pulled out her sign. She calls herself a “street evangelist” and has been doing this in Pueblo West for 3 years but this was the first time in Cañon City. The first time she answered God’s call she said, “My knees were weak and I was nervous, but God gave me the strength. People need to know that there is a very short time left for this country to repent.”

God has laid this message on her heart and she obeyed, as uncomfortable as it was. Has God ever nudged you to step out of your comfort zone? It can be uncomfortable. Did you obey or did you just shrug it off?

I believe the reason we are in the mess we are in now

even just pray for a friend in the supermarket. People may laugh at you or call you a fanatic. Right now there is an issue in our school where Jesus was taken out of the “Christmas Concert” Are you concerned about the example that is giving to the children?

Are you ready to stand up and tell them to put Christ back in Christmas?

Don’t you ever wonder how Jesus felt when His own family thought he was out of his mind, when people spat in His face and pulled his beard out, or when they nailed Him to the cross? He obeyed; He didn’t let that cup pass. And we are the recipients of God’s grace and forgiveness today because Jesus stepped down from His throne in heaven for us.

Isn’t it time we get out of our easy chairs and listen to that nudge that the Holy Spirit gives us? It should be more important what God thinks of us than what “they” think of us.

As for me and my house we will serve the Lord

Joshua 24:15, NKJ

***So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.***

Isaiah 41:10, NIV

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Letters to the Editor



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The opinions expressed here are solely those of the author; they do not reflect the opinions held or endorsed by the Sentinel.

Thanks from the Geroux Family

We would like to thank our family and friends of the Westcliffe community and beyond. We are overwhelmed at your generosity and want you to know it means the world to us. When we think of how many wonderful people there are in our lives, we feel truly blessed.

Harvey and Ginnie Geroux, Beth Kilpatrick, Justin Geroux, Jet Mankle, Erin Geroux

The Home Schooling Option

Dear Sentinel Editor,

This year's Christmas Pageant in our local school is no more than a pimple on the enormous backside of what the educational system in America has become. With the exception of a few good and godly teachers and staff (God bless them!) who are still swimming hard upstream, it is a godless, immoral appendage of a godless, immoral government machine. Every day that we send our sons and daughters off to school, we are feeding them to the machine! We must talk to our children and find out what they believe. How do they view the controversial subjects of today? How do they feel about the way in which their Constitutional freedoms are being eroded? Do they even realize it's happening? We must find out how much they have

already been influenced by the machine and take steps to reverse it! For those of us who profess Christianity, we must consider the very first Psalm: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night." Psalms 1:1-2 NKJV

Our children are not safe at school. Without a way to defend themselves against attackers, every student, teacher and faculty member has been turned into a "sitting duck"- fair game to the one person who dares to bring a weapon on the property. Why do we daily send our children into a place where they cannot be protected from harm?

It may be too late to save our educational system, but we can and we must save our children! Take them OUT of public schools and teach them truth, morality and constitutionality along with reading, writing and arithmetic. There are many good home schooling curriculums available (and, in some places, home school groups have actually pooled their money and hired some of those good and godly teachers!) By all means, give children a spiritual foundation that will provide the strength of character and the will to stand for what is right. Parents must take back the responsibility for their children's education and welfare. We have sacrificed too many of them to the machine!

*Connie Miller
Cañon City*

Superintendent Responds to "Christmas" Carol Controversy

It has come to my attention that some in our community were offended by the content of the elementary Christmas programs. I sincerely apologize, on behalf of the Custer County School District, to those that found the content of these programs offensive. There was no intent to offend any individual nor to exclude information relative to traditional Christ-

mas stories. The programs were chosen because they reinforce the musical concepts taught in our elementary music classes and because the programs were believed to be engaging for children. Contrary to opinions that have been expressed, no other motive for the choice of programs exists. I am thankful to those individuals that contacted the school directly to share

their concerns. Those concerns will help inform future decisions. Once again, on behalf of the Custer County School District, I apologize to those individuals that found the content of the elementary Christmas programs offensive.

*Chris Selle
Superintendent,
Custer County School
District C-1*

Elementary Principal Responds to "Christmas" Carol Controversy

I would like to take a moment to address the concerns that have been raised regarding the Christmas program held at the school. First and foremost I would like to echo our Superintendent's apology to any members of our community that were offended by our program, that was never the intent. As the elementary principal I take full responsibility for the program and it's content. The programs were chosen because they provided our students the opportunity to directly apply the skills and standards that had been taught during the first semester and they were also highly engaging for the students. I had an advantage that those of you who just

saw the end product did not have, and that was to observe the excellent teaching being provided everyday in the classroom. While I know some have objected to the use of traditional Christmas carols being used with different lyrics, I want to assure you that no disrespect was intended. Each of the carols used were first taught with their original lyrics and students were taught the meaning of those words. Our music teacher and our students worked very hard and gave their all in preparing the program and I was proud of their performance. The decisions affecting our elementary students and staff fall directly on my shoulders and I accept that fully.

However, as a new leader in our school I cannot lead in a vacuum. It is difficult to represent the community when I don't hear from you. Had I known in October when all of the music was sent out that there were concerns we could have, and would have, addressed those immediately. Please take this as an open invitation to call, email, or meet with me directly regarding any concern that involves your children. We love them dearly and I can assure you that this amazing school staff is giving their all to provide the very best for them.

*Holly Anderson
Elementary Principal*

Exclusive Contract Without a Bid?

Dear Editor:

I read in the latest issue of the Sentinel where the town of Westcliffe is considering accepting an exclusive contract with Martin Marietta for in-town construction without knowing all the details. It reminds me of Nancy Pelosi's famous statement, "we have to pass it to see what's

in it". I hope Westcliffe doesn't make a mistake of committing the town to an "exclusive" contract with no outside bids allowed. Does anyone from MM live in Custer County? Is there anyone from the local area going to be employed? Will MM simply "take the money and run?" Is Joe the only one who wants to "test

the waters" before stepping into the quicksand? Let's let local construction outfits bid first. Let's put jailhouse guests or others assigned to community service, work for reduced wages to help those local companies. Let's think outside the box.

*Bill Bailey,
Westcliffe*

Thanks from the Senior Center

Dear Editor:

The Custer County Senior Center says "Thank You" to all who participated in our Community Christmas Dinner. We were happy to serve over 100 of our townspeople a full Turkey/Ham dinner with all the trimmings and desserts. Thank you all, for your continued support of "your" Senior Center. We hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and that 2014 is good to all of you.

*Roxanne Cullison,
Rural Westcliffe*

Christmas is a Federal and State Holiday

Christmas is a worldwide holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. The United States Federal Government and State of Colorado recognize it as a legal holiday. "Designated a federal holiday by Congress and President Ulysses S. Grant in 1870 (16 Stat. 168), however this only applied to federal employees in Washington D.C. The holiday did not apply to all federal employees until 1968 (Pub.L. 90-363, 82 Stat. 250-251). [4]" Information about both our federal and state governments recognizing this holiday for employees in our state and around the country can be found in numerous research places and websites. You can Google either and find information including from Wikipedia where I found this information quite easily, not that we needed reminders; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_holidays_in_the_United_States

Contrary to what few may say, it is STILL a Christian nation! Also contrary to what FEW may say and want us to believe; it was STILL founded by Christian men and women, many who gave their lives to fight for religious freedom at the founding of this country. I may go further to say that regardless of what non-Christian senators and legislatures do and say while in session at our state level; we are STILL in a majority as a Christian state! Even further, we are even STILL a Christian majority right here in Custer County. There will ALWAYS be 'naysayers'; there have always been 'naysayers', even long be-

fore His birth.

In the early 1800's Christmas became more associated with gift-giving and commercialism. Christians and non-Christians alike participate in the 'tradition' of giving gifts, now part of the annual shopping and 'good will' extended toward others. While there isn't anything necessarily wrong with either of these ideas, both do miss the TRUE gift of Christ. The commercial 'Christmas' isn't real; but counterfeit, and is aimed at everyone to become consummate consumers! Christians alike can fall into the consumer trap at this revered time.

That brings me to the 'Crazy Carols' "Christmas" Musical recently sang by Custer County Elementary students. While the majority of the students enjoyed performing (in my 24 years in teaching, I have yet to meet a student who HATES to perform!), I still wonder what their thoughts are of the non-traditional carols taking meaning away from Christmas. I have heard numerous complaints and wondered some of the same things myself; why would adults continue to take away the TRUE meaning for our kids? One anonymous person said, "Cute, BUT missing any part of Christmas in the "Christmas" musical." Could they still learn parts and have fun singing the carols that echo the TRUE meaning rather than the counterfeit commercialization? Just who is the 'aimed audience' at this totally secular performance? Will students who didn't participate in this after school

performance really receive a lower grade if they exercised their freedom and chose not to participate in something they found offensive? Why would the evening performance be a part of their grade in the first place if it 'forces' them to be there against their beliefs?

Is this a good 'teaching moment' for Christian parents to show their children 1) how to not participate in what society 'progressively' perpetuates by removing God entirely, and 2) to show them one way to be "in the world, but not of it" (as the Holy Bible says) by their lack of participating? Parents, you do have a tough job ahead in the light of these societal changes!

Call it what you will, what's done is done. Whatever parent and community responses to this musical bring, I hope those who have ears to hear, really listen and not buckle under any pressure to the contrary or 'sit on the fence' of what the parents and Custer County taxpayers think is the right thing to do, especially in support of the TRUE interests of the children.

I also hope all parents would have spent at least part of their children's 'Christmas Break' turning the 'Crazy Carols' around into a teaching moment at home about how society is conveying an entirely different message than the REAL message and meaning behind this REVERED holiday!

*Candi Sage,
Rural Westcliffe*

Local Mountain News & Notices

Westcliffe: All Their Eggs In One Basket?

by Paul Sage

The question of the security of the town's money has been debated in recent months as board members looked at options for the investment of town funds. The security of these funds hasn't been of great concern in the past when invested amounts remained below the \$250,000 amount insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or FDIC. Recent moves to consolidate funds and invest more locally have exposed the town to a new level of risk.

At the November town Board meeting Trustees Brian Cline and John Johnston led the push to move money held in certificates of deposit at Sunflower Bank in Cañon City to First State Bank, which has a branch in Westcliffe. Trustee Cline indicated that he would rather "risk it with local people" than keep the money spread around at various financial institutions. Trustees Joe Cascarelli and Audrey Gluscke opposed the move with Trustee Gluscke saying she would rather "feel that our money is secure." Trustee Cascarelli indicated that this would be against the advice of the auditor the town hired in 2012 who advised the board to keep investments diversified at various locations. He also recalled the auditor's concerns that some of the securities held by First State Bank of Colorado could be of questionable value. Lance Ingram,

representing First State Bank of Colorado in Westcliffe, brushed aside these concerns since the state has a system in place by which these funds are protected to 102% of their value.

The Board made the move to transfer these funds to the First State Bank of Colorado with Trustees Cline, Johnston, Trombley and Mayor Veltrie voting for the move. The amount now held by First State Bank of Colorado is well over double the amount insured by the FDIC.

The system of protection of municipal funds alluded to by Mr. Ingram is one the Colorado Division of Banking has in place to protect the funds of municipalities in excess of the \$250,000 guaranteed by the FDIC held in any one institution. The system is called the Public Deposit Protection Act. It requires financial institutions approved by the Division of Banking to hold public funds to pledge assets to protect the funds in excess of FDIC limits to be held in an approved depository to insure 102% of these amounts so municipal funds are not put at risk.

In the case of the First State Bank of Colorado, that depository is the Hotchkiss, Colorado branch of the First State Bank of Colorado, which is the main office of the bank, which also consists of six other branches, including the one in Westcliffe. So the First State Bank of Colorado holds securities to protect

against the failure of the First State Bank of Colorado.

In addition, according to a performance audit of the Public Deposit Protection Act conducted by the state auditor, there may be problems with this system. The report says that the Division of Banking "does not have fundamental systems or procedures in place to ensure that all public deposits are properly identified and reported as such. Therefore there is a risk that public funds may be unprotected in the event of a bank failure."

At the time of the audit "Colorado governmental entities had on deposit, in financial institutions, more than \$1.6 billion. The majority of these deposits – approximately \$1.4 billion – were made by local government entities. The remaining \$200 million or about 12% of the total \$1.6 billion was on deposit from state entities in 1,493 accounts." Due to the massive amount of data to evaluate, the audit only looked at the state funds to determine the effectiveness of the system. Of the small percentage held in state accounts, the audit revealed "more than \$21 million in discrepancies related to accounts not properly identified as containing state agency public funds. In total, we were unable to conclude on the appropriateness of PDPA coverage

See EGGS
on page 20

WOES From page 1

weren't paying overtime for 12-hour shifts." And the third problem revealed by the audit was that "we had incomplete records," According to Mr. Arbuckle.

All of this problem began six years ago when a misinterpreted application of an independent contractor agreement was applied as a way to pay the Ambulance Corps by previous management of the clinic and Hospital Board. Because this arrangement violated the letter and spirit of the independent contractor law, "then they move into the employee status. You pay minimum wage, you pay overtime, you have social security withholding, tax withholding, workman's compensation insurance; all those bills are added on with employee status, so that's what the Department of Labor is looking at and how much we're going to owe these people for not paying minimum wage and perhaps overtime," according to Chairman Arbuckle.

Commissioner Shy wondered how many of these people would be considered full-time employees. Chief Financial Officer Dice answered that "at least half of them were probably working a minimum of 40 hours because they were most of the time on a 24-hour shift or at least a 12-

hour shift, so it doesn't take them long to get up to 40 hours." Board Chairman Arbuckle added that "it's going to be a big bill put on us and we don't know what size it's going to be, but it's going to be a tough thing to face."

Commissioner Allan Butler wondered "what tripped the visit with the Department of Labor?" Mr. Arbuckle responded that it was "an anonymous complaint submitted to them." Commissioner Kit Shy questioned if all of this would "make some of those folks eligible for unemployment?" Mary Dice responded, "I don't even think I've thought that far ahead." Hospital Board Treasurer Ippolito responded that "the quick answer is 'yes'."

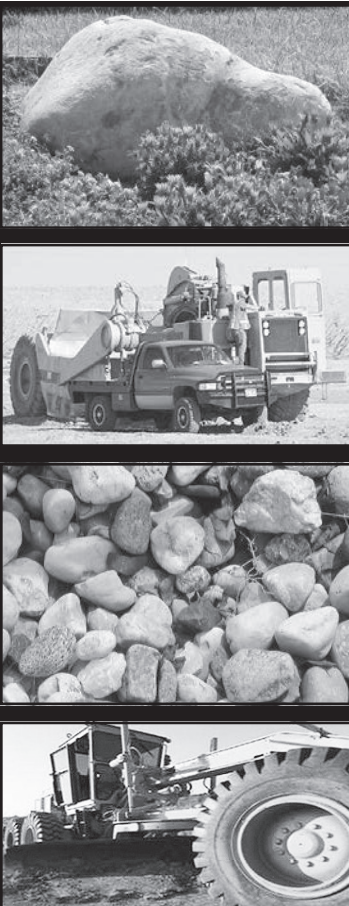
Chairman Joe Arbuckle said that he would keep the commissioners apprised of new developments with this ongoing investigation.

Following this presentation to the County Commissioners, Joshua Johnson, the county-appointed Director of Ambulance Licensing and Certification made his presentation to the Board. He had requested to do this in an Executive Session of the Commissioners but Commission Chairman Len Attebery said that he couldn't "really find any way that this would fall under an executive session topic," which are very strictly regulated by Colo-

rado Sunshine laws.

Mr. Johnson said that there have been a list of issues and that he had received "multiple complaints about the ambulance service," and that these things pertain to the "licensing and certification" of the ambulance service. He enumerated several concerns that had been reported to him, but which he was still in the process of verifying to determine their validity. The concerns ranged from the Clinic changing medical directors without notifying the licensing agency as required by law to reports of ambulance transports being made without a certified EMT or with an expired EMT to concerns expressed about a currently licensed Advanced Life Support ambulance being stripped of equipment and supplies for unknown reasons. At this point these are unsubstantiated allegations that are under investigation.

Mr. Johnson was also concerned about whether the current Ambulance Corps arrangement called for the volunteer staff to be provided with workman's compensation, as required by law. He said that if this issue was not resolved he would "recommend a temporary suspension of the ambulance license which, if that were to happen, would require a hearing with this board within 10 days."



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Local Mountain News & Notices



Rotary Welcomes New Members

Wet Mountain Rotary Club inducts new members during its annual Christmas Dinner at the Alpine Lodge last week. Pictured from left are local Rotary President Dale Mullen, Membership Chair Julie Olomon, and new members John Johnston, Steve Miller, Pepper Stafford and Mike Banks.

courtesy photo



Rotary Club Christmas Gift

Wet Mountain Rotary Club delivers Christmas bags to valley senior citizens each year. Pictured at left is Brooke Parrent delivering a bag to Silver Cliff resident Anita Henrich, along with local Rotarian Dave Cruickshank.

courtesy photo

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The Town of Westcliffe is currently seeking the services of a municipal attorney to serve as the Town Attorney for the Town. The deadline for submission of proposals is January 24, 2014. The Town expects to appoint the Town Attorney by March 4, 2014. The complete Request for Proposals is available on the Town's website on the Government page: www.townofwestcliffe.com or directly from the Town: 305 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252; or by calling (719) 783-2282.

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Emergency Management: *Why It Matters*

by Christe Coleman

Ask yourself, "What good is an emergency plan if no one knows about it?" This could be very bad news for your family in the event of a serious emergency, i.e. a wild-lands fire, a flash flood, a toxic spill, an active shooter, a blizzard, a roof cave in or a structure fire out of control. If you need to evacuate your home or the town, do you have what you will need for the family where it can be accessed in five minutes? Will the family know where to meet? Have you thought about your pets?

Most Americans are unprepared for even the smallest emergency. The community needs an Office of Emergency Management to help families get prepared. Lives are put in jeopardy or unnecessarily lost because when the chips are down, most do not know what to do. The simple truth is that emergencies are nearly impossible to predict, but being prepared is a relatively simple matter. Custer County is fortunate that it has an Office of Emergency Manager that is willing to help you get ready. After all, the most prudent advice is to, "Prepare for the worst and hope for the best."

Last month, I shared a bit about the role of Emergency Management and what it's all about. I mentioned there are many facets to it, and want to expand on that to offer a better understanding of why Custer County has an Office of Emergency Management and why it is

important. Here are a few areas of focus:

Planning

Often times in rural areas many of the first responders are comprised of volunteers and any paid responders are handling day to day calls, so many of the response and coordination plans become the responsibility of the Emergency Manager. The County Emergency Operations plan addresses how the county will do business during a disaster. The Emergency Manager works with the response agencies and local officials to resolve critical issues, make improvements and keep plans relevant and updated. The planning piece also involves many legal issues and responsibilities. Some current plans that have recently been addressed are County Evacuation Plans, including timely notification of residents, sheltering for evacuees and for pets and livestock, accountability, perimeter security, and public information. Another plan recently developed is a coordinated school incident response plan. That's right, the community has these plans. Do you know what's in them? If you do not...why not?

Preparing

Emergency Managers work with partners in response to deliver preparedness messages to citizens. In Custer County this happens through our local newspapers, the county website, Custer County Emergency Management Facebook Page, flyers around town,

and distributing relevant messaging to radio stations and regional TV. Emergency Management also hosts several training courses throughout the year and the public is encouraged to attend to learn more about first aid, CPR, fire suppression and overall preparedness activities. In January, TEEN SERT (Student Emergency Response Training) will begin for 2014. Emergency Management has worked with the school to incorporate first aid and preparedness skills training in the freshman Health Class. At the end of their training, we conduct a simulation bus crash and the students are required to test the skills they have learned in the class. This will be the fourth year of SERT training at the school.

Preparedness also means working with the first responders in providing training in response coordination and multi-agency disaster exercises (drills).

Response

Emergency Managers are not first responders. An Emergency Manager may respond to a scene to get a picture of what is happening, but the Emergency Manager should always be looking for the bigger picture. A routine call for response can quickly turn to something larger.

When an incident escalates quickly and unexpectedly, chaos is usually the rule not the exception. The on scene responders are focused on the task at hand.

Emergency Managers work to capture the bird's eye view, watching and listening for gaps in coordination between agencies, communication issues, resource needs, citizen's needs, potential future problems and any unforeseen hazard. Coordination of response and communication are difficult to master and we are always challenged with ways to improve both. In larger incidents an Emergency Operation Center is activated and becomes the coordination center for all the agencies and stakeholders involved in the incident. Emergency Managers are always watching to identify training needs, areas of improvement or updates needed in response plans so the same problems don't keep reoccurring.

Emergency Management also manages resources on larger scenes. Once the local dispatch center is overwhelmed or needs assistance with ordering resources that are outside day to day operations, Emergency Management has lists of local, regional, state and national resources.

The most common items that are used during emergencies from local businesses are port-a-potties, dumpsters, water containers, water and food, heavy equipment, horse trailers, specialized services – welding, electricians, phone companies, IT, vets and specialized facilities, like stables, arenas, water stor-

See OEM on page 8

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I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.

James Madison - Founding Father

Local Mountain News & Notices

Grapplers' Prep Pays Off At Walsenburg

by Michelle Pedigo

Bobcat grapplers put in hard work on the practice mats, and it showed as they competed in the Pete and Ina Gomez Invitational at Walsenburg. The Six-Pack ended up 7th place in overall points and 5th place in pins out of 21 teams from 2A, 3A and 4A schools.

Landing three pins each on their way to places were Weldon Rusher, Kody Aldrich and Manny Pedigo, at 138 pounds, 160 pounds and 182 pounds respectively. Rusher received 5th place by rule, as Aldrich earned 4th, and Pedigo captured 3rd. Tyler Watson, 132-pounder, experienced success as he placed for the first time, earning 5th and contributing two pins to the team score as well. Although a place award eluded 120-pounder Titus Crawford this week, he added to team stats with a pin, while 145-pounder Cody Koble persevered against his opponents, hop-

ing to use his experience to propel him into the winner's circle at home in three weeks.

Coach Ham exclaimed, "Everyone had a great day!" He attributed their success to the extra effort of the wrestlers, but also gave credit to Coach Chris Selle and Coach Dylan Koble. "They have been a really big help to me, and

they are really appreciated by all the wrestlers and myself," stated Ham. The Six-Pack will have a few days to nurse some sore muscles and enjoy a brief break during Christmas week, but even before school resumes, it will be back on the mats to prepare for their home tournament on January 11. Be sure to come out and support the team starting at 9:00 a.m.!

Wrestling Facts

Serving Size	1 Wrestler
Amount Per Serving	
Calories Burned Per Match	432
	% Daily Value*
Effort	
During Practice	100%
During a Match	100%
When No One Is Watching	100%

Desire

To Quit	0%
To Be A Champion	100%

*Daily value is based on work needed to win State

Shoulda 0%	Woulda 0%	Coulda 0%
------------	-----------	-----------

Ingredients: Dedication, Drive, Determination, Stamina, Sacrifice, Faith!



Bobcat Sports Schedule

BASKETBALL

Thursday, January 9, 2014
5/6/7:30 p.m. at Cotopaxi (JVB/VG/VB)

Friday, January 17, 2014
3:30/3:30/4:00/5:30 p.m. at Sanford

Saturday, January 18, 2014
3:30/3:30/4:30/6 p.m. at HOME - Del Norte

Friday, January 24, 2014
3:30/3:30/4:30/6 p.m. at Center

WRESTLING

Friday, January 10, 2014
4:30 p.m. TRI at HOME

Saturday, January 11, 2014
9 a.m. TOURNAMENT at HOME

Friday and Saturday, January 17 - 18
9 a.m. TOURNAMENT at Florence

GO BOBCATS!



Bobcat Menu • Jan 6 - Jan 9, 2013

Monday breakfast
French Toast Sticks, Saus. Links
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Chili w/ Crackers
Choice of Vegetable
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Tuesday breakfast
Bagels, Cream Cheese,
Ham, Fruit, Milk
lunch
Chicken Patty Sandwich
Choice of Vegetable
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Wednesday breakfast
Scrambled Eggs, W.W. Toast
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Cheese Pizza
Choice of Vegetable
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Thursday breakfast
Sausage Gravy, Biscuits
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Mac'n'cheese, W.W.Roll
Choice of Vegetable
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Elementary - Main dish, bread, milk, choice of 1 veg. & 1 fruit • Salad bar



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KIDS CORNER

Friday, January 3, 2014

Constitution Terms

Match the Constitutional Term in the left column with the definition in the right column.

- ___ 1. Preamble
- ___ 2. Establish
- ___ 3. Domestic
- ___ 4. Tranquility
- ___ 5. Legislative
- ___ 6. Posterity
- ___ 7. Ordain
- ___ 8. Inhabitant
- ___ 9. Apportioned
- ___ 10. Enumeration
- ___ 11. Subsequent
- ___ 12. Attained
- ___ 13. Impeachment

- a. to arrive at
- b. a resident
- c. a preliminary statement; introduction
- d. future generations
- e. to order by virtue of established authority
- f. to divide and distribute according to a plan
- g. to charge a public official with crimes or misconduct
- h. to follow close after
- i. to make secure; to introduce
- j. to name or count off one by one
- k. the quality or state of being free from disturbance
- l. law making body
- m. of or relating to a country's internal affairs

Answers will be in next week's issue.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

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Help Wanted

CUSTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Custer County School District is accepting applications for a part-time Nurse through Thursday, January 9, at 4 p.m. The position will be for Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. until the end of the school year. Classified staff applications are available at www.custer-countyschools.org or the Administration office at 709 Main Street in Westcliffe, Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m. through 4 p.m. The Custer County School District will be on Christmas Break from December 20 to January 5. Please contact Chris Selle, Superintendent, at (719) 783-4951 or e-mail him at chris.selle@ccbobcats.net should you need application materials during that time. CCSD is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in employment.

The Custer County School District is accepting applications for an Office Secretary through Monday, January 13, at 12 p.m. Classified staff applications are available at www.custercountyschools.org or the Administration office at 709 Main Street in Westcliffe Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m. through 4 p.m. The Custer County School District will be on Christmas Break from December 20 to January 5. Please contact Chris Selle, Superintendent, at (719) 783-4951 or e-mail him at chris.selle@ccbobcats.net should you need application materials during that time. CCSD is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age or handicap in employment.

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Deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is Monday at Noon for that week's edition.

Call (719) 783-3360 to place your ad.

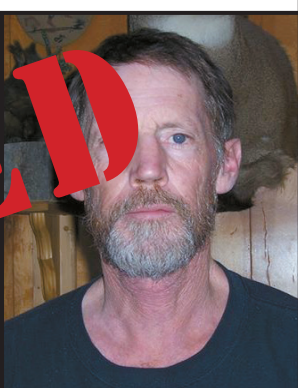
Wanted



Harry Mapps is a person of interest in the deaths of Dawn Roderick, and Kim and Reggie Tuttle in Rye, Colorado.

He is 56 years old, 6 feet tall, 180 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes.

He could be driving a late Chrysler Town & Country mini-van, with either Kansas plates 7-FSNK or Colorado plates 591-SBL.



If you see him, please call 911, the Westcliffe Sheriff's Dept. at 719-783-2270 the Pueblo Sheriff's Dept. at 719-583-6125. The U.S. Marshall's Office is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to his capture.

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OEM

From page 6

age (ponds, pumps), the list can go on and on depending on the needs of the incident. Sometimes people are willing to donate their services and equipment, but even then there may be time restrictions. Preplanning with these people in your community is a good way to eliminate problems before they arise. Agreements are made ahead of time to address things such as payment, and answer questions such as: Will they be willing to donate services during an emergency and for how long? What if the equipment is damaged? Who can operate the equipment? Who pays for fuel or operating costs? Is the equipment or facility insured? What if someone is injured? These are all tricky questions and they are best agreed upon, and in writing, ahead of time. There is not always time to work through details during an emergency and there are many cases where a jurisdiction received an unexpected bill or a business owner felt taken advantage or suffered personal losses after helping out in an emergency.

Recovery

Recovery means different things to different people. In Emergency Management we talk short-term and long-term recovery. In the short term, damage assessments are conducted, needs are identified. Infrastructure that is necessary to the community is prioritized, such as utilities, communications, roadways and water and sewer facilities. Emergency Management also assists in providing citizens with direct access to services and programs that are set-up to provide relief for the victims of the disaster. Long-term recovery issues require much coordination and cooperation among all the stakeholders and community members. It is challenging and requires a long time to achieve. A recent recovery project in Custer County was the aerial reseeding of the north-facing slopes that were burned in the Wetmore Fire. This reseeding effort was accomplished by working with BLM, NRCS, Custer Conservation District and Custer Emergency Management. The reseeding along with some other soil stabilization projects mitigated the potential erosion of the burned terrain. This was just a taste of recovery compared to projects in Waldo Canyon,

High Park, Black Forest and other burn scars. The recovery efforts after last summer's floods will continue for years. In many of these areas the counties have hired Recovery Managers to work in the Office of Emergency Management in order to focus just on these issues.

Mitigation

This means to lessen or eliminate the effects of disasters on the community. Counties have Hazard Mitigation Plans that identify by looking at historical data the most likely hazards to occur. Once those hazards are identified then we use planning strategies to find ways to reduce the impact of those hazards to the community. In Custer County our top most likely hazards, not surprisingly, are wildland fires, blizzards, and straight-line winds. There are many others that could happen but, are not as likely and would potentially not affect as many people. We look at these hazards and try to educate people how to best be prepared and lessen the impact if one of these disasters happens. Fire mitigation efforts in Custer County are huge. Emergency Management has been involved for years in assisting in Wildfire Protection Plans, mitigation training and presentations and slash projects. Slash is difficult, whether you burn it, haul it, mulch it, grind it, chip it or just ignore it, it is a problem in Custer County. Recently, homeowner insurance companies have become very interested in how fire mitigation is handled forcing many homeowners into fire mitigation. Emergency Management is currently working with USFS, BLM and Home Owners Associations on slash projects. Mitigation is not just for fire. Flood mitigation is also a hot topic with much left to learn on the subject.

I tried to summarize the functions of Emergency Management. It is difficult to break it down any less than what I have above, although it would be easy to expand in many areas.

I'd like to remind you about the CERT class coming up Feb 20, 21 and 22, from 5 - 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and 8 a.m. - noon on Saturday. There is no cost for the class, but class size is limited to 20 people, so register soon to save your spot. Every family should have at least one person in attendance. Book your seat today by calling 719-371-5137.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Obituary Ron Mooney

Ron Mooney passed away on December 14, at hospice in Pueblo, Colorado. Ron was born in Provo, Utah, and was married to beloved Virginia “Ginny” for 42 years.

Ron enjoyed hiking and fishing, and worked as a contractor, glazier and builder. Among his projects were building Kmart store fronts, high-rise buildings in Denver, and the Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Deon and Arnold Mooney, and his son, Dennis Mooney, and is survived by his wife Ginny of

Westcliffe, Colorado; son, Rich, and Ruth Mooney of Linden, Utah; son, Randy, and Susan Mooney of Mapleton, Utah; son, Brian, and Theresa Mooney of Springville, Utah; daughter, Betteanne, and Trey Houghton of Springville, Utah; daughter, Alysha, and Shannon Lowe of Westcliffe, Colorado; stepson, Ron, and Sandra Santa Cruz of Avondale, Arizona; and step-daughter, Lisa, and Phil Rudd of Gilbert, Arizona.

The funeral service was held at the Ula Cemetery on December 21, and of-



ficiated by Pastor Brad Reneke of the Westcliffe Community Church.

Donations to help with medical expenses may be made at First State Bank of Colorado in Westcliffe.

Obituary Edna Pauline Church

Edna Pauline Church went to sleep and awoke in her Saviors arms on December 28, 2013, at the Vali Assisted Living in Westcliffe Colorado. Edna was born on June 14, 1920, in Forgan, Oklahoma, to Joseph Edward Lile and Deliaha Jane (Powers) Lile.

Edna married John Loy Church on December 1, 1936, in Salida, Colorado. They shared 46 years of marriage before John passed away in 1982.

Three daughters were born from their union. Leaving to cherish her memory are Janice Maedean Gall (Bob), Sharon Paulette Estis (Jerry), and Marlyn Rose Smith (Walter).

Grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren

loved her and fondly called her Grammie Church. Edna is also survived by two sisters, Estellene Head of Cortez, Colorado, and Jaunita Tobin of Long Beach, California.

Edna enjoyed her life as wife, mother, and grandmother. She worked many years as an LPN in the Salida and Pueblo Hospitals. She earned her Cosmetology license at age 50.

Her hobbies were hunting arrowheads and traveling with her husband. She enjoyed crocheting and sewing.

Edna was a member of the Cotopaxi Community Church for many years.

A celebration of her life



was held Monday, December 30, at the Cotopaxi Community Church.

Interment will follow at the Howard Cemetery. Luncheon will be served for all at the church.

Arrangements were with Lewis and Glenn Funeral Home in Salida, Colorado.

In Memory of Claire Davis

Claire Davis was the seventeen-year-old girl who was shot at Arapahoe High School last month. She passed away on December 21, after being in a coma since the shooting on December 13.

May her family be surrounded by God’s comforting hand.



New Year's Resolutions

Local Commentary
by Audrey Slater

New Year’s resolutions – most people make them. I’ll lose weight, eat healthier, exercise more, quit smoking (that was one of mine almost 18 years ago that thankfully God helped me accomplish). Most of us break those resolutions, sometimes in the first month.

I have been thinking very hard about this year’s resolution. I look at our world and am saddened. Mothers killing babies in the womb, children being physically and sexually abused by fathers and mothers, horrific brutal murders and rapes, teens beating up elderly, homosexuality on the rampage. I think it can’t get any worse and then on the news I am proven wrong.

If these things sadden us what must it do to God’s heart? He is a loving Father God and He loves us, His creation. 2 Peter 3:9, “The lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but

is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” And longsuffering He is. He has watched the holocaust, the genocides all over the world and our blatant turning away from Him and throwing Him out of our lives. How much longer do you suppose He can tolerate our disobedience and arrogance?

Yes, He is a loving Father and as a loving parent He will discipline His children. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, He sent the Israelites into Babylonian captivity for 400 years. Do you really think He will spare America?

He has blessed this country, yes. When our forefathers started this country they did it on Biblical principles, but can He continue to bless us and be a fair and just God? I think not.

I feel in my heart that we are approaching a critical juncture in time. It is time to seriously reflect on who we are and what we can

do. We can get involved in politics, locally and nationally, and try to get the right people elected to office. We can make our voices heard by contacting those in office now and let them know how we feel about their job performance. These are all very important endeavors. However, I feel a need to approach this from a spiritual point.

For my New Year’s resolution I am going to spiritually eat healthier by spending more time in His Word. I will spiritually exercise more by listening for His nudgings and obey His requests. And I will be phoning home more often and pray that 2014 be a year of revival. I know that revival must start with me and so I will make myself open to the Holy Spirit to show me what is unacceptable and change me. Then pray that revival spreads in our community, county, state and nation. I hope some of you will join me in this effort and say “enough is enough, we are taking our country back for God.”

Events Calendar

- Friday, January 3, 2014**
Custer County Schools Christmas Break to Jan. 5
7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire”
- Saturday, January 4, 2014**
8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Bobcat Youth Basketball
9 a.m. - 12 p.m. HS Boys Basketball Open Gym
7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire”
- Sunday, January 5, 2014**
2 p.m. - The Jones Theater: “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire”
- Monday, January 6, 2014**
9 a.m. BOCC Meeting
Custer County Schools resume classes
4:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Accountability Committee Meeting
4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Winter Play Rehearsal CCSD
- Tuesday, January 7, 2014**
9 a.m. BOCC Meeting
4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Winter Play Rehearsal CCSD
- Tuesday, January 7, 2014 (cont’d)**
4 p.m. - 5 p.m. Middle School Robotics
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Ag Advisory Committee Meeting
- Wednesday, January 8, 2014**
3 p.m. - 4 p.m. MS Semester Awards
4 p.m. - 5 p.m. MS Knowledge Bowl
4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Winter Play Rehearsal CCSD
- Thursday, January 9, 2014**
4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Winter Play Rehearsal CCSD
- Friday, January 10, 2014**
All day National ACT Test Registration Deadline for test date 2/08/14
7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: “Thor: The Dark World”
- Saturday, January 11, 2014**
9 a.m. - All day HS Wrestling Tournament @ Home
8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Bobcat Youth Basketball
10:30 - 11:30 a.m. MS Girls/Boys Basketball @ La Veta
7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: “Thor: The Dark World”
- Sunday, January 12, 2014**
2 p.m. - The Jones Theater: “Thor: The Dark World”

Recurring Events & Business Hours

- Monday**
6 p.m.: Closed discussion meeting Alcoholics Anonymous at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Westcliffe. Call Jim at 783-2053 or 360/509-9172 or Lisa 719/783-0809.
- Monday through Friday**
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Custer County Public transit service available to everyone through Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343.
- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday**
Noon: Lunch served at Custer County Senior Center located on first floor of Silver Cliff Town Hall. Call 783-9508 to RSVP.
- Monday and Thursday**
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.: Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources in Silver Cliff opens to assist young mothers and families in need. Services include free pregnancy tests, counseling to pregnant women and more. Call 783-4357.
- Tuesday**
12:30 p.m.: Bridge Club meets in the library community room in downtown Westcliffe.
4:30 p.m.: Awanas for kids ages three through sixth grade at First Baptist Church of Westcliffe.
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.: Jammin’ band at Mining Company restaurant in Silver Cliff.
- Tuesday through Friday**
10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.: Library in downtown Westcliffe open.
- Wednesday**
Line dancers meet at Community United Methodist Church from 9:30 to 11 a.m. thru the winter starting November 20. Call Clem at 303/909-7370.
6 p.m.: Closed Big Book study Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Westcliffe. Call Jim at 783-2053 or 360/509-9172 or Lisa 719/783-0809.
- Thursday**
5:30 p.m.: Weight Watchers meeting in the Hope Lutheran Church basement. Call 783-4144.
6 p.m.: Celebrate Recovery program at First Baptist Church in Westcliffe. Call 719/568-1060.
- Friday**
6 p.m.: Open topic Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. Call Jim at 783-2053 or 360/509-9172 or Lisa 719/783-0809.
- Friday and Saturday**
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.: Share Center adjacent to Hope Lutheran Church in Westcliffe open.
- Saturday**
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Library in downtown Westcliffe open.
10:30 a.m.: Story time for kids at the library in downtown Westcliffe



School Christmas Carol Protest Rally

92 parents and citizens gather in the school parking lot for scheduled TV interview regarding the “Keep Christ in Christmas controversy”.

Sentinel photo by George Gramlich

Your West Custer County Library



The main library area has a vast selection of books, which are available for check-out for a three-week time period. The staff tries to be very responsive to the community and is interested in what people want to read. There is also a community room available for rental and when not scheduled is available for public use as a quiet work space. Free Wi-Fi is available in the library and the community room. Check out the library's Facebook page for more information on the library and upcoming events.



Director Amy Moulton, Assistant Librarian Jacque Keller and Youth Services Librarian Jessica Carter.



Olivia Heisig and Angelina Posadas participating in Story Time Art in the Library Community Room. In the left background is Stephanie and Lyle Posadas and to their right Kylie Carter. Story time is available every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. The first Saturday of the month is a special Story Art Time.

Courtesy Photo WCCL



Six public desktop computers are available for use. Filters are installed on the computers used by children. A laptop computer and an iPad are available for public use inside the library and four eReaders will be available to check out from the library within the next few weeks. eBook downloads will be available the end of February.



Assistant Director Norma Jandro and Systems Librarian Ted Ballard.

Courtesy Photo WCCL



Avery Hann enjoys some quiet time with a good book.



For over 4 years, the Westcliffe Seed Lending Library has been located inside the West Custer County Library. You may check out seeds for free, grow the seed in your garden, and return the seed back to the lending library. This process helps seed adapt to our environment. Contact the library for more information.



A large selection of audio books, movies, and music is available for check out. Fairly new to the library is the availability to also check out magazines. The three week time period for checking out these items is the same as for books.

Photo Feature by Barbara Napolitan

Book Review

The Un-Taming of the Church, A Wild Strawberry Conspiracy

by Richard Jones

by Candi Sage

Westcliffe’s own Richard Jones spent over 30 years in the ministry and this book not only has the potential to resonate with members of any church in the world, organized religion or non-denominational, but it certainly did resonate and ‘hit home’ with me.

Mr. Jones begins in Chapter 1 stating, “Generally speaking, the church today seems to borrow its models of structure and its methods of operation from the world in which we live.” I could not concur with more vigor! I happened to be involved in several churches during my own Christian walk and have seen this ‘in action’ by various forms and to various degrees. In fact, this very reason is why my husband and I decided to leave a large church after 14 years and seeing it grow and evolve into just the man-made “business” Mr. Jones describes.

Mr. Jones admits that this is not necessarily a favorable topic in today’s church society. Again, I must agree as I’ve seen first-

hand where many churches strive to ‘reach the youth’ with too much hyped productions and hip social media, and completely missed what the Bible has shown and said, but don’t want a reminder of what the Bible says about it. He is quick to point out that, “The institutional church in America has done some good.”..... and reminds the reader that God will work to bring His purposes, despite our “mis-guided directions.”

“A return to the wisdom of Jesus,” Mr. Jones calls it, “to discard the world’s patterns, forget the corporate models, the business methods, the advertising schemes, the elaborate structures...” He is calling for people to reclaim the ancient wisdom as in “the patterns of creation” that “reveal the way God works in our own lives and in His church,” in an “organic” way as Jesus used many of the natural analogies from the earth. Mr. Jones reminds the reader that the analogies of Jesus were framed by the wisdom of the earth, the natural models; “they were about seeds, soil, yeast, vines,

roots, trees, flowers, fish, birds, water and wind.”...

Chapter 4 speaks of recognizing that “fewer and fewer people are involved in the processes which provide the food they eat.” ..and that connection “for today’s young people...is disappearing...” He contends that this may be why there is “little understanding of or interest in stories about seed time and harvest, flour and yeast, vines and branches, or seeds on rocky soil.”

Here is as good a place as any to bring in the wild strawberry Mr. Jones refers to. This is the place where man ‘intervenes’ in what God’s creation provides - a wild strawberry. Instead of the smaller, sweeter, natural strawberry, we go to the store and find a huge, genetically altered, humanly engineered one. Gone is the hunting, gone is the waiting for the right season, and gone is the “true flavor”. Mr. Jones message, “The kingdom of God is not built by us, it is grown by God!” He further contends, “The brothers of Jesus, like the church today, thought they could organize and man-

age the purpose of God on their own time schedule.... Maybe it is time (or past time) for the church to be UN-TAMED and become UN-HURRIED.”

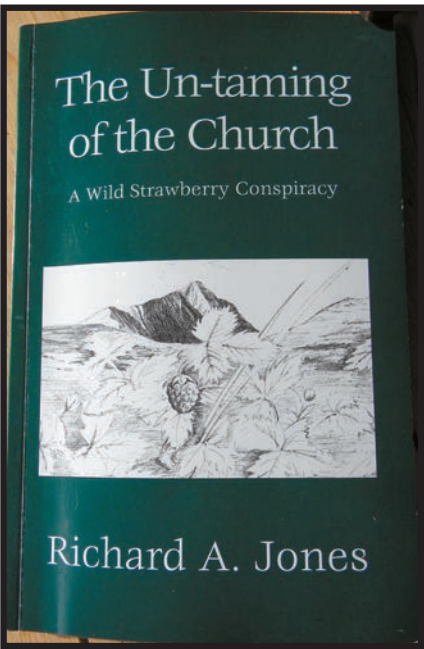
Mr. Jones describes, “God’s way is not simply concerned with needs being met and good deeds being done, but with hearts and lives being transformed. Institutional organization can get things done - it can not make us like Jesus!” He explains God’s economy as ‘efficiency’ looking different, and that, “Jesus is not looking for obedient servants who take their turn volunteering in their spare time; He is looking for friends who have begun to see eternity and take full ownership in the Father’s Kingdom - all of the time.”

The concern of Mr. Jones seems to be that some of “the foundational assumptions in the modern church are rooted more in American culture than in the life and teachings of Jesus.” He says, “Yes, the institutional church, like the humanly engineered strawberry in super markets today, is larger, more quickly grown, more impressive,

more available and more in demand by consumers.” Mr. Jones, on the other hand, prefers the “robust flavor and sweetness of the wild strawberry (or church) which grows uncultivated and uncontrolled by human schemes.”

His call in this book is to encourage people to really take a look at their walk within an institution and compare it with what is in the Bible and the life of Jesus and the natural rhythms and seasons of God’s direction and timing and not our own. He encourages others to do as he leads, “Let me listen more than I talk as I learn to discern the gentle whisper of Jesus. He is the master gardener, the life of the world, and the head of His church.”

The Un-taming of the Church, A Wild Strawberry



Conspiracy, is a book that calls the reader to get back into what God says is His word, follow what the examples of Jesus tell us, put our spiritual ears back in place to hear the still small voice of His Holy Spirit all day, every day and not be sucked into the ways and means of the world and man’s intervention within.

Copies of Richard’s book may be obtained by calling The Lamp Post Lodge, 719-783-2876, and leave a message.

Invitation

Westcliffe Residents
(within town proper)
Please attend
The Public Hearing
On the proposed
Entertainment District

An area within the town of Westcliffe designated as an Entertainment District of a size no more than one hundred acres and containing at least twenty thousand square feet of premises licensed as a tavern, hotel and restaurant, brew pub, or vintner’s restaurant at the time the District is created.

**PROPOSED ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT BOUNDARIES:
With a Common Consumption Area**

Proposed Boundaries: Third and Main Street going west to the end of Main Street at Adams Blvd.; Second Street one block north.

Common Consumption Area: designed as a common area located within a designated Entertainment District and approved by the Local Licensing Authority that uses physical barriers to close the areas to motor vehicle traffic and limit pedestrian access.

January 13, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
Cliff Lanes conference room

The Board of Trustees
Want to hear from you!

For information prior to the Public Hearing,
Please contact Town Hall at 783-2282

Can’t attend, drop a letter off at 305 Main Street, mail it to P.O. Box 406, Westcliffe, CO. 81252
or email it to the townclerk@townofwestcliffe.com

Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

On Family, Miracles, and Christmas

by Chandra I. (Roberts) Serfoss

Before daylight on November 5, 1971, two Roberts boys, Cañon City natives, packed up their rifles and drove out to Tunnel Drive to go hunting. Ron, a 27-year-old just out of the Army, was excited to be back home and to be with his youngest brother, Dave, who had just turned 18. As the two drove toward the end of the drive to the old parking place, their car ran out of gas. But neither boy was going to let that put a halt to their excursion and hunting for some much-needed meat to put on their tables. So they hoofed it about a half-mile past the old parking place before ascending to the top of Fremont Peak. Not having any luck, they traveled east about another quarter mile.

By midday, Ron and Dave decided to head back down because they knew their walk back to Cañon would take some time, so they hiked down a canyon that led to the second wooden bridge on Tunnel Drive. However, when they reached the mouth of the canyon, they were met with a steep rocky drop-off. The boys had a decision to make—travel back up the canyon and around to a more accessible crossing point or climb carefully down the rocky cliff face toward the road. With time being the deciding element—not to mention that they were just like any other young men who think they're bullet-proof—the two slowly started the dangerous descent down the cliff. Ron took the lead, bit by bit finding small indentations in the rock to place hands and feet. Intently scouting the course, Ron was horrified when he saw his young brother rapidly slip past him to the bottom of the 70-feet-long cliff.

Dressed for autumn weather hunting, Dave was wearing bulky snow boots not made for rock climbing. He misplaced one foot and fell, and as he fell he created a small rock-slide. No one will ever know what injuries Dave sustained from simply falling off the cliff that day because a rock weighing nearly 100 pounds landed on him, driving his head into the ground. With adrenaline surging through his body, Ron quickly made his way down to his brother. Certain that Dave could not be alive, Ron lifted up his brother's head to find him terribly wounded—his skull had been split open and his nose cleaved in two. Miraculously however, Dave responded after Ron cleared the blood out of his mouth. Ron told Dave, "I'm going for help."

Common Core: The Death of Truth

by Candace Thompson

I first became aware of the effort to takeover the minds of children in the public schools by the religion of Humanism when I was teaching science in Upland, California, in the 80's. The "situational ethics" that was being taught was a precursor to Common Core, the institutionalized national education that, in one of it's "rotten to the core" layers, has as it's goal to eliminate

Running for all he was worth, Ron barged into to the first country home he found, asking the frightened residents if they had a phone. They didn't. Several houses later, he found a couple who had a phone, and they agreed to call for an ambulance. As Ron was running back to where he had left his brother, the search and rescue team met him on the road and picked him up so that he could take them to Dave. Again, Ron was convinced that his little brother could not possibly still be alive, but again Dave surprised them all when he lifted his head on his own and gave a weak wave to show that he was hanging on. It was not an easy job getting Dave to the ambulance, for the team had to trek down to the bottom of the draw where Dave had landed and carry him on a stretcher up a steep hill to the road. But Ron was on the end of the stretcher pushing the two men in front.

As the ambulance entered the west end of Cañon City, Dick and Laura Roberts, Ron and Dave's parents, were driving into town from the 4th Street Bridge. When the ambulance passed them, Dick turned to Laura and said, "We need to follow that ambulance. One of our boys is in there." It may have been simply a keen father's intuition or it may have been something far more divine, but Dick's feeling was not a suspicion—he was certain. They followed the ambulance to the hospital to find that their youngest son was about to die. He was drowning from his own blood because his broken ribs had punctured a lung. The family was told to expect the worst. Against the wishes of the hospital staff, Dick entered the room where doctors and nurses worked to save Dave's life, and he began to pray.

And that is why, I believe, that Dave, whose ribs had all been broken from his spine and whose head had been severely injured, was able to spend that Christmas in 1971 with his young wife Mary who was expecting their first baby that following January. Christmas is a time to reflect on love for family, faith, and miracles. Forty two years later, my dad, Dave, is still here to celebrate Christmas with his family. You see, I believe that Uncle Ron saved my dad that day because God made him run faster than he ever had before. And I believe that Grandpa saved my dad that day because he prayed to God like he never had before. And I believe in miracles. Merry Christmas.

any vestige of an "absolute truth".

Throughout the core aligned curricula in language arts, math, science, etc. you will find this underlying agenda to help students construct values and ethical systems based on their own perceptions and experiences rather than on traditional sources like the Bible, the classics, the Constitution and other found-

See TRUTH on page 19

Miracle on 16th Street: Great Turnout for Common Core Presentation

by Anita Stapleton

I believe that Christmas came early on Monday, December 16th 2013 and a miracle happened at the Independence Institute in Denver. There was a packed house with senators, representatives and many concerned constituents who came to be educated on the most devastating take over of our American education system....Common Core. Amazingly, many people still do not know anything about Common Core or have even heard the name. Those that have, showed up to hear just how it has affected Colorado and what we, as Colorado citizens, can do to get us out of it.

The presentation called-"Common Core The Poisoned Apple Being Fed to American Education" was orchestrated to bring our elected representatives together as to educate them on the latest affects of Common Core in our schools. It was also designed to show them the ground work that was laid (without reported understanding) that paved the way for Common Core: bills such as SB 212,213 and SB 191 for example. SB 191 which is in regard to teacher/principal effectiveness places 50% of their evaluations on the student's performance on the national assessment tests. This is the tool that will determine if a teacher/principal is effective or not. There are strict criteria that will determine probation, tenure and retention. There are noted conservative representatives and senators that actually sponsored this bill.

At Monday's presentation, they admitted the bill was presented to them as a tool to measure teacher accountability and to release tenure. What they reportedly did not know was that in order for Colorado to win the glorified "Race To The Top" stimulus money (purely bribery), they had to pass SB 191. In the phase 3 RTTT Application, both SB 212,213, and 191 are stated as necessary to "win" the funds. Colorado lost the RTTT in rounds one and two. So when the Colorado Department of Education and local districts say Common Core is just about the standards, citizens need to realize it is not. Common Core is a package deal that has many components and in order to receive the bribe money, Colorado had to agree to adopting the Common Core Standards, Joining one of two National Assessment Test Consortiums, adopt State Longitudinal Database Systems (data mining students, parents, AND teachers), and investing more into STEM programs. This last leg of implementing Common Core comes with a heavy price.....sanity.

The push and demand for Colorado to implement the PARCC Assessment Tests (replacing TCAP) is causing such an increase in stress at the state level that it is rolling right down the hill to the local level and crashing on top of our students. Many Colorado parents are

concerned and raising questions as to why their students do not want to go to school. Reports are coming in with students having increased nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain and feelings of low self worth. Many say they feel stupid because their teachers tell them they don't try hard enough or even care enough. In New York, school social workers are reporting increased self-mutilation with students and teachers seeking more counseling and need for anti-depressants/anti-anxiety medications. They report this is a result of increased stress related to "all the testing that is mandated." Teachers from kindergarten to 12th grade are contemplating resigning and/or retiring early.

The focus now is on implementing the assessment tests in CO districts. NY has been through this phase and is actually implementing the real tests and after one year show a reduction of 30% in their test scores. Many states in the consortium have declared pulling out. There were 24 states in the consortium and my last count has 9 states pulled out including Florida, which consequently is the fiscal holder for the Partnership of Assessment for College and Career Readiness. This should speak profoundly to the detriment of the Common Core testing arena that is ultimately driving local districts to adopt the national curriculum that is "Common Core Approved." Many home school curriculums and parochial schools are adopting the curriculum. They know the tests are the driving factor. Teachers are required to learn how to administer these tests and are struggling in completing the teacher development courses....the very drafters of the Common Core Standards and PARCC tests called ACHIEVE, Inc. have given modules called "Achieving The Core" to instruct teachers how to implement Common Core.

There is a huge monopoly spun around all the mandates. This is at the expense of our students and the truly great educators and principals that don't deserve this kind of destruction. Colorado citizens need to put the pressure on their elected representatives to first write into legislation protection for students and parents who opt out of Common Core and the assessments. This is highly suggested by Jane Robbins and Dr. Sandra Stotsky. These two individuals are in the fight nationwide to rid America of Common Core. The second item that needs to be done is to gut SB 191 and to separate teacher accountability and tenure from the Common Core mandates. The bottom line is this: bring LOCAL control back to Colorado. The federal government has no place in our education.

Anita will be a guest on Morning Line with Kari Jacobs at 8:30am, January 6, KRLN 1400, in Canon City and will be giving a presentation at 6pm at the Recreation Center 575 Ash Street, Canon City.

IMPORTANT DATES IN FREMONT

School Board Meetings:

Cañon City Fremont RE-1
2nd and 4th Mon
5:30 p.m.
101 N 14th St
in Cañon City

Florence-Penrose Fremont RE-2
403 W.5th St.
Florence
7 p.m. Dec 9
(2nd Mon.)

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 & 4th Thursday
each month
6:00 p.m.
451 Valley Rd
Cañon City
www.royalgorgetea-party.com
or find them on Facebook

Southern Colorado Survivors
1st Sat at 8:30 a.m.
Mugs
1520 Royal Gorge Blvd
Cañon City
Find them on Facebook

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



Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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.

Clarity or Veiled Eyes

It was just December 2009 when the usurpers in the Senate passed the socialist health care bill as a “Christmas” present to the American people. In only a few days, Americans are required to sign up--that is, unless you have received an arbitrary presidential exemption. From my perspective, it is against my religion to sign up. This bill steals from some and gives to others; it forces participation in covetousness; it includes provisions that force pro-life people to support abortion and panels who decide who receives certain health care. As for me and my house, we will not participate. If enough of us do not participate, it will fail. Already, the occupant of the Oval Office cannot administer it as the law requires.

If ever there was a case that the words of John Jay should be etched on the doorstep of every home, the behavior of Congress and the White House who forced this upon us would prove it. Jay, the first Justice of the US Supreme Court, wrote in a letter addressed

to Pennsylvania House of Representatives member John Murray, dated October 12, 1816, “Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest, of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.” Many a pastor has preached from the pulpit that Christians should not be involved in politics, and this current gaggle of evildoers in public office are the wages of this errant teaching.

There are many who look within the world system and decry that it is impossible to turn things around for the better. Indeed, looking through the eyes of what we know as human beings--the immediate past and present Administrations have driven Americans into unprecedented debt; Constitutional rights have been trampled as if they were never written; enemies have been allowed unchecked entry into our nation for the purpose of colonization; secret societies and special interest groups have overcome our nation like thorns on an

abandoned farm. But these adversities are no less than those faced by a handful of Pilgrims, or a small group of minutemen, or the brave souls at Normandy.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 8:31, “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?” Yes we have drifted as a nation from our Lord, but let us remember the promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” God sent His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. Psalm 103:2 says, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” It all starts with Jesus. May your relationship with Him give you peace, comfort and strength.

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

AGAINST THEIR NATURE: Dems Tie Small Biz Owners in Knots Trying to Walk Back Tax

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

(Editor/GG: I have owned small businesses in various states. Colorado's Business Personal Property Tax is the WORST small business tax I have ever seen. It is an annual money eating nightmare for any small businessman. Only a politician could think of something so antibusiness. And it is hurting Colorado. Big time. Of course, the democrats love it.)

Hey small business owners, remember that time you had to be a quant jock to apply for a tax that would later be credited? No? Oh just wait.

There is no shortage of examples demonstrating the various ways in which Governor Hickenlooper and his allies in the Democrat-controlled state legislature have worked to create a hostile business

climate in Colorado. Now, they're offering a token nod to business issues...or are they?

One of the most anti-business laws on Colorado's books -- and the Democrats have been supporting this for years -- is the notorious Business Personal Property Tax, which levies an assessment against some of the most critical factors of production used by businesses in this state. The value of the machinery, furniture, equipment, and other resources that business owners use to create jobs and produce income is taxed under this complicated law. The Democrats even go after equipment in storage not in use.

Since 2008, Colorado State Senator Mark Scheffel and his Republicans colleagues have been trying to repeal this onerous tax, just to be blocked every time by

Democrat governors and lawmakers. In fact, the Denver Business Journal reported that Scheffel has put forth no fewer than 11 bills to get rid of this job killing tax. Now, seemingly out of nowhere, the Democrats want to reduce the hardship that this tax places on Colorado's job creators -- kind of. They still want businesses to pay the tax, but allow them to apply for a refund against the taxes paid on the first \$25,000 of business personal property that was taxed.

Nevermind the fact that this is one of the most complicated and time consuming taxes in the entire state code in terms of compliance. One form, used to determine the tax on assets used in renewable energy production (there is, of course, a carve out for re-

See TAX
on page 18

The Twelve Rules of Christmas

Compiled by attorneys for
The Rutherford Institute

(Editor/GG: Please note that there is no legal compunction or rationale that would force our Custer County School system to eradicate God and Christ from the Christmas Carol program.)

Over the years, The Rutherford Institute has been contacted by parents and teachers alike concerned about schools changing their Christmas concerts to “winter holiday programs” and renaming Christmas “winter festival” or cancelling holiday celebrations altogether to avoid offending those who do not celebrate the various holidays. Hoping to alleviate ongoing confusion arising from political correctness over the do's and don'ts of celebrating Christmas in schools, workplaces and elsewhere, The Rutherford Institute has issued its “Twelve Rules of Christmas” guidelines.

In issuing the guidelines, Institute attorneys cited incidents in which, for example, a public school 6th-grade class was asked to make “holiday cards” to send to the troops but were told they could not use the words “Merry Christmas” on their cards. Similarly, nativity displays, Christmas carols, Christmas trees, wreaths, candy canes and even the colors red and green have been banned as part of the effort to avoid any reference to Christmas, Christ or God.

In order to clear up much of the misunderstanding over what can or cannot be done in terms of celebrating the holiday, the following twelve rules are offered:

1. Public school students' written or spoken personal expressions concerning the religious significance of Christmas (e.g., T-shirts with the slogan, “Jesus Is the Reason for the Season”) may not be censored by school officials absent evidence that the speech would cause a substantial disruption.(i)

2. So long as teachers are generally permitted to wear clothing or jewelry or have personal items

expressing their views about the holidays, Christian teachers may not be prohibited from similarly expressing their views by wearing Christmas-related clothing or jewelry or carrying Christmas-related personal items.[ii]

3. Public schools may teach students about the Christmas holiday, including its religious significance, so long as it is taught objectively for secular purposes such as its historical or cultural importance, and not for the purpose of promoting Christianity.[iii]

4. Public school teachers may send Christmas cards to the families of their students so long as they do so on their own time, outside of school hours.[iv]



5. Public schools may include Christmas music, including those with religious themes, in their choral programs if the songs are included for a secular purpose such as their musical quality or cultural value or if the songs are part of an overall performance including other holiday songs relating to Chanukah, Kwanzaa, or other similar holidays.[v]

6. Public schools may not require students to sing Christmas songs whose messages conflict with the students' own religious or nonreligious beliefs.[vi]

7. Public school students may not be prohibited from distributing literature to fellow students concerning the Christmas holiday or invitations to church Christmas events on the same terms that they would be allowed to distribute other literature that is not related to schoolwork.[vii]

8. Private citizens or groups may display crèches or other Christmas symbols in public parks subject to the same reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions that would apply to other similar displays.[viii]

9. Government entities may erect and maintain celebrations of the Christmas holiday, such as Christmas trees and Christmas light displays, and may include crèches in their displays at least so long as the purpose for including the crèche is not to promote its religious content and it is placed in context with other symbols of the Holiday season as part of an effort to celebrate the public Christmas holiday through its traditional symbols.[ix]

10. Neither public nor private employers may prevent employees from decorating their offices for Christmas, playing Christmas music, or wearing clothing related to Christmas merely because of their religious content so long as these activities are not used to harass or intimidate others.[x]

11. Public or private employees whose sincerely held religious beliefs require that they not work on

Christmas must be reasonably accommodated by their employers unless granting the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the employer.[xi]

12. Government recognition of Christmas as a public holiday and granting government employees a paid holiday for Christmas does not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.[xii]

For more information, email The Rutherford Institute at staff@rutherford.org.

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(Editor/GG: If you go to the above web address, you can find the actual case citations for the above guidelines.)

Breach: Cross-Dressing Man Defeats \$300 Million Newark Airport Perimeter Fence – “Substandard Security System”

Posted By Mac Slavo, [FreedomOutpost.com](#)

Every day hundreds of thousands of travelers are subjected to long lines and intrusive screenings by the Transportation Security Administration. Under the pretext of protecting Americans from terrorists the TSA, an agency which has never actually captured a terrorist in its ten year history, has spent billions of dollars on what they claim is a necessity in today’s dangerous world.

But with all the money being spent and a government control grid being implemented across the entire country, a cross-dressing fence jumper somehow managed to thwart a multi-million dollar impenetrable external perimeter defense system at Newark airport.

The Port Authority’s pricy perimeter-protection system failed again Wednesday when it failed to detect that a man — dressed as a woman — had hopped a fence at Newark Airport and wandered across two runways...

Newark’s Perimeter Intrusion Detection System should have alerted officials to (Siyah)Bryant’s presence long before he took his turn on the runway — but the \$300 million-plus system flunked.

“The [PIDS] cameras were operating and he was not detected by the PIDS system,” a source said.

He allegedly scaled the security fence and rambled unnoticed across two

runways before trying to enter Terminal C, where he was confronted by a United Airlines worker, who called cops.

The PIDS system includes cameras that watch the airport’s outer fence, which is topped with barbed wire and lined with sensors to detect climbers. It remains unclear why Bryant was not spotted.

“The individual involved was arrested, checked against the [Joint Terrorism Task Force] and FBI watch list, issued a summons and released,” Kountsouros said. “

Everybody was called on the carpet about this, which is rather unfair, since they have no control over a substandard security system,” the source said.

“If the PIDS system worked, the police would have responded and rendered the assistance he needed.”

If the PIDS system worked?

A \$300-million security system installed to protect Americans from the dastardly threat of homegrown and Al-Qaeda terrorists and it is substandard and not functioning?

So much for scrubbing granny’s wheelchair for explosive residue at the airport’s TSA checkpoint, when an intoxicated individual dressed in bright clothing can jump a fence and enter one of the busiest airports in America without being detected.

And though he was eventually spotted and arrested

when trying to enter the airport terminal, what if he had been there for nefarious reasons? What if he had been a trained operative who entered the airport perimeter with several other members of a terrorist cell? They could easily have approached aircraft under the cover of darkness, attached improvised explosive devices to airplanes, and detonated those devices once the planes were filled with passengers.

Curiously, while every American living inside of the United States is being constantly monitored and tracked, millions of illegal aliens every year jump the impenetrable fence down at our southern border, entering our country without documentation or knowledge of their whereabouts once they get here.

It seems that none of these state-of-the-art fences, or the billions of dollars being spent on building and staffing them, do what they are intended to do.

This is yet another example of why all of the security procedures being implemented by the Department of Homeland Security and their sub-agencies are highly suspect, suggesting that the goal of these regulations is not to protect Americans, but to control them.

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Race Hustler Industry Tries to Cash in on Duck Dynasty

by Allen West, [AllenWest.com](#)

You just knew it was coming, although we always want to believe it will just go away. What am I talking about? The race hustler industry.

The latest iteration of the movie, “Return of the Poverty Pimps” has Jesse Jackson inserting himself into the Phil Robertson “Duck Dynasty” episode.

According to a report from Fox Nation, “Reverend Jesse Jackson has weighed in on the controversy surrounding Duck Dynasty, comparing Phil Robertson to the driver who had ordered Rosa Parks to sit in the back of the bus.” Say what?

Jackson said:

These statements uttered by Robertson are more offensive than the bus driver in Montgomery, Alabama, more than 59 years ago. At least the bus driver, who ordered Rosa Parks to surrender her seat to a white person, was following state law. Robertson’s statements were uttered freely and openly without cover of the law, within a context of what he seemed to believe was “white privilege.”

Jackson demanded to meet within 72 hours with A&E executives and Cracker Barrel’s CEO to discuss the future of Duck Dynasty memorabilia.

Who the heck is Jackson to demand a meeting with

A&E Executives and CEO of Cracker Barrel? Is this meeting in keeping with his long-standing practice of corporate extortion and threat to boycott these businesses unless they kowtow to his financial extortion?

If we actually had an Attorney General with integrity, he would issue some type of injunction against Jackson having any influence in this matter, knowing the modus operandi of the Rainbow Coalition, as well as Al Sharpton’s National Action Network.

And for Jackson to invoke the memories of Rosa Parks is a blatant attempt at race-baiting and stoking the fires of racial tension. I wonder if Jackson has asked for a meeting with Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel? Has Jackson called for a meeting with the National Educators Association to discuss failing inner city schools and teachers?

Here we go again with this modern day version of black bloodsucking vampires who are draining the life out of the black community for their own “privilege” and relevancy. They said nothing when the “knockout game” was in its early stages. Theses cretins only show up when there is financial gain for themselves. And I don’t care who calls me Uncle Tom, Oreo, sellout or white man’s porch monkey, I will call out wrong when I see it. And if someone possesses the same skin color as I do and falls in line with this criminal behavior, the heck

with you.

Let me remind you of the words of Booker T. Washington (who I revere): “There is a class of colored people who make a business of keeping the troubles, the wrongs, and the hardships of the Negro race before the public. Some of these people do not want the Negro to lose his grievances, because they do not want to lose their jobs. There is a certain class of race-problem solvers who don’t want the patient to get well.”

Washington promoted education, entrepreneurship, and self-reliance completely in opposition to the race baiting ways of someone like Jesse Jackson. I can certainly believe Booker T. Washington would speak out against Jackson and Sharpton. And yep, they called Booker T. those ugly names they call black conservatives, such as myself today, way back then.

My message to Jesse Jackson: stand down and step aside, we are sick of your bigoted tactics. And I for one will keep “getting my grub on” at Cracker Barrel.

Whose side are you taking, Phil Robertson or Jesse Jackson? And I admonish the executives at A&E and Cracker Barrel to tell Jesse Jackson to join Mikey Weinstein and pound sand.

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Can You Even Keep or Afford Your Medicine Under Obamacare?

by Fred Lucas, [TheBlaze.com](#)

First some consumers found they couldn’t keep their existing health insurance plans. Then others learned they couldn’t keep their doctors. Now it’s possible that under Obamacare, some people won’t be able to keep their medications, or at least not afford them, under the complex formulary structure of the plans on the health exchanges and because of the rising costs.

“If you like your medicines, you may not be able to keep them under Obamacare,” health policy analyst Scott Gottlieb wrote in a Forbes column. “Health plans are cheapening their drug formularies — just like they

cheapened their networks of doctors. That’s how they’re paying for the benefits that President Obama promised, everything from free contraception to a leveling of premiums between older (and typically costlier) beneficiaries, and younger consumers.”

The affordability of prescriptions could hinge on whether a consumer is enrolled in a platinum, gold, silver or bronze plan.

Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, those earning up to 250 percent of the poverty level will qualify for cost-sharing reductions on prescriptions. That applies to those earning less than \$60,000 for a family of four and \$30,000 for an individ-

ual. That’s only if they are enrolled in the silver plan on the exchange.

In some cases, to be covered at all, the drug will have to be included in the plan — similar to how doctors must be part of a network covered by insurance, he wrote.

“The out of pocket caps on consumer spending only apply to costs incurred on drugs that are included on a plan’s drug formulary,” Gottlieb wrote. “This is the list of medicines that the health plans have agreed to provide some coverage for.”

“If the drug isn’t on this for-

See **MEDICINE** on page 18

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Ask a Pro: Things to consider when leaving home...

When leaving your home for vacation you may want to consider the following: Turn off the power to your pump and either close the main water valve or drain the pressure tank (unless of course your neighbor needs to water your horses). Turn off your hot water heater or set it to pilot if it’s gas (it’s easier than “off” and re-lighting it). Set your house heat to the lowest setting; just enough to keep things from freezing or your plants from drying. Make sure nonessensial electrical items are turned off. You may also want to stash your valuables.

Above all don’t forget the trash!!! I just love to come back to stinky trash and rotten goods in the refrigerator. If you have to leave your water on; make sure that you don’t have a dripping faucet or leaky toilet as these often lead to frozen sewer lines. You may also want to check your clothes washer (things get hectic and forgotten when leaving on vacation). -Dave Nequette -Lic 1043 Send questions to Nequette@ris.net Nequette Drilling & Dave’s Pump Service 719-783-3000 www.nequettedrilling.com



The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand

2013



Mandating Effective Gun Free Zones

By Dean Weingarten,
GunWatch.Blogspot.com

Kansas recently passed legislation requiring that local governments that ban the legal carry of concealed weapons in public buildings, do so for people who ignore the law as well. The logic is simple: If a person is willing to do illegal harm with a weapon, then ignoring a simple sign that forbids people from having weapons on the premises will not be much of a deterrent. This creates a situation where only those who are willing to ignore the law are armed. John Lott has noted that all of the public mass shootings since 1950, except one, have been in places where the public is not allowed to carry guns, "Gun Free Zones". Second amendment supporters often refer to such areas as "Defenseless Victim Zones".

The Kansas response is to require enforcement of "Gun Free Zones" in public buildings. If a government entity wishes to prevent the public from carrying guns in a public building, they can do so, but they have to put in place security measures such as guards and machines that are capable of detecting weapons, not a simple sign.

Wichita will open most of its public buildings – including libraries, recreational centers, CityArts and the Wichita Art Museum – to people carrying concealed guns under a new state law.

Fearful of lawsuits, the City Council voted 4-2 to allow concealed-carry in all but 16 of 107 city-owned buildings effective Jan. 1.

Those who oppose the right of the people to bear arms have also opposed making

the "Gun Free Zones" effective. They claim that the cost is prohibitive. That is partly the point, to inject reality into the debate. If you want to be secure from guns, a mere sign is only effective against those who are law abiding. From Kansas.com, Lavonta Williams, a city council member, stated an ideological reason for the ban on legal concealed weapons:

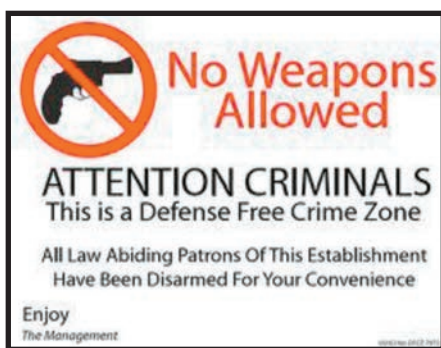
"My thing is the kids," Williams said. "What are we teaching them? Two wrongs don't make a right. If you're saying the outlaws are carrying so we should carry, then two wrongs don't make a right."

Many proponents of the measure say that citizens carrying arms is not only a moral right, it is a fundamental human right enumerated in the Constitution.

Read more here: <http://www.kansas.com/2013/12/10/3170875/city-council-to-vote-on-concealed.html#storylink=cpy>

Kansas is the first state to put such a law into effect. Arizona passed a similar measure in 2012, but Governor Jan Brewer vetoed it. Wisconsin considered a similar provision as part of its gun law reform in 2011, but it was ultimately removed during the legislative process.

The primary argument put forward by opponents is that the measure creates a costly burden for those who want to maintain those largely symbolic "Gun Free Zone" signs. But, the cost only occurs if the signs are



kept up. Then the proponents of "Gun Free Zones" have to show that they are serious about preventing dangerous criminals from having guns in those zones, not primarily interested in disarming armed citizens.

After the attack by Islamic terrorists in Nairobi, Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble noted that open societies have to make a choice between living with extremely tough security measures, and having an armed citizenry.

"Societies have to think about how they're going to approach the problem," Noble said. "One is to say we want an armed citizenry; you can see the reason for that. Another is to say the enclaves are so secure that in order to get into the soft target you're going to have to pass through extraordinary security."

Static defenses, such as these security measures, have generally proved ineffective over the long run. They are costly to maintain, and can be defeated by dedicated opponents. They cannot be extended over all of society. To do so results in a police state or totalitarian system. They have the advantage, however, of clarifying the reality of the choices.

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Rutherford Institute Asks U.S. Supreme Court to Ensure that Lawful Gun Ownership Is Not a Trigger for 'No-Knock' Police Raids

Press Release from The
Rutherford Institute

WASHINGTON, DC — Warning against encroachments on the Second Amendment right to bear arms, The Rutherford Institute has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case of a Texas man whose home was subject to a no-knock, SWAT-team style forceful entry and raid based solely on the suspicion that there were legally-owned firearms in his household. Although police had obtained a search warrant for John Quinn's home based on information that Quinn's son might possess drugs, the warrant did not authorize police to enter the residence without knocking and announcing their entry. During the raid, Quinn was shot by police because he had reached for his lawfully owned firearm, thinking that his home was being invaded by criminals. In asking the Supreme Court to hear the case of Quinn v. State of Texas, Institute attorneys argue that making lawful gun ownership and possession grounds for police to evade the protections afforded by the Fourth Amendment improperly penalizes and limits the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

"Whatever the issue might be, whether it's mass surveillance, no-knock raids, or the right to freely express one's views about the government, we've moved into a new age in which the rights of the citizenry are being treated as a secondary concern by the White House, Congress, the

courts, and their vast holding of employees, including law enforcement officials," said John W. Whitehead, president of The Rutherford Institute and author of A Government of Wolves: The Emerging American Police State. "The disconnect, of course, is that the Constitution establishes a far different scenario in which government officials, including the police, are accountable to 'we the people.' For it to be otherwise, for government concerns to trump individual freedoms, with government officials routinely sidestepping the Constitution and reinterpreting the law to their own purposes, makes a mockery of everything this nation is supposed to stand for—self-government, justice, and the rule of law."

In August 2006, Collin County (Texas) police obtained a warrant to search John Quinn's home based on information that Quinn's son might be in possession of controlled substances. The warrant did not authorize police to enter the residence without knocking and announcing their entry. Nevertheless, based solely on the suspicion that there were firearms in the Quinn household, the SWAT team forcibly broke into Quinn's home after he had gone to bed and proceeded to carry out a search of the premises. During the raid, Quinn was shot by police because he had reached for his lawfully owned firearm, thinking that his home was being invaded by criminals. The raid resulted in police find-

ing less than one gram of cocaine, which Quinn was charged with possessing.

Lower courts rejected Quinn's objection to the "no-knock" entry on the grounds that because police had information that guns were present at the residence, they were justified in making a forced and unannounced invasion into Quinn's home. Although established Fourth Amendment jurisprudence dictates that police officers entering a dwelling must knock on the door and announce their identity and purpose before attempting a forcible entry, police may disregard the knock and announce rule under circumstances presenting a threat of physical violence or a danger that evidence will be destroyed.

In their petition to the U.S. Supreme Court, Rutherford Institute attorneys argue that in the absence of any evidence of actual danger to police, the legal possession of a firearm, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment, is not sufficient to justify allowing police to override the Fourth Amendment's protection against unannounced "no-knock" home invasions when executing warrants. Affiliate attorney James A. Pikel of Scheef & Stone, LLP, in Frisco, Texas, is assisting the Institute in defending the rights of Quinn. The Rutherford Institute, a nonprofit civil liberties organization, provides legal assistance at no charge to individuals whose constitutional rights have been threatened or violated.

Connecticut Gun Owners Wait in Line to do Something Many Gun Owners Hope They Never Have To

by Jason Howerton,
TheBlaze.com

(Editor/GG: Your wonderful Colorado democrats would love to do this here. And they might if we don't vote them out ASAP. Governor Chickenpooper, "Mister Moderate", would sign it in a minute. Folks, the state has been taken over by a bunch of left wing lunatics who would completely disarm us if they could. Every election matters, especially locally.)

Connecticut residents waited in long lines on Thursday to register their firearms and high-capacity magazines before the state's new gun laws go into effect on Jan. 1, 2014.

WFSB-TV reports that a "long-line of people" stood outside the Public Safety Building in Middletown, Connecticut, all day to register semi-automatic rifles and high-capacity magazines. Several residents were upset with the "unconstitutional" requirement, while at least

one person didn't appear to mind.

"I understand why they're doing it, but I don't think it's constitutional," resident Scott Boccio told WFSB-TV as he was registering his guns.

Charles Gillette, who was registering magazines, told the news station that he would have a problem with it if the state was trying to ban the magazines or firearms, but said "if they want to just know where they are, that's fine with me."

However, not one gun owner who was registering firearms or magazines said they think the new laws will reduce gun violence.

"If people are going to do things illegally, they're not going to be here registering their gun," Jared Krajewski, another resident registering firearms, said.

For now, in Connecticut, the law is the law. The new gun control measures were put into place following the tragic school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut

State police Lt. Paul Vance said that gun owners must fill our forms completely and some may require a notary.

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Please see: www.theblaze.com/stories/2013/12/26/connecticut-gun-owners-wait-in-line-to-do-something-many-gun-owners-hope-they-never-have-to/

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More Physicians Are Refusing to Accept Any Third Party Insurance

December 9, 2013

By Barbara Hollingsworth, CNSNews.com

A small but growing number of physicians are not accepting government insurance, such as Medicare and Medicaid, and are even refusing to accept patients' private insurance, according to Dr. Jane Orient, executive director of the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS).

Orient says the transition to a business model in which patients agree to pay doctors directly for the health care services they provide started before Obamacare was passed, but that the new law has accelerated the trend, especially among AAPS' 4,000 or so members.

AAPS is the conservative alternative to the much larger American Medical Association (AMA), which endorsed Obamacare while AAPS opposed it.

"They like the freedom," Orient, a Tucson-based internist, told CNSNews.com. "They don't like third-parties telling them why they can't do what's best for their patients. They're tired of the constant threats of audits and prosecution, and they don't like being owed money by government programs and many insurance programs."

"But the biggest complaint I hear is that they are tired of fighting people who don't have a clue, and don't even know how to spell the procedure they want to perform," Orient added. "It just devours time and sometimes puts the patient's life at risk."

Some physicians never signed up with managed care insurance plans in the first place because the reimbursement levels didn't cover their costs, she said.

But now even doctors who "agreed to accept the crumbs, whatever compensation the government or the insurance companies decide to send them," are having second thoughts as the costs of practicing medicine continues to climb and government regulations become even more onerous.

"I get several calls a week from doctors seeking advice on how to opt out," Orient told CNSNews.com. "They tell me that they either have to go out of business or go back to the old-fashioned practice of charging for their services."

At least 100 physicians attend workshops and seminars AAPS sponsors twice a year on the subject. Former AAPS president Dr.

Juliette Madrigal-Dersch, who started her cash-only practice in Texas 11 years ago, tells fellow physicians that she has more time and flexibility to spend with patients and is actually better compensated for it, even after offering a discount for "teachers and preachers" and free care for cancer patients.

"I see billionaires and migrant workers, and everybody gets the same care," she says.

She charges \$15 for a CBC (complete blood count), while the tax-subsidized "charity hospital" down the street charges \$79. Medicare reimbursement is just \$3.50 for the same test.

Madrigal-Dersch says that by not having to deal with third-party payers, she is able to establish "a true doctor-patient relationship," enabling her to provide better care. For example, she says one of her patients would probably have died waiting for the Veteran's Administration to approve an MRI for her brain tumor.

In June, the association's website added a sample document AAPS members can use to opt out of Medicare.

"Once CMS [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services] unleashes its dreaded new program of 'private auditors' to shake down physicians in the Medicare program, far more physicians will likely opt out — and even more will wish they had," the AAPS website states. It also includes a state-by-state list of physicians who have already done so.

Doctors who stop accepting insurance typically lose patients and experience a drop in income, Orient said. Some never recover the revenue, but because they don't have to pay people to process insurance claims, their overhead costs also decrease. "Before too long, they often find the move very positive financially as well as professionally because they are working less and making more money," she pointed out.

"I hope that this will spread," she added. "Obamacare is turning the nation's health care system into a Third World experience, just like the website. It doesn't have to be this way."

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- See more at: <http://cns-news.com/news/article/barbara-hollingsworth/more-physicians-are-refusing-accept-any-third-party-insurance#sthash.TsK78OM7.dpuf>

The 5 Economic "Big Lies" The Government Is Telling You

by Michael Snyder, (The Economic Collapse Blog), via Zerohedge.com

According to a whistleblower that has recently come forward, Census employees have been faking and manipulating U.S. employment numbers for years. In fact, it is being alleged that this manipulation was a significant reason for why the official unemployment rate dipped sharply just before the last presidential election. What you are about to read is incredibly disturbing. The numbers that the American people depend upon to make important decisions are being faked. But should we be surprised by this? After all, Barack Obama has been caught telling dozens of major lies over the past five years. At this point it is incredible that there are any Americans that still trust anything that comes out of his mouth. And of course it is not just Obama that has been lying to us.

Corruption and deception are rampant throughout the entire federal government, and this has been the case for years. Now that some light is being shed on this, hopefully the American people will respond with overwhelming outrage and disgust.

The whistleblower that I mentioned above has been speaking to John Crudele of the New York Post. In his new article entitled, "Census 'faked' 2012 election jobs report", he says that the huge decline in the unemployment rate in September 2012 was "manipulated"...

In the home stretch of the 2012 presidential campaign, from August to September, the unemployment rate fell sharply — raising eyebrows from Wall Street to Washington.

The decline — from 8.1 percent in August to 7.8 percent in September — might not have been all it seemed. The numbers, according to a reliable source, were manipulated.

Two years earlier, the Census had actually caught an employee "fabricating data", but according to this whistleblower the corruption at the Census Bureau goes much deeper than that...

And a knowledgeable source says the deception went beyond that one employee — that it escalated at the time President Obama was seeking reelection in 2012 and continues today.

"He's not the only one," said the source, who asked to remain anonymous for now but is willing to talk with the Labor Department and Congress if asked.

The Census employee caught faking the results is Julius Buckmon, according to confidential Census documents obtained by The Post. Buckmon told me in an interview this past weekend that he was told to make up information by higher-ups at Census.

Well, is it really such a big deal that some of the unemployment numbers were faked?

After all, hasn't the unemployment rate been consistently going down anyway?

Unfortunately, as you will see below, that is simply not the case. The following are five massive economic lies that the government has been telling you...

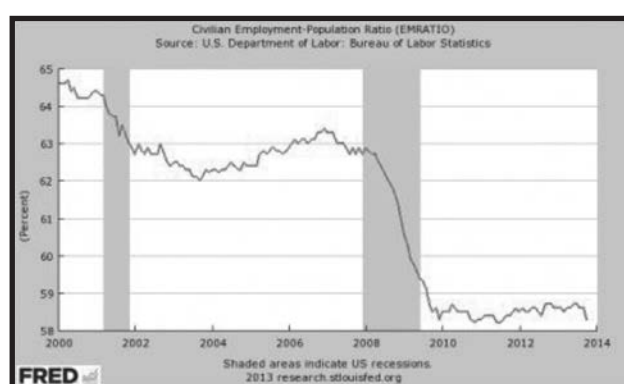
1. "The Unemployment Rate Has Been Steadily Going Down"

According to the official government numbers, the U.S. unemployment rate has fallen all the way down to 7.3 percent.

That sounds really good, and it would seem to imply that a higher percentage of the American people are now working.

Sadly, that is not the truth at all.

Posted below is one of my favorite charts. The employment-population ratio measures the percentage of the working age population that actually has a job. As you can see, this number fell dramatically during the last recession and since the end of 2009 it has remained remarkably flat. In fact, it has stayed between 58 and 59 percent for 50 months in a row...



At the moment, the employment-population ratio is just one-tenth of one percent above the lowest level that it has been throughout this entire crisis.

So are we in an "employment recovery"?

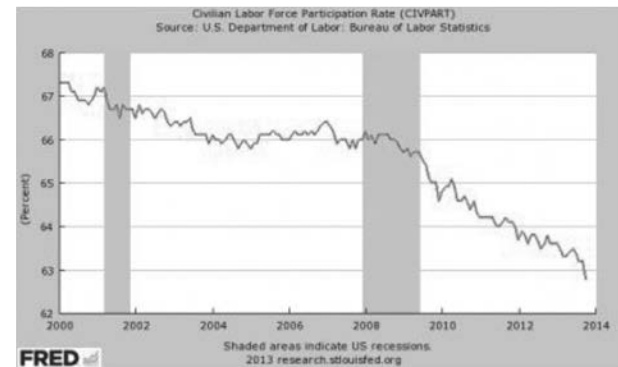
Absolutely not, and anyone that tries to tell you that is lying to you.

So how is the government getting the unemployment rate to go down?

Well, they are accomplishing this by pretending that millions upon millions of unemployed Americans have disappeared from the labor force.

According to the govern-

ment, the percentage of Americans that want to work is now supposedly at a 35 year low...



If the labor force participation rate was still exactly where it was at when Barack Obama was first elected in 2008, the official unemployment rate would be about 11 percent right now. People would be running around going crazy and wondering when the "economic depression" would finally end.

But when people hear "7.3 percent", that doesn't sound so bad. It makes people feel better.

Of course if you are currently unemployed and looking for a job that doesn't exactly help you. At this point there is intense competition even for minimum wage jobs in America. For example, according to Business Insider you actually have a better statistical chance of getting into Harvard than you do of being hired at a new Wal-Mart that is opening up in the Washington D.C. area...

The store is currently combing through more than 23,000 applications for 600 available positions, reports NBC Washington.

That means that Wal-Mart



will be able to hire one person for every 38 applications it receives — i.e., just 2.6% of applicants will walk out with a job.

That's more difficult than getting into Harvard. The Ivy League university accepts 6.1% of applicants.

2. "Inflation Is Low"

This is another lie that government officials love to tell. In particular, the boys and girls over at the Federal Reserve love to try to convince all of us that inflation is super low because it gives them an excuse to recklessly print lots more money.

But anyone that goes to the grocery store or pays bills

on a regular basis knows that there is plenty of inflation in the economy. And if we were being given honest

numbers, they would show that.

According to John Williams of shadowstats.com, if the U.S. inflation rate was still calculated the exact same way that it was back when Jimmy Carter was president, the official rate of inflation would be somewhere between 8 and 10 percent today.

But the Federal Reserve certainly doesn't want everyone running around talking about "Jimmy Carter" and "stagflation" because then people would really start pressuring them to end their wild money printing schemes.

3. "Quantitative Easing Is Economic Stimulus"

How many times have you heard the mainstream media tell you something along these lines...

"The Federal Reserve decided today that the economic stimulus must continue."

There is just one thing wrong with that statement.

As I showed in a previous article, it is a total hoax.

In fact, a former Federal Reserve official that helped manage the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing program during 2009 and 2010 is publicly apologizing to the rest of the country for being involved in "the greatest backdoor Wall Street bailout of all time"...

I can only say: I'm sorry, America. As a former Federal Reserve official, I was responsible for executing the centerpiece program of the Fed's first plunge into the bond-buying experiment known as quantitative easing. The central bank continues to spin QE as a tool for helping Main Street. But I've come to recognize the program for what it really is: the greatest backdoor Wall Street bailout of all time.

Yes, quantitative easing has most certainly helped Wall Street (at least temporarily).

Meanwhile, median household income in the U.S. has fallen for five years in a row.

Meanwhile, the federal

See LIES on page 19



by Ol' Remus
The WoodPileReport.com

Ineducability

A guest post by Francis Porretto originally posted at Liberty's Torch

Mr. Porretto's Liberty's Torch is on Remus's short list of won't-miss reads, as was Eternity Road before it. To the dismay of us lesser keyboard tappers, Mr. Porretto regularly sets new standards of insight and exposition, then exceeds them. Even by this measure, Ineducability stands out.

Men of good will habitually assume that other men are much like them. They, being animated and guided by what C. S. Lewis called the Law of General Benevolence, have difficulty conceiving of a body of motivation centered on malice, venality, or cruelty. They want nothing from others except what should come to them in consequence of a fulfilled agreement, and cannot imagine how anyone could be otherwise oriented.

Most Americans are men of good will. Most politicians are not:

- The man of good will seeks prosperity in harmony with his fellows; the politician seeks power over others.
- The man of good will understands the requirements for comprehension and honest effort in the fulfillment of his promises; the politician dismisses such notions as "for the little people."
- The man of good will frankly disclose

his aims to his trading partners, and expects them to do likewise; the politician hides his true agenda for as long as possible.

Thus, for a man of good will to deal with politicians and political bodies as if they were like him is a fatal error. The latter will view the former as a sheep to be shorn.

When the man of good will lays out an airtight logical case before a political body, he expects it to prevail on the merits. When it fails to do so, often leaving no trace of its passing, he tends to look for fault in himself. He assumes there must have been some flaw in his reasoning, or some ambiguity in his evidence, such that his argument failed to convince. This, too, is a fatal error.

Politicians are not educable in the traditional sense. They are creatures of power: power seekers and power fearers. Their relations with one another are intensely suspicious and zero-sum competitive. Their relations with common citizens are indelibly imbued with contempt. With vanishingly few exceptions, nothing but power matters to them.

The defense of the right to keep and bear arms is not about educating our political class. They don't lack any element of the knowledge or logic behind that right. They know full well

what it was guaranteed to provide: a bulwark against the infinite lust for power that animates them and others like them. Their hostility to it, regardless of their verbal representations, is not about your safety; it's about theirs.

They will never, ever agree that the State must respect the right to keep and bear arms. All that will prevent them from ripping it out of our hands is fear: in the best case, fear of being turned out of office; in the worst, fear of being hanged from a lamppost for the edification of others.

Milton Friedman was at his wisest when he said that freedom depends less upon electing good men than upon creating conditions within which bad men would feel irresistibly pressured to do the right thing. Friedman understood the essential evil of the State—and that an evil institution, necessary or otherwise, would inevitably become the demesne of evil persons.

The moral should be clear. Do not think to "educate" politicians. Never condescend to "negotiate" with them. Instill in them an ineradicable fear of your wrath. As Mark Twain said, they're "our only native criminal class."

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the website XLNinja.com.

If the Democrats were serious about providing relief from this tax, they would have eliminated it. Years ago. Via one of the 11 times a bill has been introduced by Sen. Scheffel. Hickenlooper and the Democrats had their opportunity to fix this issue and many others, yet time and time

plan, the out-of-pocket cost would be \$792 per month.

If a drug isn't covered, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have said there is an appeals process to seek the coverage.

"But this appeals process can take months. And there is no sure chance of winning," Gottlieb said. "If a drug costs tens of thousands of dollars a year, how many patients will be able to foot that bill out of pocket until they win an appeal, or take the chance that they could lose the appeal, and be stuck with the full cost of the drug?"

A January 2012 study of 22 carriers in six states by Avalere Health found the

again they failed the workers and job creators of this great state. This bill is just another insight into Democrats' lack of understanding about the needs of small business owners.

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number of available drugs per carrier ranged from 480 to 1,110. The study found that 90 percent of the lowest-cost bronze plans require patients to pay 40 percent out of pocket for the most expensive prescription "tiers." Currently the average prescription co-pay is about 29 percent for insurance policies.

"Even if your drug makes it onto the Obamacare plan's formulary, getting access to a medicine can still be a costly affair for patients," Gottlieb wrote.

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A Sheepdog Barks!



My fellow sheepdogs, we will have plenty to WOOF about in 2014. But before we start on the New Year stuff I would like to remind everyone of a few old lies, er' quotes, we shouldn't forget. "We are just a few days away from fundamentally changing America", BO. "What difference, at this point, does it make?" HC. "Phony Scandals", BO. "If you want to protect yourself get a double barrel shotgun, go out and fire a few blasts off — end of problem", JB. "I did nothing wrong", LL (IRS). "It was a video I tell you" SR. "We have to pass the bill so you'll know what's in it", NP. "There will be no more taxpayer funded bailouts, Period", BO. There were a few more lies by BO that ended in "Period" which I know you remember. Howl, Howl, and more Howls! Obamacare has a built-in bailout for the health insurers when they start to lose money big time. And we know that BO knew that when he made the above comment (lie) about no more bailouts in July 2010. We'll see that lie come to life in 2014, WOOF! And as we have mentioned before get ready for the new taxes and fees that began January 1st. It's hard to keep track but there are, at least, 21 new or increased taxes and fees in Obamacare on families and small businesses of which over a dozen start this year. Five taxes that already started cost taxpayers over \$36 Billion in 2013. And it's just getting started folks. WOOF! Listed below are a few of the new ones: \$2 fee on each new policy for the Patient Centered Outcome Research Center. What the Bull Stuff is that for? 3.5% user fee to sell insurance on the exchange. 3.8% surcharge on investment income for couples earning over \$250 Thousand a year. 2% Premium tax on every policy. Increased Medicare Part A tax on wages over \$200 Thousand from 1.45% to

2.35%. The redistribution of wealth is what it is all about and here it comes. On November 23, 2013, the New York Times said this about Obamacare: "The redistribution of wealth has always been a central feature of the law and lies at the heart of the insurance market disruption driving the political attacks this fall." The LPSDs knew all along that our fellow citizens would lose their existing policies. Smile everyone; you know you love this, right? WOOF! I heard this on the radio. Don't remember who said it. "Obamacare is like a sand castle with the tide coming in." Most of the liberal progressive talking heads keep saying they "hope" all the bad things won't happen. Hope is not a good plan or a good policy. Remember the original Hope & Change. How did that work out for all of us? WOOF! Nationalized health care is not a function of the government prescribed in the Constitution. And it's really not about health care at all. It's about more government control and buying votes for the Democrats. Dennis Prager recently said, "Teach a man to fish and he will eat forever, give a man someone else's fish and he will vote for you forever." Spot On! WOOF! And speaking of too much government control, when will it end? Government has told us that we will buy health insurance, that we can't smoke in our own homes, that we can't use too much salt, that we can't buy more than a 16 oz. soda, that we can't eat doughnuts cooked in trans fats, that we can't smoke or drink until 21 years old, that we can't pray in school and even in one state (NJ) that we can't even pump our own gas. What in the world is going on? The government has a lot of important things to do, like protecting our borders, but they are simply interfering in our lives. And

now a Democrat Senator wants the FTC to punish UPS and FEDEX because of the people's procrastination. Government has no business in getting involved in late Christmas presents. "We the people" will take care of the situation. Most of us will buy and ship earlier. We don't need big government involved. Can you imagine? The government is interfering in everything and the LPSDs think that's the correct thing to do. Only in a liberal America will Government fix and control everything. We need to become reenergized this year. 2014 is an election year. If enough sheepdogs get active and enough Americans who are sick and tired of things like more taxes and Obamacare wake up we can actually take back the U.S. Senate and hold the U.S. House. This will really stop the liberal progressive socialist agenda of the liberal progressive socialist president! WOOF! We can also make great strides in the State of Colorado. We can elect a new U.S. Senator, several new U.S. House members, a new governor and new state legislative members. We saw exactly what the LPSDs will do when they are in total control of a state. Surely we will stop that insanity. All of us must join paws and help herd the sheep in the right direction. We must get more of the conservative vote out. We must prevail. Plan to dedicate yourself to helping make this happen. It starts right away. The state caucuses are in March. We'll lay out what needs to be done very soon. Plan to get involved and help save your county, state, and country. We can do it! WOOF!

May God Have Mercy on America! JMH

TAX

From page 14

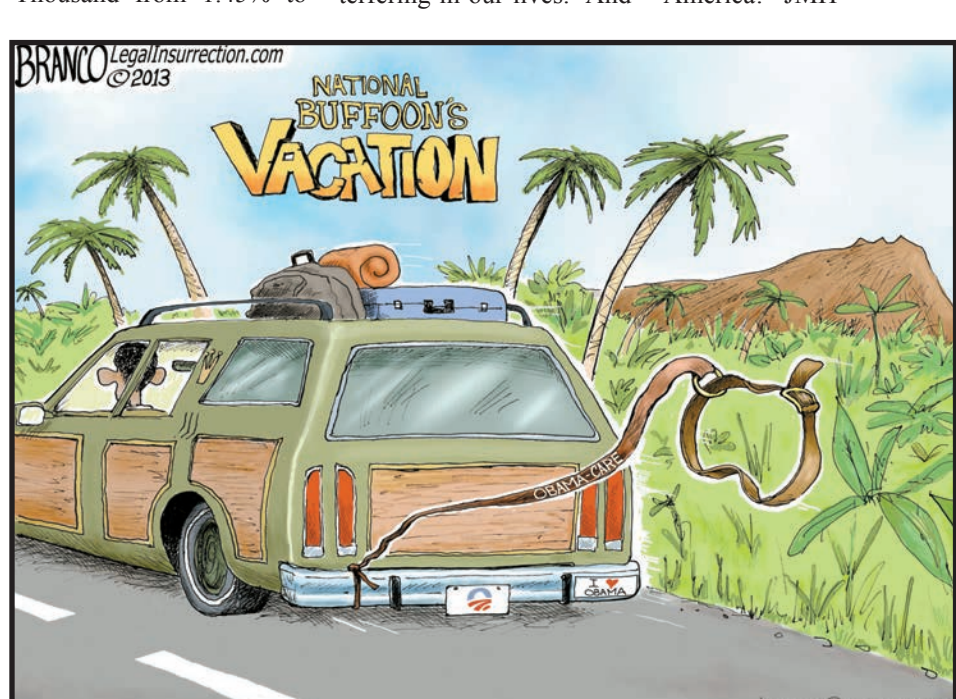
newable energy), requires the filer to use the Goal Seek function in Excel, typically used by those seeking a PhD in finance, to determine the tax. For those of you not currently enrolled in that PhD program, you can learn more about Goal Seek here from

MEDICINE

From page 15

mulary list, then the patient could be responsible for its full cost (with little or no co-insurance to help offset that cost)," he continued. "Moreover, the money they spend won't count against their deductibles or out of pocket limits (\$12,700 for a family, \$6,350 for an individual)."

Gottlieb used the drug Copaxone for multiple sclerosis as an example, saying someone with a bronze plan would be responsible for paying 40 percent of the drugs out-of-pocket costs, or about \$1,980 per month. Under the platinum



TRUTH

From page 15

ing documents and literature that has been used for centuries teaching a right way to live and interact in society. Learning a body of facts in a subject is no longer the main objective.

Our country's founding principles contained truths that were "self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights..." Compare this to President Obama's statement in his 2006 book The Audacity of Hope; "Implicit in [the Constitution's] structure, in the very idea of ordered liberty, was a rejection of absolute truth, the infallibility of any idea or ideology or theology or "ism", any tyrannical consistency that might lock future generations into a single, unalterable course..." So, Obama believes that the Constitution had no absolute truth and as the president of Hillsdale College, Larry Arnn, points out" How did Barack Obama come to believe something so foreign

to America's heritage as the idea that in the name of liberty we must reject absolute truths..."

This total perversion of the meaning of our Constitution is an example of how government and education both have changed to reject any absolute truth. If there's no absolute truth, there's no such thing as a lie. Any lie someone may tell is just "his" truth at the time. This is the philosophy that is being promoted throughout Common Core in the aligned curricula. This was recently evident in the gender confusion of a student at Florence High School and the laws that protected him when he decided to go against the very fact of his own biological truth and claim to be a girl.

So now what does this mean in the classroom? A math student is asked now to explain how he derived an answer and it's not about the correct answer but more about being able to explain how you got an answer. A friend who teaches math at Pueblo Community College explained how the first chapter of this intro-

ductory math course was discussion on a situation in a hospital where someone had administered a fatal dose of medication. The students' homework and tests were on fractions and math problems which were not even covered in the text. She has ended up making up her own lesson plans that actually taught students the math problems that are covered on tests and homework. So, rather than teaching math the teacher was wasting valuable time discussing a scenario that supposedly was allowing students to construct some kind of values about accidentally killing a patient??

An elementary student asked to write about an historical figure is allowed to intersperse facts about the person with their personal ideas and perceptions of what they may dream up, like concluding from a photograph of the person that he was sad and lonely and didn't have many friends or some such fantasy having nothing to do with reality. In fact the meaning of "reality" in the new education may have nothing

to do with how it has previously been defined. This is extremely dangerous to the mind of a young child, or anyone for that matter.

The revision of history to bring the U.S. down to the level of other countries is also part of the core aligned curricula. Half-truths are still lies and students are getting the negative side, the down side more so than a full picture of what our country is all about. I asked a senior in the High School if she had ever heard the idea that the American Constitution is unique to all of history as a governing document in that it gives rights that are inalienable from God and can not be given or taken away by government and that the vision the founders had for self governance was one that they risked their lives and fortunes for. She said she had not.

"Have you ever heard about the impasse reached in the Continental Congress that it seemed impossible to reach a compromise and Ben Franklin asked for prayer every day so they could call on God for help

and how finally they were able to reach a compromise and complete the writing of the Constitution?" I asked. She had not.

"What about George Washington never being wounded in battle but miraculously escaping bullets with many holes in his jacket?" No, never heard that, she said. "Would that have been inspirational and interesting to you?" I asked. "Yes!" she exclaimed, explaining how she had no joy in learning and enthusiasm for school. The examples I have given would have been perfectly legal to teach in an American history class.

When there is no truth beyond self, where then can one go when that fails and confusion takes over? How can I trust myself or anyone else as the end all and the only truth that I need to understand the world I live in? The end result is going to be destructive and disastrous to our country and to individuals and is another reason why Common Core needs to be rejected by our state and district. Taking God and anything histori-

cal that would even reference to an absolute truth out of education has created a vacuum that is being filled with "situational ethics" throughout Common Core.

Jesus says in John 8:32 that the truth will set you free and in another verse says that He is the way, the life and the truth. That means that whatever is not truth will put you in bondage, in deep deception and confusion. For President Obama, the idea of absolute truth must be rejected. That same idea is being rejected in Common Core throughout the core aligned curricula that is being used and is just another reason why we must STOP COMMON CORE.

COME AND HEAR THE TRUTH ON JANUARY 6, 2014 ABOUT COMMON CORE AT THE RECREATION CENTER ON ASH ST IN CANON CITY FROM 6:30PM TO 8:30PM WITH ANITA STAPLETON.

For more information go to www.stopcommoncore.com

LIES

From page 17

government is now spending nearly a trillion dollars a year on welfare.

Meanwhile, 1.2 million students that attend public schools in America are now homeless. In fact, that number has risen by 72 percent since the start of the last recession.

4. "Obamacare Is Going To Be Good For Middle Class Americans"

There were three giant promises that were used to sell Obamacare to the American people...

#1 We would all be able to keep our current health insurance plans.

#2 Millions more Americans were going to be covered by health insurance.

#3 Most Americans would be paying lower health insurance premiums.

Well, it turns out that all of them were lies.

At this point, approximately 4 million Americans have already had their health insurance plans canceled due to Obamacare, and according to Forbes that number could ultimately reach 93 million.

And so far only about 100,000 Americans have actually signed up for Obamacare, so that means that the number of Americans with health insurance has dropped by about 3.9 million since the beginning of October.

Good job Obama.

Meanwhile, Americans all over the country are being hit with a massive case of

sticker shock as they start to realize what Obamacare is going to do to their wallets.

According to one study, health insurance premiums for men are going to go up by an average of 99 percent under Obamacare and health insurance premiums for women are going to go up by an average of 62 percent under Obamacare.

And if you are a young man, you are going to get hit particularly hard. At this point, it is being projected that health insurance premiums for healthy 30-year-old men will rise by an average of 260 percent.

But you don't have to be young to pay higher premiums. As I mentioned the other day, one couple down in Texas was recently

hit with a 539 percent rate increase.

5. "The U.S. National Debt Is Under Control"

The mainstream media would have us believe that the budget deficit is now under control and the U.S. national debt is not a significant problem any longer.

But that is not the truth.

The truth is that we are on pace to accumulate more new debt under the 8 years of the Obama administration than we did under all of the other presidents in all of U.S. history combined.

Every single hour of every single day, our politicians are stealing about \$100,000,000 from future generations of Americans. It is a crime so vast that it is hard to put into words, and it is literally destroying

the economic future of this country.

Over the last 13 and a half months, the U.S. national debt has increased by more than 1.12 trillion dollars.

If you were alive when Jesus Christ was born and you had spent a million dollars every single day since then, you still would not have spent that much money by now.

And most Americans don't realize this, but the U.S. government must borrow far more than a trillion dollars each year. Trillions more in existing debt must be "rolled over" just to keep the game going.

For example, the U.S. government rolled over more than 7.5 trillion dollars of existing debt in fiscal 2013.

So what is going to hap-

pen someday when the rest of the world pulls out and stops lending us trillions of dollars at ridiculously low interest rates that are way below the real rate of inflation?

Our financial system is far more vulnerable than we are being told. We are in the terminal phase of the greatest debt bubble in the history of the planet, and when this bubble bursts it is going to be an absolutely spectacular disaster.

Please don't believe the mainstream media or the politicians when they promise you that everything is going to be okay.

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FYI...

for your information...

The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel is published every Friday.

Our office hours are Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday.

Deadline for classified ad copy is Tuesday Noon.

Deadline for display ad copy is Friday Noon the week before the ad is to appear in the paper.

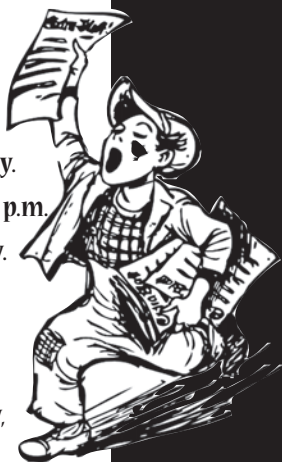
Deadline for all other submissions is noon on Monday, and can be emailed to submittals@sdcsentinel.com

Please send us information on clubs and organizations, news stories and pictures, and upcoming events.

Please limit Letters to the Editor to 250 words and "We the People" Speak to 500 words. Please include your name, address and phone number.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

EGGS

From page 5
for almost 800 state agency bank accounts.” The audit goes on to detail numerous inconsistencies in reporting to the Division of Banking and the State Controller’s Office causing a “risk that the accounts will not be protected by PDPA in the event of a default.”

In addition to the amount of public funds possibly not protected by PDPA for the town of Westcliffe, Division of Banking records indicate sixteen other accounts assigned to Custer County governmental entities. Custer County holds four accounts. Custer County E-911 Authority Board holds two. The Custer County Regional Planning Commission has two. Custer County Transitions is listed as the holder of two accounts. The town of Silver Cliff has two. The West Custer County Hospital District has two and the

West Custer County Library District has two. At the time of this report, it is unknown if any of these accounts could hold over the \$250,000 amount protected by the FDIC, or if any of them could also be jeopardized by a possible failure of the First State Bank of Colorado.

In January, the Westcliffe Town Board will once again be discussing the investment of town funds with more certificates of deposit that will be coming due. With questions of the effectiveness of the Public Deposit Protection Act and a large sum over the \$250,000 FDIC protection now invested with the First State Bank of Colorado in Hotchkiss, the Town Board may follow the town auditor’s recommendation that “The town invests excess funds under the prudent investor rule. Criteria for selection of investments and their order of priority are: 1) Safety; 2) liquidity; and 3) yield.”

Thoughts for the New Year

By Candi Sage

When asked about New Year’s Resolutions, people had many responses; none had ‘resolutions’, but did have goals, something to look forward to, something they would like to see changed, or something they’d like to do more. Here are the responses:



Yvonne Keyston (Perfect Touch Day Spa) sets goals rather than resolutions because, “You can set and reset or realign goals as they change and it doesn’t seem like a failure.”



Robert Webster (shopper) said he is, “Looking forward to coming back to Westcliffe as much as possible.” He will be working on, “Spending more time out here.”



Kim Yatch (Elevations Salon), “Aside from finding a suitcase full of ‘hundreds’ on my doorstep... I would like to find more time for closer relationships with family and friends.”



Bud Danley (rural Westcliffe), “In 2014, I would like to see the economy improve so I can get a part-time job. I would also like to see the country that I grew up in be here for my children.”



Joy Lowe (Joyful Nails) said she will, “Try to find peace and unity in my family, to resolve misunderstandings.”

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\$1.29 lb.

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