



SANGRE DE CRISTO SENTINEL[®]™

A Different View from the Same Mountains!

Vol. 1, Issue 28 50¢

The Voice of The Community!

Friday, January 17, 2014

Petition Protesting Christmas Program Presented at School Board Meeting

by Candi Sage

Attendance at the January 14 school board meeting was much larger than normal with over 60 citizens showing up. The meeting was called to order and after reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, President Brenda Gaide welcomed guests and encouraged all those attending to sign in and specify if they wish to speak.

General comments from the public are limited to three minutes. Public comments were opened by Mike Hess who acknowledged the board and stated his reason for attending was due to the Christmas program performed on December 18. He said he was

speaking “for many who could not attend. We are not here to seek disciplinary actions against any person or persons. We are solely to make you, the school board, aware of a significant level and magnitude of unhappiness, dissatisfaction and disappointment of how the school program was designed and conducted.” He stated his sadness to see Custer County “succumb to political correctness and complete misunderstanding of the separation of church and state.” “We seek the schools acknowledgment for the reason of the Christmas break, and to 1) Have the school change the sign to say Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. 2) Teach our youngest children first

about the traditions of our Christmas. There will be plenty of time to teach them about other cultures and traditions around the world. 3) Sing traditional Christmas hymns and carols as they are written. Do not offend Christians by singing parodies. This is not necessary and is disrespectful.” Mr. Hess left the board with a petition signed by more than 240 parents and citizens in and around the county that disapproved of the Christmas program.

Audrey Slater stated her reaction to the Christmas concert as an offended Christian. She identified a parody as: “a literary or musical work in which the style or work is closely imitated for some comic



Audrey Slater addresses the School Board about the Christmas parodies.

Sentinel photo by George Gramlich

effect or in ridicule.” She said, “They ridiculed my Christmas carols, the same ones we use in our service to worship my God.... Don’t mock my Christian beliefs.... Christian parents were not given the option to opt out... Parents said the teacher did not return calls when parents called her.”

Jeannie Schmutzler; “Anyone living here or passing through knows this is a Christian community. Look at the number of churches we have in Custer County. It’s over 20. I was upset, then I prayed about

See CHRISTMAS on page 5

Custer County on Shaky Ground with Health Department Review of Ambulance

By Paul Sage

At a meeting of Custer Emergency Services (CES) personnel held January 8th, the current status of the Ambulance Corps and a proposed review of it by the state were discussed. Hospital District Board members again reviewed their financial and legal woes with the Ambulance Corps bleeding cash from the Hospital District and now awaiting the anticipated painful verdict from the U.S. Department of Labor into the admittedly illegal employment practices they participated in with regard to the EMS personnel.

In addition to sharing this information with Custer Emergency Services, the purpose of the meeting was to satisfy the County Commissioners need to get a consensus from CES before they would feel comfortable requesting a Colorado Department of Health and Public Environment review of the Ambulance Corps status in Custer County. Since these reviews look at many aspects of emergency services and require intergovernmental agreements between the areas, the Commissioners wanted to know that the other departments were on board with

the review before granting Hospital District Board Chairman Joe Arbuckle’s request that they formally request the state review.

The Custer Emergency Services staff that was present was overwhelmingly in favor of the move after a presentation from Brandon Chambers, who is the Director of the Southern Colorado Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Council or SCRETAC. This is a regional oversight authority authorized by state statutes. According to their bylaws, “The mission of SCRETAC is to develop and support a regional emergency medical and trauma care system to improve the health and safety of residents and visitors to the region.” The region covered by this organization includes Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Los Animas, and Pueblo Counties. It is funded by state money, part of which comes from license fees paid by EMS personnel, and according to Mr. Chambers, is allocated about \$15,000 to \$20,000 of these emergency services funds, as are the other RETAC organizations in the state.

One of the services any of these RETAC groups can provide is conducting a

Standardized Needs Assessment Project, which the Hospital District here has expressed an interest in having done. Similar surveys were done in Los Animas County, Fremont County, and the city of Trinidad. At the end of the survey process, the governing authority – Custer County in this proposed case – gets a set of recommendations about how to improve their emergency medical services, which they can then either implement or ignore at their discretion.

In this current case, Mr. Chambers anticipates that it will take three to six months to complete the assessment. Mr. Chambers was asked by the Sentinel if “in three to six months after this whole thing is over with, everybody could still be spinning their wheels and going nowhere?” His response was that this would be possible “if that’s what the county chose to do.” Mr. Chambers stated that he had “no vested interest, good or bad” in the process. He also stated that he was “here to tell the truth. And as anybody that knows will tell you, I’m just going to tell you, whether you like it or not, what the truth is.” He apparently did not,

however, tell the hospital board in the past what he said he knew to be the truth that the previous independent contractor status of the staff was illegal.

Mr. Chambers proposed that he is qualified to have this advisory role because he has “been a paramedic for twenty-some odd years and I own a small ambulance company myself, so I’m very familiar with the dynamics of emergency services. Records from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians show that Brandon Chambers is certified as a Paramedic from Manzanola, Colorado. Further record searches show him as the owner of Med Trans Ambulance Service in Manzanola. He is also shown as the primary contact for Trans-Care Ambulance Service in Rocky Ford, Colorado, and the Executive Director of the Trinidad Ambulance District. A look at the Trinidad Ambulance District, which Mr. Chambers neglected to mention any involvement with at this meeting, shows a number of noteworthy details.

According to a March 19, 2006, issue of EMS World, while the same kind of review that is proposed for

Custer County was being conducted in Trinidad, a Colorado Attorney General’s Office investigation by the Medicare Fraud Unit was simultaneously conducted into alleged Medicare billing improprieties. During this EMS review by SCRETAC, at the direction of Colorado Department of Health and Public Environment Director of Emergency Medical and Trauma Randy Kuykendall, two EMS licenses were revoked, including that of the Ambulance District Executive Director Bobby Guarduno and another employee. During this time also, Mr. Brandon Chambers was appointed as the new Executive Director of the Ambulance District.

That investigation resulted in an order for Trinidad to repay \$12,182.27 to Medicaid, but according to Mr. Chambers, quoted in the Trinidad Times Independent, “the investigation’s findings are unlikely to result in the state pursuing criminal charges against Guardono, as insufficient evidence exists to prove criminal intent with the overbilling.”

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Sage Advice on Ambulance Conundrum
page 2

Detroit Police Chief Endorses Concealed Carry!
page 16

PATRIOT ALERT!
Southern Colorado Patriots Club hosts Town Hall with Sheriffs Candidates
Feb 20 at 6 p.m.



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30
NTV



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

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

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

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Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

AWARENESS SHARED, LET'S MOVE ON

Last Tuesday afternoon the Custer County School Board meeting was held and a much larger crowd than normal, well over 50, attended. Most of the attendees were there to voice their concerns over the Elementary School Christmas Program held on December 18. As many of you recall there was somewhat of a controversy over the content of the program. At this meeting eight citizens voiced their objections to the secularization of the program, especially the parodying of the traditional Christmas Hymns/Carols like "Joy to the World." One citizen spoke in support of the program. His comments really didn't address the core issue above but was in support of how much the children enjoyed the program and that the school had a very good music program. We agree with his comments but they were not germane to the main issue. Certainly the children had a great time and as we've stated before, that is how it should be. We believe the children can also have a great time performing a more traditional Christmas program in the spirit of the season. The real issue is about the decision making of what is included in a program's content. We believe that was made clear at the board meeting and we believe the board and school administration understood what our concerns are. As

usual there has been some misinformation about and misconstruing of our intent. We know that, contrary to some rumors and accusations flying around town, there was no attack on the school or any individuals involved. The intent was, hopefully, to prevent future programs like the one that occurred and to be sure all those involved understood the concerns of a significant majority of the community. With that in mind we will print immediately below the comments made and submitted to the board by the Sentinel. Our petition was signed by over 240 parents, citizens, and Christians:

"Mrs. Gaide, other Board Members: I am here to address the Elementary School Christmas Program held on December 18. I know I don't speak for everyone here this afternoon, but I know I speak for many not only here but all around our community who could not attend this meeting.

First and foremost I wish to make clear that we are not here to seek disciplinary action against any person or persons. We are here solely to make you aware of a significant level and magnitude of unhappiness, dissatisfaction and disappointment of how that school program was designed and conducted. Christmas is a religious holiday and it's a federal holiday signed

by President U.S. Grant in 1870. It is very sad to see so many school districts across America succumb to the political correctness and complete misunderstanding of the phrase separation of church and state. It is even sadder to see it happen here in Custer County. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus. Schools in America for a very, very long time recognized that and held appropriate programs. Our 1st Amendment allows everyone their freedom of religion or to have none at all. That's great. But we are a Christian Nation founded on the Judeo-Christian principles found in the Bible. It is right and proper to teach our children those facts. It doesn't mean they have to become Christian. It's our history. We seek several things. 1. The school's acknowledgment of the reason for the Christmas Break. Have the new electronic sign say Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. We know there are other holidays around this time, such as Hanukkah and New Year's. Use both greetings. Don't deny Christmas. 2. Teach our youngest children first about the traditions of American Christmases. There will be plenty of time later to teach them about other cultures and traditions around the world. A kindergartner is having his/her first experience in our public schools. It is not the time to teach about a Mexi-

can legend. There are plenty of American stories to teach about good values of all kinds. 3. Sing some traditional Christmas Hymns/Carols as they are written. Do not offend Christians by singing parodies of our Christian Hymns/Carols. This is absolutely not necessary and is extremely disrespectful. There are plenty of secular Christmas Carols with which to "have fun with!" We believe the children can have fun making silly about Frosty the Snowman or maybe Rudolph. I'll end with this. Many of us here over 55-60 grew up in a different America than we see today. We think it was better. We were taught in public schools about the reason for Christmas. I can't remember ever participating in or attending a school Christmas program that didn't end with Silent Night and my memory is that the entire audience always joined in. When asked to help sing along on Fa,La,La on the 18th the audience was silent. You might ask yourself why. We are fine with a balanced program but we encourage you to mention the Christmas story and not become overly concerned about those that will be offended by the mention of Jesus. They can opt out. You should be more concerned with what the majority believes and expects. To that effort I will leave with you a petition signed by approximately 240 cit-

izens, parents and Christians in our Community. At least 50 more agreed but would not sign their names. It's a small community and some fear retribution. We were told the board did not approve this program. Our hope is that the board will take our concerns seriously and monitor the school administration with respect to future Christmas programs. Thank You! Mike Hess on 14 Jan 2014"

We believe this matter is now over and we can all move forward. Apologies were rendered and accepted and the school board graciously accepted the concerns of the community. We strongly urge the school to continue with a balanced and traditional Christmas Program in the future. We end on this note. When a parent or citizen of this community has a problem with anything school related they should immediately contact the teacher involved and then the school administration as necessary. All issues should be resolved as quickly and at the lowest appropriate level possible. That was done in this case, and for some, the immediate responses were not acceptable or timely enough and we felt the school board, which are our fellow citizens we elected to provide oversight and are the community's conduit to the public, needed to be made aware. That's been done. Let's move on.

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Phil 4: 6 - 7
NKJ

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supporting your
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time and your
government when
it deserves it.*

~Mark Twain



Your Opinions... "We the People" Speak



Please send your submissions to us at submittals@sdcscsentinel.com, mail them or bring them in to the office at 610 Main St., Westcliffe CO 81252.
Rules: We will print, at our discretion, the thoughts and ideas of our fellow citizen-patriots. Please limit your offerings to 500 words or less. No profanity or vulgarity, no personal attacks, and please sign your name and give us the general location of your residence. Also please provide your phone number or email - for confirmation only. *The opinions expressed here are solely those of the author; they do not reflect the opinions held or endorsed by the Sentinel.*

A Proposal for the Custer County Ambulance Corps

by Paul Sage

It has become clear that the current arrangement of the Ambulance Corps with the West Custer County Hospital District is not well managed or efficient. Even Hospital District Chairman Joe Arbuckle has again said that it doesn't fit with the mission of the district, after going back and forth on the issue in recent months. The citizens of Custer County recently rejected a mill levy increase request to fund the Corps, in part as a vote of no confidence in the current arrangement.

This leaves five options that don't require the investment of large amounts of time or money or the involvement of big brother in Denver in the form of the Colorado Department of Health and Public Environment.

1. Leave it alone and do nothing. It is the Hospital District's problem and they will need to sort it out or suffer the wrath of the voters who empower them. This will lead to the inevitable failure of the Ambulance Corps as it suffers a slow death while choking the financial life out of the clinic.

2. Contract the service out to an outside provider. This works in many

places, but it will require that increased funding be found and will mean that the funding will leave the county as it goes to support the for-profit provider located somewhere else.

3. Shut it down and don't provide the service. There is no federal or state requirement that counties provide the service. This would be about as welcome to the residents of Custer County as Obamacare or the man at the door who says, "Hi, I'm from the government! Some people already question the viability of continuing to live here because of questionable reliability of ambulance service when they might need it, and potential visitors and residents could find this to be a deal breaker when deciding to visit or move here.

4. Make it a stand-alone district. This is a common approach to this problem. The Ambulance Corps would create its own district and propose its own funding solutions to the voters of the District who could accept or reject such requests with a vote, and the citizens would get what they elect to pay for. The biggest drawback to this kind of solution is the cost of creating the Special District, elections, and the expenses of forming and

funding the new Board.

5. Attach it to the fire department through the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District. There are several advantages to this option. The mission of both organizations is compatible. Additional grants are available for ambulance services that are attached to fire departments that are not available to those connected to health care facilities. More importantly, the fire district already exists and maintains a level of respect and integrity in this community that is unmatched. This has allowed it to maintain standards of service and training that are comparable with very large departments in this country. The Fire District Board, above any other, has the confidence of the citizens of the county. Clearly, an increase in funding will be required to maintain a high level of ambulance service here. These services cannot support themselves. The confidence of the community in the Fire District Board will make it much more likely to be successful in requesting additional funding of the community.

While we waste time mumbling about how to fleece the Westcliffe town budget of \$90,000 to hire a main street manager to promote a few events for summer-

time visitors to the county, and have our friends at the Colorado Department of Health and Public Environment - remember these are the guys we will pay for the next few decades to drill wells at the closed down landfill - to study options of how to fix a problem we all know how to fix, a window is closing on our fidgeting fingers. Due to the extreme competence of state lawmakers, we will have a polling place only election in April. This would make it highly likely that the people who actually live here would decide on a mill levy increase requested to support the ambulance Corps. The levy increase ballot issue could be written contingent on the Fire District taking it over. The Hospital District Board has already expressed their desire to meet with the commissioners to re-write the service plan under which they operate to get the Ambulance Corps off their back. They need to turn over the ambulance Corps and the part of the mill levy they currently collect to support it, to the Fire District. Then they can concentrate on running the clinic and the Corps can go to competent management with shared goals. If the voters of Custer County turn down the mill levy for this, then leave it alone and they will get what they pay for.



"Igniting Patriotism" Never Too Young to Respect Our Colors and Country

Matthew Burgdorff, 3-year-old grandson of The American Legion Westcliffe Post 170 member, Jerry Tracewell (USMC-Viet Nam), is "Igniting Patriotism".

Matthew has learned the Pledge of Allegiance. Every time he and a parent visit the local ACE Hardware store in Westcliffe he stops at the flag display and requires every customer and clerk to remove their cover, place their hand over their heart, and he says the Pledge of Allegiance.

Matthew was a guest at the 7 January Post 170 meeting leading the pledge. Post 170 gave Matthew a membership in their SAL (via grandpa's service).

Matthew, at 3-years-old, helps set the example for us all.

Photo by Bob Dreher

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Letters to the Editor



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Thanks from Donna & Hap Coleman

Editor,

We would like to thank all of our family and friends for the cards, flowers, visits, and calls to Miles “Happy” while he was in the hospital and since returning home.

We are truly Blessed and grateful for each one of you.
Donna and Hap Coleman

Silver Cliff Town Board Article Clarification

The Town of Silver Cliff Board has informed the Sentinel that they had passed an ordinance on August 14, 2013, prohibiting the retail sale of marijuana. They have a committee that is monitoring the status of towns that have passed it. Our article in last week’s issue (January 10) noted their comments on the committee and their general comments on the issue. Their email to us also states, “As with any ordinance it may always be revisited if the citizens ask in the majority that we amend our current stand.” The Sentinel apologizes for any confusion.

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, January 20 is Martin Luther King, Junior’s birthday. I’d ask people to take a look at what Dr. King actually taught and what he believed, rather than revised history repeated by those with different agendas.

His dream, was not one of paying restitution, but of color-blindness. *“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”*

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If you’re just having a sand problem your pump may need to be raised or water filtered. Sand is bad for the pump if it is courser than sugar or salt. If you have problems with production: You first need to check for leaks (toilets are a main cause). Does your system hold pressure? After checking the system a well test would be needed to determine the best route forward. Here are some options for low yield or dry wells:

A. Create more storage for a low yield well. Bore hole or cistern can work.
B. Hydro Fracture a dry or low yield well.
C. Install water conserving devices and learn to conserve.

D. Drill deeper or try a new spot.
E. Hauling water is a last resort. Every person’s situation, well and site is different and most require more than a coffee shop expert to advise the best option for you. Call us. I’ll spot you a cup of coffee and we’ll discuss your needs and your budget.

- David Nequette/Lic.1043
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The Party Carousel?

A funny thing happened to me on the way to the November 2014 election. I was a registered Republican running for the office of Sheriff when I decided to change to Unaffiliated for the purpose of gaining more time to better my name recognition in the community. Throughout the course of my life, I have been a Republican with conservative values but, at times, changed to Independent because I simply do not always see the same way on every issue. I value the freedom to have my opinion about issues based on what I believe is right, and that is not always the same as my political party.

So on October 23 I called the online website for political candidate reporting and resources. Tracer is the online candidate reporting and resource website set up by the Colorado Attorney General’s office. This is where candidates go to register, keep campaign records, and get helpful information about the entire political process. So I asked the lady who answered the phone what I needed to do to change my party affiliation to Unaffiliated. She told me it would be no problem to change and that I simply needed to send a request to an email address that she provided. I obtained the email address and asked her if this was all that was required to enable me to run for the Office of Sheriff as an unaffiliated candidate. She kindly responded yes and informed me to check in about five days to make sure the change had been made. About one week later I called and did confirm the change on their site was completed. I then announced my candidacy for Sheriff of Custer County to the public and proceeded on with my campaign.

On January 7th I received a call from the Custer County Court Clerk. She informed me there was a problem with my registration and that I would have to run on the Republican ticket. After many calls and inquiries it was discovered that I was given some wrong information when I had talked to the person at Tracer in October. The folks at Tracer repeatedly apologized but stated that there was nothing at this point that they could do to correct the issue.

So I wish to be forthcoming about this change to the public since this is a public issue. I will always be open and maintain my integrity regardless of the consequences. I apologize to my supporters who might possibly be disappointed by this change but also ask that everyone who is willing, come forth to lend their support at this time and at election time. The direction to get there has somewhat changed, but my desired end goal remains the same; to bring a much needed new professionalism to the Custer County Sheriff’s department. Be it Independent or Republican, I am the most qualified Candidate for Sheriff. Thank you to everyone for your time and support in this effort.

Sincerely,
Eric Thompson
Republican Candidate for Sheriff



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Local Mountain News & Notices

The Sentinel's Sheriff Candidate Questionnaire

The following letter is being sent to all in the crowded field of Custer County Sheriff candidates. While a couple of candidate are well known to the community, several are new. We hope that every candidate will reply both on the record and in writing.

The community is losing a Sheriff with 28 years of experience. Sheriff Jobe's loss will no doubt be accompanied by some bumps in the road while the new sheriff learns the ropes. No matter how good a candidate looks on paper, he has a lot to learn about the county residents, the culture, community needs and expectations and existing law enforcement personnel. The community must learn about each candidates' qualifications and about the vision they have for the future.

Communication ability is an important to the job of sheriff, so seeing how the candidates respond to the thirteen questions in the letter will go a long way toward creating realistic expectations for each. Filling the shoes of a man with nearly three decades of experience will be tough even for the most qualified candidate. What the community needs short term is someone who is a quick learner.

As each candidate responds, the Sentinel will publish the information as quickly as possible. With this information, residents will be able to have an informed discussion with each candidate at the meet and greet events that all have no doubt planned.

With the caucuses coming in March, the public needs as much candidate information as possible. The months until election day on November 4th should be exciting.

*The Sheriff's Candidate Questionnaire Letter
January 15, 2014*

*To: Candidate for Sheriff
From: The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel*

Subject: Your Candidacy for Custer County Sheriff

With regard to your candidacy, we'd like you to answer a few specific questions about what you would do if you were elected. Your responses will be printed in the Sentinel so that local voters can get an idea of your platform. Please limit your responses to 50 words per question. If over 50 words, we reserve the right to edit your response.

1. Why do you want to be Sheriff of Custer County?

2. How have your past law enforcement experiences prepared you for the role of sheriff in a rural community?

3. What do you know about the culture in rural Custer County?

4. If elected Sheriff, what are your top three short-term priorities?

5. If elected Sheriff, what are your top three long-term priorities?

6. What is your opinion of the posse and what are your plans (short- and long-term) for the posse?

7. What is your philosophy regarding citizens carrying weapons, both concealed and open carry?

8. What would your policy be as Sheriff regarding CCW requests from members of the community?

9. What is your opinion on the universal background check and magazine round limit laws passed this year?

10. What are your views on the lawsuit the County Sheriffs of Colorado has filed to overturn the new gun control laws?

11. Many Colorado Sheriffs have stated they will not enforce, or will not actively seek to enforce, the universal background check and magazine round limit laws. What is your position on this?

12. What experience do you have with creating and managing a budget, managing a workforce, and operating as an elected official?

13. The Silver Cliff Town Board is still considering allowing the operation of retail marijuana stores within its borders. What is your opinion on this?

You have no doubt thought about these issues. We hope that you will reply in writing, but if that is not possible, we can arrange for an in-person interview at our offices at 610 Main Street in Westcliffe. The Sentinel's office number is 783-3360. If you reply by email, our email address is: submittals@sdc-sentinel.com. We are eager to get your responses.

*Thank you.
George Gramlich, Editor
The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
610 Main Street
Westcliffe, CO 81252*

Westcliffe Considers Entertainment District Proposal

by Lisa Frank,
Small Town, Big Read

The Westcliffe Town Board's Special Meeting, held at Cliff Lanes Monday Jan. 13 at 6:30 pm, received a fair turnout of residents, business owners and others. Westcliffe's residents came in response to a letter of invitation sent by the Town Board, to hear a proposal put forth in October of 2013 by 4, perhaps 5, food and beverage establishments; a proposal to create an Entertainment District Association (EDA). SomeWhere Saloon, Chappy's Bar & Grill, Cliff Lanes and Sangrita's are the 4 businesses proposing to establish an Entertainment District on Main Street, with The Feed Barn holding back for now. The town clerk reported that she had just talked to owner Garrett Carlson and "he's not against or for it at this point. He wants more information about it. He's not sure if it would work or not, but he's open to the idea." The Special Meeting was held so that residents could voice their questions, concerns, ideas, denial or support of the idea.

Town Clerk Kathy Reis began the presentation with an overview of the proposal, using a large drawing of the included area as a visual aid, and defining the State Laws and Town Deadlines the EDA would have to

meet to be in compliance. Following Reis was Donovan Baggett representing the EDA. Baggett outlined the group's ideas to revitalize the downtown area of Westcliffe which has been hit hard over the last several years with the economy poor and tourism down. He spoke of attending events in small towns in Colorado and other states, events that were succeeding in creating interest, traffic and business to their towns, in-season and off-season.

Mayor Christie Veltrie then read questions mailed in by residents unable to attend, which Baggett and Reis answered, and the floor was opened for questions and comments. The questions were varied but most settled on the concerns of alcohol and security which Baggett and Reis answered by going back to the strict State and Local guidelines the EDA has to meet to qualify and continue to be viable.

At one point in the meeting Mayor Veltrie asked for a show of hands in support of the Association's efforts and all but a few hands were raised. The hands "against" and the hands "unsure" were fairly equal and minimal. Then Mayor Veltrie asked all who were actual residents of Westcliffe to stand and the majority stood up. Overall the mood was positive yet

cautious by both the Town Board and the audience and both expressed the obvious need, and their desire, to stop the decline of businesses downtown.

The residents at this meeting seemed in large part to be in favor of the proposal, with a number of them expressing the belief that something needs to be done to help out the downtown area. Trustee Joe Cascarelli reminded residents that "as you're thinking about this, I think you should consider that there is going to be an inconvenience. However, if it is a success and those of us who live here can live with it – and we can attract some business back into town and make this a vital community, that would I think be good for all of our property values and also attract folks here."

The next Westcliffe Town Board meeting is February 4, where the EDA will present their progress and the Town Board will be making a decision, either to pass the ordinance to allow the EDA, table for further discussion or add it to the ballot in April. Mayor Veltrie and the Board invited everyone to attend this meeting, and reminded them that as a Town Board, they are open to everyone's ideas to support the Town, Businesses and Residents of Westcliffe.

CHRISTMAS From page 1

it.....we can forgive and do better."

Kristi Gray: "My daughter is in third grade here. I never saw that music or I wouldn't have waited until two days prior to say something about it. This isn't some kind of personal vendetta, nothing like that.... I had tears in my eyes at that concert. It was great. But please don't teach my daughter blasphemy in an attempt to be secular. That's just wrong..... I nev-

er saw the music, she was never taught the words, she is in basketball,... I asked every parent at that game, not one saw the music and not one kid said they were taught the real words. I hope next year it can be a jolly Christian experience, even if it has to be secular."

Jake Shy: "It was me that got the ball rolling on the Christmas program. We left it up to our daughters if they wanted to do it. Both said to me and to the music teacher that they didn't want to, so we held ours out for that reason. Also, too,

I want to bring up that the last three days our daughters have brought soup to school and the lunch ladies won't warm it up. I have talked to them twice about it... because we have a diabetic daughter and a daughter that is allergic to wheat... and if they'd go ahead and heat that up it'd be awesome."

Steve Carol, from Florence: "We are talking about offending [people] other than Christians... I want to know who made the decision to take Jesus out of the songs."

Chris Selle, school Superintendent, responded, stating he had sent "letters of apology to the papers" and the "lack of intent to take Christ out of Christmas". He pointed out there are a "number of staff members whose personal beliefs are aligned" with Mr. Carol's. Mr. Selle further indicated that it was "not an intent or a district mandate", but a "decision that was controversial" and it will help them "make better decisions in the future".

Another comment from the audience: "If it was MLK's

birthday and he wasn't mentioned, would people be offended?" Mr. Selle said, "Likely yes." Mrs. Gaide spoke to acknowledge that the program was offensive, but that the offense was not intentional. As audience comments were not being followed in compliance with the agenda, Mrs. Gaide moved on.

In other business, Jackie Keller gave a report on Voice and Adopt-A-Class noting that they have about 50 volunteers for the program. Board member Terre Davis delivered a well re-

searched report on BOCES. New personnel hires were announced: Dylan Koble, Assistant Wrestling Coach, pending background check; Jesse Susa, part-time nurse; and Charlene Schlach, office secretary. Elementary Principal Holly Anderson reported on the reading program. Barb Jones, Secondary Principal, reported that the school has reinstated the honor roll system and that she and the teaching staff will be reviewing the teacher evaluation scores which are based on state T-CAP and district NWEA (MAPS) scores.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Custer County Commissioners Make Annual Appointments

by Paul Sage

At their January 7th meeting the Custer County Commissioners confirmed a long list of annual appointments to the various county advisory board positions. Many former board members were reconfirmed for the new year and some new names were added to the lists of board members. Only the Tourism Board positions and the Director of Ambulance Licensing and Certification position were tabled till the January 31st Commissioners meeting.

The Tourism Board positions were tabled because the Commissioners wanted an explanation of the resignation of one of the current board members. The Director of Ambulance Licensing position was put on hold until a review being conducted by the current Director is completed.

Alan Butler begins the new year as Chairman of the Commissioners with Kit Shy in the position of Vice Chairman. Other county advisory board appoint-

ments include the following:

Airport Advisory Board:

Bob Jolley, Mary Seifert, Bob Koester, John Smith, Mead Gary

Planning Commission:

Cindy Howard, Pat Bailey, Vic Barnes, Bill Donley, Patrick Lynch, Keith Hood, Rod Coker

Board of Zoning Adjustment:

Ken Patterson, Sr., Jean Canterbury, Ken Lankford, Dorothy Nepa, Lockett Pitman

Library Board:

Dave Heppe, Debbie Rabinowitz, Amy Bauer, Bar Scott, Jim Gearhart, Renee Tobin, J.D. Henrich

Extension Advisory Board:

Janet Freeburg, Danielle Gross, Arlie Riggs, Carol Custer, Donna Hood, Mary Gompf, Buddy Draper, Ryan Seifkas, Robin Young

Fair Board:

Danielle Gross, Duane Foster, Lynetta Gilmore, Dianne Rose, Scott Rowley, Sue Roberson, Shanon Byerly, Greg Watkins, Bonnie Long, Ryan Seifkas, Robin Young, Kyle Rose

Noxious Weed Advisory Board:

Bill Donley, Dick Downey, Jeff Outhier, J.R. Phillips, Jana Gregg, Jim Sperry, Dave Trujillo, Robin Young

Wetmore Library Board:

Nan Davenport, Dee West, Bernadette Castillo, Ruth Spaar, Debbie Gifford, Jerri Draper

Wetmore Community Center. Board:

Alden Gray, John Spaar, Ruth Spaar, Irene Stearns, Rose Hidelbaugh, Nan Davenport, Nancy Kruez

SECRETAC (Southern Colorado Regional EMS & Trauma Advisory Council) Representatives:

Delwin Lester, Chuck Ippolito, Gail Stozfus, Christe Coleman

Custer County 5th Grade Completes 1st Round of MAPS Testing

by Candi Sage

After Christmas Break both Kindergarten and 5th grade completed the first MAPS testing. MAPS (Measures of Academic Progress) is a computerized test created by educators for educators and gives detailed data about what the student knows and what they are ready to learn.

Custer County uses MAPS testing to help show teachers what level the student is independently functioning, where each student needs additional instruction, or if ready for new instruction, and helps teachers identify students' levels for grouped instruction. While taking

the test, the program adapts the test to a student's response either making questions more challenging if the student is answering questions correctly or the program adapts to simpler questions to a level the student can answer correctly. The detailed results per student shows information about where the student's understandings of specific concepts are in Reading, Math, and Language. For the higher grades Science is tested as well. The results are available in 24 hours for the teacher and a school wide report is available in 72 hours.

At the end of April, all

Custer County students will again go to the computer lab and take the MAPS tests in all areas. The second test is used as a post-test where a student's growth can be measured at the end of the school year and information can then be used for further instruction in current year or into the next school year.

This tool for teachers was created by the Northwest Evaluation Association in Portland, Oregon, is used nationally by districts and is aligned to both national and state curricula and standards. More information can be found on their website: www.nwea.org.

Winter Fest Comes to Custer County High School

by Candi Sage

This week you may have seen unusually dressed students at the high school. Student Council is sponsoring Winter Fest, with dress up days, royalty being voted on and announced at the Basketball Game on Saturday during halftime, followed by the 9:00 p.m. dance.

Monday dress up - Favorite Movie Character, Tuesday - Hawaiian, Wednesday - Lumberjack, Thursday - Bobcat Blue and Gold. A pep rally is scheduled for Thursday morning for the Saturday game against Del Norte. The nominations for Winter Fest Royalty are: Seniors: King- Nathan Schreve, Henry Watson, Queen - Lily Gerringer, Alyssa Leuallen, Juniors: Prince- Christian Lovellette, Connor Rowley, Princess- Brittany Carter, Christian Curtis, Attendants-Sophomores: Nicole Lorenzen, Justin Walden, and Freshmen: Andrew Feldmann and Latisha Schlabach.

Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program

TEFAP Commodities will be distributed on January 22 this month. Please remember that new rules require each person to show verification they live in Custer County, such as state ID, utility bills or mail received at your current address. Distribution to the eligible public will start shortly after 8:00 a.m., as soon as volunteer staff are prepared. Distribution will take place at the south end of the scale house behind the court house.

Commodities will be handed out on a first come basis and include: 1% UHT Milk, Canned Salmon, Canned Applesauce, Raisins, Canned Green Beans, Canned Carrots, Vegetable Soup, Spaghetti Sauce, Frozen Whole Chickens, Toasted Wheat Cereal, and USDA Frozen Whole Turkeys.



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*If ever the Time should come, when vain & aspiring Men shall possess the highest Seats in Government,
our Country will stand in Need of its experienced Patriots to prevent its Ruin.*

Samuel Adams - Founding Father



Bobcats Sport Schedule

BASKETBALL

Friday, January 17, 2014
3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. - High School Girls/Boys 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

Friday, January 24, 2014
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Middle School Girls/Boys Basketball @ Home vs. Cotopaxi
3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. - High School Girls/Boys JV/V Away @ Center

Saturday, January 25, 2014
3:00 p.m. - High School G/B JV/V @ Home vs. Sierra Grande

WRESTLING

Friday and Saturday, January 17 - 18, 2014
9 a.m. - All Day High School Wrestling Tournament @ Florence

Saturday, January 25, 2014
8 a.m. Wrestling Tournament @ Paonia

Saturday, February 1, 2014
9 a.m. - High School Wrestling Valley Classic @ Center

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Custer County High Honor Roll

GPA 4.0 and above

FRESHMAN

Cordova, Ce'Nedra
Ham, Serenity
Moulton, Hannah
Mullett, Mackenzie

SOPHOMORE

Corella, Cynthia
Henrich, Jennifer
Henrich, Madisen
Lorenzen, Nicole
Selden, Amy
Short, Kayli

JUNIOR

Franta, Michael
Woods, Madeleine

SENIOR

Brandon, William
Havens, Tyler
King, Rachel
O'Connor, Brian
Ruzanski, Kylie
Selden, Michael
Tillotson, Rebecca
Watson, Henry
Wilson, Brenda

Custer County Honor Roll

GPA 3.5-3.99

FRESHMAN

Benoit, Kirsten
Chase, Kaylee
Gillum, Ashley
Parsons, Michael
Smith, Skylor

SOPHOMORE

Freeburg, Kathryn
Gerringer, Sarah
Kagan, Wesley
Koble, Cody
Rinks, Rylie
Sandoval, Edward

JUNIOR

Lewenkamp, Corey
Mullett, Denver
Stoering, Kaylan
Wommack, Dillon

SENIOR

Beach, Jaime
Bell, Rowan
Byerly, Lane
Carter, Joshua
Feldmann, Sydney
Flynn, Trevor
Gerringer, Lillian
Henrich, Kristine
Schlabach, Ashley
Schlabach, Heather

SIX-PACK Finish Strong at Home Event

by Michelle Pedigo

The Bobcat grapplers warmed up for the weekend at home last Friday night with a Tri meet against Rye and Limon teams. The Cats lost to Rye, but prevailed against Limon.

When Saturday morning arrived, action and excitement were expected as the full tournament began, and the event did not disappoint. With numerous changes and transitions in wrestling teams around the area, some teams were smaller in size, and fewer teams were in attendance, but more than 85 wrestlers representing ten teams converged to provide a high-energy, fun-filled day. As previously reported, teams with larger numbers can fill more weight classes providing opportunity to earn more team points, resulting in higher team placement possibilities. This was demonstrated as final team scores gave Cañon City first place, while second place went to Alamosa JV, and Limon landed in third place.

The SIX-PACK protected their house well. Titus Crawford was injured and unable to compete but was active helping wherever he was needed. The five remaining team members performed at their best to capture four places, with every win earned by fall of their opponents. Cody Koble, 145-pound sophomore, started fast with a win, then had a couple tight matches before ending with a 1-2 record. Weldon Rusher, 138-pound junior,

had a 3-1 record on the day, giving him third place. One-hundred-sixty pound junior, Kody Aldrich, made things look easy in his first three matches. Aldrich then fell in a disappointing final match, giving him a 3-1 record on the day that landed him in second place, while 132-pound senior Tyler Watson rallied back from two losses to finish 2-2, also earning a second place. Manny Pedigo, 182-pound senior, captured the first place championship with his day's record of 3-0. Pedigo handed third place Limon their team's only loss of the day. This, and having wrestled all four years but not placing before at home tournament, made Pedigo's victory all the sweeter.

It's always great to see Bobcat athletes return to support their alma mater, and three Bobcat wrestling alumni were in attendance. State qualifier Ben Rusher looked on while his brother, Weldon, competed, and State qualifier Mark Canda participated as a timekeeper. Dylan Koble, who will report to the Navy in April, has remained active with the Cats this year as assistant coach.

John Tillotson was the tournament director, and appreciation for his time and energy to pull all the details together cannot be understated. Skillfully and efficiently assisted by his wife, Michelle Tillotson, they are a great team. Of course, the Tillotsons have long been a wrestling family, and Sarah, Becca, and Noah were all on hand

at the tournament to help make things run smoothly. Bill Canda was once again the announcer, and his gracious willingness of continued involvement in Bobcat sports is highly notable. Thanks to Christina Crawford for her expertise at organizing and setting up all the food in the hospitality room, and to the parents assisting her to help keep all the coaches, referees, and volunteers fed. The athletic department provided food for breakfast, and many folks donated items that combined with a donation of meat from Sangres Best Grass-Finished Beef making for a fine lunch.

A lot of action behind the scenes is needed to put on a home tournament, and it takes many people before, during, and after to make things happen. While we don't have the names of everyone who participated, we do want to be sure to recognize and appreciate each and every individual who had a part in making the event a success. From the Rotary Club members who man the ticket table, to the scorers and timekeepers, to those getting that information to the administration table, to those helping put together all the stats and awards, to the custodial staff who keep the facility looking great, and to all those who attend to support the team, we extend our heartiest thank you!

There's plenty more action ahead from The SIX-PACK, so don't miss all the results and upcoming schedule information in each week's edition.



Bobcat Menu • Jan 20 - Jan 23, 2014

**Monday
breakfast**
Pancakes, Sausage Links
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Soft Beef Taco
Pumpkin Bread
Choice of Veg. & Fruit
Milk

**Tuesday
breakfast**
Bagels, Cream Cheese
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Meat Lasagna, Garlic Roll
Choice of Vegetable
Choice of Fruit
Milk

**Wednesday
breakfast**
Scrambled Eggs, W.W. Toast
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Cream of Chicken over Rice
Choice of Vegetable
Choice of 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 17, 2014

Martin Luther King, Jr. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Born Michael King, who later changed his name to Martin Luther King, Jr., (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968), is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights. He used nonviolent civil disobedience based on his Christian beliefs.

King received the Nobel Peace Prize on October 14, 1964, for opposing racial inequality through nonviolence. His faith was strongly based in Jesus' commandment of loving your neighbor as yourself and loving God above all. King also believed in loving your enemies, praying for them, and blessing them.

His life was anything but peaceful. Standing up for his beliefs for social justice, he was arrested nearly twenty times and assaulted four times.

On the evening of April 4, 1968, he was standing on his motel room's balcony in Memphis, Tennessee, when he was assassinated. He was to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of that city.

information source: www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1964/king-bio.html

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

Corner

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.

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

Call 719/783-3360 to place your ad.

Town of Silver Cliff Nomination Petitions

At the Town of Silver Cliff April 1, 2014 Election, voters will choose three (3) Trustees each for a four (4) year term and three Trustees for a two (2) year term. Petitions for Board of Trustees and Mayor Candidates will be available and may be circulated for the first time on Monday, February 10, 2014, according to Town Clerk Ileen Squire. Persons interested in running for office may pick up nomination petitions from the Town Clerk at 612 Main Street, Silver Cliff, CO 81252. The signed petitions must be returned to the Town Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m., February 28, 2014.

The petitions need a minimum of 10 signatures, 15 is recommended. Each signor must be a registered elector residing within the Town Limits. No registered elector shall sign more than one nomination

petition for each separate office to be filled.

Every registered elector, 18 years of age or older on the date of election (April 1, 2014) may be a candidate and hold office in any municipality, if he/she has resided in the municipality for a period of at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election. In case of annexation, any person who has resided within the territory annexed for the prescribed 12 consecutive months shall be deemed to have met the residency requirements.

Persons desiring to vote in the upcoming election must be a registered elector. Persons may register to vote at the Town Clerk's office, 612 Main Street Monday – Thursday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. or the Custer County Clerk's office, Custer County Courthouse Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

To all Town of Silver Cliff registered voters:

For the last two elections The Town of Silver Cliff held all mail ballot elections, due to legislation changes the April 1, 2014, election will be a polling place election. We apologize for any inconvenience.

If you have requested to be on the permanent mail ballot list with the Custer County Clerk and Records office, due to a legislation change the list no longer exists.

If you wish to receive the absentee ballot by mail, an application may be obtained at the Silver Cliff Town Hall at 612 Main, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The application shall be filed no later than the close of business on the Friday immediately preceding the election (March 28, 2014).

Reminder: 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 by-laws, 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.

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 or call Grant Lewinski at 719-371-6236.

Allen Butler Announces Bid for Re-election

Allen Butler is seeking a second term in office as your county commissioner for District One. He is seeking the Republican nomination via the caucus which is slated for March 4.

Butler and his wife, Lynn, have lived in Custer County since 1983, and own and operate their own business. The couple has two grown children and two grandchildren. A veteran, Butler served in the U.S. Army and Oklahoma Army Guard.

Prior to being elected county commissioner, Butler served as mayor for the town of Silver Cliff. For a number of years he has also

served on the Upper Arkansas Council of Governments board. Additionally, he is the current county representative to the South Central Transportation Planning Region board, and he regularly attends the state transportation advisory committee.

During his first term in office Butler has diligently worked with his colleagues to keep the annex operating, and to balance the county budget over the last three years. "It takes three commissioners to get the job done," said Butler.

Experience and access to the public are two positive attributes Butler believes



he brings to the table as your county commissioner. "I am always willing to listen to your concerns and comments," said Butler. He looks forward to serving the community and its residents another four years.

Town of Westcliffe Nomination Petitions

At the Town of Westcliffe April 1, 2014 Election, voters will choose three (3) Trustees each for a four (4) year term and a Mayor for a four (4) year term. Petitions for Board of Trustees and Mayor Candidates will be available and may be circulated for the first time on Monday, February 10, 2014, according to Town Clerk Kathy Reis. Persons interested in running for office may pick up nomination petitions from the Town Clerk at 305 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO. 81252. The signed petitions must be returned to the Town Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m., February 28, 2014.

The petitions need a minimum of 10 signatures, 15 is recommended. Each signor must be a registered elector residing within the Town Limits. No registered elector shall sign more than one nomination petition for each separate office to be filled.

Every registered elector, 18 years of age or older on the date of election (April 1, 2014) may be a candidate and hold office in any municipality, if he/she has resided in the municipality for a period of at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election. In case of annexation, any person who has resided within the territory annexed for the prescribed 12 consecutive months shall be deemed to have met the residency requirements.

Persons desiring to vote in the upcoming election must be a registered elector. Persons may register to vote at the Town Clerk's office, 305 Main Street, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or the Custer County Clerk's office, Custer County Courthouse, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

To all Westcliffe registered voters:

Due to legislative changes

to Colorado's election laws, the Town of Westcliffe will be holding a polling place election on April 1, 2014. I am notifying you of this change because the Town of Westcliffe's last two elections were mail ballot elections.

If you still wish to cast your vote by mail, you can apply for an absentee ballot by filling out the enclosed application and returning it to the town clerk's office by March 28, 2014. This application is necessary even for voters who were previously on Custer County's permanent mail-in voter list, which was recently eliminated as part of the state's election law overhaul adopted last legislative session.

If you have any questions regarding the changes or this spring's election, please feel free to contact Kathy Reis at 783-2282. I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Happy New Year!

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Events Calendar

Friday, January 17, 2014 7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: "Philomena"	Health Colorado and sponsored by Custer County Medical Center. Refreshments served. 7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: Custer County High School Drama Club Presents the Comedy, "The Curious Savage"
Saturday, January 18, 2014 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Custer County School District - Inservice 1 p.m. Sangre Shooting Sports Club Annual Meeting in community room at Cliff Lanes Bowling Alley 7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: "Philomena" 9 p.m. - High School Winter Fest Dance	Friday, January 24, 2014 7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: Custer County High School Drama Club Presents the Comedy, "The Curious Savage"
Sunday, January 19, 2014 2:00 p.m. - The Jones Theater: "Philomena"	Saturday, January 25, 2014 8 a.m. - Wrestling Tournament @ Paonia 7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: 7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: Custer County High School Drama Club Presents the Comedy, "The Curious Savage"
Monday, January 20, 2014 Courthouse Closed - Martin Luther King Day 6:30 p.m. - Custer County Lions of the Sangres in the Library Community Room at 209 Main Street, Westcliffe	Sunday, January 26, 2014 2 p.m. - The Jones Theater: In Concert Presents Antero Winds – Woodwind Quintet
Thursday, January 23, 2014 5 p.m. - The Affordable Care Act and Health Insurance program at Rancher's Roost Banquet Room at Cliff Lanes Bowling Alley presented by Connect for	

Recurring Events and Business Hours

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

VETERANS' CORNER MARINE CORPS SQUAD LEADER: CPL. CHRIS W. ADAIR

by Carol Clemenson

A maxim exists in Marine Corps Infantry platoons, and loosely paraphrased, says if a squad leader falters, freezes, or fails, all paper-smart strategic plans conceived are worthless.

CPL. Chris W. Adair, a native of Custer County, Colorado, knows about this adage from experience.

"Not often do you find 20- year-olds tasked with critical life- or- death decisions on a daily bases in the civilian world. But in the Marine Corps, they become men who are depended on and expected to come through in different kinds of military operations on the streets of Fallujah and the communities that surround it", said Gunnery Sgt. Scott J. Baker, E Company gunnery sergeant.

Adair, who has the look and demeanor of Tom Berenger's character, Staff Sgt. Bob Hanes in the 1966 movie "Platoon", knows a thing or two about being a squad leader. He entered the Corps in 2003 after graduating from Custer County High School in Westcliffe, Colorado. He completed recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Marine Combat Training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, before his arrival for 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. He became a squad leader for 1st Platoon in February 2004 when he was still a lance corporal and was promoted to cor-

poral a month later.

"A squad leader is responsible for the accomplishment of squad missions, but he's also responsible for the lives of a dozen other Marines," said Adair. "That's the basic concept that you learn from day one at boot camp and it's reinforced in (Marine Combat Training) and when you get to your unit."

That basic concept of leadership might be instilled from day one, and it is quickly tested in real life operations.

Squad leaders must know how to both give and take orders, and how to deal with immediate situations but not lose sight of the overall mission. All of this done during military operations in a complex and dynamic environment of Iraq's Al Anbar province.

Patrols are daily and each one is unique. "Each type of patrol brings with it differences in the way you prepare for it," explained Adair. But the most important thing to prepare for is the unexpected – and the young Marines have learned to expect that.

"There's a lot of preparation that goes into just going on a simple mounted or foot patrol. Everything must be preset, ready to go –any special equipment for the task, weapons or ammo. Vehicles, individual task assignments and rehearsals if necessary. But most of all, you've got to make sure your Marines are ready,"

explains Adair.

Some of the situations the Marines have faced, "A grenade thrown from a three-story building onto an armed vehicle, a suicide bomb attack on a convoy, a buried IED detonated on a patrol route..."

"Our job was to guide and direct our Marines, make tactical decisions for the squad and enforce the rules," said Adair. Squad leaders for the battalion ensured their Marines received serviceable gear, good living conditions, proper training and supervision. In Iraq, squad leaders are responsible for the very lives of the Marines, directing them through the phases of daily operations.

"Their lives depended on our decisions and how well we handled ourselves under pressure."

The Marines chosen for this burden were well prepared for the challenges they faced. During their time as riflemen, Marines are observed for a special blend of infantry skills, experience, toughness, intelligence, selflessness and communication skills.

I and many others would like to thank Chris Adair for his service to our country. Thank you for keeping us safe so that we can have the freedom that you and many other soldiers have done for this country. Glad you made it back home alive.

God Bless you, Chris! Semper Fi!

TROMBLEY 2014



My name is Steve Trombley and I am a Custer County Sheriff candidate.

I have lived in this beautiful Wet Mountain Valley for twelve years now. My wife, Julie, and I moved here from Michigan, where I was a self-employed, residential contractor for more than thirty years, at times supervising upwards of thirty people. Settling in the town of Westcliffe, we have built and operated our own businesses, and I currently hold a position as Trustee, an elected official with the Town of Westcliffe.

In 2003, I joined the Custer County Sheriff's Posse and remained a Posse member for four years before attending the law enforcement academy and becoming a Custer County Sheriff's Deputy in 2007. I resigned from the Custer County Sheriff's Office in May of 2012. In my five years as a deputy I rose to the rank of sergeant, and learned a great deal about this community and how the Sheriff's Department can best serve it.

These experiences make me unique in the field of candidates because I've seen and experienced the county from numerous different perspectives. In addition to enforcing the law and providing a safe environment for everyone, treating visitors well is critical to the vitality of the county. With my background, I will be able to respond to the needs of the county's stakeholders. A Sheriff is far more than a law enforcement officer. When elected, I will be more than just a law enforcement officer, and I will serve the people of Custer County with integrity and honor.

I also have many goals to achieve as Sheriff, such as:

- Keeping Custer County a Safe place to live
- Keep the school free of alcohol and drugs
- Instill a new level of cooperation among Sheriff's personnel, Fire, Search and Rescue, Ambulance Corps, District Attorney's Office, and the Custer County School District
- Initiate and maintain more law enforcement training for both Sheriff's personnel and Posse members
- Maintain the fight against anti-gun laws and give full support to the Second Amendment

This country was built on the bedrock of the U.S. Constitution, which is based on Natural Law and individual liberty. I recognize this, and know that without it, we are lost. These things are important to me, and I know they are important to the residents of Custer County I have come to know in my twelve years here.

As Sheriff, this will be the foundation of my service to you.

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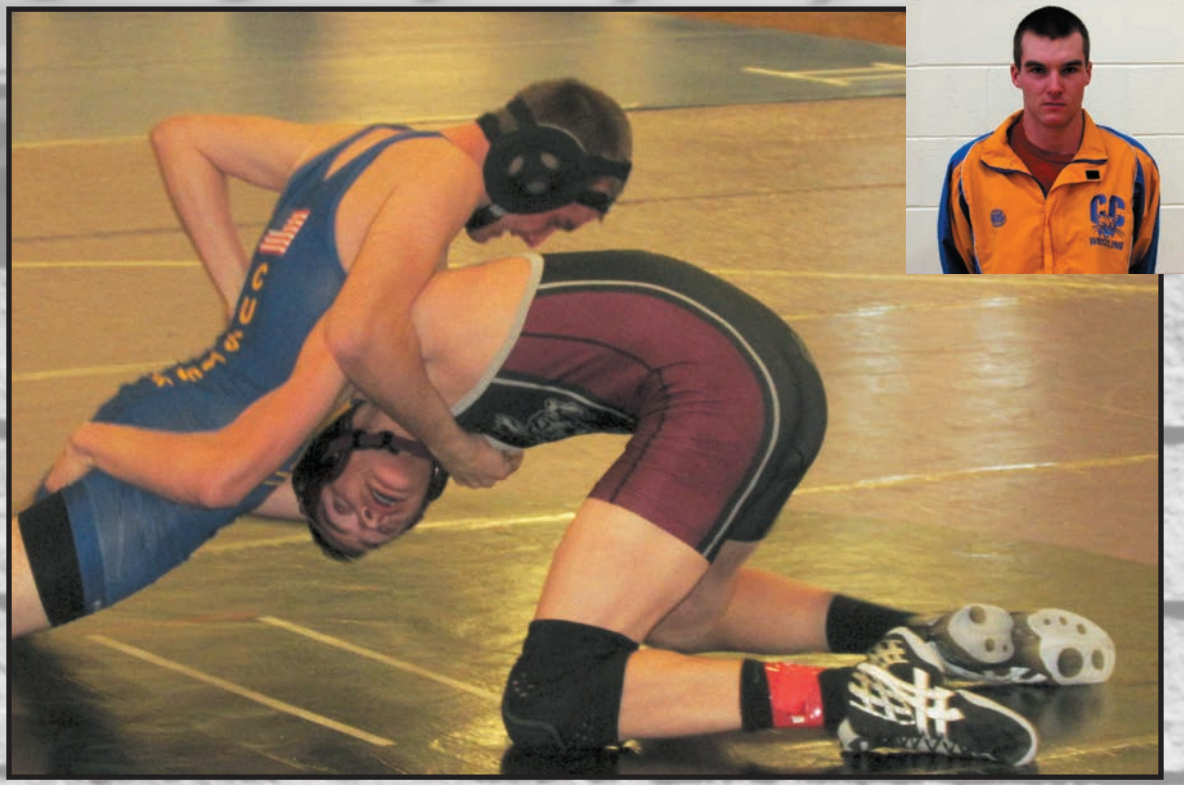
783-2245

Temporarily Closed. Please call before coming.

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

~James Madison

Custer County High School Wrestling Team



Tyler Watson, Senior - 132 pounds



Kody Aldrich, Junior - 160 pounds



Weldon Rusher, Junior - 138 pounds



Back row from left Coach Mike Ham, Tyler Watson, Weldon Rusher, Kody Aldrich and Coach Dylan Koble. Front row from left Manager Cody Young, Cody Koble, Titus Crawford and Manny Pedigo.



Coach Mike Ham

STAT RECAP					
Name	Weight Class	Record	Place	Overall 2013-14 Record	2013-14 Pins
Titus Crawford	120	Injured -- did not compete	--	9-3	8
Tyler Watson	132	2-2	2nd	6-9	5
Weldon Rusher	138	3-1	3rd	9-8	7
Cody Koble	145	1-2	DNP	2-9	1
Kody Aldrich	160	3-1	2nd	13-7	9
Manny Pedigo	182	3-0	1st	11-4	10
TEAM TOTALS				50-40	40



Manny Pedigo, Senior - 182 pounds



Cody Koble, Sophomore - 145 pounds



From left Tyler Watson 2nd place, Weldon Rusher 3rd place, Kody Aldrich 2nd place and Manny Pedigo 1st place.



Coach Dylan Koble



Titus Crawford, Junior - 120 pounds

Bobcats Get Two Big Wins, Ranked 8th in State

The Bobcats entered the after-Christmas season in unfamiliar territory as expectations were high and the pressure was on to meet those expectations. Colorado coaches recognized the team’s potential and had the Cats ranked 8th in the state for class 2A. Thursday, January 9th, the Custer County Bobcats were scheduled to travel to Cotopaxi to face the Pirates in a non-conference game but due to the water main break in Cotopaxi, the Pirates were forced to set sail and come up the mountain to face the Bobcats on their home floor. The game tipped off and the Bobcats quickly established themselves as the team to beat. With two starters sitting the bench due to illness, the Bobcats were still able to build a quick lead and by the end of the first quarter were up 14-7 and pulling away. The second quarter was much the same as Henry Watson hit two long three’s to keep the Bobcats rolling. Senior Bryce Carty was the man of the night as he got into the paint repeatedly virtually scoring at will. When the buzzer sounded at halftime, the Bobcats were up by 9 but clearly in control. The second half started fast for the home team as they piled on 18 points in the quarter and shut the Pirates down, holding them to 6 for the period. The fourth quarter was much the same as Josh Carter pitched in 4 points to keep the bobcats rolling. The final buzzer sounded with the Bobcats easily in control 60 – 40.

Saturday afternoon found the Bobcats down the hill in Florence to battle the Class 3A Huskies in a non-league game. “Florence has been a really physical game for us over the years” said Coach Byerly. And a tough game it was for the Bobcats. The game started off slowly for both teams and turnovers were the story of the afternoon, with both teams struggling to take care of the ball. Seniors Brian O’Connor and Lane Byerly combined to score 11 of the 14 first quarter points for

tors but the home team was even better as the Huskies clawed their way to a 31 -29 lead as the fourth quarter began. That’s when the Bobcats came to life and really started to run the offense. “I challenged them, told them they were being outworked and the guys responded well, said coach.” The next 8 minutes were fun to watch as the Cats played great defense and put the ball in the basket. Brian O’Connor and Conner Rawley led the team through the quarter as they



Bobcats defense stays strong!

Courtesy photo

the Bobcats while the team locked the Huskies down to 9 for the quarter. In the second quarter, the Bobcats forgot the game plan and decided to play a little one man offense. With several turnovers and no passing, the Cats failed to put the ball in the hole and limped into halftime with an 18 -15 lead. “We had to talk about team basketball” Coach stated, “We were really selfish and just didn’t execute.” The third quarter was better for the visi-

combined for 15 points and Bryce Carty pitched in another 4 points as the Bobcats outscored the Huskies 21 – 8 to end the game with a score of 50 -39.

The Bobcats will travel to Sanford next Friday night to face the number 2 ranked Indians. They will then host the Del Norte Tigers on Saturday evening. Come out to the gym and watch your Bobcats play for school pride. GO BOB-CATS!!!

Boys Varsity				
	1 Qtr	2 Qtr	3 Qtr	4 Qtr
Bobcats	14	24	42	60
Cotopaxi	7	15	21	40

B. Carty	21	B. O’Connor	11
H. Watson	8	L. Byerly	5
E. Gomez	2	C. Rawley	9
J. Carter	4		

Boys Varsity				
	1 Qtr	2 Qtr	3 Qtr	4 Qtr
Bobcats	14	18	29	50
Florence	9	15	31	39

B. Carty	8	B. O’Connor	17
H. Watson	2	L. Byerly	9
C. Rawley	14		

Boys JV				
	1 Qtr	2 Qtr	3 Qtr	4 Qtr
Bobcats	6	8	12	21
Cotopaxi	4	10	21	30

Boys JV				
	1 Qtr	2 Qtr	3 Qtr	4 Qtr
Bobcats	1	3	7	10
Florence	11	22	32	39

Book Review

“The Magic Fountain”

by Dave Roever

by Audrey Slater

We all know Dave Roever for his work with the wounded warriors at Eagles Summit Ranch. And most of us have heard of his Vietnam days and how he was injured. But some of us don’t know that he ministers to teens in high schools. However, if you have read his book, “No-body’s Ever Cried For Me,” you know of the impact he’s had on those teens.

Now Dave is reaching out to the younger children. If you have ever tried to explain Jesus and His love for us to children you know it can be a difficult task. Dave Roever has authored a book to help you with that task. In his book, “Magic Fountain,” Dave spins a tale of the King and his son that will keep the attention of young and old alike.

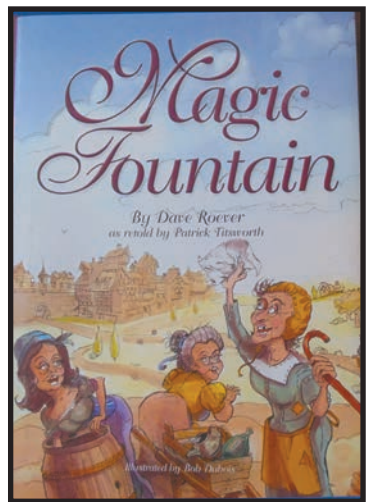
It starts out telling about the King and the small hamlet he rules and the inhabitants who rebelled. They always killed the King’s ambassadors, so he decides to send his son. But they scheme to kill his son also. Sound a little familiar? Well, hold

on, don’t get ahead of yourself. The scheme falls through and the son escapes but not before leaving behind a note that gets thrown in the trash.

Enter here three hags who find the note which says, “To the bearer, on demand, shall be granted the desire of their heart,” and it is signed by the King’s son. So off to the castle they go note in hand.

Arriving at the castle they show the guard the note and ask to see the King. The guard is hesitant but takes the note to the King. Finally, standing in front of the King with his son on His right he is hesitant to grant their wishes. But the son compassionately urges the King to grant the first two hags their wishes. But when the last hag asks if the son is married, the King balks. But once again the son concedes and tells the King he will marry her.

The King gives two conditions: the hag must pursue him and catch him. But first



she must survive the Magic Fountain.

Reading about how the magic fountain cleaned her up and made her beautiful and the trials she endured to try to catch the son will help your child understand what it means to be a Christian and how we must die to ourselves and give in to Jesus.

Every parent, grandparent, and great grandparent should have a copy of this book for the young children in their lives. The book can be purchased by calling 1-800-87-DAVEY or 1-800-873-2839.

Custer County School Holds Annual Geography Bee

by Candi Sage

A total of nine students participated in the 4th-8th grade geography bee held on Tuesday, December 13, conducted by teacher, Jim Bistodeau. This annual event is the initial competition held at schools nationwide. In Custer County two winners from each grade level compete with rules allowing only one mistake, the second mistake and they are out of the competition. The final winner takes a written test and it is sent to sponsoring National Geographic where they use a strict formula to determine eligibility. Each county winner then goes to Denver, usually held at Denver University, to compete against other counties until one winner is identified. Each state winner then goes on to Washington, D.C. to compete nationally.

Congratulations to Custer County winner 8th grader, Jess Franta, whose final



(Back right) Luke Comerford, Jess Franta, Billy Sandoval, John Feldman, Patrick Post

(Front right) Gus Stanley, Dillon Kinsey, Gwen Murphy, Morgan Foster

Unable to attend-Chris Jenkins

Courtesy photo

question was: The Potomac River rises in the Allegheny Plateau and empties into what large bay? Answer: Chesapeake Bay. Congratulations also to 7th grader, John Feldman, winning 2nd place and 7th grader ,Billy Sandoval, winning 3rd place.



Custer County winner, Jess Franta and proud parent Carol Franta.

Courtesy photo

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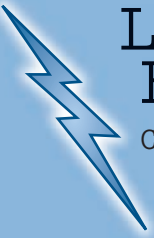
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Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

Anita Stapleton Explains Common Core during Cañon City Meeting

by Barbara Penezic

The Cañon City Recreation Center was the site of a stellar Common Core presentation by none other than Anita Stapleton. This well-known grassroots speaker and activist cut the shiny apple with the skill of a master surgeon, slice by slice right down to the rotten core. The audience included local residents, as well as visitors from Pueblo and Westcliffe. Custer County school board members, Terre Davis and Monty Lee are to be congratulated for taking time from their busy schedules to make the drive to Cañon City so they could attend this very informative presentation about the attempted government takeover of American Education. It should also be noted that not one member of the Fremont County RE-1, RE-2, or RE-3 school board nor the Superintendents of the above mentioned districts found the time to attend. Granted they have already managed to implement up to 80 percent of this highly controversial curricula in our local schools with little fanfare or notice to the unsuspecting parents and taxpayers of the county and they apparently do not wish to hear information that may sway their opinion.

Ms. Stapleton presented some very compelling reasons to say a resounding "NO" to the poison apple. Slice #1 Data Mining: a condition to applying for [Race to the Top] grant funding, states are obligated to implement a State Longitudinal Database System (SLDS) used to track students by collecting personally identifiable information. Many states have already agreed to adopt the data mining process, with parents having no say. This information is being sent to a database managed by inBLOOM, Inc., and Bill Gates. Slice #2 assessment

tests: these tests may need to be done several times a year at an approximate cost of \$30 per student per test. The testing must also be done on computer (K-12, looks like we will need to buy a lot of computers) and the results will go to the database. Teachers are in need of extra training to proctor this testing. The local high school has already announced late starts for students once a month so teachers can prepare. More time out of the students educational hours. Slice #3 the curriculum: many red flags are being raised about exactly what materials our children will be exposed to. The reading list alone is enough to make parents sit up and take notice. If you do not have a copy of this reading list, I urge to visit the School Administration Building and insist that one be made available to you. THE BLUEST EYE, on the list for 11th and 12th grade students is about rape and incest. A book on the third grade list actually compares Obama to God. A Texas lesson plan instructed students to design a flag for a "New Socialist Nation." A plan that was met with outrage from most Texans. Students in a geography class were encouraged to dress in Islamic garb and refer to Muslim terrorists as freedom fighters. The students were reportedly taught that the cause for Egypt's turmoil is democracy, not the Muslim Brotherhood. This was based on an article by the Washington Post. There are many more slices to this toxic apple and it is being fed to our students on a daily basis.

Our ever-growing Federal Government has barely finished devouring our Health Care system and leaving us with the crumbs. Now without so much as a loud "burp" it seems they are ready to gobble up the American Educational

System as well. When Dr. Gooldy (School Superintendent) was asked to comment on Common Core he responded, "Eighty percent we already do, the rest will be on the exams so we have to do it." This defeatist attitude from a top level educator is to say the least, "alarming." Our Cañon City students deserve leaders who will stand up for them. Leaders who will teach them to be strong independent thinkers who can and will speak up for what is right. We do not want our children taught to give in to the establishment, to throw up their hands and say, "Oh, well, there is nothing we can do."

Anita tells us that as the truth is being exposed about this government takeover of our educational system many legislators and educators are waking up to the imminent danger. Some states that signed on are now trying to disentangle themselves from the tentacles of Common Core. Obamacare and Common Core have many similarities in the way they are being foisted upon the American public by an over-reaching government hungry for control. A massive amount of documentation that the government will tell you is too troublesome to be read is attached to both items. Just sign on the dotted line we are told and Father Government will explain the details at his leisure. Now is the time to say "no thanks," we are a literate nation and we will make our own choices without the benevolent help of a questionable government. Many thanks to Anita for her tireless work on our behalf, but now it is time for us the Parents and Taxpayers of Cañon City to say, "Excuse me, Mr. Gooldy, but there is much that can be done by those of us willing to take on the opposition."

2014 Election

by Edward Whitcraft,
Royal Gorge Tea Party

How many of my fellow citizens in Fremont County are satisfied with the way our government is being run? Daily we see one freedom after another being taken from us. Daily we see our constitution being eroded right before our eyes without a whimper from any elected official sworn to uphold the greatest governing document ever written by man. Daily we see more and more government intervention being forced upon us from the federal level all the way down to our county and city governments. These unwanted government interventions are in the form of codes, taxes, laws, and dictates that come at us from not only elected officials but also from bureaucrats that answer to no one. These unelected and unresponsive bureaucrats have become another arm of the government that we the people seem to have no control over. These are the people we have to work with in order to conduct business that these same bureaucrats have saddled us with rules, regulations, fees, taxes and who knows what else big government might want to pour out on these subjects.

My fellow citizens I for one am very tired of being inundated with big government in every aspect of my life. And I'm really tired of our elected officials and bureaucrats who refuse to look out for the very people that elected them and pay their salary. Instead they fall in line like sheep and whatever comes is implemented without any concern for the final outcome or affect on the people. To my way of thinking one of the responsibilities of our representatives is to fight these unfunded mandates and ridiculous fees and taxes, not just roll over and accept them. To vote on these issues without understanding or reading them is even worse, they just accept the bureaucrats or special interest groups word for it.

We the people have a great opportunity in 2014 to look for and elect truly conservative candidates who believe in small government, low taxes, individual responsibility, the Constitution, and Bill of Rights. I urge you to seriously scrutinize each candidate this year and vote for the person who wants to represent you the citizen not the establishment. Keep in mind some of those in office have fallen in line with the status quo.

A Chocolate Lover's Delight

by Barbara Penezic

If you have a sweet tooth and an ear for music you won't want to miss the annual "Chocolate Lover's Walk," in downtown Cañon City on February 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. What a great way to get to know the local merchants on Main Street and spend a wonderful day with family and friends.

Musicians will be entertaining the public in various stores and Dawson Ranch Stables will be offering rides in the Dawson Ranch Sweet Wagon for a charge of \$5 for adults and \$2 for children, babies ride free. Rides are unlimited but only one piece of chocolate per customer. Prizes will be awarded for Best Decorated Presentation

and Best Design Chocolate. Organizers will be looking for themes such as "Still Standing Tall with the Royal Gorge Bridge," and "Norman Rockwell."

Tickets are available at Michael's on Main Street, 605 Main St.; Cross Music, 623 Main St.; Ann's Serenity Day Spa, 1103 Main St.; DiRito's Restaurant, 231 Main St.; and the Chamber of Commerce, 403 Royal Gorge Blvd. Purchase price is \$10 per ticket. Please plan to spend a fun-filled day and let the Main Street Merchants know they are appreciated. Who knows? Maybe we can interest the merchants and the Chamber to host a "Wine and Roses Evening," on February 14 to celebrate Valentine's Day. Just thinking

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
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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.

Cataclysmic Prophetic Storm on the Horizon

The rapid decline of America as an international leader and from within economically, politically and spiritually is debated as to whether it is God’s judgment or the consequences of going against God’s laws. Whatever you believe, you may be witnessing the development of one of the biggest prophetic storms we have ever faced as a people. Zechariah 2:7,8 speaks of Jerusalem, “Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwells with the daughter of Babylon. For thus says the Lord of Hosts; after the glory has he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that touches you touches the apple of his eye.” There are prophetic consequences to the U.S. for its treatment of Israel and they are roiling swiftly to a head.

Some of the signs of this prophetic storm for America are readily visible. The occupant of the Oval Office has spent his time as president building up the enemy of God and of Israel--Islam. It is akin to a pre-reformation of the Ottoman Empire, an Islamic state that ruled the Middle East, Northern Africa and Eastern Europe for 623 years. From the Islamic takeovers in the so-called

Arab Spring to dealing with al Qaeda and its offshoots in Syria to the handing over of Afghanistan and Iraq to Sharia Law constitutions to negotiating with Iran to the disruption in Jordan, Egypt and other countries, this Administration has exponentially escalated the advance of Islam and the Muslim Brotherhood via its foreign policy.

Domestically, there are signs of the prophetic storm on the horizon. A record 47 million Americans are on welfare, up 13 million since 2008. A record 50 million Americans live below the poverty line. Those who have given up looking for a job are estimated by some economists as high as 60 percent of the available workforce. The Centers for Disease Control says that for the second year in a row, the fertility rate of women in the United States fell to a record low and that 2012 marked the fifth straight consecutive year that over 40 percent of American babies were born to unmarried women. At taxpayers’ expense the Fed has spent over \$4 trillion to prop up Wall Street, creating a false floor in the economy.

I have only touched on a few things here, but Amer-

icans are about to pay the price for electing immoral and covetous leadership that goes against the laws of God in nearly every aspect of governing. Moreover, recent polls indicate nearly 75 percent of Americans distrust the government. Disapproval of the president is 53 percent. Disapproval of Democrat and Republican representatives is 80 percent and 87 percent, respectively. At the same time, gun sales in 2013 reached record highs. All these signs point to the consequences of government not enforcing just laws and people not obeying the laws of God. As Christ said in Matthew 24:12, “And because lawlessness shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”

It may not happen today, or tomorrow, or even this year, but when this prophetic storm reaches a crescendo, people will want answers. It will be your time as a Christian to shine the light of Christ upon this dark situation. May you speak boldly as you ought to speak.

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

DOUBLE TAKE: Dem Senate President Claims Economy as Top Priority in 2014

by ColoradoPeakPolitics
(Editor/GG: This is exactly what re-called socialist Senator Morse said last year.....)

Morgan Carroll, Colorado’s newly-elected Democratic Senate President told Colorado Public Radio last week that “her main goal will be improving the state’s economy.” Try not to laugh.

This is coming from the woman who is leading the party that championed an exhaustive slate of bills last year designed to impede our state’s most promising industry, make energy more

expensive for rural Colorado customers, and passed a law in the face of employers promising to leave the state. And all of this was capped off by their support of a wildly unpopular tax increase that would have pulled one billion more dollars out of the pockets of hard working Coloradans – and disproportionately harmed small business owners.

In Carroll’s spare time, she was able to support the hyper-partisan legislation on social issues that was so toxic that it triggered the recall of two sitting state senators and the resigna-

tion of a third.

So, pardon us if we are a bit skeptical of the new Senate President’s announcement that the economy will be Job One when she gavel opens the new session in a couple of weeks. With her disastrous track record of supporting measures that hinder economic growth, one could only imagine what she has in mind for “her main goal” in 2014.

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First-grade Teacher Seizes Christian Kid’s Candy Canes, Says ‘Jesus is Not Allowed in School’

by Eric Owens,
DailyCaller.com

A first-grade teacher at a public elementary school in Southern California allegedly snatched a bunch of candy canes bearing a brief religious message from a first-grade boy. She told the poor kid “Jesus is not allowed in school” and then — right in front of his little six-year-old eyes — ripped the religious messages from each candy cane and dumped them in a trash can.

The boy’s name is Isaiah Martinez. He attends Merced Elementary School in the Los Angeles suburb of West Covina.

The first-grade teacher accused of religious bullying is Valerie Lu. One of the candy canes was for her. The rest were for Martinez’s classmates.

Lu conferred with school principal Gordon Pfitzer before somehow deciding that partially destroying a kid’s religious candy canes in front of him would be an intelligent, decent thing for a human being to do.

The candy canes were for a holiday party—the kind virtually every grade-school kid in America experiences just before winter break. Each candy cane came attached with a message about how the Christmas-associated peppermint treat was originally a symbol of the life of Jesus Christ.

Martinez’s older sister, Alexandra Cantu, helped the boy put the candy canes and the messages together. She told CBS Los Angeles that her little brother was pretty upset about what happened.

“He was like, ‘Yeah, but my teacher took the letters off and threw them in the trash. And I had to give it to them without the letters,’” Cantu explained.

School officials eventually let Martinez hand out full versions of his religious-themed candy canes—off campus, at the end of the day on the last day of school, while all the kids were scurrying home for break.



On Monday, Robert H. Tyler, an attorney with a California-based, nonprofit law firm called Faith & Freedom, released a demand letter on behalf of Martinez. Tyler called the actions of the teacher, the principal and the school district “hostile and intimidating.”

In a statement, Tyler noted that religious bullying by teachers and administrators is a big and burgeoning problem.

“The pendulum has swung so far in the opposite direction that public schools are becoming a place of hostility toward Christian and other religiously-based worldviews,” the statement said.

In the lengthy demand letter, Tyler explains that other students in Isaiah’s class handed out Christmas gifts to classmates with no problems. The packaging on those gifts included imagery such as Santa Claus, penguins with Santa hats and Christmas trees.

He also explains basic First Amendment law as it applies to kids expressing themselves in school. He quotes a 2007 Supreme Court case: “Student expression may not be suppressed unless school officials reasonably conclude

that it will ‘materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the school.’”

It’s not clear how the distribution of candy canes would materially and substantially disrupt a school holiday party.

Tyler’s letter also observes that California law accords students even broader speech protections than the protections afforded under the federal First Amendment.

The letter demands a new, school district-wide policy prohibiting teachers and school officials from treating religious students unequally, prejudicially or with hostility. It also seeks a written apology.

Tyler additionally asks the West Covina Unified School District to provide teachers and school officials with remedial First Amendment training “particularly as it relates to the rights of students to express themselves with religious viewpoints.”

Faith & Freedom has set a January 13 deadline for the West Covina School District to comply with its demand letter.

On Monday, reports CBS Los Angeles, school district superintendent Debra Kaplan released a statement saying: “At the present time, we do not have any reason to believe that the teacher or any other district employee had any intention other than to maintain an appropriate degree of religious neutrality in the classroom and to communicate this to the child in an age-appropriate manner.”

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The Unbelievable High Cost of Maintaining Michelle Obama's Dignity as First Lady

by Richard Anthony, FreedomOutPost.com

So here we are over five years into the presidency of Barack Hussein Obama, with record unemployment and over 46,000,000 Americans on food stamps , one would think the Obama's would set an example for others to follow. If you thought that, you'd be very wrong. Barack Obama has more than doubled our national debt since being elected and Michelle has spent massive amounts of money on many lavish trips and vacations. When Jimmy Carter was president, even though history has proved him to be inept at his job, for all his faults, at least he was an honest man. But not so with the occupation of the Obama family in the People's House. Even though we are (according to president Obama) in the midst of a "recession greater than that of the Great Depression," our First Lady has spent tax-payer money on her own comfort and amusement like it's free.

In times past, Mary Lincoln was taken to task and endured harsh criticism for purchasing china for the White House during the Civil War. Mamie Eisenhower had to shell out the salary for her personal secretary. But not so for our current First Lady; not by a long shot! She has racked-up quite a large tab since she moved into the White House, but what the hell, she's not paying, you are.

"In my own life, in my own small way, I have tried to give back to this country that has given me so much," she said. "See, that's why I left a job at a big law firm for a career in public service," says Michelle Obama. Mrs. Obama's license to practice law was rendered "voluntarily inactive" due to a court order in an insurance malpractice case. Since the First Lady holds no official "public office" nor does she receive any kind of salary, I find her statement quite puzzling.

Here is a list of staff members to help the First Lady

in "maintaining the dignity of her office" and their salaries:

- 1 Natalie F. Bookey Baker, executive assistant to the chief of staff to the first lady, \$45,000;
- 2 Alan O. Fitts, deputy director of advance and trip director for the first lady, \$61,200;
- 3 Jocelyn C. Frey, deputy assistant to the president and director of policy and projects for the first lady, \$140,000;
- 4 Jennifer Goodman, deputy director of scheduling and events coordinator for the first lady, \$63,240;
- 5 Deilia A.L. Jackson, deputy associate director of correspondence for the first lady, \$42,000;
- 6 Kristen E. Jarvis, special assistant for scheduling and traveling aide to the first lady, \$51,000;
- 7 Camille Y. Johnston, special assistant to the president and director of communications for the first lady, \$102,000;
- 8 Tyler A. Lechtenberg, director of correspondence for the first lady, \$50,000;
- 9 Catherine M. Lelyveld, director and press secretary to the first lady, \$85,680;
- 10 Dana M. Lewis, special assistant and personal aide to the first lady, \$66,000;
- 11 Trooper Sanders, deputy director of policy and projects for the first lady, \$85,000;
- 12 Susan S. Sher, assistant to the president and chief of staff and counsel to the first lady, \$172,200;
- 13 Frances M. Starkey, director of scheduling and advance for the first lady, \$80,000;
- 14 Semonti M. Stevens, associate director and deputy press secretary to the first lady, \$53,550;
- 15 Melissa Winter, special assistant to the president and deputy chief of staff to the first lady, \$102,000.

The White House social secretary works for the first lady and serves as head of the White House

Social Office, which plans everything from the casual and educational student workshops to elegant and sophisticated state dinners welcoming world leaders.

In the Office of White House Social Secretary were the following staffers:

- 1 Erinn J. Burnough, deputy director and deputy social secretary, \$66,300;
- 2 Joseph B. Reinstein, deputy director and deputy social secretary, \$66,300;
- 3 Julianna S. Smoot, deputy assistant to the president and White House social secretary, \$150,000.

And this list does not include Michelle Obama's immense cost for her to travel. When she does, she also lists her two daughters as "Senior Staff Members" so they will get paid (courtesy of you and me). I'll bet you didn't know that you were paying the two girls "allowance," did you?

Given the current state of our economy and given the fact that our nation's veterans are having their benefits decreased or cut-off all together, I think the "First Lady" could "down-size" just a little and cut a few corners, wouldn't you say? On my trusty little old 45 year old MONROE 3140 calculator that total comes to \$1,415,170.00 per year in salaries for her 17 personal staff members. I wonder how many disabled veterans who lost limbs just in the last 5 years that amount of money would take care of.

So, to sum it all up, let's imagine just for a moment that you had in your possession, an EBT card, one with no spending limit, and whatever you did spend, you'd never have to pay back. Then you'd know what it was like to walk a mile in Michelle Obama's designer shoes.

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U.S. Pushes Middle East Peace, Here Comes Hercules

by Candi Sage

On December 29, I read an article in The Pueblo Chieftain telling of Secretary of State John Kerry, heading back to the Middle East for more "land for peace" talks or rather attempting to talk Israel into giving up more land. Reading this reminded me of a connection to weather events and natural disasters in the U.S. I first heard of ten years ago. So, my first thought was, "Here we go again; U.S. led Middle East talks...everyone; hold on to your hats because a warning shot is about to be sent across the bow of our country once again."

I generally don't take to political writing, except for those that are a gauge for contrasting signs of the times or perhaps a sign for things to come. In the beginning, this connection sounded a little contrived by someone who had too much time on their hands; then, as you look a little closer, the coincidences are remarkable. I am like 'Gibbs' on the TV show NCIS in that I don't believe in 'coincidences'; I do believe there are connections and purposes in everything and some of those aren't easily deciphered based on what's seen or what 'makes sense'.

So, John Kerry goes to the Middle East, again. He is trying to broker peace for the Middle East on behalf of all but Israel, again. This is the umpteenth time in the history of the U.S. pushing these attempts, but who's counting? No matter, people need to prepare for difficult weather or other 'natural events' whenever this happens. Sure enough, last Thursday when Kerry arrived in Israel, the U.S. was bombarded with a storm now called "Hercules" effecting 20 states from the Midwest to the Northeast, then swiftly followed by an unusual 'polar vortex' creating further snow and below zero temperatures in over half of the U.S. Let's see if you can connect the dots of recurring events, the U.S. attempts to be involved with Israel giving up 'land for peace' and the concurring weather or other disaster:

October 30, 1991 "The (extremely rare) Perfect Storm" forms near Nova Scotia as President George Bush opens the Madrid Conference with an initiative for a Middle East peace plan involving Israel's land. Damage to coastline, the shipping industry, and even heavy damage to President Bush's home in Kennebunkport, Maine, was reported.

August 23, 1992 Hurricane Andrew — "the worst natural disaster ever to hit America" hits as The Ma-

drid Conference peace talks resume in Washington, D.C. The storm produces an estimated \$30 billion in damage and leaves 180,000 homeless in Florida.

January 16, 1994 A 6.9 earthquake hits Southern California, centered in Northridge, less than 24 hours after President Clinton meets with Syria's President Hafez el-Assad in Geneva about a peace agreement with Israel that includes giving up the Golan Heights. It is the second most destructive natural disaster to hit the United States, after Hurricane Andrew.

March 1 to April 1997 Powerful tornadoes devastate huge sections of Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee, on the very day PLO (Palestinian) Chairman Yasser Arafat lands in America and 'coincidentally' as Clinton rebukes Israel for not giving away her land for peace. Arafat's American tour takes place as storms in the Dakotas result in the worst flooding of the century and includes the Midwest experiencing weeks of major storms. His visit also coincides with the Midwest experiencing weeks of major storms. Arafat finishes his tour, leaves, and the U.S. storms stop.

January 21, 1998 An obvious man-made disaster: Monica Lewinsky scandal breaks on the same day Netanyahu is to meet with President Clinton at the White House and receives the cold shoulder as both Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright refuse to take time to have lunch with him.

September 27-28, 1998 Hurricane Georges slams into the Gulf Coast with 110 mph winds gusting up to 175 and stalls as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright works on the details of an agreement in which Israel will give up 13 percent of Yesha. That same day, September 28, Clinton meets with Arafat and Netanyahu at the White House to finalize the land deal and Arafat addresses the United Nations to speak on declaring an independent Palestinian state by May 1999, while Hurricane Georges pounds the Gulf Coast causing \$1 billion in damage. It is reported that at the exact time Arafat departs the U.S. the storm begins to dissipate.

October 15-22, 1998 October 15, 1998: The 9/27 talks are extended and Yasser Arafat and Benjamin Netanyahu meet at the Wye River Plantation in Maryland. The talks are scheduled to last five days, again focusing on Israel giving up 13 percent of Yesha. On October 17, rains and tornadoes hit southern

Texas with San Antonio deluged by 20-inches of rain in one day. Clinton declares this section of Texas a major disaster area on October 21. Rain and floods in Texas continue until October 22 ravaging 25 percent of the state and leave over one billion dollars in damage. The talks conclude on October 23.

November 30, 1998 Market Capitalization Evaporates—Arafat comes to Washington again to meet with President Clinton to raise money for a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as the capital. A total of 42 nations agreed to give Arafat \$3 billion in aid, Clinton promised \$400 million, and the European nations give \$1.7 billion. On that same day, the Dow Jones average drops 216 points. The next day, December 1, the European Market had its third worst day in history. Hundreds of billions of market capitalization was wiped out in the U.S. and Europe.

December 12, 1998 Clinton is impeached as he lands in the Palestinian-controlled section of Israel to discuss the "land for peace", the House of Representatives votes four articles of impeachment against him.

May 3, 1999 The most powerful tornado storm system ever to hit the United States devastates across Oklahoma and Kansas as Yasser Arafat is scheduled to declare a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as the capital, but postponed to December, 1999, per request of President Clinton. Starting at 4:47 p.m. CDT, the tornadic winds are clocked at 316 mph, the fastest wind speed ever recorded.

Week of October 11, 1999 Hurricane, dow collapse and earthquake as Jewish settlers in 15 West Bank (Israel) settlements are evicted from the covenant land in Israel. October 12-19 Hurricane Irene hits Florida and Atlantic Coast. October 15 the Dow-Jones financial averages loses 266 points, the largest percent down in 10 years. On the next morning, October 16, a 7.1 magnitude earthquake rocks the southwest in the fifth most powerful earthquake in 20th Century, felt in three states.

August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama exactly one week after Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon completed the forcible eviction of Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip, a move supported by President Bush. Eighty percent of the entire city of New Orleans, already below sea level, was left under water. Weather experts called this

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The Second Amendment Corner

Liberty's Line in the Sand

2013



Detroit Police Chief James Craig: "Good Americans with Concealed Pistols Translates Into Crime Reduction"

by Mac Slavo,
FreedomOutPost.com

It's easy for supporters of anti-gun polices to suggest that all law-abiding citizens be disarmed and for gun ownership to be restricted, because most of them haven't grown up in high-crime areas where they live under the constant threat of being assaulted, raped, mugged or murdered on a daily basis.

But when you see the reality of private gun ownership and how it actually helps to not only stop crimes in progress, but prevents them from happening in the first place, you can no longer ignore the necessity of having an armed citizenry, especially in cities and states where criminals will knowingly prey on innocents because they have absolutely nothing to lose.

Case in point: Detroit's new police chief James Craig once worked in California, where it is a common occurrence for Sheriffs and Chiefs to deny concealed-carry weapons permits to their residents. They often do so without even reading the applications.

Concealed weapons permits at that time... it was an act of Congress to get one. Police chiefs just did not author or give approval for that.

As Craig noted at a recent press conference, this was his orientation, because everyone was doing it. He was, by all accounts, one of those government officials who restricted Americans' ability to protect themselves.

But he soon changed his tune when he realized that maybe these gun toting radicals were on to something.

So I go to Maine and there are stacks of CCW's, and I was denying them because that was my orientation.

What was interesting about Maine [is there are] lots of concealed weapons permits.

My orientation changed very quickly.

But here was the key with Maine... It's one of the safest places in America. And it's not like crime is non-existent. Certainly in Portland, Maine, they had gangs, they had narcotics suspects, they had shootings.

But clearly suspects knew that good Americans were armed.

Craig made similar statements last month, where he specifically noted that law-abiding citizens carrying guns leads to lower crime rates.

"There's a number of CPL (concealed pistol license) holders running around the city of Detroit. I think it acts as a deterrent. Good Americans with CPLs translates into crime reduction. I learned that real quick in the state of Maine." (WJR 760 AM)

There's a reason that self defense killings in Detroit spiked to 2200% above the national average in recent years. Detroit's bankruptcy proceedings have left their police force decimated, response times in the double digits, and criminals running rampant. This left residents, especially in poverty-stricken areas, with no other option than to depend on themselves.

How many innocent people who want nothing more than to be left alone have preserved their way of life because they had a firearm

on them when they were assaulted by those who would do them harm?

According to Chief Craig, over 300 legally armed Americans successfully defended themselves in Detroit last year. Opponents of concealed-carry will group that statistic with criminal homicide in an effort to cook the numbers, but in fact those incidents are considered justifiable homicides. There were likely hundreds, if not thousands, of other unreported incidents in which a firearm was used to prevent a crime.

We often hear anti-gun proponents tout "common sense" policies that restrict the ownership and purchase of self-defense firearms, but common sense dictates that by doing so law-abiding citizens will be the only ones without guns. When you restrict private gun ownership, only the criminals will have them. A perfect example of this is the city of Chicago, where private ownership is restricted. Cops are outnumbered 500-to-1 and have likened the city to tribal warfare in Iraq.

As James Craig suggests, when good Americans have access to firearms, and are allowed to carry and use them in situations where their lives may be threatened, most criminals will think twice before attacking a random person on the street.

Now, THAT's common sense.

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Constitutional Carry Bill Introduced in Colorado

by Dean Weingarten,
Gunwatch.blogspot.com

A bill has been introduced in the Colorado legislature for constitutional carry. It would reform the current law to allow any legal possessor of handguns to carry them concealed with the same restrictions that apply to those in Colorado with a concealed carry permit. The bill number is HB14-1041; the link is to a pdf file of the bill.

Wright and Holbert are sponsors of the bill in the House, Grantham in the Senate. 2014 is likely to see renewed activity in promoting constitutional carry in several states. Currently, four states (Alaska, Arizona, Wyoming, and Vermont) have constitutional



carry. No problems have been noted with these laws. Crime rates have continued to fall with their passage in Alaska, Arizona and Wyoming, while Vermont recognized the protection of their state constitution in the 1920's, and has had one of the lowest crime rates in the nation for decades. Constitutional carry was the norm in most states un-

til the early 1900's.

Arkansas passed a law very similar to Vermont's last year. Activists are gradually gaining ground for grudging acceptance of the law by some police and political groups in Arkansas.

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FEEL SAFER? Colorado Logs Record Number of Background Checks in 2013 Using Flawed Platform

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

Last year was Colorado's busiest year for gun sales on record, with uncertainty around controversial gun control legislation driving record purchases. As of November 30th, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation had already logged almost 20,000 more checks than it had in all of 2012, and the November numbers do not include what is traditionally the busiest gun buying month of the year – December. So in the year of the Democrats' landmark gun control legislation, Colorado saw more firearms purchased and put on the streets (and in homes, cars, etc.) than during any other any other year in its history. Can somebody say unintended consequences?

One of the most burdensome of the new gun laws was the requirement to conduct a CBI background check for the private transfer of a firearm. CBI's InstaCheck system was the mandated clearinghouse

for these checks, and the cost was initially (and is currently) set at \$10.

But InstaCheck is hardly an accurate tool, as calendar year 2012 experienced reversals of more than 57% of the InstaCheck rejection appeals.

The U.S. Department of Justice determined that Colorado's InstaCheck system results in the nation's highest rate of appeal reversals, as each year the system unnecessarily denies law-abiding citizens the right to purchase a firearm.

Colorado is one of just thirteen states that use a state-run background check system instead of the standard FBI National Instant Criminal background Check System. One of the reasons for InstaCheck's high false positive rate is that the CBI system cannot automatically discern whether an arrest on what would be a disqualifying offense resulted in a conviction, and often times background checks

come back denied when people were never convicted, simply based on an arrest record.

In 2012, Mark Waller introduced HB 1048, which would have eliminated the CBI InstaCheck program and moved Colorado onto the FBI background check platform used by most other states, while saving the state more than \$1.5 million per year. The bill was passed by the House, but was killed in a Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee by a 3-2 vote.

Governor Hickenlooper is on record now stating that he is open to modifying, but not repealing the unpopular gun control legislation that he signed in 2013. Perhaps putting a bullet in this flawed background check system would be a good place to start.

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BREAKING: Sen. Udall Pressured Insurance Division to Revise Cancellation Numbers Due to Obamacare

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

As first reported by Todd Shepherd at Complete Colorado, liberal U.S. Senator Mark Udall and his staff pressured the Colorado Division of Insurance to revise the number of Coloradans whose insurance policies were canceled as a result of Obamacare. From Shepherd's report:

"At the height of controversy surrounding President Obama's promises on the federal health care overhaul, U.S. Senator Mark Udall's office worked assiduously to revise press accounts that 249,000 Coloradans received health care cancellation notices. Because the 249,000 figure was produced inside the Colorado Division of Insurance, Udall's office lobbied that agency to revise the figure, or revise their definition of what qualified as a cancellation."

According to an email uncovered by Shepherd, Jo Donlin, the director of external affairs with the Department of Regulatory Agencies' Division of Insurance told colleagues on November 14th:

"Sen. Udall says our num-

bers were wrong. They are not wrong. Cancellation notices affected 249,199 people. They want to trash our numbers. I'm holding strong while we get more details. Many have already done early renewals. Regardless, they received cancellation notices."

After Donlin provided an explanation of the numbers (which were accurate) the next day, instead of backing down, Sen. Udall sent his chief of staff to bully the Division of Insurance. Donlin characterized the phone call as "very hostile".

On December 9th, nearly a month after this treacherous conversation, the liberal Public Policy Polling reported that Udall's "deserves re-election" numbers had plummeted 14 points since August. Udall knew that this revelation would crush his re-election effort, especially since he told Coloradans that if they liked their insurance, they could keep their insurance, which was the "Lie of the Year", according to the nonpartisan Politifact. The Republican National Committee then piled on by calling Udall out specifically for the lie.

Of course, any hiccups with Obamacare should cause concern for Udall. The Wall Street Journal identified Democratic U.S. Senator Mark Udall as one of 12 in the Senate who cast the deciding vote on Obamacare.

Nonetheless, Udall learned his "bully them until they change the numbers to our liking" tactics from the best. Just this week, it was revealed that President Obama asked a contractor to fudge numbers about the jobs impact that his new coal regulations would have. When the contractor refused, the contract was terminated. Too bad Udall can't terminate the Division of Insurance for not reporting his preferred take.

We can't wait to hear what kind of excuse Team Udall has for this one. Allison Sherry, are you busy writing the clean-up, "Udall is an NSA Watchdog" story that distracts from this yet?

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Gallup: Only 5% of Religious Americans Are Non-Christians

December 30, 2013

by Barbara Hollingsworth,
CNS.News.com

A recent Gallup poll refutes the claim made by Barack Obama on March 9, 2008 that "we are no longer a Christian nation."

Gallup found that three-quarters of all Americans - a supermajority - identify themselves as Christians, with only five percent saying they are practicing members of a non-Christian faith.

"We find, looking at our data, that America does in fact remain a predominantly Christian nation," Dr. Frank Newport, Gallup's editor-in-chief, said of the poll released on Christmas Eve.

"Now, our overall estimation of what percent of Americans identify with the Christian religion depends a little on which of our various polls we look

at, but I would estimate that about three-quarters - 75, maybe up to 77 percent of Americans - identify with the Christian religion.

"About half of Americans are Protestant or some other non-Catholic Christian faith, and another 23, 24 percent are Roman Catholic. About 2 percent are Mormons, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

"Now, does that mean that a quarter of Americans identify with a non-Christian religion? Not so, because we have about 17, 18 percent of Americans who don't identify with any religion, the so-called 'religious nones' as we call them.

"And so that reduces down to about only 5, or maybe 6 percent, again depending on how we do the definitions, of Americans who explicitly identify with a non-Christian faith."

Newport added that contrary to popular belief, Americans are actually more religious now than they have been at various times in the past. Fifty-six percent told Gallup that religion is "very important in their daily lives," up about four percentage points since the 1970s and 80s.

And although weekly church attendance has declined since its peak in the 1950s, Newport added that it is "no lower now than it was in the late '30s and early '40s."

Thirty-nine percent of those polled said they attended a church service within the past seven days, compared to 41 percent in 1939 and 37 percent in 1940.

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Man Allegedly High on Marijuana Made a Big Mistake on a Colorado Interstate

By Billy Hallowell,
The Blaze

Authorities in Colorado claim a 23-year-old man allegedly high on marijuana crashed into two state trooper vehicles on Saturday.

Police arrested Keith Kilbey and charged him with driving under the influence of drugs, KUSA-TV reported.

The incident unfolded in Denver around 9 p.m. Saturday evening after two state troopers had parked their cars in the left lane of an exit ramp.

Authorities were reportedly investigating a crash in the area and had put their emergency lights on before Kilbey purportedly hit their vehicles. According to KWGN, he collided with a Colorado State Patrol Crown Victoria, sending that vehicle into a Dodge Charger.

"It is unacceptable that

troopers and their vehicles continue to be hit on our roadways." Colorado State Patrol spokeswoman Cpl. Heather Cobler told The Denver Post. "This time we were fortunate, but many officers across the nation are not so lucky."

The state troopers were not inside the vehicles at the time of the crash.

It is unclear how much marijuana Kilbey was suspected of having in his system at the time of the incident, though The Denver Post reported that, under Colorado law, a driver is considered under the influence of the drug when he or she has "5 nanograms or more of active THC ... per milliliter of blood" in his or her system while operating a vehicle.

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NOW WORSE THAN THOUGHT: 335,500 Coloradans Have Now Lost Their Health Insurance

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

Senator Mark Udall promised if you liked your plan you could keep it. That was a slap to the face of now 335,500 Coloradans... and counting?

Lost in the back and forth over whether "a very hostile phone call" is considered intimidation is what The Denver Post basically footnoted on their most recent article.

Since we were last updated at the beginning of November, another 80,000 Coloradans have received cancellation letters (note to Udall's office: if price, coverage, or benefits change substantially enough to receive a cancellation number, whether options for different plans are included or not, doesn't really matter).

We're betting, if Representative Cory Gardner hadn't mentioned it, no one would have brought up, even though helping all those Coloradans he lied to

has been why Udall felt it was all right for his staff to place "very hostile" phone calls (remember, by Colorado Democrat Appointee definition: not intimidation).

How does Udall's office feel about these new numbers? Spokesman for Udall Mike Saccone told The Post they'll "review those numbers."

Yikes, sounds like the Colorado Division of Insurance should prepare itself to receive some very hostile, but not intimidating, phone calls in their future.

We here at the Peak think it's vital in light of this new information that we get regular updates on just how many Coloradans Udall has lied to directly continue to lose their health insurance.

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Loss of Liberty and the Coercive Power of Mental Health Laws

by David Risselada,
FreedomOutpost.com

(Editor/GG: I have personal experience with this, with my brother's son. It ruined his life, period. This is one of the biggest scandals in American history. Do some research, do not let your kid take these drugs.)

It's the start of a new school year, and you are about to send little Johnny to his first day of first grade. Johnny seems to like his new class, his new teacher and the new friends he is making. All seems to be going well, until.....One day Johnny brings home a note from school telling you he has undergone a psychological evaluation because of an inability to sit still and pay attention and it is being recommended that your little Johnny take Ritalin. Your child has received a diagnosis from the new, fifth edition of the Diagnostic Statistical Manual on psychological disorders known as conduct disorder. Unsure of what to do you attend a meeting with school officials, a psychologist, psychiatrist and social worker and decide to reject the idea that Johnny should take this medication because of the controversies surrounding it. Like most people, you believe you still live in the United States of America, you were wrong. The school refuses to take Johnny back, and social services are recommending that the child be removed from your custody due to medical neglect. You are dragged to court and forced to fight a long expensive battle for the custody of your child while he is continually force fed psychotropic medications in a shelter or a boy's home.

This is a scenario that is occurring all too often in our country. Right now it is estimated that 7-million school aged children are currently taking some form of psychotropic medication like Ritalin or other psychiatric stimulants. The most common diagnosis is ADHD, however; bi polar and depression are also increasing in children. What should have all parents concerned is that children as young as two- to four-years-old are being given these drugs as if they are not our children but lab rats for pharmaceutical companies. The new edition of the DSM, mentioned above, is also full of many new disorders. Some of these "new disorders" can be seen by

going here and scrolling down the "what's new" column on the right.

The interesting thing about ADHD is that many prominent doctors in the field of mental health do not even believe it is a real mental illness. In fact, it has been noted that the disorder appears nowhere in pathology books. One of the criteria used in determining the validity of mental illness is determining how prevalent it is in the rest of the world. Schizophrenia, for example, exhibits the same traits and symptoms all across the globe and has a long historical record. ADHD? Not so much. ADHD is most prevalent in the United States and Canada. Symptoms that share common traits with ADHD have a history as well; however, these do not, according to Dr. Thomas Armstrong, venture outside the normal range of hyperactivity associated with normal human behavior. He believes that we are unnecessarily drugging a condition which may be an everyday part of human life. This stands to reason as many young boys that should be outside playing are forced to sit still at a classroom desk for eight hours a day to be "socialized." One of the most disturbing things about Ritalin and other powerful psychotropics used to treat ADHD is that they appear to be the common bond in mass shooting events. All of the recent mass shootings, as well as those not so recent, (think Columbine) involved people who were drugged up on these medications.

If we know that there is a connection to mass violence, then why do we keep feeding these drugs to our kids? The answer from one perspective is simple: Sales. Let's assume you are fighting the system to prove your kid does not need these drugs. One group you are likely to encounter is called CHADD, which stands for Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder. This is a powerful lobby group employed by none other than a manufacturer of Ritalin; Novartis. Their job is to essentially convince you of the need to drug your children and discredit you and suggest you are guilty of medical neglect if you don't follow their directives. (And people thought the gun lobby was evil.) They must be doing a great job, because according to Dr. Peter Breggin, an average of 10 percent of children

each year are diagnosed for the first time and prescribed psychotropic medications.

When you consider that mental health is a driving issue behind the gun control debate, you have to ask yourself if there is a connection. You at least have to realize that even minus a conspiratorial mindset, if the government gets its way and people diagnosed with mental illness cannot purchase a firearm then we are currently looking at roughly 7 million children now that will grow up to be denied their second amendment rights. All because of a mental illness which some doctors don't even consider real. We already have doctors who are empowered to ask patients if they own firearms and states are passing laws granting these doctors the power to suggest the denial of gun rights to patients based on mental health laws. This was predicted in 1963 when Dr. Thomas Szaz wrote in his book, "Law, Liberty and Psychiatry" that mental health and the state would be joined at the hip much the same way the state and the church once were. Now we get to the point of the whole article. Consider the year 1963 and the position of Dr. Szaz. 1963 is the same year that the 45 declared goals of the Communist Party made its way to the congress for a congressional hearing. Consider number 38, and 39 for a moment.

38.) Transfer powers of arrest from police to social agencies. Treat all behavioral problems as psychiatric disorders which no one but psychiatrists can understand and treat.

39.) Dominate the psychiatric profession and use mental health laws as a means of gaining coercive control over those who oppose Communist goals.

Did you get that America? Look up the 45 declared goals of the communist party and read it yourself. What I am suggesting here is that the reason our children are being drugged is to create a mentally ill nation which cannot possibly care for itself or self-govern. You see mental health becoming the driving issue behind civilian disarmament don't you? Wake up America, wake the hell up!

Read more at <http://freedomoutpost.com/2014/01/loss-liberty-coercive-power-mental-health-laws/#GwoA3p-Kt1KUWH4o1.99>

A Sheepdog Barks!

Please note the change of my sheepdog picture. The original picture was hastily selected from the internet as the go-to-press deadline was fast approaching for our first issue. My favorite dog of all times, an Australian Shepherd named Mati (short for Matilda), passed on recently at almost 16 years old. It was an extremely tough personal loss (I know all you dog lovers understand) and I want to honor her memory by including her in my Sheepdog Barks column. Mati was one of God's beautiful creatures and special companion that we are blessed with occasionally, sometimes only once or twice in a lifetime. I really miss her. You were a good sheepdog! WOOF to you, Mati! RIP

Now let's get on with trying to protect the herd. Here's another new word phrase to watch out for - "Promise Zones." "Promise Zones?" Are you kidding me? One word Obama should avoid is "Promise." His numerous broken campaign promises (aka lies) has tainted his legacy in history forever. And I have to tell you I'm so sick of all this liberal word play. I believe that LPSDs think if they can pick the right soft words that hide the real truth of a program or act that somehow that will make it ok. "Promise Zones." Really? What do they promise? The "Affordable" Care Act, really? Laughable, because it's so stupid, wrong, and completely the opposite. And the best one of all: "Choice" or "women's reproductive rights" instead of abortion or killing babies. And now Sheila Jackson Lee the LPSD Congresswoman from Texas wants to change extended unemployment and other lifelong welfare benefits to "Transitional Living Funds." There is nothing "transitional" about them. Some people spend their entire life on these welfare benefits. HOWL!

Do they think we are that stupid? Do they really believe that by hiding the

true meaning somehow makes it more acceptable to us all? Yes, the answer is YES! And you know what, it actually works on far too many Americans. Think about this, War on Poverty. Sounds great right? After \$20 Trillion and 50 years it's done little to change things. It was supposed to eliminate poverty. It's been a war all right, a war on our taxpayer money. It's been the ultimate redistribution of wealth and now this socialist of a president says we need to do more. More what? More efforts to create a complete nanny state. More redistribution of working citizens' money to those that won't work or fraud and game the system. The politicians know this is going on every day in America and yet they do nothing about it. Oh wait they do talk about it a lot. All of them declare they are going to put a stop to it. Nothing ever happens. It's just talk. Talk, talk, talk! HOWL! HOWL! HOWL! We need some real sheepdogs in Washington, D.C. When in the heck are these career politicians going to do something about all the entitlements? I'm beginning to believe never. They talk a lot about it, but they do nothing. It would take courage and real determination to reform these runaway programs. Instead these career politicians devise strategic methods and programs that automatically perpetuate their leviathan spending programs each year. And why do they do that? To protect themselves and their careers, that's why. Then they look in the TV cameras and tell us that, by law, they can't really do anything about those protected funds. They design these programs that way on purpose. This takes the yearly management out of the picture so they can't be blamed for what's going on in our nation's Capital. It's a great scheme. And then we subjects, I mean citizens, gripe about things and say stupid things like "well they can't really do anything about all the waste, fraud and abuse because they might harm a few of



real deserving recipients. This is NUTS! Our government is so large and out of control that I'm not sure anyone knows how to rein it in. Consider this. Obama, and his henchmen and henchwomen, tell us everything has been fixed and is going great and then quietly fire the firms they hired to develop Obamacare. After hundreds of millions of dollars which is it? Are things good or are they bad? Big government cannot efficiently manage all the programs we have allowed our politicians to create and throw good money at. I'm beginning to believe that big government couldn't manage a one float parade without wasting money. And these current idiots are going to spend about \$700 million to advertise Obamacare during the upcoming Winter Olympics. What right do they have to spend any tax money (our money) on propaganda? None is the correct answer. Will it ever stop? Well it can stop. If enough Americans decide enough is enough it can be stopped. Socialism and Obamacare helped create major change in 2010. Millions of angry citizens organized, became active, and helped stop "hope and change." Ronald Reagan kept a small sign on his desk that read, "It Can Be Done." We must believe. We must make another 2010 happen. We can put a stop to the insanity. 2014 is a very important election year. Get mad and get active. The Southern Colorado Patriots Club will meet on February 20th. Plan to attend and do what needs to be done for our country. WOOF!

May God have mercy on America! JMH



PEACE

From page 15

the worse hurricane and natural disaster that has ever hit the country.

That leads us to 2007 where there were a reported nine major FEMA disasters and/or events with two major crises' that 'coincided' with the U.S. meetings with the Middle East "peace talks".

January 13-19, 2007 Condeleezza Rice visits the Middle East, Germany, and Great Britain, pitching President Bush's vision of Israel and Palestine living in peace as Bush declares FEMA disasters in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas from winter storms and California losing over \$1 billion due to freezing of orange and lemon crops. As Rice visits Germany and Britain, both countries experienced record hurricane-force winds shutting down the train system in Germany, affecting trains in Britain, forcing the cancellation of most flights out of both Frankfurt and Heathrow airports, disrupting barge travel throughout Europe, and causing property damage.

February 1-2, 2007 Secretary Rice leading meetings to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, meaning again, the already small country of Israel would be asked to give up "land for peace". President Bush declared a FEMA disaster from effects of storms and

tornadoes in Florida which were the second-deadliest in state history.

March 25-27, 2007 Immediately following Secretary Rice visiting Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Ramallah President Bush declares major FEMA disasters for New Mexico due to severe storms and tornadoes March 23 and 24.

April 15, 2007 According to The Financial Times, Israeli and Palestinian leaders met on Sunday, April 15, after U.S. prodding, and Secretary Rice urging Israel to give the Palestinians a "political horizon" outlining future statehood. After April 15-16 storms and flooding, President Bush declared major FEMA disasters for New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Kentucky.

May 1-4, 2007 Secretary Rice visits Egypt meeting about the Arab Initiative, discusses Iraq, mentioning "the Israeli problems". Seven tornadoes reported in Colorado on May 3, extended outbreak of these into Kansas (an EF5), Oklahoma, and South Dakota all on the night of May 4. President Bush declared FEMA disasters for these and the flooding that followed in Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, and South Dakota.

June 17-19, 2007 President Bush, Vice President

Cheney, Secretary Rice, NSA Hadley and Prime Minister Olmert meet to develop joint strategy to strengthen Palestinian Authority. Texas suffered severe storms, tornadoes and flooding June 16-18, and New York's severe storms and flooding June 19; both declared major FEMA disasters.

August 1, 2007 Secretary Rice again visits Tel Aviv/Jerusalem and Ramallah laying groundwork for a Middle East peace conference and U.S. Minnesota Muslim congressman announced plans for trip to Israel, a major bridge built in 1967 collapses in Minnesota in an area called the "west bank".

September 19-20, 2007 Secretary Rice again visits Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Ramallah. A tropical depression threatens oil production as it is halted temporarily in the Gulf of Mexico.

October 14-18, 2007 Secretary Rice visits once again Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Ramallah to push for Middle East Summit where discussions on boundaries and timing of a Palestinian state, more pressure to divide Jerusalem, forfeiture of Judea and Samaria and sovereignty over the Temple Mount. Southern California has Santa Ana winds that become hurricane-force winds for 2 days, wildfires burned 518,066 acres and Presi-

dent Bush declared a major FEMA disaster as a result of the damages from the fires.

November 3, 2007 Secretary Rice arrives in Jerusalem, Hurricane Noel hits Cape Cod and Maine.

2008-present A cold shoulder put to Israel as President Obama visits and extends a warm hand to other countries in the Middle East just before his election and during his first years in office.

2012 On the night of the Presidential debate where both candidates agreed that Israel should be the one to make the peace, Hurricane Sandy was beginning its devastation of the eastern seaboard.

I stopped paying attention, until Kerry's visit reminded me that 'here we go again'! What does God say about land and Israel? God is very specific when He made a land covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15:18-21:

18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt (The Nile) to the great river, the River Euphrates— 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites." (NKJV)

The "ites" and Rephaim God speaks of were ungodly people, not believing in the God of the Israelites.

Abraham's covenant is with God, not man, for a large piece of the Middle East. It is not a man-made and peacefully agreed upon deal and is not the little speck of land now occupied by Israel.

God gives a warning of judgment to people who divide up Israel's land in Joel 3:2:

2 I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations ; And they have divided up My land.

William Koenig has stated in his book, "Eye to Eye: Facing the Consequences of Dividing Israel," that nine of the ten costliest insurance events in U.S. history came after U.S. officials called for Israel to make concessions and give up "land for peace". He also contends that six of the seven costliest hurricanes in U.S. history also followed U.S. urging Israel to give up land, and that three of the four largest tornadoes in U.S. history have also been after the U.S. seeks Israel to give up "land for peace". He further states that, "This is the second straight Repub-

lican convention postponed due to a major hurricane," Koenig pointed out at the time. "And this is the third straight Republican convention that became secondary news due to a hurricane. Bush was pressuring Israel during the times of the 2004 and 2008 conventions."

We have a loving and forgiving God, extended to us by way of our repentance from our own selfish and self centered ways that don't follow Him, his commands or His directives. Clearly, many of our leaders haven't read the word of God, nor find it a valuable source to follow, either individually or in leadership, and don't care that they lead the country down a dark path away from Him by ignoring all his edicts. Thankfully, there are people who pray, not only for underlings of this country's leadership, but also for the wayward leaders.

You can do your own Google search of various websites including these four; <http://watch.org>, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHn-WUL3vOlk>, <http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/t/tenmajorevents.htm>, <http://www.wnd.com/2012/10/could-frankenstorm-be-a-sign-from-god/#7eXJiQcIBLPx-wZM4.99>, and see for yourself, and of course, do read what God's word says as well

**Behold , I am the Lord,
The God of all flesh.
Is there anything
too hard for Me?
Jeremiah 32:27
NKJ**

*We the people are the rightful
masters of both Congress and the
Courts, not to overthrow the Consti-
tution but to overthrow the men who
would pervert the Constitution.*

~Abraham Lincoln

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Local Mountain News & Notices

HEALTH

From page 1

Several years after these investigations, with Mr. Chambers still at the helm of the Ambulance District, the Trinidad Times Independent reported in April of 2011 that the “district reports that it is in sound shape financially, despite having to write off bad debts.” The District was reported to have over \$4.7 million in assets and District Director Chambers is quoted as saying that the District collects about 40 percent of what is billed, leaving 60 percent as uncollected bad debt, similar to the statistics currently found in Custer County. According to the Trinidad Times Independent, “a recent audit revealed some problems in bookkeeping, but Chambers said the problems are being worked out.” These are also common issues Custer County already has issues with. A July 5, 2013, Trinidad Times article indicates that at some point Mr. Chambers was replaced by Dan Moynihan as the Director of the Trinidad Ambulance District, though it is not clear when or how this

transition took place. In this instance the article was about a controversy surrounding a paid district employee and spouse on the District Board both resigning amidst controversy.

In review, the voluntary, non-binding EMS survey discussed in the January 8th meeting here, in this case, resulted in EMS licenses being revoked, the District Director being replaced with Brandon Chambers, and the city being required to pay \$12,182.27 back to the state. In many ways the District remains as troubled as ever. According to Mr. Chambers, in the case of the Fremont County survey, a few of the recommendations have been put in place, some are in process, and many are not being considered by the various authorities in the county. It is not clear how this reflects the vision statement of SCRETAC of “keeping southern Colorado on the leading edge of emergency medical and trauma care,” or how the Trinidad case reflects Mr. Chambers’ claim of having “no vested interest,” or how all of this time or money invested could have any useful purpose to Custer County.

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

From: Representative
Jim Wilson – HD 60
January 12, 2014

Well, the first three days of “Hugs, Handshakes and Hoopla” are in the books at the Capitol. Hugs and Handshakes ran rampant as friends and colleagues from both sides of the aisle greeted each other after the interim break. The Hoopla began on Wednesday in the House with speeches from the Speaker and the Minority Leader. The Speaker received applause from both sides of the aisle at various times during his remarks. Several references to “working together” and “putting last year behind us” had me searching the Internet for the words to Kumbaya. I thought the Dems and Reps would be holding hands and singing around the campfire -- then came the Minority Leader’s speech... Minority Leader DelGrosso (R-Loveland) acknowledged the need for working together as well, but he emphasized the fact that the “bulldozing” of the minority last year on such things as rural issues, social issues and firearm issues resulted in flawed legislation that needs to be re-visited.

Noting the lack of applause from the other side of the aisle during DelGrosso’s remarks, I figure we will not be holding hands and singing anytime soon...

Thursday was the Governor’s State of the State Address on the House floor with all Representatives, Senators, Supreme Court Justices and numerous dignitaries in attendance. The Governor commended the state on coming together in the face of fires, floods and tragedy. He alluded to the strong economic condition of the state and opined that the future of the state appears bright. He expressed the hope that, in an election year, both sides of the aisle would be able to work together. I personally got excited when he mentioned his commitment to a simpler and more transparent method of reporting educational spending. (Since I am running a bill with that exact intent, I was a little disappointed that he did not mention me by name in the State of the State...) Even with the Governor’s optimistic urging, my take on the “Legislative Atmosphere” of this session is that working together will

be a long ways from meeting in the middle...

The first few days of the session reminded me of going through the first week of athletic practices – fact-paced, intense and tiring. My colleagues and I were ready for the weekend and the brief rest before hitting the ground running for the first full week! Even though it was a short week at the Capitol, the early bills were placed on the calendar for committee hearings. Sen. Todd’s [D-Aurora] bill to allow Community Colleges to grant Bachelor of Applied Science degrees is now SB14-004 and is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Ed. Committee on Thursday. I will be the House sponsor for this bill that will be a great opportunity for Community Colleges in HD 60 to better serve our communities. My Brewer’s Guild Bill that I agreed to run for the Arkansas Valley Libation Society has been assigned to the Business Committee. Unfortunately, it has failed to even garner support from the state Brewer’s Guild itself. As it stands now, this bill will not survive the committee – obviously this



was not the right time for this bill...maybe next year! I was excited to learn over the weekend that Sen. Majority Leader Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) is interested in co-sponsoring my Advanced Placement bill from last session. Who knows? -- Perhaps this year we can make AP courses more available for our students in rural and small communities!

The action under the Golden Dome is just getting started. If you have any questions or concerns, or you would just like to have a tour of the Capitol, please feel free to call (303-866-2747) or e-mail me at wilsonforhd60@gmail.com or james.wilson.house@state.co.us.

Yours for HD 60 --
Representative Jim Wilson

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