



# Silver Cliff May Yet Go Up In Smoke

by Paul Sage

At this point in time Custer County and the town of Westcliffe have rejected the legalization of marijuana in their jurisdictions, but the town of Silver Cliff is still considering the seemingly lucrative idea. At the January 6 Town Board meeting Town Trustee Mary Behrendt asked the board, “Where is the marijuana committee going? Are they doing anything with it?” Mayor Larry Weber replied that, “It’s been tabled for the time being.”

Visions of huge tax revenues from the sale of pot to overflow the town coffers haven’t gone unnoticed though. Consideration of legalization is still alive and well in Silver Cliff, as

Town Trustee and marijuana committee member Danny Smith said, “Now that it’s actually enacted and it’s looking pretty amazing for the towns that are doing it.” Trustee Behrendt chimed in that, “Yes, it really is.”

The discussions center on what has been considered a very successful start to the sale of legal recreational marijuana. In Pueblo County, for instance, some \$87,000 worth of marijuana was sold to the long lines waiting to buy at the two shops in Pueblo County open for business on New Year’s Day alone. Quoted in the Pueblo Chieftain, Pueblo County Commissioner Sal Pace said that as a result of the first day of sales, “The County, at a minimum, is owed \$5,220

in local taxes from the first day of marijuana sales.”

In Silver Cliff, Town Clerk and Treasurer Ileen Squire



reminded the trustees that the reason they tabled the proposal was that, if they watched it for a while, then it might not take as much money to get the research and get everything done. “We can steal from other towns.” Additionally, she

reminded them that it is an election year, and the budget is “already so tight.”

With the already tight budget and an indication from Custer County Sheriff Fred Jobe that if they legalize marijuana, they may well have to come up with their own law enforcement, the thought of that additional \$30,000 to \$50,000 bill may temper the enthusiasm of Trustees eager to profit from the drug trade.

Recent drive-in robberies in the Denver area of legal marijuana dealers support Sheriff Jobe’s assertion that over time the legal drug trade will increase crime and law enforcement costs. In these recent incidents, thieves drove an SUV through the walls of

marijuana facilities to rob the stores of the goods. Additionally in Colorado, “while overall traffic fatalities have decreased 16 percent between 2006 and 2011, during these same six years, traffic fatalities with drivers testing positive for just marijuana increased 114 percent” according to a report of the El Paso Intelligence Center. The list of costs goes on and on and the data is readily available.

Residents of Custer County were also not in the main stream of Colorado voters who passed Amendment 64 legalizing recreational marijuana last year, so The Silver Cliff Town Board may not be following the wishes of a majority of their constituents to consider this change.

# Westcliffe Homes Could “Suffer Value Damages” if FEMA Plan Adopted

by Paul Sage

At the January 7 Westcliffe Town Board meeting Planning and Zoning Director Alan Clark revised the recommendations he made to the Trustees regarding signing up for the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program at the December Town Board meeting. Since that time when he enthusiastically endorsed signing up for the program, other information came to light which has caused concerns. Initial assessments based on an available map indicated at the time that there were no homes in the town of Westcliffe in the 100-year flood plain. Newly discovered information changes that assessment.

One of the initial concerns when considering whether to sign up for the government insurance program to begin with was what a 100-year flood plain map would wind up looking like

and how that would affect homeowners in the area. Additionally, if FEMA determined that available information was unreliable, they could generate a large bill to re-map the town which may or may not be covered by some available grants.

**“...any homes that fall within that 100-Year flood plain obviously are going to suffer value damages.”**

While sorting through and organizing large quantities of old maps in the Town Hall, Mr. Clark came upon information that brought him to the board to report that “I’m changing my opinion or tune or information to you as a board on my review of that whole

100-year flood plain, because there’s a lot of information here that doesn’t all agree.” He said he would like to have the opportunity to share the newly uncovered information with the board before proceeding any further with the insurance application because at this point he doesn’t “feel comfortable making a decision.”

What Mr. Clark uncovered in his further research was that “there’s three or four different plans and they all have different suggestions and solutions about how to try to avoid future problems.” These plans were done by CU-Boulder, one by CSU in Fort Collins, and a third by the Colorado Department of Water Resources. To follow up on the newly uncovered information, Mr. Clark and town maintenance employee, Jerry Keffer, toured the town to see how many of the recommendations in the reports had been followed

and found that some had been implemented, but that many had not.

All of these new discoveries created new concerns about what FEMA would ultimately decide would be the 100-year flood plain map and what would be required of the town to participate in the program. With it now clear that the previous assertion that no homes in the town of Westcliffe were in the 100-year flood plain was questionable, it raised new concerns that “any homes that fall within that 100-year flood plain obviously are going to suffer value damages,” according to Mr. Clark.

The newly uncovered information will now be presented to the Town Board at a workshop before deciding whether to move forward with participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. Belonging to the program would allow affected town

residents to buy flood insurance through the federal program and would, in theory, cause FEMA to help with recovery from any flooding event in the town at a higher level than without participating in the program if the town followed all the guidelines of the federal program. In addition, bailout beneficiaries Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and other government guaranteed loan programs will be willing to make loans on properties in areas with approved flood plain maps, as long as those properties meet the guidelines of FEMA compliance and if in the flood plain, owners cover them with the flood insurance. Not participating in the program may require potential borrowers in the town to obtain non-government guaranteed loans through solvent financial institutions of their own choosing which have tighter qualification standards.

Custer County School Grades Report and Response from Superintendent  
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Random Acts of Kindness  
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2nd Amendment Corner: Carbines for Home Defense  
*page 16*

**PATRIOT ALERT!**  
Human Trafficking Seminar in Cañon City  
*page 13*



*As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.*  
Joshua 1:5  
NIV



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The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel (USPS 11280) is an independent newspaper, published weekly by The Mountain Publishing Company, Inc. 610 Main St., Westcliffe, CO 81252 POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The Mountain Publishing Company, Inc. 610 Main St., Westcliffe, CO 81252 Periodicals postage paid at Westcliffe, CO and additional mailing offices.

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Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Fri: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Closed Weekends

**Subscription Rates:**  
\$25 yearly for 81252 zip code  
\$35 yearly elsewhere  
\$5 discount for Seniors (65+)  
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# Our Opinion...

## From the Editorial Board

# Doing Unto Others...

Last week we mentioned sponsoring Random Acts of Kindness (RAKs). Many of you have heard of it as "Paying It Forward." We think there was a movie named Pay It Forward. It means we should all pass on to others the good things done for us. When we were young many of us were taught by our den leaders to do a "good deed" every day. We could even earn badges for them. The classic example was helping the little old lady across the street. It's not necessarily about money. It can be as simple as helping someone across the accumulated ice in the gutter, shoveling snow for someone or stopping to help someone on the side of the road. And speaking of that, we need a new rural protocol for that. Ten years ago when someone was pulled over to the side it usually meant trouble. Now it probably means talking on a cell or texting. Let's all agree. If you need help raise your hood

or wave your arm out the window. Otherwise most will assume you've found a good spot and someone can "hear you now." Back to the good deeds. If we all would do a "good deed" or a random act of kindness once or twice a week, 2014 might be better for us all. Buy someone's coffee or lunch, help someone carry and stack firewood, run an errand for a neighbor, visit someone or tip a little extra when you get good service and a smile. Many of you do these kinds of things for others already. We want to encourage even more people to participate in doing something for others. When you do a RAK leave them a certificate or have someone else give it to them if you wish to stay anonymous. Mail it to them or leave it under their windshield wiper. Be creative. The certificate will help motivate them to "Pay It Forward." All acts are important – great

and small. The community just finished a Spirit Fund that ended on December 31st. Let's keep that spirit of helping others going in our community all year long. Sometimes we all just get too busy and become narrowly focused on accomplishing our personal tasks. Not long ago we were inspired by this very kind of thing. When we finished breakfast at Jack and Audrey Slater's Oak Creek Grade General Store, Jack handed us a small certificate and told us "someone" had paid for our breakfast. At first we resisted and then Audrey told us that we could "pay it forward" by doing something nice for someone else. It was a great motivation and caused us to do a few things in the next week that we might not have otherwise thought of doing. Many were small, very simple things but it definitely felt good. It stayed in our minds and inspired

the promotion of this great idea in the Sentinel. Do something, anything, for someone else. Make sure they get a certificate as it will inspire them to pay it forward. The good news is you can have as many certificates as you like to get started and they are FREE! Stop by our office at 610 Main Street and pick some up. Be the first "link" in a "chain of acts" that will make our community an even better place to live. Remember no Random Act of Kindness is too small. Thanks, Jack & Audrey, for the reminder.

We close the week with another reminder about the Christmas Petition. Response has been strong. We have been contacted or visited by a large number of supportive parents and Christians. Almost 150 citizens have attended 2 rallies that were held over the holidays. Our plan is to present the signed petitions to the School Board at

their first meeting in 2014. Apologies from the Superintendent and the Elementary School Principal have been received and printed in last week's issue. We accept their apologies that no offense was intended. However, offense was taken by many. We seek no action against any individuals. We seek only to make sure that the magnitude and depth of the disapproval and disappointment of what happened is clearly made known to all so that never again should we hear the excuse that "no objections or complaints were received." Please return your petitions by Monday, January 13, to our office. We thank all those that have taken a stand and are willing to include their voice in support. The School Board meeting is Tuesday, January 14, at 4:30 p.m. at the west end near the school playground. We hope all concerned parents and Christians will show up.

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**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.*

## Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 19, 2014: A Day of Mourning & Celebration

by Candy Thompson

of knowing Him.

In January 1984, President Reagan issued a proclamation declaring the celebration of a National Sanctity of Human Life Day to be held on the Sunday that falls nearest the Roe vs. Wade decision on January 22, 1973. This year it will fall on Sunday, January 19, a day of celebrating life but also for many a day of mourning because more American lives have been taken as a result of that decision than died in all of the wars combined since our country began. 56 million would populate 130 cities the size of Colorado Springs and the loss in every area of our lives can never be calculated.

No family has gone untouched. Missing from gatherings are children, brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles, grandchildren and great grandchildren with untold gifts and a uniqueness that can never be replaced. This day is called a day of celebration but it is also a day of mourning. For me, it is both. For me it is personal and still painful, but also a day that brings into awareness the “Amazing Grace” that God has had for me and the joy

Many will be sitting in a church on January 19 as I did for years, a Christian carrying a terrible secret; afraid of what would happen if everyone knew that years before, in an abusive non-Christian marriage, reaping the fruit of rebellion toward God and parents, I had had three abortions.

Many years later as a Christian who had repented and left that all behind, I declared I was a new creature in Christ. I put what I had done out of my mind staying in denial and confessed it to no one except my new Christian husband, not knowing I needed healing. I taught Sunday School, went on mission trips, served as an elder, and was healed of Crohn’s disease, but I also battled unexplained depression and anger and other symptoms. These emotions almost led to a divorce five years ago but ultimately to the path to healing and deliverance.

It was during this crisis that my husband and I together faced my past with help from our pastor and other Christians. Later in the pregnancy center as post-abortion counselor, I

shared my past with other Christian women who had gone through abortions. Finally after over 30 years my secret was out. With the love and understanding of Christians in my life, my church and especially the love of my husband of 26 years, I was free to grieve and to receive the love and forgiveness of Jesus for the sin of abortion.

Jesus says that if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Jesus saved me when I came back to Him and repented, but my emotional healing has taken many years because I hid the secret of my past instead of confessing it and facing the pain and the grief I had inside me for so many years. I had to forgive those who had hurt me and forgive myself and accept God’s forgiveness, not stay in denial.

We held a memorial service to honor the lives of three children who would not go nameless nor without recognition among millions but who have an eternal purpose. I named them and they are real. My husband had beautiful alder wood boxes made in which I have placed mementos of my love for my children I shall never see nor touch in this life. Just as David had to live with the consequences of his sin with Bathsheba and the loss of his son, I, too, live with the consequences that I will never see them here in this life, but these are consequences I can bear. I have hope and a promise that is a sure thing.

For me the celebration on January 19 for life is more than a general appreciation and thankfulness for the gift of life; it is a knowledge that I shall see my children again and be welcomed into the presence of a loving forgiving God who has made me accepted through His son Jesus. No sorrow or blame, no guilt or pain, just joy and love for eternity.

God has not only given me a promise for the life to come but has blessed me with a wonderful life with a loving husband for the last 31 years. Between the two of us, we have 6 children, 11 grandchildren and 4 great grands and I no longer have Crohn’s Disease.

There is much to celebrate! Human life, created in the image of God, is a wonderful gift that God has given and only God has the right to take it away. I pray that those who have participated in this holocaust of death called abortion will also find forgiveness, healing and freedom in Christ as we celebrate the sanctity of human life.

Candy Thompson,  
Born-Again Christian who  
Attends Valley Chapel in  
Cañon City

for Mary Hope, Joseph  
Paul and Sarah Noel  
[fourwithjesus@yahoo.com](mailto:fourwithjesus@yahoo.com)

**Colorado March  
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on Colorado’s  
Brady  
Amendment 67**

## 2014 and The Bad New Laws

by Bill Bailey

Well, here it is, the New Year with all of its new laws affecting our lives. THE big law that distresses me is the national health care law, with all of its overreach, unless you are a friend of the administration. Although I must admit some of his liberal base has felt the brunt of the law in their lives. It is a bad law that fixes nothing, invades our lives and I do not believe will stand for long.

The other law that bothers me more than Obamacare is the new pot laws in Colorado. It will prove to be a slippery slope to a greater destruction of our society. Being an ex-pot smoker, many, many years ago, I know the pitfalls of which I speak. I can see many violations cropping up that will hurt families much like alcohol has. I can see a parent getting stoned, falling asleep and the kid comes home from school, says to himself, what’s good enough for Dad is good enough for me. And how about the folks that run out of munchies, beer or Boone’s Farm for the bong, will they send a designated driver to fetch supplies? How many decent folks will be killed by a stoned driver? How about growing your own, which many Coloradoans will do, being self sufficient types, will they grow only six plants or be tempted to sell or trade pot for other stuff. I’m sure for many people, getting high is all they want to do. But what about those addictive personalities who

can’t stop at one drink or getting high on pot. How far do they sink on other drugs before needing rescue? It is a bad law that I hope will be overturned.

With every law passed, whether it’s pot laws, gun laws, abortion laws, or health care laws, there are unintended consequences that go far beyond what the politicians mind can foresee. Even the people who voted for Obamacare are backing off from that one. I’m sure there are two Senators in Colorado who wished they had thought out their vote on gun laws a little better. Those who know the Bible may remember what Jeremiah wrote, “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” We don’t have the ability to govern ourselves. We need a higher authority other than man to give us GOOD direction. Without that we pass stupid laws to placate the minority, like allowing children to decide for themselves which bathroom to use, without regard for the consequences suffered by others. And how about the sex education workbooks (although in New York City) that will be passed out to children as young as 11, with graphic explicit details about every deviant type of act thought up by the writers. That, folks, is an agenda, not an education.

The fact that is acutely apparent to me is that the tail is wagging the dog. 2014 and the bad new laws.



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Ask a Pro: Well Pits why not? Or why I hate them...

A well pit with the well inside and the casing cutoff below ground has been illegal for some time. While some still install the pressure tank and controls in pits I prefer not to because of the humidity in pits. Humidity corrodes everything and is especially hard on the electric controls and switches severely limiting their life. Working conditions in pits are usually poor with little room to work. They are usually infested with insects and vermin. I have encountered black widows, skunks and rattle snakes. Ask me again why I don’t like pits??? From an owners perspective the initial cost to construct a pit is relatively high and the additional cost in maintenance

should be a deterrent. Pits with the well inside, cutoff below ground are subject to being flooded and contaminating the well. Pitless Adapters were invented to eliminate pits and are the only way to go. Pressure tanks are ideally located in a utility room and require about a 3’X 3’ space. There are many other locations that can be used all better than a pit!

- David Nequette Lic.1043

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# Letters to the Editor



*Please send your submissions to us at [submittals@sdcsentinel.com](mailto: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 250 words or less. No profanity or vulgarity, no personal attacks, and please sign your name. Also, please give us the general location of your residence and 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.*

## More Questions for Custer County School District

Open Letter to the Editor,

Although I do not have a child or grandchild attending the Custer County School District (CCSD) any longer, I AM a taxpaying member of this community. I care passionately about the quality of the education my tax dollars support in a public school setting!

Who authorized the CCSD administration to remove Christ from Christmas?

When and where were the public forums for community input to make the decision to remove Christ from the Elementary Christmas program? Was the Accountability Committee or the School Board informed about this change before it was implemented? Were the taxpayers of Custer County EVER consulted? To suggest that I needed to ask the Elementary Principal about an upcoming school sponsored event is insulting, and not a valid

argument.

Do we no longer have Christians teaching our children? Our Beloved Country was founded on Judeo-Christian beliefs and doctrines. Is the CCSD now going to disregard that as irrelevant?

May God have mercy on us and continue to bless America!

*Respectfully,  
Carole J. Custer, PhD  
Westcliffe*

## The Church Today

To the Editor,

Good day and God bless. I applaud Bill Wilson's recent article titled, "Of Dobson, Socialism, and Biblical Truth" printed in issue 23. Mr. Wilson is correct in stating that Socialism is inherently in conflict with the theocratic system of the Bible. The problem is not that Dobson et al. are missing the point about the nature of Socialism, but that they cannot see that they are married to the government.

Today's majority of reli-

gious leaders have reaped the rewards of state financial support by offering their parishioners tax breaks for money donated to their organizations. Under 501c3 the organization is required to espouse government policy. A very good book to educate oneself about the danger of being in bed with the state is "Trail of Blood Revisited." This 501c3 law or rule is the reason that the church has no say in America today. In essence the financial payoff of tax breaks is hush money and has shackled

the church in a position of servitude. While the church is supposed to be established and ruled by God, the love of money has led many to subject themselves and their congregation to the authority of the State.

That is where the first commandment is being violated.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

*in His service,  
Scott Bailey,  
Lowell FL*

## Enough Already

We were gone over the Christmas holiday and were only fully apprised of the situation concerning the elementary school Christmas program upon our return.

I wholeheartedly agree that as believers we are to be "salt" and "light" in this present evil generation in which we live.

What does scripture require when we sin, make a bad choice or decision or offend by insensitive words or actions? Repent, and go to those offended and make it right.

An apology has been issued by both the superintendent and the principal. It's true that there are those who have an evil agenda i.e., NEA and the federal administration, but that is not the case here.

I personally know Principal Anderson and she is a solid, Christian lady who deeply cares for our children. The circumstances surrounding the program blurred her judgment.

I wish I had a dollar for all the bad decisions I have made throughout my life, but I have repented and

learned. Most of us, when we don't think things through, or make a bad choice the consequences only affect us or just a few, and the whole world doesn't get involved. But when you are in a public position many know and many are impacted.

A greater overriding command in Scripture is to forgive, love, and show mercy. We are never more like our Heavenly Father than when we are forgiving others.

*Rev. Hal Crossley  
Rural Westcliffe*

## "Thank You Jeremy!"

I would like to thank Jeremy Carr of Fremont County for his article on the Mullen plant a few weeks ago. One of the uses of the plant is to make a tea out of the dried leaves for colds and congestion. So, having gotten a fairly bad chest cold lately, with a lot of coughing, I decided to try a little "Mullen Tea". Well, within 5 minutes I could feel the congestion lessening. It didn't totally go away but there was a big improvement in my breathing. So, thanks Jeremy for your insight on using this very common plant to help chest congestion.

*Yvonne Phillips  
Rural Westcliffe*

***Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.***

**Romans 12:2, NIV**

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# Local Mountain News & Notices

## Businesses Respond to Christmas Sales in the Valley

by Candi Sage

Christmas business in the valley showed different trends comparing Thanksgiving - Christmas 2012 and Thanksgiving - Christmas 2013. When seeking this information several businesses were temporarily closed for various reasons including; normal day closure, normal monthly closure, illness, remodeling, or for maintenance.

A 'sampling' was taken with few restaurants, since a comparison would not be available as nearly all the restaurants with or without liquor are under new ownership or management. As a result of the 'sampling', the thirteen businesses responded differently with varying reasons. Several were believed to be slowed due to weather, traveling restrictions, the economy (including unemployment numbers), and rising costs of doing business. Here are the responses:

The Stage Stop serves coffee, ice cream, and sandwiches and is currently undergoing some floor plan changes to accommodate more seating, but owner, Shelley Shelley, said, "December was good and the same as the year before." As an "okay December", she is able to pay the bills and is looking forward to 2014.

Schlabach's business for this time period is reported to be as good as last year. Owner JoAnn said, "Pizzas and deli trays" were the popular items during this season. They serve bulk foods, discount items, dinners to go, deli sandwiches, pizza, and soup.

Wet Mountain Treasures sells games, candles, furniture, teas, and unique items from local artists also reported the same as last year and that sales are dependent on the locals during the winter months. Owner Patty Martinez is looking forward to Spring Break, then onto Memorial Day for sales to increase.

Mattie Burt Realty, Inc., and Wild West properties both have "picked up" since last year's holiday season.

The Lamp Post Lodge manager, Dick Jones, reported that this is their second Christmas season and they did better than 2012 season. New managers, Dick and Barb Jones, opened the Lodge on October 1, 2012.

The Salty Pine owner, Pepper Stafford, reported sales in December were the highest since opening just over a year ago. Most of their sales increased due to the purchase of gift certificates, clothes, flowers, and Kopa bath and body products.

Loan A Ranger owner, Jay Printz, reported a "little slower" Christmas sales than last year, but said that, "2013 was better in overall sales than 2012," adding that, "Gun sales for 2013 were outstanding." His pawn shop includes movies, antiques, guns, equipment and various types of gear.

Sangre Home Décor owner, Robyn Perry, reported a slow start, but had "good traffic between Christmas and New Years." She also reports this Christmas season was "up from last year."

Yoder's Amish Furniture reports that they were a little down for the month, but had a good amount of "foot traffic" and overall the sales for 2013 were the same as last year.

Trails West Trading Company reports that this Christmas was down from last year and owner, Jennifer, thinks the harsher weather this year may have been a factor.

Westcliffe Inn reports that 2012 and 2013 were overall comparable with 2013 down slightly. Owner, Cindy Howard, said that she believes the downtrend is also due to, "the cost of doing business increase while

**See SALES on page 12**



## In Honor of Our Troops

Yvonne Keyston, Joy Lowe, and Roxanne Kempf worked together shortly after 9/11 to honor troops in active duty. The 9/11 devastation set them into action to find a way for the community to know who is on active duty and to pray for them. They asked clients, friends, and family who, in turn, had family and friends in the military along with connections to 'the valley' to bring in or send in pictures to post on the flag. In no way was there nor is there any discredit to the American Flag; quite the opposite, but for locals to connect to the troops and display them on our 'Grand Old Flag'. While in need of updating, Perfect Touch Day Spa owner, Yvonne Keyston, would like to keep this going and for anyone in the valley with family or friends in the military to add their picture to the wall. Then, staff of Perfect Touch Day Spa and Joyful Nails will pray for them.

Sentinel photo by Candi Sage

## Commissioner Thanks Sentinel for Reporting

by Paul Sage

At the January 7 Custer County Commissioners' meeting, Commissioner Kit Shy commented on a previous Sentinel article on the closed landfill which the Colorado Department of Health and Public Environment was reportedly using as part of their decision-making process regarding actions at the landfill in the future. He said, "We received a message from the Colorado Department of Health in relation to the landfill closure and I guess on the web or somewhere they picked up the Sentinel article about that and they have a process where they submit that into their record as public comment on issues, and they officially submitted that into their record and we received notice of that. So I appreciate their efforts in getting some public input on things and including it in their decision-making process. We'll see how that actually works, but I want to thank the Sentinel for getting an article that's right to the source, so thank you."



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*Ronald Reagan - 40th President of the United States*

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# Local Mountain News & Notices

## Education in Custer County-Part 1

(Editor/GG) In the interest of fairness, The Sentinel sent this article to School Board President Brenda Gaide and Superintendent Chris Selle last week and requested a response. Their response is on the adjacent page. We would very much like to hear from the community about this issue, so please send your comments to submitals@sdcscsentinel.com)

by Joe Cascarelli

Why should residents and taxpayers in Custer County care about the quality of education that its children receive in public schools? I guess that the first question that we should ask ourselves is, “Do we know anything about the quality of education that the community’s children receive?” Most of the residents of the county do not know. And, why should they? Most of the residents do not have children in the school system. Many of us have raised our children and our children are having families of their own. Many live in other parts of the country.

The way that I see our educational system is that all in America should care about the kind of education that the public schools, private schools and charter schools are providing today. Besides the obvious, these current students in K through 12 are the next generation of citizens to whom we will be turning over the country in the next 10 years or so. What kind of citizens will they be? Will they have the knowledge and skills needed to make decisions in the best interest of the country and the communities that make up the country? Frankly, there isn’t much that we can do about the quality of education in America, but we can do something about our education process in Custer County.

First, we must know where we are today. Accompanying this article is a report entitled, “Colorado School Grades: Report Card” (coloradoschoolgrades.com/default.aspx). The report is presented in three parts: el-

ementary, middle and high school. Over the next few months we will look at each school separately starting with elementary school. This should make sense to all. Education after all is a series of building blocks. Students build on what they learned in the elementary grades when they get to the middle grades. The cumulative knowledge is then the foundation for the

readiness. Their motives are captured well in their Vision Statement: “Our vision is that every student in Colorado has access to a high performing school and graduates with knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary to succeed in a competitive global economy.” To me, this is or should be the primary goal of any education effort. The public school establishment’s

know, if this foundation of knowledge has voids, the desired result, a stable structure, is in jeopardy. Reading is fundamental. If a child can’t read, all other subjects will suffer. The current method of imparting knowledge is text books, either print or electronic, supplemented by verbal instruction supplied by a professionally trained teacher properly certified

not trained.

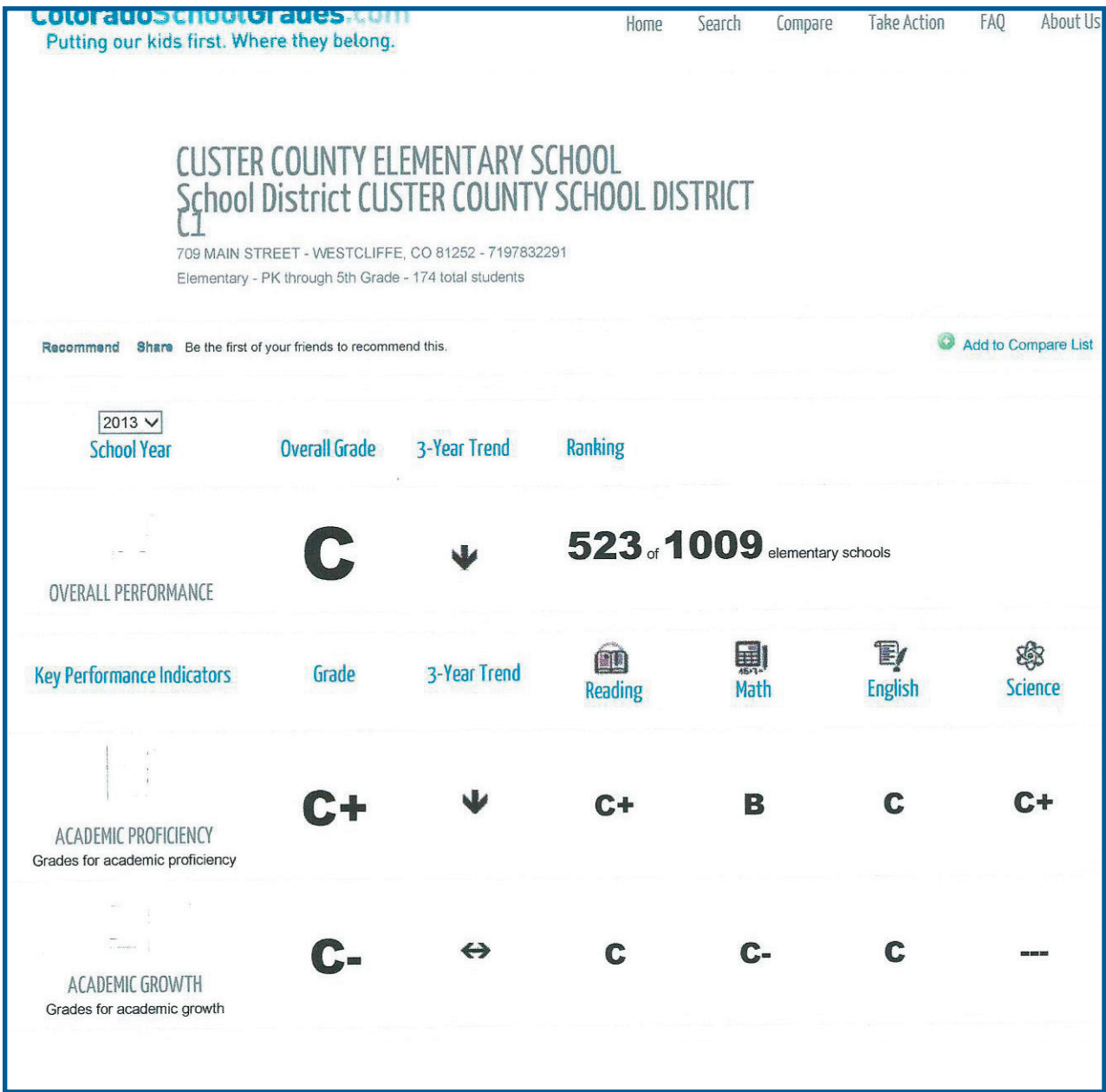
How are our children doing in reading? According to the report, Custer County’s elementary school students rate a “C” in overall proficiency, a “C+” in READING academic proficiency and a “C” in READING academic growth. The report tells us that the three-year trend is DOWN. We all know that a “C” is a

they are selling out or that they are a “nerd.”

If it were up to me, I’d like to see reading at a “B” at least with the trend being up. I’ve been through the education system all the way to a four-year degree in engineering. I know from experience that education will not get easier when elementary students get to middle school. High school is filled with all kinds of academic and social challenges. Face it, a weak foundation calls into question the soundness of the whole structure.

Here is the “rest of the story.” Our elementary students get the following in academic proficiency: a “B” in math with a three-year downward trend, a “C” in English with a three-year downward trend and a “C+” in science with a downward trend. What this all adds up to is a questionable foundation. If we can’t instill a love for learning at the elementary level, students will struggle in the later grades. We simply need to do better. As we study and reflect upon the progression of our children, many will not be surprised to discover that 35 percent of our high school students who go on to college or junior college require remedial (AKA high school level) courses prior to taking on higher education rigors.

This year, 2013, it has been widely reported that half of America’s college graduates cannot find a job. This has to be more than the effects of a recession. Employers tell us that graduates just aren’t ready for the challenges of the business world. This is why so many corporations are looking to other countries for qualified applicants. It is bad enough to see the children that we love fail at pursuing a career and it is worse if those same young adults must start paying for the cost of that education. The national average is \$25,000 with little or no income. In the coming weeks, we will attempt to discover the reasons why so many fall short and then seek a remedy.



high school grades. The net result is to prepare students for entry level jobs, higher education, the trades or to start them taking a role in the family business.

We should spend a little time to consider where “Colorado School Grades” comes from. It is a web site created by Colorado Succeeds, an organization founded by members of the Colorado business community who are committed to improving workforce

job is done when a student graduates 12th grade. The business community’s job is just starting. They will have to underwrite the employee education effort for the next 40 years. What this organization has accomplished with their website is to rate each school using layman’s terms instead of the kind of code language that the education professionals use.

As those of us who have been through this process

and managed by school administrators. The citizens input into the school system are through elected members of the local Board of Education. What, after all, do we know about the quality of our teaching staff? They are no doubt nice people. What I wonder about is their subject matter competency. Surveys tell us that nationally, over 25 percent of public school teachers are teaching a subject for which they were

passing grade. The question for me is what kind of a building block does a “C” in reading represent? Children from five to eleven in age are at a critical point in their growth cycle. These new learners haven’t been demotivated by life. They usually love their teachers; they show a curiosity and a willingness to learn. Peer pressure is as low it will be in their basic educational journey. At this point, a child can be smart without others telling them that

*There is no nation on earth powerful enough to accomplish our overthrow. Our destruction, should it come at all, will be from another quarter. From the inattention of the people to the concerns of their government, from the carelessness and negligence. I fear that they may place too implicit a confidence in their public servants and fail properly to scrutinize their conduct that in this way they become the instruments of their own undoing.*

*~ Daniel Webster*

# Local Mountain News & Notices

## School Superintendent Responds To Colorado School Grades Data

*(Editor/GG: Please read Education in Custer Cou on the previous page first. The following is in response to that article.)*

by Chris Selle,  
CC-1 Superintendent

Regarding the competency of teachers that seems to have been questioned, they are extremely qualified educators. All full time teachers for Custer County School District are Highly Qualified as per ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act). ESEA defines a highly qualified teacher as one who meets all the following criteria:

- Has earned at least a Bachelor’s degree.
- Holds full state certification.
- Has demonstrated subject matter knowledge and teaching skill in each core academic subject assigned to teach.

Furthermore, nearly 50% of the teaching staff have achieved a Master’s degree, and 20% are National Board Certified teaching professionals. National Board Certification is an advanced teaching credential. For more information on National Board Certi-

fication, please see <http://www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification>.

CCSD has been blessed to have been able to hire wonderful teachers that are highly qualified, extremely competent, and care deeply about the success of children. These staff members have shown a willingness to take on additional work required by the state and to pursue additional education and credentials to fulfill the multiple roles they have been asked to fill.

Regarding school performance, the focus of our school and community should be on the District Performance Framework and School Performance Framework numbers that are determined by the Colorado Department of Education. These numbers determine the school district’s accreditation. CCSD is currently “Accredited” with a goal to become “Accredited with Distinction” – the highest rating possible. Improvement plans are already in place to accomplish this, with the understanding that if improvement is not seen, those plans will need to be modified to achieve this goal.

There are a number of organizations, including ColoradoSchoolGrades.com, that generate rankings. For the most part, these ranking systems are interesting, but do not significantly influence the work of the school for the following reasons:

- No impact on district accreditation ratings - As mentioned above, the school district is accredited through the Colorado Department of Education’s District Performance Framework that is released annually. None of the private organization ranking or evaluation systems have any bearing (good or bad) on the accreditation.
- Inaccurate data - There is no accountability for these organizations to ensure their data is correct. For example, with ColoradoSchoolGrades.com, Custer County Elementary school was ranked 523 of 1009 elementary schools in 2013. In 2011, Custer County Elementary was ranked 598 out of 1467. What happened to the other 458 elementary schools between 2011 and 2013? A few schools were likely closed and/or were consolidated as a result of budget cuts. It is highly unlikely that oc-

curred with 458 elementary schools across the state. It is difficult to place faith in a report showing that much difference in a number that is relatively easy to calculate.

- Use of a “Bell Curve” distribution - This is a mode of grading that is no longer used by most educators because it forces a certain percentage of participants into the failing category even if they aren’t failing. Additionally, it limits the number of schools that can be rated highly, regardless of performance. It is questionable how a system that requires failure and limits success can really promote improvements in student learning.
- No focus on standards based criteria - The District Performance Framework and School Performance Framework is intended to be a standards based criteria - i.e. to what level are students meeting the expectations we have set for them. ColoradoSchoolGrades.com has turned this into a ranking system. The intent of the DPF and SPF was never to rank schools. It was to give schools a tool to determine if students are demonstrating the learning

that is included in the state academic standards and to give schools a guide to how they can improve student learning.

- Misplaced focus - The focus of a public school should be on student learning and preparing students for success for their future endeavors. If the school’s focus is on a ranking, we have misplaced our priorities.
- Small sample size - Because of CCSD’s size, basing a score off of one year’s data does not give a complete picture of the school. Significant swings in percentages can occur due to small class sizes. For small schools like CCSD, the data should be aggregated over a multiple year period to get a true reflection of the performance of our school.
- Narrow view of student achievement - Most of the ranking/evaluation systems do not include information on elective courses. These classes are of great value to this community and are essential to the development of the whole child. Students gain great confidence through performing in front of an audience with band, drama, and choir classes,

learn problem solving skills in industrial arts, learn leadership and public speaking skills in FFA, and learn creative thinking skills in art. The rankings also do not include information on AP courses, extracurricular activities, character development, food services, transportation, or any other initiatives are vital to a successful school.

- Disproportionate focus on academic growth - Schools districts like CCSD that have had strong academic achievement and typical academic growth will receive lower ratings because more emphasis is placed on academic growth. A more detailed explanation of this can be found toward the bottom of the FAQ page at [www.coloradoschoolgrades.com](http://www.coloradoschoolgrades.com).

Determining school success is a very complex issue that cannot be simplified into a letter grade or ranking system. The Custer County School District is a strong school district that will continually strive for improvement. The staff are committed, competent, and caring individuals that share this belief and are working very hard to make it a reality.

### Events Calendar

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Friday, January 10, 2014</b><br>National ACT Test Registration Deadline for test date 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.: MS G/B Basketball @ Home<br>4:30 - 9 p.m. - HS Wrestling Tri @ Home<br>7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: “Thor: The Dark World” | <b>Wednesday, January 15, 2014</b><br>4 - p.m. - MS Knowledge Bowl, Room #116                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Saturday, January 11, 2014</b><br>9 a.m. Wrestling Tournament @ Home<br>10:30 - 11:30 a.m. MS G/B Basketball @ La Veta<br>7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: “Thor: The Dark World”                                                      | <b>Thursday, January 16, 2014</b><br>All day Knowledge Bowl League: Alamosa                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Sunday, January 12, 2014</b><br>2 p.m. - The Jones Theater: “Thor: The Dark World”                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Friday, January 17, 2014</b><br>CCSD C-1 District Inservice<br>9 a.m. Wrestling: Tournament @ Florence H.S.<br>3:30 p.m. - Basketball @ Sanford<br>7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: “Philomena”      |
| <b>Monday, January 13, 2014</b><br>6 - 7 p.m. - Middle School Geo-Bee Competition                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Saturday, January 18, 2014</b><br>9 a.m. Wrestling: Tournament @ Florence<br>3:30 - 7:30 p.m. - High School JV/V G/B Basketball @ Home vs. Del Norte<br>7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: “Philomena” |
| <b>Tuesday, January 14, 2014</b><br>4:30 - 6 p.m. School Board Meeting                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Sunday, January 19, 2014</b><br>2 p.m. - The Jones Theater: “Philomena”                                                                                                                            |

### Recurring Events and Business Hours

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b><br>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.                                                                                                         | <b>Tuesday through Friday</b><br>10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.: Library in downtown Westcliffe open.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Monday through Friday</b><br>10 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Custer County Public transit service available to everyone through Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343.                                                                                                                     | <b>Wednesday</b><br>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.<br>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. |
| <b>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday</b><br>Noon: Lunch served at Custer County Senior Center located on first floor of Silver Cliff Town Hall. Call 783-9508 to RSVP.                                                                                                                           | <b>Thursday</b><br>5:30 p.m.: Weight Watchers meeting in the Hope Lutheran Church basement. Call 783-4144.<br>6 p.m.: Celebrate Recovery program at First Baptist Church in Westcliffe. Call 719/568-1060.                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Monday and Thursday</b><br>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.                                          | <b>Friday</b><br>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.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>12:30 p.m.: Bridge Club meets in the library community room in downtown Westcliffe.<br>4:30 p.m.: Awanas for kids ages three through sixth grade at First Baptist Church of Westcliffe.<br>6 p.m. – 8 p.m.: Jammin’ band at Mining Company restaurant in Silver Cliff. | <b>Friday and Saturday</b><br>1 p.m. – 4 p.m.: Share Center adjacent to Hope Lutheran Church in Westcliffe open.<br><br><b>Saturday</b><br>10 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Library in downtown Westcliffe open.<br>10:30 a.m.: Story time for kids at the library                                                                                     |

### Custer County School District C-1 Regular School Board Meeting

**Great Room  
January 14, 2014  
4:30 p.m.**

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Modification/Approval of Agenda
3. Welcome of Guests
4. General Public Comment Session - (Comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes)
5. Consent Agenda
  - a. Modification/Approval: Minutes of regular board meeting of December 10, 2013
  - b. Acceptance: Thank you letter from CDE for participation in Colorado Measures of Academic Success field test
6. Reports from Students/Staff
  - a. Brittan Braddock - Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic
7. Reports from Public
  - a. Excellence in Education report
  - b. VOICE and
  - c. Accountability report
8. Board Committee Reports (Accountability Committee, BOCES, FFA, Legislative Update, Preschool Advisory)
9. Action Items – For the good of the students of Custer County Schools
  - a. Approval: Check Vouchers
  - b. Approval: Financial Reports
  - c. Approval: Public posting sites for BOE agendas (Main Office, door by Great Room, Admin Office)
  - d. Personnel Hires
    - i. Dylan Koble - Vol. Assistant Wrestling Coach - pending background check (rec. by AD Greg Cravens)
    - ii. Part time nurse (recommended by superintendent Chris Selle)
    - iii. Office Secretary (recommended by superintendent Chris Selle)
  - e. Approval: Board Policy BEDB (Agenda) - first reading
10. Principal’s Reports
  - a. Elementary – Holly Anderson
  - b. Secondary – Barb Jones
11. Superintendent’s Report – Enclosed
12. Executive Session (If needed)
13. Items introduced by Board Members
14. Adjournment

# Local Mountain News & Notices

## Classifieds

### Announcements

**TIMBERLINE PILATES** will be closed due to illness until further notice. Clients please call 719/371-7214. Thank you all.

### For Rent

Year round, short-term vacation rentals. Excellence is our goal! Beautiful locations. Non-smoking, no pets. Shining Mountain Rentals. 719/783-2627

### Services

Chainsaw Sharpening. Accurate sharpening. Multiple chain discount. Overnight service available. Chain loops made to order and repaired. Ring J.B. 719/783-4448

### For Sale

For Sale: 10 acres across from Oak Creek Grade General Store. Electric, well, septic & phone. \$50,000 firm. Call Jack & Audrey 783-2245

OnMarkArms.com  
113 Mill, Silver Cliff  
Guns, Ammo, Gunsmith  
THRIVE Freeze Dried Food  
11 - 5, Thurs. - Sat.  
719-783-3158

Kohler Back-up Stand-by Generators - Power when you need it! On grid or solar. 6.5Kw - 125Kw. Propane or natural gas. Locally sold & serviced by G P Power Systems (formerly Miller Automotive & More) Call Glenn at 719-371-8625

Shining Mountain Estates  
12 five-acre lots available. City water and sewer available. \$45,000. Limited time offer. 783-9052

Nordyke Sanitation LLC Septic pumping and inspection. Call Art Nordyke at 719/783-2747 or 719/371-3523

### Real Estate

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719/269-0653  
Serving buyers & sellers since 1982

### Help Wanted

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](http://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](mailto: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.

## Sangre Shooting Sports Club Annual Meeting

The Sangre Shooting Sports Club will be hosting its annual meeting on Saturday, January 18, at 1:00 p.m. in the community room at Cliff Lanes Bowling Alley. Basic agenda items include approval of the bylaws, election of officers, discussion of previous and proposed range improvements, and a safety orientation. There is also an opportunity to join or renew memberships, and a member comment and open forum.

This year, the Custer County Sheriff Candidates have also been invited to speak,

and this will be a great opportunity to hear where they stand on key issues and ask questions.

The club will also be introducing its new website, [www.sangreshooting.org](http://www.sangreshooting.org).



This is your chance to present your ideas, comments or concerns about the

club to the Board of Directors. They will be discussing a number of things that are important to members.

Feel free to email the Board at [www.sangreshooting.org](http://www.sangreshooting.org) or call Grant Lewinski at 719-371-6236.

## Come and Worship

**Christian Science**  
9:30 a.m. Worship  
8 Bassick Place  
Westcliffe

**Church of Christ**  
9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
5 p.m. Worship  
810 Ohio Street  
Silver Cliff  
719/783-4601

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.  
12:10 p.m. Sunday School  
240 Ridgeline Drive  
Westcliffe  
719/783-9356  
719/404-4585

**Community United Methodist Church**  
8 a.m. Worship  
10 a.m. Worship  
202 S. 6th Street  
Westcliffe  
719/783-2511

**Cody Park Community Church**  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
517 County Rd. 27A  
Cotopaxi  
719/942-3462  
719/942-3526

**Cotopaxi Community Church**  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11 a.m. Worship  
6 p.m. Worship  
20326 Hwy. 50  
Cotopaxi  
719/942-4185

**First Baptist Church of Westcliffe**  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Fellowship  
10:45 a.m. Worship  
6 p.m. Worship  
417 S. 6th Street  
Westcliffe  
719/783-2498

**High Country Mennonite Church**  
9:30 a.m. Worship  
10:45 a.m. Sunday School  
110 Rosita Avenue  
All Aboard Westcliffe Bldg.  
Westcliffe  
719/783-9045

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
9 a.m. Sunday School  
10 a.m. Fellowship  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
3rd & Powell Streets  
Westcliffe  
719/783-9773

**Oak Creek Grade General Store**  
6 p.m. Worship  
Followed by potluck  
12 miles north on Cty. Rd. 255  
719/783-2245

**Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church**  
Diocese of Pueblo  
11 a.m. Sunday Mass  
10 a.m. Tuesday Mass  
109 S. 5th Street  
Westcliffe  
719/783-3507

**Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church**  
11 a.m. Mass  
3rd Sunday of each month  
210 S. 2nd Street  
Westcliffe  
719/783-2491

**Sangre de Cristo Mennonite Church**  
10 a.m. Worship  
120 Jerry Drive  
Westcliffe  
719/783-0903

**Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel**  
10 a.m. Worship  
6160 County Rd. 130  
Westcliffe  
719/783-2447

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship  
3rd & Rosita Streets  
Westcliffe  
719/783-2477

**St. Patrick's Anglican Church**  
11 a.m. Worship  
401 2nd Street  
Westcliffe  
719/783-2500

**Valley Bible Fellowship**  
10 a.m. Worship  
116 Hermit Lane  
Silver Cliff  
719/783-9050

**Westcliffe Community Church**  
10 a.m. Worship  
103 N. Adams St.  
Westcliffe  
719/429-4256

**Wetmore Baptist Church**  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
1045 a.m. Worship  
6 p.m. Worship  
Wetmore  
719/784-4197

**Wetmore Community Church**  
Tues., Dec. 24 - 5:30 p.m.  
Candlelight Service  
Cty. Rd. 395  
Wetmore  
719/784-0596

**Wild West Cowboy Church**  
Tues., Dec. 24 - 6:00 p.m.  
60260 Hwy. 69 North  
Westcliffe  
719/783-2676

Don't love the world and what it offers.  
Those who love the world don't have the Father's love in them.  
Not everything that the world offers--  
physical gratification, greed, and extravagant lifestyles--comes from the Father.  
I John 2:15 - 16 GW

## Eateries

**Alpine Lodge**  
6848 Cty. Rd. 140•Westcliffe  
719/783-2669  
Wed.-Sat. 5:00-10:00 p.m.  
Sun. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Candy's Coffee**  
106 S. 2nd St. • Westcliffe  
719/783-9516  
Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Sat.-Sun. 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Chappy's Mountain View Bar & Grill**  
213 Main St. • Westcliffe  
719/783-0813  
Daily Noon-9:00 p.m.

**Dawg Haus**  
510 1/2 Main St. • Silver Cliff  
719/783-9345  
Daily 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Edwardo's**  
216 Main St. • Westcliffe  
719/783-9040  
Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Fri.-Sat. 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.  
Sun. 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

**Have a Nice Day Cafe**  
104 Main St. • Westcliffe  
719/783-2313  
Mon., Thurs., Sat. 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Sun. 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Hunger Buster**  
824 Main St. • Westcliffe  
719/783-9228  
Call for hours

**Letter Drop Inn**  
6654 Cty. Rd. 328 • Rosita  
719/783-9430  
Wed.-Sat. 5:00p.m.

**The Lodge at San Isabel**  
59 Cty. Rd. 371 • San Isabel  
719/489-2280  
Wed.-Mon. 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

**Mavericks**  
404 Main St. • Silver Cliff  
719/783-3333  
Daily Noon-9:00 p.m.

**Mining Company Restaurant**  
60 Main St. • Westcliffe  
719/783-9144  
Daily 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Oak Creek Grade General Store**  
12 miles north on Cty. Rd. 255  
719/783-2245  
Thurs.-Sat. 6:00-10:45 a.m.

**R's Pizza**  
630 Main St. • Silver Cliff  
719/783-9300  
Wed.-Sat. Noon-8:00 p.m.

**Rancher's Roost at Cliff Lanes**  
25 Main St. • Westcliffe  
719/783-2147  
Mon.-Fri. 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.  
Sat. 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.  
Sun. 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Schlabachs Marketplace & Deli**  
120 N. 3rd St. • Westcliffe  
719/783-9010  
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.  
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Wed. & Sat. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Silver Cliff Pizza Company**  
upstairs in the  
**Silver Dome Saloon**  
110 Main St. • Silver Cliff  
719/783-9499  
Call for hours

**SomeWhere Saloon**  
215 Main St. • Westcliffe  
719/783-4900  
Monday-Saturday 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Sunday 11:00 a.m.-Midnight

**St. Andrews Golf Course Cafe**  
801 Copper Gulch Rd. • Westcliffe  
719/783-9410  
Daily 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Subway**  
inside JR's Fuel Stop  
425 S. 6th St. • Westcliffe  
719/783-2748  
Mon.-Sat. 6:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.  
Sun. 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Sugar & Spice Mountain Bakery**  
411 Main St. B • Westcliffe  
719/783-4045  
Mon.-Sat. 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Westcliffe Wine Mine**  
109 N. 3rd St. • Westcliffe  
719/783-2490  
Fri.-Sat. 11:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

**Wetmore General Store & Steakhouse**  
758 Cty. Rd. 395 • Wetmore  
719/784-6149  
Fri.-Sat. 5:00-9:00 p.m.  
Sun. 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Remember the poor - it costs nothing.

~Mark Twain

Let us not be too particular:  
it is better to have old, second-hand diamonds,  
than none at all.

~Mark Twain

# Local Mountain News & Notices

## SIX-PACK Set to Defend the House

by Michelle Pedigo

Readying for wrestling competition at their home tournament, Bobcat grapplers took only one day off during their last week of Christmas break, and that was because CHSSA said they had to. I stopped into a practice earlier this week to get an inside look, and with Coach Ham, Coach Koble, and Coach Selle all three on the mats with The SIX-PACK, the room was heated up.

Having found out a little bit about The SIX-PACK off the mats, let's get to know them and recognize them at the tournament and around town. Here's their year in school, wrestling weight class, favorite color, favorite food, favorite wrestling move, sports hero, and favorite movie.

**Titus Crawford**  
Junior, 120 pounds  
Black  
Tacos  
Fireman's  
Peyton Manning  
Gladiator

**Tyler Watson**  
Senior, 132 pounds  
Blue  
Cheeseburgers  
"Don't know any wrestling moves"  
(Note: I've seen him wrestle. He just doesn't want to give it away!)  
Not a big sports fan so no hero  
Blackhawk Down

**Weldon Rusher**  
Junior, 138 pounds  
Blue  
Steak  
Arm drag  
Jordan Burrough  
Fast & Furious V

**Cody Koble**  
Sophomore, 145 pounds  
Red  
Steak  
Double leg  
Peyton Manning  
Saving Private Ryan

**Kody Aldrich**  
Junior, 160 pounds  
Blue  
Chicken Alfredo  
Fireman's  
JB Muaney  
Lonesome Dove

**Manny Pedigo**  
Senior, 170/182 pounds  
Bronco Blue  
Brats/Brisket  
Cradle  
Peyton Manning  
Nacho Libre

**Coach Ham**  
Green  
Huevos rancheros  
Head & heel  
John Elway  
Young Guns

**Coach Koble**  
Black  
Lasagne  
High crotch  
Anderson Silva  
Vision Quest

**Coach Selle**  
Blue & Gold  
Steak  
Crossface Cradle  
Tim Tebow  
Star Wars

For an early glimpse of The SIX-PACK, attend the TRI-meet on Friday night starting at 5:00 p.m. Then Anticipate Action, Expect Excitement, and be at the home tournament Saturday, January 11, starting at 9:00 a.m.



### Building Trades Class Update

Students brave the cold and work on sheeting the outside walls and finishing the interior walls.

Sentinel photo by Candi Sage

## Bobcats Sport Schedule

### BASKETBALL

**Saturday, January 11, 2014**  
8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Bobcat Youth Basketball  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Middle School Girls / Boys Basketball @ La Veta  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - HS G/B JV/V Basketball @ Florence

**Friday, January 17, 2014**  
3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. - HS G/B JV/V Basketball @ Sanford

**Saturday, January 18, 2014**  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Middle School G /B @ South Park  
3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - HS JV/V G /B @ Home  
vs. Del Norte

### WRESTLING

**Friday, January 10, 2014**  
4:30 p.m. - TRI at HOME  
  
**Thursday, January 11, 2014**  
9 a.m. - HS Wrestling Tournament @ Home

**Friday and Saturday, January 17 - 18**  
9 a.m. - HS Wrestling Tournament @ Florence

### GO BOBCATS!

*If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you.  
This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.*

~ Mark Twain

## Stampede Rodeo Royalty Open To Contestants

The Westcliffe Stampede Rodeo, sponsored by the Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club, will once again be held the third weekend of July. The Royalty Competition Committee has met several times to coordinate the clinics to be held. The first clinic will be Sunday, March 2, 2014, with subsequent clinics following on each Sunday in March. The final coronation will be Sunday, March 30, at which time the 2014 Stampede Royalty will be selected.

Young ladies ages 8-19

(as of January 1, 2014) are encouraged to try out for the 'Princess', 'Miss Stampede', and 'Queen' positions. The Princess age group is 8-12 years of age; the Miss Stampede age group is 13-15 years of age; and the Queen age group is 16-19 years of age. Again, age must be as of January 1, 2014.

Areas of competition are Horsemanship (including reining patterns), Speech, Modeling, and Personality.

Ladies that do not own their own horse can arrange for the use of a

horse. All horses must have a current Health Certificate and Coggins test.

Applications for the Royalty Contest must be turned in at the first clinic (March 2), and all contestants must be a current member of the Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club.

Interested applicants may contact Ashten Hutton (719-371-4542), Sandy Brown (719-783-2308), Lynn Stock (719-275-2646), or Terry Lee (783-0204).



### Bobcat Menu • Jan 13 - Jan 16, 2014

**Monday breakfast**  
Cheese Quesadillas  
Fruit, Milk  
**lunch**  
Corn Dog  
Choice of Vegetable  
Choice of Fruit  
Milk

**Tuesday breakfast**  
Cheese Omelet, W.W. Toast  
Fruit, Milk  
**lunch**  
Spag. w/ Meat Sauce, Garlic Roll  
Choice of Vegetable  
Choice of Fruit  
Milk

**Wednesday breakfast**  
Blueberry or Banana Loaf, Ham, Fruit, Milk  
**lunch**  
Toasted Cheese Sandwich  
Tomato Soup  
Choice of Veg. and Fruit  
Milk

**Thursday breakfast**  
Sausage Gravy, Biscuits  
Fruit, Milk  
**lunch**  
Hamburger  
Choice of Vegetable  
Choice of Fruit  
Milk

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

## KIDS

Friday, January 10, 2014

### January 14, 1784 Ratification Day!

DID YOU KNOW...?

On January 14, 1784, the American Congress of the Confederation ratified the Treaty of Paris.

The Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783, which ended the American Revolutionary War between Great Britain and the United States of America. France, Spain, and the Dutch Republic had separate agreements.

Ratification of the treaty took place on January 14, 1784, known as Ratification Day. Formal approval was to take place within six months from the signing by the parties involved. Copies of the ratified treaty reached France in March 1784; British ratification occurred on April 9, 1784, and ratified versions exchanged in Paris on May 12, 1784. It was some time before Americans in the countryside would receive the news. Communication was not very fast.

information source: [www.treatyofparis.com](http://www.treatyofparis.com)

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

# Corner

# The Historic Silver Cliff Museum

## *A History of all of Custer County*



This ornate tellers cage from the original Bank of Westcliffe also features silver ink wells and original receipt books.

The Silver Cliff Museum is housed in the original Silver Cliff Town Hall and Fire House, which was built in 1879. The museum, located at 610 Main Street in Silver Cliff, is open Memorial Day through Labor Day each Saturday and Sunday from 1 PM to 4 PM. Admission is free but donations are always welcome. Off season and private tours are available by appointment by calling 783-2837.

This museum, which contains the history of all of Custer County, received a little over \$190,000 in enhancements in recent years through grants and donations. Visitors from all over the United States as well as from Bolivia and Russia have visited the museum.

Students Skylar Smith, Nora Lewis and Christopher Jenkins, under the supervision of Curator Dorothy Urban, served as docents in the museum during the 2013 tourist season. Duties included opening and closing the museum, greeting visitors and taking them on tours through the museum.



This flag was acquired by the Silver Cliff Fire Department between 1890 and 1896 and flew over the fire station. It has 44 stars. Wyoming was the 44th state to come into the Union in 1890 with Utah following in 1896, which places this flag between 1890 and 1896.



Lew Key was born in China in 1864 and came west at about age 17. With approximately 10,000 people living in the area, he saw an opportunity to provide laundry services.



A Singer sewing machine made for sewing leather.



Museum Curator Dorothy Urban in the museum's Pioneer Home.



A replica of Hoffman's Barber Shop.



Westcliffe Milk Products display.



Postal boxes from 1880's Silver Cliff Post Office in their original form. Many still have their corresponding keys.



Docent Chris Jenkins is an 8th grade student who says he has learned a lot from people whose family lived here long ago. The museum has a vast display of mining memorabilia including pictures of many of the mines and the miners themselves.



The Pioneer Home provides a look into a moderate home of the era with periodic furnishing and household items. The display includes a dining, bedroom, parlor, kitchen, and music room.



# Workshop with Award Winning Quilter Presenter Scott Beaver

On Tuesday, January 14, 2014, Scott Beaver of Colorado Springs, an award winning quilter, will be the featured presenter at the Olde Schoolhouse Quilters first workshop of the new year. In addition to a video presentation, Scott will talk about his quilting family history and his beginnings as a male quilter in the quilting world. Also, he will show many of the quilts which he has designed and made and will talk about his varied quilting experiences. Scott will also debut his quilt, “Weeping Angel,” which was recently commissioned by the American Cancer Society. This will be his first occasion to unveil this new work.

Local Custer County residents and visitors, interested quilters, and members of



Scott Beaver

Courtesy photo

other quilt guilds are invited to attend this quilt trunk show and presentation which will be held at Valley Bible Fellowship, 116 Hermit Lane in Silver Cliff. Admission is free for this program which will start at 9:15ish a.m., and will be finished by noon. Refresh-

ports that the 2013 Christmas season was slower than 2012 with 2013 not being the typical season. Owner, Mo Johnston, said, “The weather may have had an effect on people coming out as we have not had the usual skiers and hikers.” Mo also said she thinks, “The economy still isn’t where people feel comfortable traveling as much,” and that their business also, “Depends on scheduled activities such as weddings, reunions and birthdays.”

ments will be provided by the OSQ quilt club. Scott will have original patterns for sale.

For further information contact Janet Flick at 783-2955, Deb Rimmer at 783-2199 or Liz VanSomeren at 783-3575.

Overall, the owners themselves have an insight to how and why business fluctuates in ‘the valley’. Two businesses specifically commented on how people in the area are needed to help support and buy locally rather than going elsewhere, if at all possible. Without local support, then they have to rely on heavy tourist traffic during tourist season so they can make it through the winter months and remain open year around.

# Update on Richard Koester

by Carol Clemenson

Custer County resident, Richard (Rick) Koester and his friend were in a serious accident in Cañon City a few months ago. Rick and his friend were in a truck and went off the road and went straight down the steep slope. Everything that was in the back of the truck came forward. His friend died on impact because the steering wheel smashed his chest. Rick was pinned under the dash and his friend was on top of him. He was pinned there for six days and six nights. The temperature was very cold.

Thank goodness a C-DOT crew found them while they were working. Immediately they went to the truck, called the emergency crews, fire department, ambulance, and Flight For Life. Rick was flown to Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs. Rick’s body temperature was only 71° and by the time they got to the hospital it had only come up to 76°. The chaplain from the hospital called his family. Rick suffered a lot of frostbite and as a result, lost both legs from the knees down. The femur in his right leg was shattered, and may require further surgery. He had frostbite on both feet and hands, and lost three fingers off his right hand at the

first knuckle. He also had a broken jaw so they had to wire his mouth shut. They had put him on a ventilator, and when they removed the tube, there was a lot of glass in his mouth, face and neck. His tongue is 50 percent paralyzed because of the glass. He could not eat or drink anything so a feeding tube had to be put in.



Richard Koester

Sentinel photo by Carol Clemenson

all right.

His wife and daughter were out of town at the time of the accident. When they got back, Rick and his wife, Katie, renewed their vows in the church.

His jaw has healed, and he is speaking and eating some, but still has a feeding tube. They are still finding some glass in his mouth and face, and all his teeth were broken. His spirits are good and getting better, and he is home from the hospital. Rick still has a long way to go, but he feels with the grace of God, he will be

On a personal note, his parents, Bob and Linda Koester, along with the rest of the family, want to thank all the people from C- DOT, all the emergency help, the hospital, friends and this wonderful community for all their help and prayers.

If you would like to help Rick and his family with some of the medical bills, you can make a donation at the Colorado Mountain Bank in care of Richard Koester.

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EST. 2013

**SomeWhere SALOON**

IT'S ALWAYS 5 O'CLOCK HERE

**Happy Hour**  
**Monday - Friday**  
**4 - 7 PM**  
**215 Main Street**  
**783-4900**

**Final Qualifying Round**  
**Karaoke Contest**  
**Friday 9 PM**

# Sheriff's Report...

There are seven men in jail as of January 7.

In the last week there were three ambulance runs and five fire calls.

**January 6,** Benjamin Lewis age, 33, of Indiana, was stopped for speeding in the 100 block on Hermit road. Was arrested for no insurance and drivers license under suspension. He posted a \$2,000 bond and was released.

**January 5,** Allan Olo-man, age 22, of rural Westcliffe was arrested for violation of a protection order on 700 block of Ohio street in Silver

Cliff. He was jailed but released under own recognizance.

**January 4,** at 10:00 p.m., Dana Tucker, 57, of Westcliffe, was driving a Toyota sedan and got stuck in the snow on CR 215 at mile marker 3. She left her vehicle, and at some point later, an unknown vehicle hit the Toyota from behind, pushing it into the ditch. There was heavy damage to the back of the Toyota. A hit and run and is under investigation.

**January 4,** at 9:00 a.m., Emily Spencer, age 20,

from Midland, Texas, was driving her 2000 Lexus north bound on CR 358, on icy roads. She went off the left side of the road, down an embankment, turned the car on its side and hit some trees. There was heavy damage to the vehicle.

**January 3,** Daniel Winans, age 49, of rural Westcliffe was arrested on a Custer County warrant for assault and domestic violence from an issue on December 24, 2013. He posted a \$2,000 bond and was released.

**January 3,** Tommy Davis,

age 18, of rural Westcliffe, was arrested on a Custer County warrant for felony theft. He remains in jail on a \$3,000 bond.

**January 1,** at 10:49 a.m., Rebecca Hare, age 23, of Colorado Springs, was driving her 1993 Acura east bound on Hwy 96 at mile marker 15, when she lost control of her car on a curve and went off the right side of the road and hit a fence. Conditions were icy and snow packed. There was minor damage to her vehicle, but no injuries.

**BRANCO** Americans for Limited Government ©2014

**THE HOUSE LIBERALS BUILT**

branco@reagan.com

Man is not free unless government is limited.

~Ronald Reagan



# Fremont County Bulletin

## News, Opinion, Commentary

### 2014:

## The Year of Guns and Bibles

by: Barbara Penezic

This great country was not settled by Men who thought they were Women or by Women who thought they were Men. America was forged out of the wilderness by Men of faith and courage, Men with Guns and Bibles. Beside these selfless Men of God were their Women and Children. These hardy pioneers worked tirelessly against overwhelming odds. Disease, starvation, bitterly cold winters, brutally hot summers. They fought the Indians, the British, the French, and anyone or anything that stood in the path of their freedom. Is it not ironic that these fearless Christians shed their blood, sweat, and tears to build a country where they would be free to live and worship the way they saw fit. They risked their lives and the lives of their families to flee an oppressive all-powerful government hoping to ensure that their ancestors (you and me) would be able to live in the land of the "Free and the Brave." Sadly enough, it seems that we are about to come full circle. "Big Government" is about to gobble us up. They have grabbed control of our Health Care System; they are about to control Public Education under the guise of Common Core, and they have tried to tell us what we can eat and drink and what size portion we may have. A Christmas story that would dare include the celebration of the birth of Jesus is being attacked on numerous levels. I am hearing more and more often, "Someone should do something!" Now we need to ask ourselves, "If not me, who?"

There is much to be done right here in Fremont County but we must be willing to give of our time and energy. We must make sure that we know what our elected officials are doing on our behalf. For instance, did you know that Cañon City Council members voted to increase the Self Insurance Fund by \$375,000 to satisfy the aggregate medical

claims for the current year? This brought the year-to-date total for the Self Insurance Fund to \$3,877,200. This change was not addressed at the usual Monday night meeting but at a brief meeting held on Thursday. I'm sure this is all perfectly above board, but wouldn't you have appreciated being able to ask a few questions about these expenses? What about the downtown development? A large sum of money was spent to construct a flower garden at 5th and Main Street that impedes traffic flow. The circle on South 9th street seems a might small for the big trucks that travel that area. Little or no money has been spent on the streets surrounding the downtown area, for example, North 5th Street. Driving through that area is like taking a roller-coaster ride and you will probably need to have your car's front end re-aligned if you travel this street on a regular basis. North 5th is not alone. Nearly every street in the downtown area is in desperate need of repair.

Fremont RE-1 and RE-2 School Boards have made decisions that parents may not approve if they had been given the courtesy of being informed. We are just finding out that Common Core, a very controversial government run curriculum, has been more than 80 percent implemented in local schools. Wouldn't you think that a change as broad as this should have been brought to the attention of the parents and the taxpayers who fund the schools? FYI, there will be an informational presentation on Common Core at the Rec Center on Ash Street at 6:30 p.m. on January 6th by Anita Stapleton. The local school superintendent and all school board members have been invited to attend. This is a meeting you need to attend if you are wondering about Common Core and the negative effects it will have on your children. RE-2 School Board has recently said, and I quote, "This is not our fight,"

when asked about their unanimous vote to allow a transgender boy to use the girls bathroom. These elected board members will not stand up for the rights of our daughters yet they say they want all the students to feel safe and comfortable at school. Those words hold little credibility when they have allowed the rights of one transgender student to circumvent the rights of hundreds of girls at their school. As the Indian's used to say, the board members speak with forked tongue.

We all need to be aware of the ongoing attack on Christmas. This is a very special time of year set aside by our government to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Certain elements of our population are working vigorously to remove every trace of Christ from Christmas. They cringe when we Christians say Merry Christmas or speak of our Christmas Tree. Protests ring out loud and clear if we dare speak of the true meaning of Christmas. Our neighbors in Custer County were outraged to find that an elementary school had removed all words pertaining to the birth of Christ from the school's Christmas Concert. They even altered the words to several carols. The people of Custer County are fighting back. ABC will be covering this story and I hope the citizens of Fremont County will keep apprised of this situation and stand to support our neighbors. Some people think that Americans have become lazy and apathetic that they will not stand to oppose the loss of our freedoms. I think those people are wrong and I'm hoping the people of Fremont County will prove me right. We still have the courage and faith of our forefathers and we will protect our right to live in the home of the "Free and the Brave." We are still a nation of Men and Women of faith and courage, Men and Women who understand the need for Guns and Bibles.

## Human Trafficking

by: Barbara Penezic

Many people mistakenly believe that Human Trafficking only occurs in far-away, distant dark corners of the earth. The back alleys of Singapore, New York City, or maybe even Los Angeles, come to mind when we hear of such vile activities. Men women and children being sold into bondage, forced to work in sweat shops or worse yet, participate in pornographic and commercial sexual servitude. Human Trafficking is a serious federal crime and can be penalized by life in prison. Still it is an ever-growing problem that preys on the weakest among us. Adults who suffer mental challenges and especially children who lack a warm, loving support system are easily targeted by the amoral predators. This particularly heinous crime is moving ever closer to Fremont County.

In July of 2013, Colorado Springs police arrested nine people who were involved in trafficking. The FBI led a nation-wide effort known as Operation Cross Country VII, part of the Innocence Lost Task Force which led to the recovery of 105 victimized children. One hundred and fifty pimps were arrested during this time. Law enforcement agencies from Pueblo, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties participated with the FBI, Denver division in the sweep. This is too close to home for comfort. In fact, Human Trafficking has very likely already gained a toe

hold right here in Fremont County.

Trafficking involves school-age children and can take many forms including forced labor, domestic servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation. These children may be targeted through social media, websites, after school programs, telephone chat lines, or even friends who recruit students on campus. Fortunately for the citizens of Fremont County we are preparing to meet this issue head-on by educating the people to recognize and safely report those who would prey upon our children and/or needy adults in our communities.

Human Trafficking 101 will be presented at the Evangelical Free Church, at 3000 E. Main Street in Cañon City. The classes presented on January 22, 8 a.m. to noon and January 23, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. are presented by the Fremont Interagency Oversight Group. This group was created by state statute and works with Family Services. There will also be a class presented on Friday January 24th, by the Evangelical Free Church. These classes are free to the public but you are asked to RSVP. The telephone number is 719-269-2047. I hope you will make time to attend one of these classes. We need the help of every caring Fremont County resident to combat this despicable crime. Let's put out the "UNWELCOME MAT," and kick Human Trafficking out of Fremont County.

## Southern Colorado Survivors

by Edward Whitcraft,  
Royal Gorge Tea Party

For the past few years there has been a group of people meeting once a month to discuss a variety of subjects as they relate to surviving in cases of natural or man-made disasters. This group is made up of people from every walk of life, diverse educational and work backgrounds, with one thing that binds them together and that is surviving when there is a breakdown in what is considered the norm of life. These like-minded patriots discuss a variety of subjects in their quest to lend their individual knowledge and experiences to help others be prepared should the need arise. Topics include growing and preserving food, medical emergencies, home remedies, solar cooking, prepping "must

have" supplies, weapons training, tactics for home defense and other topics that the group may deem important.

The group has no formal structure as most organizations have. They have folks that lead the meeting and arrange for special speakers but everyone who attends is free to speak to the group on their individual expertise or concerns. The patriots who attend have amazing skill sets to meet a variety of scenarios of what an emergency might look like. The crisis could be a flood, fire, or loss of electricity for an extended period. It could be a man-made crisis such as a complete financial collapse or a disturbance causing

See SURVIVORS  
on page 19

## 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  
of each month  
6:30 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**

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about an upcoming  
event or meeting you  
would like to see  
printed here, or  
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**The two enemies of the people are  
criminals and government, so let us tie  
the second down with the chains of the  
Constitution so the second will not  
become the legalized version of the first.**

~Thomas Jefferson

# 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 YHWH as God and Yeshua Ha Mashiach as Jesus--the actual original names and the true nature and character of them.**

## Don't Fall into the Snare of the Devil

Socialized medicine is here. You are supposed to sign up. Your sign up will be verified by Homeland Security. You will be put into a national database where your very life can be tracked by every health decision that you make. You will pay for leverage against you--panels to determine who receives health care; subsidizing abortions and promoting homosexuality and promiscuity. You are forced by the government to partake in immorality and the government takes your hard earned money to do it. No self respecting Christian American should abide by satanic and unjust laws that forces them into servitude to an ungodly regime that by design should be serving the people. Avoid the snare of the devil.

There are many, many reasons to refuse the mandated socialist health care of the government. Chief among them is that the government is forcing a system upon you that is the antithesis of righteousness, faith, charity, and peace--it is against your religion as a Christian to be forced into a system that ultimate-

ly places you at odds with the Holy Scriptures, forces you to take part in specific sins ordained by government, and restricts your religious expression by virtue of compulsory compliance through leveraging life sustenance. In other words, if you don't support the government, even if it goes against your religious beliefs, you are denied the right to life. Peter said in Acts 5:29, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

So many people are asking what to do to stop the encroaching evils government is placing upon the people. Remember first that this government is an elected one that is by law to serve the people. You are not going against any scriptural premise by refusing to participate in socialized health care--even the health care law itself says it is "non compulsory" even though the government is telling the people it is a mandate. If all Christians would refuse to participate in this power grabbing, unjust, anti-Christian system, its back would be broken; it would die of financial suffocation. It may serve to turn the tide of the imperi-

alist and dictatorial trend of our elected government.

You may fear, "What will I do without health insurance?" There are many non-government options available. One thing--In Matthew 6, Jesus tells us not to worry about the essentials: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." Do you believe it or not? Paul writes in 2 Timothy 2 that servants of the Lord should instruct those "that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth: And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. (vs 25, 26)." You know the truth. Don't oppose yourself and fall into the devil's snare. Stand and accomplish something significant for yourself and your posterity.

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!

Bill Wilson  
www.dailyjot.com  
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## FIRST SENATORS, NOW JOBS RECALLED: Magpul Begins Bolt to Texas and Wyoming

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

While liberal mainstream media (that behave like liberal blogs) have attempted to cast doubt on whether Magpul Industries would make good on its promise to bolt from Colorado following Colorado state House and Senate Democrats' legislative gun grab, today we learn that the process of moving is underway. From the Washington Times:

"Magpul Industries, a firearms-accessories maker, announced Thursday that it will relocate its extensive manufacturing facilities to Texas and Wyoming, in angry response to the Colorado legislature's passage of sweeping gun-control

legislation in 2013.

At the same time, the company plans to maintain a toehold in Colorado in order to continue to fight the gun bills passed by the Democratic-dominated state legislature and signed in March by Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper."

The CEO of Magpul, Richard Fitzpatrick, who started the company in the basement of his Longmont, Colorado home, had this to say in a press release:

"Moving operations to states that support our culture of individual liberties and personal responsibility is important. This relocation will also improve business operations and

logistics as we utilize the strengths of Texas and Wyoming in our expansion."

This is a very bad story for Democratic Governor John Hickenlooper and the Democrats, who just laughably announced that their focus would be on jobs and the economy. First it was Senators who were recalled. Now it is Colorado jobs. Hickenlooper must have been hoping that the ripples from his gun-flub would stop rippling. Happy New Year, Guv: they aren't.

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## Four Key Lessons From 2013

Submitted by Tyler Durden, ZeroHedge.com  
Authored by Simon Black of Sovereign Man blog,

**1) Politicians believe there are no consequences for destroying our liberty...**

Stimulus and response. That's the easiest way of summing this up. When politicians steal, and there are no consequences, they're going to keep stealing.

Cyprus proved this point handily. The government froze bank accounts for everyone in the country (of course, the big bosses got their money out in time). And yet, there was no violent revolution in the streets. People just accepted it.

Poland nationalized pensions. Argentina imposed severe capital controls. The French are taxing everything under the sun. The U.S. government was caught red-handed spying on... everyone.

And yet, there have been ZERO consequences. Citizens have been trained like caged animals to simply roll over and acquiesce. I imagine the politicians are thinking, "Holy Cow! I can't believe we just got away with that..."

It only reinforces their behavior. With each destructive act, they become more bold, more brazen in dismantling our liberties, confident that they can continue to act with total impunity.

**2) ...Central bankers and economists believe there are no consequences to printing money...**

The Fed expanded its balance sheet by \$1.1 TRILLION in 2013, a whopping 38.5 percent. Nobody seems to mind. The stock market surged to all-time highs, the bond market remained stable, and everyone pronounced the 'recovery' was in.

I attended a dinner a few months ago where Ben Bernanke himself touted how much his quantitative easing had helped U.S. economic conditions.

They really believe in what they are doing. They really believe that conjuring endless quantities of money out of thin air is the path to prosperity.

Not to mention, our modern society awards its most esteemed prizes for intellectual achievement to the likes of idiot savants like

Paul Krugman who tell us that the Fed should be printing even MORE money. And people listen to him.

So we can only expect Ben "I can raise interest rates in 15 minutes" Bernanke, and his heir apparent, Janet Yellen, to give us more of the same.

**3) ...Investors think there are no consequences to deficits, or debasement...**

In 2013, headlines like "the U.S. deficit is 'only' \$700 billion" were actually considered good news.

And markets have given all of these fiascos a pass--from the government shutdown to record-shattering debt levels to downgrades by the rating agencies. AA became the new AAA in 2013.

Nobody cares that the US government 'borrowed' a record amount of money from the Social Security Trust Fund. Or that they spent a record amount just to pay interest on the debt at a time when interest rates are at all-time lows.

Rather, they just keep investing... without a single thought to the possible risks. The fear of missing the big boom is greater than the fear of losing money. But then again, it's not their money at risk. It's yours.

**4) ...But Joe Six-Pack knows this is all cxxx.**

In 2013, the collective net worth of the 300 richest people in the world grew to \$3.7 trillion, 16.5 percent higher than 2012. Corporate profits were also at record levels.

Fortune 500s, the super-rich, rich, and even upper middle class, have largely been beneficiaries of the central bank induced asset bubble.

But everyone else is getting hammered by inflation... watching their savings and livelihoods melt away before their very eyes.

A report from the U.S. Census Bureau this year showed that median household income has declined for five straight years. And those living in poverty, using food stamps, or receiving unemployment benefits remained at record high levels in 2013.

Meanwhile, the wealth gap has grown to its largest since 1929--the year of that fateful financial collapse.

It's time for a reality check:

something is wrong with this picture.

We've become desensitized to everything. "Unprecedented" monetary policy. Record debts. Massive wealth gap. Government surveillance. Theft. Deceit. Inflation.

We've become so accustomed to getting screwed, it's just par for the course now. We sit quietly and wait for the next round of beatings, shrugging it all off as the new normal.

**This isn't normal. This is not how a free society is supposed to function.**

A free society does not spy on its own people, threaten them with drone assassination, and award an unelected banking elite with supreme authority to rob purchasing power from the masses in favor of a bubbly stock market.

And despite the conventional wisdom, this is not a consequence-free environment.

History is full of examples of entire nations that reached their breaking points... shouting from the rooftops "I'm mad as hell! And I'm not going to take it anymore!"

2013 already saw violent unrest in some of the most stable countries in the world like Singapore and Sweden, all underpinned by absolute disgust for the status quo.

Whether today or tomorrow, this year or next, there will be a reckoning. The system is far too broken to repair, it must be reset.

It's simply absurd to look at the situation objectively and presume this status quo can continue indefinitely... that this time is different... that we're somehow special and immune to universal principles.

**This is not some prediction for doom and gloom. Far from it.**

**It's actually a message of optimism. For the sooner these crackpot criminal politicians and their central banking ilk are stricken from power, the better off we'll all be.**

**Unfortunately there's going to be quite a bit of turmoil to get there.**

**Here's to 2014. It's going to be a hell of a year.**

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# Hate Crimes Legislation – Racial Identity Politics and the Institutional Racism of the Left

by David Risselada,  
FreedomOutPost.com

In 2009, Eric Holder went on record and testified before a Senate Judiciary Committee. The testimony was shocking to say the least and could have very well changed the way that laws are enforced in our country. Eric Holder, on that 25th of June, proclaimed that the new hate crime legislation would not protect “white people” or “Christian ministers.” Generally speaking, a hate crime is defined as a targeted attack against an individual or groups based on characteristics such as race, religion, ethnicity and now even sexual orientation. Eric Holder, while being grilled by the committee maintained his position by stating that the new legislation was written to protect those that have historically been oppressed and targeted because of skin color or religious affiliation, giving African Americans and Jews as examples. When asked some simple questions pertaining to how the laws would be enforced Mr. Holder stumbled over himself a bit as he struggled to justify his reasoning. One question posed to him involved a preacher being violently attacked by a homosexual militant because of the preacher’s sermon on homosexuality. While a crime such as this would certainly be motivated by hatred and focuses on religious beliefs as a motive, Holder refused to call that a “hate crime.” The reason for that is simple if you understand “white privilege” and “social justice” education.

Just as a reminder, “white privilege” education means your children are currently or will be taught that white men are the beneficiaries of a system that is biased towards and only benefits them. As a result, white men, knowingly or not are automatically contributing to the oppression of the minorities in the United States. This mentality is also the premise of multiculturalism. Social justice is just another nice sounding term that essentially means taking from those that earned and giving to those who haven’t. When you look at the heart of what this doctrine is actually saying is that only white people can be racist because we have the power of the institutions behind us to reinforce our discriminatory behavior, while minorities do not. Therefore, minorities cannot be racist; they cannot commit crimes based on racism. Wouldn’t protecting minorities with hate crime legislation that

doesn’t apply to whites be an example of having an “institutional power” behind you?

Throughout the course of the past couple years, we have been witness to a shocking rise in racial violence. Through flash mob’s or the so called knockout game, blacks have been systematically targeting helpless white victims. Through “white privilege education” and “critical race theory” the left would have you believe that these incidents stem from years of systematic, institutional oppression in which the victims can no longer control themselves. They would argue that the violent actions of a few teenagers towards a helpless old man are justified due to the “historical oppression” their people have had to face. This is the premise of critical race theory. This is why these people are not prosecuted under hate crimes legislation, even though a white man, recently busted playing the knock out game, will be.

You have to wonder if this theory does more to de-humanize the black population than it does offer an excuse for their behavior. The theory itself definitely excuses the behavior but at what cost? By justifying these crimes based on a dead history that we as Americans have done everything we can to rectify, (affirmative action, welfare programs, hate crime legislation) is the left actually telling society that blacks are less than human who are unable to live up to the consequences of their actions or deal with their anger in a different way? Being human means learning from our mistakes, and dealing with our emotional issues, and by doing so, we can expect to grow and become stronger people. Are the proponents of white privilege and critical race theory denying this opportunity to black Americans by making them believe they are still being victimized? You only have to look at the disastrous results of other left wing equality programs like affirmative action or the Great Society welfare programs to see what happens when liberals interfere. Today the vast majority of black families are fatherless and impoverished as a result of failed liberal promises. In an attempt to hide this failure the left ridicules all successful black Americans as being Uncle Tom’s or sellouts, while continuing to discredit white America for having a society based on institutional racism.

Let me demonstrate this

using another example. The left initially claimed that the Benghazi attacks of September 11, 2012, were the result of an offensive video and because the video was offensive to the Muslim culture we were supposed to accept their response to it. Really, what the left wants us to accept is that the Muslim culture is so immature and so sensitive that the only way they can respond to something offensive is through senseless violence? We are supposed to view them with compassion and understanding while the left justifies their actions because they were offended? Again, this attempt at reverse psychology, in my opinion, does more to harm the Muslim population by excusing their murderous attitudes than it does to make us feel sorry for them. This is the backwards world of liberalism we live in today.

The institutional racism that is built in our society is the responsibility of the left. Throughout history, it has been the democrats who have supported segregation and slavery while continuously voting against civil rights legislation. Today, they attempt to hide their history through racial identity politics, and the creation of a system where inequality is the new equality. By creating laws based on racial preferences, the left is telling minorities that they believe they are not as capable as white men and therefore need their programs in order to stand a chance in the racist United States of America. This does little but reinforce hatred while attempting to justify black on white violence. This also solidifies an existing entitlement mentality where there is no need to work as everything will be provided by the government. This backward thinking is destroying generations of families, and the left calls it compassion. It is also setting a dangerous precedent where the definition of racism is radically changed. Through the lens of liberalism racism now means believing that blacks in America can achieve something without their help. The insistence that black American’s need these programs is evidence enough of the racist attitudes of the left, only by believing that blacks are not equal would they have the audacity to create such a system of racial preferences.

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Read more at <http://freedomoutpost.com/2013/12/hate-crimes-legislation-racial-identity-politics-institutional-racism-left/#0L5Z-j4AEbPcOjprS.99>

# Islamic Jihad Against Christians - How Muslims Have Been Celebrating Christmas

by Pamela Geller,  
FreedomOutPost.com

With their typical mutual respect, devout Muslims have been celebrating Christmas the world over. Jihad bombers murdered 34 people as Christians were coming out of church on Christmas morning in Baghdad, and Muslims threatened and protested against Christmas celebrations all over the world. Two days after Christmas, Lebanon’s former ambassador to the U.S. and at least four other people were murdered in a car bombing in Beirut. That same day, jihadists killed 10 people with a bomb in a restaurant in Mogadishu and three soldiers with a homicide car bombing in Kabul.

Of course, we all know that it’s Islamophobia that’s the real problem – although I suspect that the victims might not agree. And meanwhile, on Christmas Muslims showed the respect and tolerance they demand from everyone else at a time when Christians are being mercilessly persecuted and slaughtered under Muslim rule across the world.

In Denmark, Muslims screaming “Allahu akbar” held a demonstration on Christmas Eve. They were not the only ones: It is not unusual for Muslims to denounce Christmas. In November 2011, the Lebanese Muslim cleric Abu Musaab Wajdi Akkari said:

You cannot say: “Merry Christmas.” Not even if an alien came and said it to you – you cannot even say it to him, and say: “He’s just an alien. I’m never going to see him again. He’s not going to tell anyone.” No “Merry Christmas” – not from a Muslim and not from a non-Muslim. It’s not part of our religion – period! It is the concept that God was born on the

25th of December. That’s as polytheistic and heretic as you can get. When you say: “Merry Christmas,” you are saying: “Congratulations on your false religion,” ‘Congratulations on your false understanding of life.’ You are congratulating them on the most evil of polytheism and heresy.

In Turkey, according to ANI, “a Turkish Muslim youth group has condemned Santa Claus for bringing booze, drugs and immorality to the society. The Anatolia Youth Association held a demonstration in Istanbul urging residents to turn against Santa for contributing to moral decay, degeneration of their culture and leading to identity crises in their society, CNN reports. The group used an inflatable plastic Santa as a prop, littering the ground below it with beer cans, a syringe and a cross to illustrate the dangers of inviting Santa into Turkish homes, the report added.” Posters appeared in Macedonia and Turkey of Muslims hitting Santa Claus.

Even Muslims in America denounced Christmas. The Middle East Media Research Institute, or MEMRI, reported that “the Mufti of Washington, D.C., Sheikh Muhammad Al-Hannooti, prohibited Muslim children from having their photos taken with Santa Claus, as this is a ‘sin’ and ‘an abomination’ that contravenes the tenets of Islam. The site emphasized that the Mufti’s position does not represent the view of most Muslims living in the U.S., and that the imam of a mosque in Maryland has even urged Muslims to celebrate Christmas along with the Christians as a means of promoting their integration in American society.”

This kind of thing happens every year. MEMRI report-

ed last year that “on New Year’s Eve, members of the youth wing of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan attacked revelers in the city of Lahore and smashed cars to protest against New Year’s celebrations, while columnists and Islamic clerics in Pakistan and India declared the occasion as un-Islamic, urging youth to refrain from emulating the West on occasions like New Year’s and Christmas.”

Meanwhile, in Israel, Islamic jihadists did their best to start a war. After a weekend of Islamic attacks against Israel, I warned that “the savages are itching for a war – it’s imminent.” And I was right.

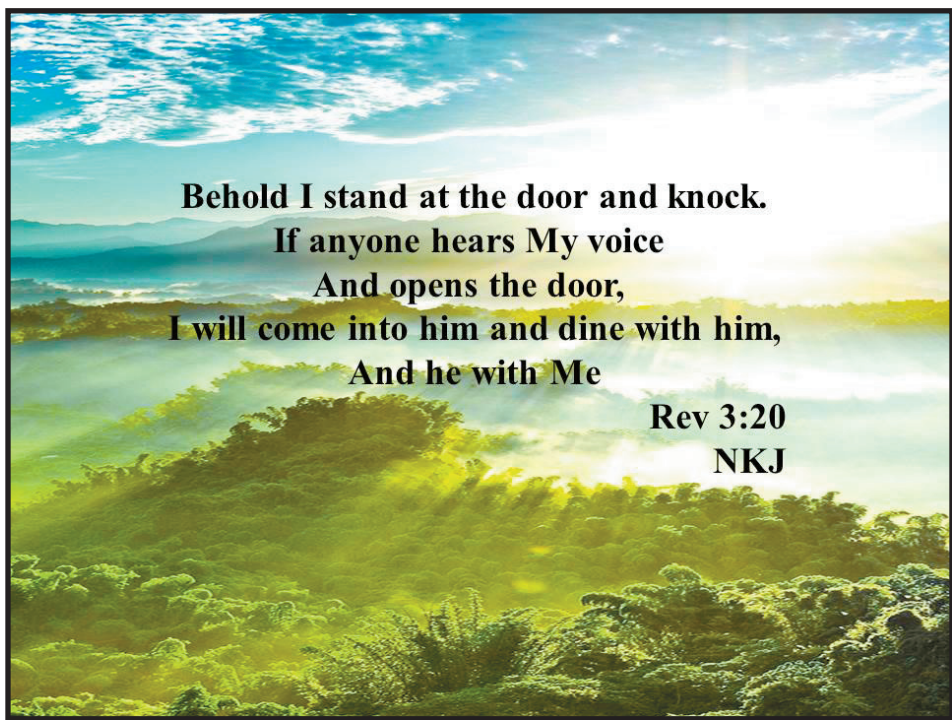
On Christmas Eve, Hamas shot and killed an Israeli civilian who was fixing the border fence along the Gaza Strip after the storm that struck Israel the week before: “The man, 22-year-old Saleh Abu Latif from the predominantly Bedouin city of Rahat, was working between Nahal Oz and Kfar Aza as a civilian employed by the Israeli Defense Ministry on repairs to a section of the Israel-Gaza border fence damaged in last week’s storm. The fence had collapsed in three locations due to the storm.”

This was typical of Muslim warfare: They struck on Christmas Eve. Religious holidays are always a favored day for war and bloodshed for devout Muslims waging jihad.

Of course, the media didn’t report any of this, and won’t until the Israelis react (which is long overdue).

And it is demanded that we respect this.

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Read more at <http://freedomoutpost.com/2013/12/islamic-jihad-christians-muslims-celebrating-christmas/#02AwUjuF-FecA8MU.99>



**Behold I stand at the door and knock.  
If anyone hears My voice  
And opens the door,  
I will come into him and dine with him,  
And he with Me**

**Rev 3:20  
NKJ**



# The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand

2013



## Education of a Nobel Laureate on Gun Control

by Dean Weingarten,  
[GunWatch.blogspot.com](http://GunWatch.blogspot.com)

In the early 1980's, I found myself working on a graduate degree at the University of Wisconsin. The University had a Nobel laureate among the faculty, Dr. Howard Temin. I had already made the decision to fight for the second amendment. Although I thought the cause was lost, I could not in good conscience give up. I could not live with myself if I did not do what I could to preserve the Constitution and the rule of law. I had just finished a tour of duty, I had taken an oath, and I had meant it.

It was a vastly different time. Florida had not passed concealed carry. The demographics looked bad. The number of hunters was falling, and it was hard to see how we could energize sufficient second amendment supporters without a new generation of hunters. There was no Internet. There was no conservative talk radio. I took the formation of CNN as a hopeful sign that we might get some diversity in the media. Personal computers were just starting. I had a friend who ran an IBM 360 in his basement as his PC. I learned to program on cardboard punch cards.

One day, reading the local paper, I saw a letter to the editor from Dr. Temin. He was pushing for more infringements on the second amendment, and his assumptions were simply wrong, so I decided to see if I could enlighten him. Being able to place, "Nobel laureate" at the end of a letter to the editor is a powerful argument from authority, and I wanted to stop his misinformed but politically correct attacks.

For those of you who do

not know, Madison, Wisconsin is sometimes known as Berkley, Midwest. Progressive politics is endemic to the academic environment. I suspected that the Nobel Prize winner had simply inhaled his opinions about guns and gun legislation with the overall political attitude on campus. I have found that it is almost never worthwhile to disrespect the opposition, especially when you know little about them. I respectfully telephoned Dr. Temin and questioned him about his letter to the editor. I had a copy of Don Kates' book, "Restricting Handguns: The Liberal Skeptics Speak Out". It had only been out for a couple of years, and it was full of powerful and nuanced articles that tore apart the progressive premise for "gun control", which at the time, meant only "handgun control".

In my short conversation with the Nobel laureate, I found that he had done no research on the subject, and I asked if he would be willing to look at a book about it that I could lend him. He said yes. I met him when I delivered the book. You could see the intensity in the man; he was focused, focused like an Olympic athlete. His life was organized around his research, his time was extremely valuable, he spent his life on what he believed to be important. I have often wondered if someone else had asked him to write the letter to the editor.

Two weeks later, I asked if he had finished the book. He said that I could pick it up. I did so, and when I was at his office, I asked him if he had read it. He said that he had skimmed through it. I asked him if he had learned anything. He said "I learned not to write about things that I do not know anything about."

I never saw another letter to the editor from him.

I learned a few things from this experience. First, that much of our opposition is operating from pure ignorance. Everyone is ignorant. "We are all just ignorant about different things", as Mark Twain once said. The second was a reinforcement that it pays to respect someone who disagrees with you. Maybe they do not deserve your respect, but that is not an easy or quick thing to establish. It also pays to try to get inside of your opposition's head. I knew that the Nobel laureate was a scientist, a good one. What real scientist can resist looking at data that he has not seen? I had not read Dale Carnegie yet, but it only made sense to make Dr. Temin's assimilation of information easy and non-confrontational.

While this was not a momentous victory in the battle to restore the second amendment, it was a victory. No more letters to the editor appeared pushing for more infringements with "Nobel laureate" at the end. It is of such small events that real victories are made.

Don Kates deserves a great deal of credit. He is still contributing valuable research. His book was a turning point, developing serious arguments in a format that academics could easily understand and accept. He is the first that I know of who started to recruit and encourage people to write academic articles for law journals, documenting the history of the second amendment, and destroying the "progressive" mythology that had been built about it since 1905.

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## 6 Home Defense Carbines, 5 Are Not AR's

by Michael Piccione, [DailyCaller.com](http://DailyCaller.com), 3/15/2012

Let's talk home defense.

First things first: Shotguns are devastatingly powerful. Nothing can compare to the 12 gauge at close range. Even birdshot, which is still one mass of moving lead at close range, will tear a human to shreds.

In my battery I have a Remington 870 and a bandoleer of slugs and buck ready to go for when the SHTF. You don't lose much with a 20 gauge at close range either, and you gain some agility with a smaller gun, and more family members are likely to respond better to the 20.

The second point I'd like to make is on handguns for home defense: Shoot the biggest cartridge you can handle. That means a .40 S&W, a .45 ACP or a .357 magnum. Ask a doctor in an urban area where shootings are common and you will find these result in the most one-shot kills.

A 9mm? Well, if that's what you have, use it, but they just can't compare to the bigger rounds. I'm not a caliber snob myself, but face it: Bigger is better if you can handle the gun. And again, I'm not talking about concealed carry which can dictate a smaller round because you just can't carry a larger gun at times, but I'm talking about guarding the homestead and your bedside piece.

But what is the best home defense gun? A rifle carbine.

Why? For the most part:

1. Carbines handle better than shotguns.
2. Carbines have more power than handguns.
3. Carbines have a higher magazine capacity than shotguns or handguns.
4. Carbines have a longer range than shotguns or handguns.
5. Carbines are more accurate than shotguns or handguns.
6. Carbines are easier to shoot for family members not so familiar with shotguns and handguns.
7. Carbines have minimal recoil which enables them to shoot a lot of rounds fast.
8. Handgun rounds in a carbine are much more powerful and offer a two gun, one cartridge option.

Let's look at some of the carbine choices. These are from my direct experience, most of the guns I own, or I have friends whose opinion that I trust use these for home defense.

### Ruger Mini-14

My first Mini-14 was purchased when I was on leave as a U.S. Marine. I bought it, went to a field and shot a woodchuck at 75 yards with a 55 grain hollow point. It split the 'chuck in half. I had experience with the M-16 and the 5.56mm round and I think it is way too small for military use and the ball round is a big part of the problem. But the .223 with that same expanding point round has been proven to stop humans in their tracks at close range.

The muzzle energy is around 1,300 foot-pounds of energy and darn near all of it will be expelled into the target. The Mini-14 has a ton of aftermarket accessories so you can personalize this gun to suit your tastes. This is my choice. I have an aftermarket synthetic stock and my favorite magazine size is 20 rounds because I like the balance. I use the open sights and it usually has a light mounted under the barrel with a pigtail switch on the forearm.

It's 37.5" long and about 6.75 lbs. It's easy to leave the bolt open with a full mag and the safety is fast to release with your trigger finger. It's light, fast and safe, and as far as accuracy goes, my last three scoped shots were 1" at 100 yards. Not typical, but mine shoots as well as I can hold. You can find a basic model for around \$600.

### Ruger Mini-30

It's a Mini-14 that shoots a 7.62x39 so all of the above for the 14 applies. You can score cheap ammo for practice and high-quality soft points for home defense. It also doubles as a nice little deer rifle if you keep the range to 100 yards. This round has been killing people for a long time so its effectiveness is established. The 123-grain rounds produce 1,500 foot-pounds of energy.

The concern: This round penetrates walls, so if over-penetration is a concern this may not be for you. Mine is an open-sided wood stocked basic model and is my first choice for my corner gun when I'm at the cabin. It costs \$650 or so, if you look around.

**Winchester 94 Trapper, Puma 92, Marlin 1894**

Winchester no longer makes the 94 Trapper in .357 and if you are lucky enough to have one, you know this is a great little gun. The barrel is 16", the overall length is a short 34" and it tips in at 6 lbs. It holds ten .357 rounds and with a 158 grain soft point it will generate 1,000 foot-pounds of muzzle energy.

Mine sports a Weaver 1x3 scope and shoots tight groups out to 75 yards. While it is almost a sin to scope this rifle I find it really helps with accuracy and target acquisition speed. My practice drill is to have four targets at 25 yards and shoot four times in 6 seconds. I can put each round in a 3" circle but the lever does take some practice. There is virtually no recoil, the gun has numerous safety features (although really unnecessary) and, well, I just plain love this gun. It helps to love the gun you shoot because you shoot it more and get better each time. It's a great little field gun.

On the subject of shooting .38 specials through it — I don't. I'm sighted in for .357's and shooting 38's has a different impact point. Price? If you can find one it will cost ya.

Take a look at the Puma and Marlin carbines. A former colleague of mine had a Puma in .454 Casull. Yeah, it was nice. And it also makes a great brush gun when it's not near your bed.

### M1 Carbine – .30 Carbine

I shot these as a kid and had a ball. This was back when military carbines were cheap and readily available — not anymore, but you can get a civilian version for \$500 or so.

At 5.5 lbs it is as light as they come for a rifle, and it's a handy 35". While the 110-grain bullet was not much for military use, it is great for home defense at nearly 2,000 feet per second and 1,400 foot-pounds of muzzle energy. There is virtually no recoil and it is easy to keep this gun on target while shooting. Thirty-round magazines provide all the firepower you need without weighing you down. This gun is fast on a target.

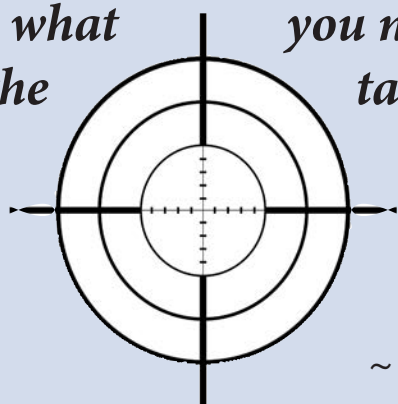
**See CARBINES on page 18**

*Truth is like the sighting mechanism  
of a gun.*

*If it's right, then you can hit the target.*

*Truth is like that.*

*Truth is what  
hit the*



*~ Dallas Willard*

# Federal Judge: NSA Spying is Legal – Ruling Based on Emotion, Not Law

by Ben Swann,  
FreedomOutPost.com

One could argue that the ruling by a Federal Judge that the NSA spying program is legal was not only a horrible ruling, but based on his personal view and not grounded at all in law.

The headlines on Friday, December 27th, 2013 came across loud and clear: “Federal Judge Rules NSA Spying is Legal.” This ruling of course, was sudden and a bit surprising to many people because it comes less than two weeks after another U.S. Circuit Court Judge ruled the exact opposite, saying that the NSA’s bulk collection of phone and email records is illegal, and likely a violation of the 4th Amendment protection against unlawful search and seizure.

So where did this latest ruling come from? In this case, it was U.S. District Court Judge William Pauley who dismissed an ACLU lawsuit claiming that the NSA program was violation of the 4th Amendment.

“The question for this court is whether the government’s bulk telephony metadata program is lawful. This court finds it is. But the question of whether that program should be conducted is for the other two coordinate branches of government to decide,” Pauley said.

What is most interesting about his ruling is how little, if at all, Judge Pauley actually explained the legal justification for his ruling. Rather, he stated over and over why the September 11, 2001, terror attacks provide justification for the program.

“The government learned from its mistake and adapted to confront a new enemy: a terror network capable of orchestrating attacks across the world. It launched a

number of counter-measures, including a bulk telephony metadata collection program — a wide net that could find and isolate gossamer contacts among suspected terrorists in an ocean of seemingly disconnected data,” he said.

The Judge went on to claim that because of the “safeguards” in place for all this information gathered by the NSA, there is no reason to suspect or think that the government might abuse that information. In response to the ACLU claim that the government, through this kind of data collection, would know whether or not someone had visited a sex hotline, had contemplated suicide, had struggled with gambling or drug addiction or had supported political candidates or causes, Judge Pauley insisted that the Government will not misuse that kind of data.

What is most fascinating about this ruling is that Judge Pauley does not give a legal or Constitutional reason as to why the NSA has the right to this information or why the private information can be gathered and queried by federal agents. He simply states that the government won’t misuse it and therefore, Americans shouldn’t be worried about it.

Contrast this ruling with the one by Judge Richard Leon which we told you about just under two weeks ago. In this case, District Court Judge Leon cited legal reasons, not emotional ones, to strike down the NSA program stating,

“No Court has ever recognized a special need sufficient to justify continuous, daily searches of virtually every American citizen without any particularized suspicion.”

Judge Leon went on to say, “I cannot imagine a more ‘indiscriminate’ and ‘arbitrary invasion’ than this

systematic and high-tech collection and retention of personal data on virtually every citizen for purposes of querying and analyzing it without prior judicial approval. Surely, such a program infringes on ‘that degree of privacy’ that the Founders enshrined in the Fourth Amendment.”

Perhaps the most interesting part of the latest ruling by Judge Pauley, was when the Judge took on Edward Snowden, stating that the only reason the ACLU has filed this lawsuit in the first place was because of Snowden’s disclosure of information. Had Snowden never disclosed the program, the ACLU and the rest of America wouldn’t have known the program was taking place. Calling the Snowden revelations “another level of absurdity in this case.”

“It cannot possibly be that lawbreaking conduct by a government contractor that reveals state secrets — including the means and methods of intelligence gathering — could frustrate Congress’s intent. To hold otherwise would spawn mischief,” he wrote.

In a nutshell, Judge Pauley’s ruling is simple. The government needs no legal permission to carry out their programs, they simply need a reason that trumps the rights of the individual. Like the government lawyers, Pauley seems to believe that reason is the September 11 terror attacks. Judge Pauley also chooses to never address the individual rights of the American citizen protected by the 4th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and instead makes a ruling based in the old adage “What you don’t know won’t hurt you.”

Read more at <http://freedomoutpost.com/2013/12/federal-judge-nsa-spying-legal-ruling-based-emotion-law/#zfJWKbrOv1B-gTLDR.99>

# Has the Affordable Care Act been NICE to You Yet?

by Pastor Paul Mista

In the UK telling someone to have a NICE day, could cause some serious problems. Under the socialized medicine program in the UK the acronyms for the UK’s death panel is called NICE.

NICE stands for The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). NICE is a non-departmental public body of the Department of Health in the United Kingdom, serving both the English NHS and the Welsh NHS. Like any system financing health care, the NHS has a limited budget and hundreds of spending options. Difficult decisions must be made by NICE each day regarding how its finite resources are spent. Cost effectiveness is determined by health quality gained per pound spent. The thought is that by choosing to spend the finite NHS budget upon those treatment options that provide the most efficient results, society as a whole is the winner, sometimes at the expense of the individual.

In Canada the death panel name is the Consent and Capacity Board. Canada’s Supreme Court ruled 5-2 that under Ontario’s Healthcare Consent Act, which has been on the books for nearly two decades, doctors cannot overrule a family’s wishes for an incapacitated patient regarding life or death decisions, but an administrative tribunal can. Great. A doctor cannot over-rule a family decision, but the Canadian death panel can, and does.

In the United States under Obama Care the death panel is called IPAB. Interestingly it stands for The Independent Payment Advisory Board. It consists of a fifteen-member board created by sections 3403 and 10320 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Under Obama Care IPAB has the explicit task of achieving specified savings in Medicare which in the case of certain older patient groups amounts to the same thing as Canada, basically at its core it’s a death panel.

Up until now, changes to Medicare payment rates and program rules are recommended by MedPAC, but MedPAC can only suggest changes, implementation of changes require an act of Congress. The new system grants IPAB the authority to make changes to the Medicare program. Congress can overrule the agency’s decisions through supermajority vote. Example: IPAB decides persons over the age of 69 cannot any longer have Medicare covered dialysis because these targeted individuals

or groups no longer fall into the parameters of productivity, taxpayer status, political/religious usefulness or mortality/actuality tables, IPAB determines the availability of treatment. In other words this board made up predominantly of political appointees will decide if you are valuable enough to society to have money spent on you. In effect these board members will pass judgment on all of us, especially the older class. Yes, they can be overruled by a supermajority vote, that’s two-thirds of the body voting. Can you get two-thirds majority of congress to agree on anything?

In 1996, Ontario’s provincial legislature created the Consent and Capacity Board, a body with the power to make the final decision when doctors and families disagree on keeping a patient alive with continued treatment or pulling the plug, a conflict that can result in endless legal battles.

In a recent challenge to Canada’s Healthcare law, Canada’s Supreme Court ruled 5-2 that under Ontario’s Healthcare Consent Act, which has been on the books for nearly two decades, doctors cannot overrule a family’s wishes for an incapacitated patient regarding life or death decisions, but an administrative tribunal can. Great. A doctor cannot over-rule a family decision, but the Canadian death panel can, and does.

The US is setting up a system modeled after the Canadian system, calling for board authority without recourse primarily based on financials. During the past months we have seen about 10 million Americans lose their insurance and be forced into the new system. Seems small potatoes compared to the estimated 80 million that will lose their coverage this coming year. Most if not all of these insured will be forced to be at the mercy of this system. Who is the enforcement arm for the Obama Care program? Oh, you guessed. The IRS will be monitoring compliance and levying fines to force mandatory compliance. Currently the IRS is in litigation for abuse of power with the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ).

Question #1; At any time during the Obama Care debate (all three days of it) was the subject of the potential abuse of what is definitively a death panel clearly explained to you the citizen?

Question #2; Why does the national media dismiss the idea of Death Panels as nay-saying whenever it’s brought up even though it is so clearly present?

Of course these are rhetorical questions with childishly simple answers. Politics trump morality every time. The effect of the failure of Congress to put this law on hold until we better understand its implications have been clearly demonstrated the last few months; Equally as clear is that this failure means the government’s ability to defund your life through the IPAB remains in place and a cornerstone of the Affordable Care Act.

Is our unique health problem worth treating? That is the critical question that each of us will have to deal with as we and our families continue to age. No single issue has polarized America like Obama Care, and no other issue will touch each of us as personally as Obama Care. The problem of passing a piece of legislation as sweeping as the Affordable Care Act without even reading it first still astounds many of us. It’s beyond any pretense of Representative accountability. We see the result of allowing political agendas and dogmatic adherence to ideas that are so dangerous upon review.

The question of whether one’s life is worth saving or one’s condition is worth treating remains a key part of Obama Care. Interestingly enough if the IPAB had a patient that would cost as much to treat and heal as Obama Care they would order the treatment suspended and the plug pulled on the comatose patient.

IPAB represents a fundamental shift of power from individual Americans and their families to the Federal Government, and ultimately run by a controlling board of political appointees. Appointees that are virtually unaccountable, and ultimately they will become America’s version of the Britain’s NICE, or Canada’s Consent and Capacity Board.

Of course I remain steadfastly convinced that the Feds will never ration, extort or intimidate through the IPAB just as they never record phone calls, record e-mail addresses, open wire taps, have the IRS audit opposition citizens or anything else that would be considered unethical or illegal. Remember the promise, ‘If you like it you can keep it’. Comrade, relax, have some Kool-Aid, it is all under control.



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***But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.***

**Matthew 6:33, NIV**

# WHEN DOVES (& EAGLES) CRY: Audubon vs. Green Energy

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

It's always fun to witness moments when the Democratic Party realizes it cannot have its cake and eat it, too. The New York Times is reporting a new federal rule that grants wind farms 30-year permits allowing them to "lawfully kill bald and golden eagles."

A good ol' fashioned progressive fight pitting conservationists on one side versus the renewable energy standard bearers on the other; Sierra Club founder John Muir versus global warming profiteer and alarmist Al Gore. It almost makes us wish we had saved our seat-cush-

ion change to buy tickets to that cage match instead of spending it on our life-sized Reagan replica made of sharp Wisconsin Cheddar.

The Grey Lady gets a quote from David Yarnold, the President of the National Audubon Society, you could slap on the pay-per-view teaser:

"A 30-year permit is like a blank check. It basically says you can go operate these wind turbines and kill as many eagles as happen to die."

With an estimated 10,000 to 500,000 birds dying every year right now as it is,

and the current U.S. energy plan predicting it will need as much land as New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts combined to meet its wind energy goals, this fight has only begun.

You know what doesn't kill 10,000 to 500,000 birds a year? Fracking. Obama would be wise to broker peace between conservationists and renewable energy evangelists so the factions can re-focus on their common target: screwing over the average, hard-working Coloradan.

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## French Constitutional Court Approves 75% Tax On High Earners

Submitted by Tyler Durden, ZeroHedge.com

**(Editor/GG: It will be coming here folks. And it won't just be the rich folks. The U.S. government and the Fed have debased the currency so much and coupled with the mega-trillion dollar national debt, the only place to go is us folks. First they will take the pensions and then the tax rates will skyrocket. Think that Obamacare penalty tax you will be paying is bad, just wait....)**

Almost a year ago, the French constitutional court ruled against Francois Hollande's triumphal blast into socialist wealth redistribution, with his proposed 75 percent tax rate on high earners, and so indefinitely delayed the exodus of the bulk of French high earners (even if some, like Obelix, aka Gerard Depardieu, promptly made their way to the country that has become the land of solace for all oppressed people everywhere, Russia) into more tax-hospitable climates. That delay is now over, when earlier today the same court approved a 75 percent tax on all those earning over €1 million.

The proposal passed after the government modified it to make employers liable for the 75 percent tax. As BBC reports, the levy will last two years, affecting income earned this year and in 2014.

Bloomberg has the details of the tax hike:

Under Hollande's proposal, companies will have to pay

## SURVIVORS From page 13

civil unrest. Whatever the situation might be these American Patriots want to be prepared. They also take field trips to practice

a 50 percent duty on wages above 1 million euros (\$1.4 million). In combination with other taxes and social charges, the rate will amount to 75 percent of salaries above the threshold, the court wrote in a decision published today.

"The companies that pay out remuneration above 1 million euros will, as expected, be called upon for an effort of solidarity on remuneration paid in 2013 and 2014," the Economy Ministry said in an e-mailed statement.

Hollande, who once said he "didn't like" the rich, announced the 75 percent tax in February 2012 as part of his presidential campaign to appeal to his Socialist base. It has become a symbol of his government's record-high taxation rate.

And with the tax passage, the preparations for an exodus by all high earnings begin, first among the local football teams. BBC reports:

Football clubs in France went on strike earlier this year over the issue, saying many of France's clubs are financially fragile and say the plans could spark an exodus of top players who are paid huge salaries.

for weapons training.

The Southern Colorado Survivors meet the first Saturday each month 8:30 a.m. at MUGS Cañon Coffee Cafe, 1520 Royal Gorge Blvd, Suit A, Cañon City, CO. For more information

uals who have condemned the tax - including film star Gerard Depardieu, who left the country in protest.

Polls suggest a large majority in France back the temporary tax.

Unlike many other countries in Europe, France aims to bring down its huge public deficit by raising taxes as well as some spending cuts. The highest tax rate in the UK is 45% and is applied to individuals.

While the numerous unintended consequences of this shock and awe tax hike will be amusing to watch in real time as this move will almost certainly be the long-awaited catalyst to push France into its long-predicted recession (to the benefit of countries like Belgium where the French uber-rich are already relocating to), one wonders if the drop in the value of French ultra-high end real estate will be offset by the soaring valuations of London's already "beyond housing bubble" home prices, and just what the local response will be now that domestic real estate is even more inaccessible to anyone but the wealthiest global oligarchs and billionaires (aside from the capital gains tax of course, which as we wrote previously, is about to be launched first in London, and then everywhere else).

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see Facebook, Southern Colorado Survivors where they post current information and information on upcoming events. Please come and join them. It is a very informative meeting with excellent information.

## A Sheepdog Barks!



INEQUALITY! Get used to this new word. It's the LPSD's word of 2014. What exactly does it mean? Whatever & however they want to use it: Income Inequality! Marriage Inequality! Opportunity Inequality! Housing Inequality! Education Inequality! Here, you fill in the blank: "-----"

Inequality! Basically it means the LPSDs are for all the poor, minority and disadvantaged Americans and those dirty, mean-spirited Republicans are for the rich and privileged only. So there! Vote for a Democrat and they will make sure everyone has the same everything. Vote for a Democrat and get free health care, free food, free cell phones, free housing and free \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank). Mark my bark, LPSDs are all about playing to the poor and minorities to ensure their votes keep them in power. This "equality" push is their latest strategy to appeal to the ignorant and uninformed. This is simply more class warfare bull stuff from the LPSDs. My favorite columnist Charles Krauthammer made two great observations about the LPSDs' latest campaign. First he said "It's the Statue of Liberty, not the Statue of Equality." I love that. WOOF! Secondly last week he reminded us all that Obama has personally CREATED the greatest inequality in his 5 years that America has ever seen through his bad-for-business/jobs socialist policies and now Obama tells us HE is going to FIX all these things he created or exacerbated. What a charlatan he is. What a neat plan. Create a mess, then go on TV, smile and tell everyone you're going to clean up the mess you created. And the LPSDs applaud and gaze adoringly. What a great country! Only in a liberal America can you create the problem then get credit for fixin' it. Charles, you are a great sheepdog,

maybe the smartest one of all. 3 WOOFs to you!

It looks like the big fight in 2014 will be the Battle of the Benefits. Of course this is all to run away from the debacle of Obamacare. Obama has decided to PIVOT again. He's a great pivoter. When things get tough in one area he announces he's pivoting his focus to jobs or Syria or immigration reform, and now it's to income inequality. Its winter here and we all know a "snow job" when we see it. Obama is great at obfuscating his troubles or bad policy with a flurry of new populist ideas and his lapdog media is more than happy to help him with the cover up. This great Divider-in-Chief starts out 2014 with a wolf pack attack on the Republicans rather than an offer to work with Congress. HOWL! And get this, while spending 17 days in Hawaii, at great expense to the taxpayers, he blasts the Republicans for going home for Christmas without passing another extension for unemployment benefits. I guess he thinks the Democrats, under the control of Harry Reid, all stayed in Washington D. C. for Christmas. Didn't happen! Obama could have stayed if he thought it was so important but that didn't happen either. He said that denying Americans more benefits is "just plain cruel!" What's cruel are his ridiculous policies that haven't improved the economy and job situation in over 5 years. The extra-large safety net he has expanded is not helping Americans find a job and take care of themselves. This is what responsible, proud Americans want. Most don't want permanent government entitlements. They want jobs. Unemployment cannot become a permanent source of income. It will just create more dependency. The government simply cannot take care of everyone forever. But, this is what the LPSDs want. Total depen-

dency is what keeps them in office and consequently in power. The Battle of Benefits has already begun my fellow sheepdogs. We must pay close attention. Bill and Hillary might have fired the first shot as Bill spoke at the swearing in of the new Mayor of NYC. The Mayor said he wanted to make New York City more progressive. HOWL! Really? Is that possible? Oh yeah, I guess it is because San Francisco still exists. WOOF! More benefits like free health care, income equality, endless unemployment and raising the minimum wage are clearly the socialist agenda for 2014. Much of it is very popular with a lot of Americans. We must help the younger citizens understand why this is not good for them. We must help them see that limited government and personal responsibility is the best way for America. We can help achieve this by being active in this election year. The very best thing we can do on the national level is help take control of the Senate. This will make sure Harry Reid retires. We can help do this by defeating Senator Udall. Stopping Obama's socialist agenda in his last two years is absolutely necessary for our well-being. Commit yourself to getting active and helping us do that in 2014. It would be "one small step for Colorado and one great step for America!" WOOF! Oh, before I go I just heard a great report coming out of Washington D.C. It was SO cold earlier this week that 3 Democrats were seen coming out of the Capitol with their hands in their OWN pockets! WOOF-ING Out Loud!

May God Have Mercy On America! JMH



# CARBINES

From page 16

## Hi-Point Carbine

This is the least expensive gun on the list with a suggested retail price of \$285. You can get them in 9mm, .40 S&W and .45 ACP. The added barrel length, as a rule of thumb, will add 300 feet-per-second making even a 9mm a good stopper and even better with +P loads.

The specs on this gun make it a good home defense choice: 16.5” barrel, 31” length, and it weighs 6.25 pounds. Now here’s the rub: Some folks flat-out hate these guns. Others

love them. I’m indifferent right now because I don’t have a lot of range time to make up my mind, but that will change because my neighbor just got one. He has every known gadget on this critter and it’s all pimped out. So far it has shot well and no malfunctions for this 9mm.

If price is a consideration, then get this gun. For me, I would want a good break-in period before I bet my life on it. All guns need to earn your trust and be reliable.

## AR Platforms

Ahhhh.... the Black Rifle, the hottest selling thing since Bill Clinton decided that they should be restrict-

ed. There are too many brands and configurations to cover in this article and prices range from \$650 to as much money as you can muster. If you have one, tell us what you like, what you don’t and what you probably should have bought instead, for the benefit of our shooting community.

So there you have it. Me, I’m a carbine guy for home defense and I stand by my choice. But I am eyeing a Benelli M-2 NFA Tactical with a pistol grip. I like keeping my options open, and that gun is sweet!

Read more: <http://dailycaller.012/03/15/6-home-defense-carines-5-are-not-ar-s/#ixzz2omK0KhUh>

# P-P-PRETTY BAD NUMBERS: Even Liberal Pollster PPP Can’t Polish The Obamacare ....

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

Obamacare is so loathed in Colorado, even liberal pollster Public Policy Polling (PPP) can’t polish that turd. In a poll released today, continued and widespread dissatisfaction was found with President Obama’s signature legislative accomplishment.

When asked about the implementation of Obamacare, 70% of voters thought it was somewhat or very unsuccessful. As for the 4% who said it was “very successful” – we’d sure love to get our hands on whatever they’re smoking.

Where PPP’s numbers dif-

fer is on Obamacare approval itself. According to PPP’s survey, Obamacare has a 49% disapproval rating to 41% approval. Like everyone else polling the state they find the law is highly unpopular, but perhaps unsurprisingly they show it loathed less than every other recent poll.

Maybe that’s why they decided to actually release their poll this time — after all PPP has a history of hiding polling results in Colorado it doesn’t like.

In September, prior to the disastrous roll out of the law, USA Today found that Coloradans disapproved of Obamacare 52%-33 %.

In late November, Quinnipiac found that Coloradans disapproved 56%-40%, with independents disapproving 59%-35%.

No matter how much you spin it, the bill that has come to define Barack Obama’s legacy and the future political careers of Democrats in 2014 has become a serious political liability.

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# Single Mom Defends Herself and Daughter by Shooting Home Intruder

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| DATE: 10/21/13              | TIME: 11:45 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | LOCATION: Wichita, KS |
| CRIME(S) PREVENTED:         | Home Invasion, Assault, Rape, Burglary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                       |
| TYPE OF GUN USED:           | Handgun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                       |
| DESCRIPTION OF BAD GUY(S):  | 19-year-old man who rang a doorbell and when no one opened the door, he forced his way into the back door                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                       |
| DESCRIPTION OF GOOD GUY(S): | 28-year-old mother, who was home alone with her two daughters, aged 8 and 2. She wasn't expecting anyone, especially that late, so she retrieved her gun and came downstairs. As she was walking down the stairs, she saw the man in her living room and ordered him to leave. He started to walk toward the back door, but quickly turned and shoved his hand in his pocket. Thinking he was pulling out a weapon, she shot him once in the shoulder, causing him to flee. |                       |
| OUTCOME:                    | The man was dropped off a short time later at a local hospital, where he was arrested on suspicion of aggravated burglary. No one else was injured by the gunfire. The homeowner was not charged with any crime; police comment that it appears to be a clear case of self-defense.                                                                                                                                                                                         |                       |
| SOURCE(S):                  | The Wichita Eagle                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                       |

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# RULES FOR THE DOG

1. The dog is not allowed in the house.

2. Okay, the dog is allowed in the house, but only in certain areas.

3. Okay, the dog is allowed in all rooms, but has to stay off the furniture.

4. Okay, the dog can get on the old furniture only.

5. Fine, the dog is allowed on all the furniture, but is not allowed to sleep on the bed.

6. Okay, the dog is allowed on the bed, but only by invitation.

7. Fine, the dog can sleep on the bed whenever it wants, but not under the covers.

8. Okay, under the covers by invitation only.

9. Fine, the dog can sleep under the covers every night.

10. The dog can't go in the car.

11. Okay, the dog can go, but not in the front seat.
12. Okay, Okay, but the dog can't drive.

13. The dog can't be in the dining room during meals.

14. Fine, but the dog can't beg or have "people" food.

15. Okay, but only selected ones.

16. The dog can't lick us.

17. Okay, but not on the face.

18. Okay, Okay, but not on the lips.

19. The dog is not in control.

20. Alright, Already! But mark my word; the next dog is going to do things my way.
- ~ Anonymous  
(Revised/edited by Mike & Monte Hess)



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# Colorado News & Notices

## States Turn Against Electric Cars as Gas Tax Revenues Fall

by Michael Bastasch,  
DailyCaller.com

(Editor/GG: Now this is precious, the liberal vampires are eating their own.)

States are quickly learning that promoting electric cars is coming with a high price tag. Colorado has joined a growing number of states that are imposing fees on electric and alternative vehicles to recover "lost" gas tax revenues.

As of this year, Coloradans driving electric, alternative fuel and high-efficiency vehicles will pay a \$50 registration fee to capture more revenue from vehicles that use less traditional gasoline. This is part of a growing trend by which states are looking to recoup declining gas tax revenues as vehicles become more fuel efficient and drivers buy more electric vehicles.

Colorado is one of at least five states that have special fees on hybrid and electric vehicles — Colorado, Nebraska, North Carolina, Virginia and Washington. Earlier this year, Oregon lawmakers were discussing a bill that would impose

a fee on electric cars and those getting 55 miles per gallon or better. The bill is still sitting in the state legislature.

"States are increasingly looking at how to recoup 'lost' gas tax revenues for electric and hybrid vehicles. In addition to fees on such vehicles, many states tax alternative fuels, sometimes including electricity," Jaime Rall, senior transportation policy specialist at the National Conference of State Legislatures, told The Daily Caller News Foundation in an email.

The problem state lawmakers face is that the value of the gas tax is falling due to inflation and rising construction costs. This is coupled with the fact that gasoline consumption is falling. According to the Energy Information Administration, U.S. drivers and businesses used about 133 billion gallons which is 6 percent below 2007's record-high consumption levels.

There is a similar problem on the federal level where gas tax revenues have lost one-third of their value

since 1993, says Rall, adding that the federal Highway Trust Fund could face insolvency in 2015 if this trend continues.

"Gas tax revenues are the primary source of funding for transportation infrastructure, providing close to 40 percent of all state revenues for highways and more than 90 percent of gross federal Highway Trust Fund receipts," Rall added. "These revenues, however, have not kept up with needs. The reasons for this are many, including growing use of high-efficiency and alternative fuel vehicles."

However, it's not just electric vehicles that are in the crosshairs of states looking to bring in more funds. Some states are looking to tax drivers for how many miles they drive instead of how much fuel they consume. Oregon is already planning on launching their own program to tax cars on how much they drive.

Federal lawmakers are also currently discussing such a tax.

"Congress hasn't dealt se-

riously with the funding issue for 20 years," said Oregon Democratic Rep. Earl Blumenauer, who introduced a highway per mile tax bill. "With inflation and increased fuel efficiency, especially for some types of vehicles, there is no longer a good relationship between what road users pay and how much they benefit. The average motorist is paying about half as much per mile as they did in 1993."

However, privacy advocates worry that tracking how many miles people drive would be an intrusion of their privacy.

"It would be fairly easy to turn these devices into full-fledged tracking devices," warned the Nevada Civil Liberties Union. "There is no need to build an enormous, unwieldy technological infrastructure that will inevitably be expanded to keep records of individuals' everyday comings and goings."

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## TONE DEAF: Union Seeks to Double Colorado State Employee Pay Raises for 2014

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

On the normally quiet Friday before Christmas, when most Coloradans were purchasing last minute gifts and making their final preparations for the holidays, our state workers were busy with another task: laying the groundwork for their 2014 push to receive an outsized pay increase from the state legislature.

Governor Hickenlooper would like to give state employees a 1.5% pay raise next year, coupled with the opportunity to earn an additional 1.5% in merit pay, a plan that would cost state taxpayers an additional \$52 million, according to a report from 9 News.

But that offer is not enough, according to the union leaders at Colorado WINS, the state employees' union. The union wants to double Hickenlooper's proposed across-the-board wage increase to 3%, and keep in place the opportunity for an additional 1.5% merit increase.

In fact, Colorado WINS has already set aside a lobbying date to perpetuate the familiar cycle of government workers cozying up to their Democratic lawmaker friends who will, in turn, vote to send more taxpayer dollars their

way. "Register Today and put in your time off request" announces the professionally crafted graphic advertising "Lobby Day," February 24, 2013. Colorado WINS even rolled out a piece featuring numerous state workers explaining their responsibilities and boldly complaining about their pay.

In a state still grappling with unemployment issues where the labor force actually contracted over the past twelve months, this is the absolute worst time for Colorado state workers, with their iron clad job security, Cadillac health care plans, and generous defined benefit pensions to be reaching into the pockets of the taxpayers for a raise.

The absolute thrashing of Amendment 66 gave us a pretty good idea about how Colorado taxpayers feel about transferring more money from the private sector into government employee salaries and benefits. Democrat lawmakers should think twice about doubling down on state employee raises during this election year.

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