

Half of SIX-PACK Headed to State Wrestling Tournament



The SIX-PACK:
Front L-R: Coach Ham, Kody Aldrich, Manny Pedigo, Cody Koble, Tyler Watson, Manager Cody Young; Back L-R: Coach Koble, Weldon Rusher, Kyle Rose, Coach Selle

by Michelle Pedigo

Sixty-four wrestlers representing ten schools were on hand last weekend in Del Norte, the site of the CHSAA 2A Region 2 tournament. For some it ended

a season packed with challenges, for others it pointed the way to the season’s biggest challenges, but at the end of the day three Bobcats earned the right to advance to the State tournament at

the Pepsi Center starting today. Although the region was smaller in numbers this year, there was still plenty of competition and rivalries among the grapplers, some of which have gone head-



Watson prepares for the up and out.

Sentinel photo by Michelle Pedito

to-head two or three times throughout the season.

For our own SIX-PACK, the season was plagued with injuries causing changes in the line up from week to week. The SIX-

PACK became the Mag-nificent 7, only to become the SIX-PACK again when the team added Kyle Rose

See SIX-PACK on page 8

Current Clinic Operations Not What the Voters Approved

by Paul Sage

At the meeting of the Custer County Emergency Services on February 18th it came to light that of the entire operation of the West Custer County Hospital District, possibly the only part that follows the mandate of the voters in the county according to the Service Plan under which they operate is the Ambulance Corps they would now like to shed. According to County Commissioner Kit Shy, “The actual service plan says that you will provide 24-7 emergency care and an ambulance service.”

Hospital Board members explained that to do this would require additional training their staff doesn’t have and a large sum of money to be spent on insurance to do so. Clinic Director Delwin Lester explained that they have become a primary care

clinic for the county providing many services five days a week eight hours a day. Christie Coleman, Custer Emergency Services Director challenged, “The service plan from 1988 does not say what you’re saying right there, so there’s a variation from that service plan and the service plan was never updated for that.” Clinic Director Lester responded that “The Service Plan, as written, is illegal.” That is not clear from any of the information presented in this debate so far. While the illegal treatment of EMS personnel as independent contractors would still be a problem with the Department of Labor, and for the clinic as it has become classified to have a volunteer ambulance service is also apparently not legal, there has not been any discussion of whether the combination of a 24-7 emergency care facility and an ambulance service,

as authorized in the service plan, would be illegal.

The discussion to date has been what to do with the Ambulance Corps to make it fit with the current clinic protocols or where else to put it to allow both to continue to operate as they have been. Historically the Ambulance Corps existed prior to the hospital district being created. When it was decided to create this Hospital District to provide 24-7 emergency care and an ambulance service, the voters approved the move and the county, for its part, just turned the assets of the existing Ambulance Corps over to the new district.

In response to the Hospital Board’s repeated demands that the County Commissioners intervene and somehow resolve the problem, Commissioner Shy explained that “The Ambulance District was formed and they went to the public

and said, ‘We are going to provide these services and we’re going to ask you for the money to do that,’ and they did that. Now to me that’s a contract. The taxpayers and the citizens entered into a contract to provide you with the money to do it. Your covenant and your agreement is with the voters and the citizens, not with the County Commissioners. If you’re going to change that plan and no longer provide a service that you agreed to, you need to go to the voters and tell them that. County Commissioners don’t step between the voting public and a district that was formed by the voting public.”

Cindy Howard, owner of the Westcliffe Inn and member of the Search and Rescue Board again asked the question that has been asked numerous times in recent months, “How much of the existing mill levy

goes for the ambulance?” Hospital Board Chairman Joe Arbuckle responded that “that’s hard to figure,” and District Treasurer Chuck Ippolito added that “It’s all part of the pool and it goes to the bottom line of the hospital.” Ms. Howard suggested what nobody in the room wanted to hear that “As you are looking at options, one option could be to trim back on the clinic and put more towards the ambulance.”

While all the discussion to date has centered on forming an ambulance district or putting it somewhere else, it came up in this meeting that maybe the proper question for consideration is whether to operate the Ambulance Corps and 24-7 emergency care as approved and funded by the taxpayers according to the original service plan, and

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PATRIOT ALERT!

Connecticut: Massive Civil Disobedience by Gun Owners

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“Be still, and know that I am God”

Psalms 46:10
NIV

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A different view from
the same mountains!

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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

GOD, AMERICA, FAMILIES, & VOTING



We've been thinking a lot lately about how important the November election is. All elections are important and each one is unique. This one in 2014 is very important and very unique for several reasons. Since the 1970s America has been slowly but surely moving down a path that has America self-destructing in many ways. It was during that time that America started removing God from our government, from our schools and from our families. We believe it was the beginnings of the liberal progressive movement. Forty plus years later and we see the fruits of their labors. We see politicians saying they are Christian, but saying they must vote for women's "choice." We see the breakup of the traditional family and many rejoice that this is "who we are now." Movies, TV shows and commercials make this new normal seem right, even glorifying the immorality happening in America today. Before this shift down a path away from God and the traditional family, we believe things were better for us all. Citizens felt the pride in being self-supporting and averse to taking public assistance. Traditional families with a mom and a dad working

together as a unit made things better for everyone. There have always been untraditional families and there always will be and America will help provide. But we should encourage the traditional family because dependency on the government is going far beyond what is sustainable. 40-50 years ago parents had more time to help their children and prepare them for school, supported their schools and the teachers and the kids knew that they had better cooperate, learn, and behave. Why can't we return America to that time? Since we took prayer out of school things have not improved. Across America literacy and graduation rates have declined. Kids used to be taught Latin and Greek in high school, now we have to teach remedial English in college. A few years ago we read a list of the top ten problems in schools in the 1950s and 60s. It went something like this: talking in class, running in the halls, chewing gum and spitting water at the fountain. In the first decade of this century the list now goes something like this: drugs, guns, pregnancy and assaulting teachers. Why? What's the difference? We believe it's the absence of God, the break-

up of the traditional family and the immorality becoming more common and more accepted in America. Can we ever return to those days? Many believe we can't. Is that true and, if so, why? Why do we have to continue down this path? Some of us believe we don't. We can restore the better parts of our past. And all these things can be done by "We the People." It starts with the kind of person we elect to public office especially at the state and federal levels. Our government policies don't always encourage the traditional family and the family values many of us cherish. Around the country citizens in different states are voting to uphold traditional marriage and to make abortion less available. Then liberal progressive politicians and activist judges work hard to overturn the will of the people. We must remember who appoints most of these judges. The very politicians we elect, many who make false claims about being Christians. At a prayer breakfast recently the current President of the United States touted his Christian faith. This is the same man that now promotes same sex marriage and abortion on demand. On the 41st anniversary of

Roe v. Wade he released a statement actually praising this awful practice. This is not the kind of man we should want in office. He is exactly the kind of man we must avoid. We need to pay close attention as we choose the citizens we elect to lead us. They guide our way of life every day by passing laws and regulations. Liberal progressives have hijacked the old Democrat Party and picked up the platform of the now defunct Communist Party of America. They have been hard at work implementing the destruction of this country and the removal of God from its governing for over 50 years. Unfortunately they are making progress. Now we can sit back, wring our hands, and repeat "Oh My!" over and over and just give up. If we do so we are giving up on America. We don't have to accept that we cannot restore the past. Much of it is better than this progressive path we are on. It starts with every conservative citizen becoming aware and active. Elections have serious and real consequences. We see that every day. Six years ago America elected a man who wants total government control of our industries, our earnings and our lives. He has been far

too successful. We can stop him in 2014. We can elect the right kind of people at the federal, state and even local levels to help restore America and Colorado. We must take the U.S. Senate out of the hands of Harry Reid and the other liberals that support this president. We must elect a governor and more state representatives in Colorado that will stop the insanity which is going on. You are the ones that can do it. Every one that believes we are on the wrong path must come out and vote. Every single one of you! Many an election has been lost by a few votes. You can start helping America and our community right now. The Republican caucuses are March 4th. Primary voting is June 24th and the General Election vote is November 4th. Put these on your calendar and plan to participate in the greatest right and the greatest responsibility we have. God is important to this country. Prayer is important to this country. Traditional families are important to this country. America needs you! Colorado needs you! Custer County needs you! Please get involved and plan to VOTE!



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Your Opinions...

"We the People" Speak



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

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

2013 Spirit Campaign Results

An Inside Take on the EMS Corps

Non Profit Name	Amount	Match	Total
All Aboard Westcliffe	\$4,360.00	\$1,137.70	\$5,497.70
American Legion Post 170 Boys State	\$720.00	\$217.12	\$937.12
Animal Advocates	\$610.00	\$135.23	\$745.23
CC Lions of the Sangres	\$750.00	\$226.16	\$976.16
CART	\$855.00	\$257.83	\$1,112.83
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)	\$100.00	\$30.16	\$130.16
Cross D Bar Recreation Foundation	\$3,025.00	\$912.20	\$3,937.20
Custer County 20/20 dba Club America	\$9,040.00	\$2,046.13	\$11,086.13
Custer County 4H Foundation	\$495.00	\$87.07	\$582.07
Custer County Affordable Housing	\$25.00	\$7.54	\$32.54
Custer County Ambulance Corps	\$5,895.00	\$1,689.96	\$7,584.96
Custer County Cares About Cancer	\$435.00	\$123.64	\$558.64
Custer County Community Sharing Center	\$6,944.00	\$1,476.48	\$8,420.48
Custer County Conservation District	\$335.00	\$94.99	\$429.99
Custer County Genealogical and Historical Society	\$190.00	\$57.30	\$247.30
Custer County Medical Foundation	\$250.00	\$75.39	\$325.39
Ben Kettle Scholarship Fund	\$150.00	\$45.23	\$195.23
Custer County Schools	\$25.00	\$7.54	\$32.54
Custer County Search & Rescue	\$13,775.00	\$3,814.37	\$17,589.37
Custer County Senior Center	\$1,060.00	\$221.74	\$1,281.74
Custer County Sheriff's Department	\$725.00	\$153.69	\$878.69
Custer County Transitions	\$110.00	\$33.17	\$143.17
Dark Skies, Inc.	\$4,110.00	\$1,010.68	\$5,120.68
Dundee Memorial Park	\$2,735.00	\$643.60	\$3,378.60
Eagle Summit Ranch	\$550.00	\$165.85	\$715.85
Excellence in Education	\$8,232.00	\$1,318.93	\$9,550.93
Fremont/Custer County Historical Society	\$20.00	\$6.03	\$26.03
FFA	\$80.00	\$24.12	\$104.12
Friends of the Beckwith Ranch	\$3,765.00	\$875.12	\$4,640.12
Friends of the West Custer County Library	\$2,550.00	\$467.81	\$3,017.81
Geyser Gateway Rest Area	\$250.00	\$75.39	\$325.39
Habitat for Humanity (Custer County)	\$50.00	\$15.08	\$65.08
High Altitude Garden Club	\$775.00	\$233.70	\$1,008.70
High Country Recycling	\$730.00	\$211.86	\$941.86
High Mountain Hay Fever Festival Association	\$1,350.00	\$379.45	\$1,729.45
Historic Willows School Society	\$1,575.00	\$331.73	\$1,906.73
In Concert	\$6,365.00	\$1,619.54	\$7,984.54
KWMV Radio	\$7,420.00	\$1,879.01	\$9,299.01
Lighthouse Helpline and Pregnancy Center	\$9,145.54	\$1,178.22	\$10,323.76
Mission Wolf	\$3,260.00	\$684.43	\$3,944.43
Operation Uplift	\$1,175.00	\$339.25	\$1,514.25
Outdoor Buddies	\$3,036.25	\$849.77	\$3,886.02
Paca Peace Ranch	\$5,880.00	\$1,311.52	\$7,191.52
Pawsitive Reaction	\$515.00	\$87.45	\$602.45
Pet Project WMV	\$1,000.00	\$224.72	\$1,224.72
San Isabel Land Protection Trust	\$24,390.00	\$5,764.82	\$30,154.82
Sangre De Cristo Hospice	\$2,345.00	\$281.93	\$2,626.93
Sangre De Cristo Volunteers for Change	\$75.00	\$22.62	\$97.62
Sangres Art Guild	\$1,165.00	\$351.31	\$1,516.31
Silver Cliff Museum	\$1,902.00	\$524.46	\$2,426.46
Southern Colorado Space Museum	\$560.00	\$165.10	\$725.10
Sustainable Ways	\$1,475.00	\$282.22	\$1,757.22
The Bluff	\$2,080.00	\$376.13	\$2,456.13
The Ranch of Hope	\$6,359.62	\$1,917.76	\$8,277.38
Town of Westcliffe	\$20.00	\$6.03	\$26.03
Valley Assisted Living, Inc.	\$6,520.00	\$1,292.96	\$7,812.96
Valley Parks & Recreation Youth Center	\$410.00	\$67.39	\$477.39
West Custer County Library District	\$2,425.00	\$601.98	\$3,026.98
Westcliffe Center for the Performing Arts	\$8,866.00	\$2,348.54	\$11,214.54
Wet Mountain Fire Protection District	\$16,667.00	\$3,890.81	\$20,557.81
Wet Mountain Valley Community Service, Inc (Rotary Van)	\$945.00	\$190.51	\$1,135.51
Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation	\$2,635.00	\$521.36	\$3,156.36
Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club	\$240.00	\$72.37	\$312.37
Wet Mountain Wildlife	\$1,770.00	\$509.39	\$2,279.39
Wet Mountain Valley Community Clinic	\$9,240.00	\$1,523.44	\$10,763.44
Wetmore Community Library	\$3,135.00	\$886.06	\$4,021.06
Wetmore Historical Society	\$220.00	\$66.34	\$286.34
Wetmore Volunteer Fire Department	\$4,290.00	\$1,193.15	\$5,483.15
2013 Totals:	\$212,177.41	\$49,640.60	\$261,818.01

I'm writing this letter for a couple of reasons. The first, is to thank you for your honest and unbiased, reporting. I'm getting tired of reading articles about the clinic and EMS, put out there by the Tribune. These articles are apparently manufactured by the hospital district board, and approved by the board prior to being printed, as evidenced by the 1/2/2014 board meeting minutes. In my opinion, that is not reporting, that is publishing. Anything can be published, including fiction and fairy tales.

The second purpose of this letter is to address the EMS issue. The hospital district board is behaving like our country's politicians. They want to do whatever they want, until they get caught. When they get caught, they want a bailout. They knew they were improperly and illegally running EMS for years. They have said so themselves in articles and in their own meetings. But instead of fixing the problems, they want a bailout. They say they can't use operating funds, so now they want help from contributions, the county commissioners, the state, or bankruptcy protection. Plus, they are attempting to use threats and scare tactics to accomplish this, by telling the community they will have no EMS, and that residents are going to start moving away. What is more important? and what will save lives? The clinic or EMS? The clinic is a convenience, EMS is a necessity. So if they do away with EMS, is the clinic prepared to "step up" and be a 24/7 facility?

I am a nationally registered and state certified EMT who lives right here in Custer County. I worked for the ambulance corps until last November when I was let go. I was let go because of (according to management), negativity and not being on board with the changes occurring within EMS. The truth is, I was very much opposed to the mill levy they were seeking and I didn't hide that. The reason for my opposition was because they would not provide enough evidence to support that the entire mill would go to EMS and not be absorbed into the clinic coffers. The ambulance corps used to do fund raisers but stopped some time ago when the clinic started taking all the money and EMS got nothing. Meanwhile EMTs working in the clinic were making \$10-\$12 per hour, while the ones trying to save lives in the field were being paid \$4.63 per hour.

I also question where the money is going. They get a good portion of our property taxes, grants, private donations, blue grass festival money, PLUS they bill for their services. So why in the world can they not make ends meet? Every one of us has to live within our means or on a budget. Why do they think they are exempt from this concept? In fact, this community probably doesn't even realize that the clinic took out a huge loan and used the ambulances as collateral. This is a tiny town not a big city. So why do we have directors, CEOs, CFOs, all the Os pulling big salaries out of our small community while we are hocking our valuable resources? Seems that everyone wants to be the big fish in the little pond. If the situation is so "dire", why aren't they tightening the purse strings? It seems to me, appointing an EMS "director", while in the midst of a financial crisis is not responsibility at it's best. What is the salary for this position? Is this volunteer like the rest of the ambulance corps is supposed to be?

The majority of the ambulance corps did not want AMR to come up here because we wanted to keep EMS in our own community. Now, in hindsight, that may be the best thing for this community. There is talk of them seeking the mill levy again in the next election, but, the only way anyone should vote in favor of that is if EMS is outsourced to a reputable service, insuring the hospital board can't get their hands on the funds, or, if the hospital board and management get a complete overhaul. This board and management has run off almost all of the EMS staff. There are a lot of licensed and certified EMTs and paramedics right here in Custer County who are willing and able to serve this community but can't or won't under the current conditions. In closing, they keep saying this situation was not created deliberately and now they are in a bind. They created this problem last fall when they tried to strong arm EMS staff into signing an illegal contract. They threatened those who wouldn't sign it, with being taken off the roster. This again is information available in their own documents. I would guess that things wouldn't have gotten so out of control, and gone to the Department of Labor, if they hadn't tried to bully everyone into doing their bidding.

Well, maybe it is time for this community to "clean house", and tell these "elected officials" that, if they don't know what they're doing, they need to step down and let someone in who does. And in my opinion, these county commissioners who are allowing this to happen in this community need to quit saying they have no control, and start flexing their commissioner muscles and DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

Respectfully,
Beth Kolecke
Rural Westcliffe

Weekly Propane Price Update

by George Gramlich

The average national residential propane price (as reported by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)) decreased by over 13 cents per gallon last week to nearly \$3.76 per gallon, almost \$1.45 per gallon higher than the same period last year. Wholesale propane prices decreased almost 10 cents per gallon to a price just shy of \$2.61 per gallon as of February 10, 2014.

The midwest average residential price dropped from \$3.83 per gallon to \$3.54 per gallon (last year's price was \$1.78 per gallon).

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Letters to the Editor



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Rules: We will print, at our discretion, the thoughts and ideas of our fellow citizen-patriots. Please limit your offerings to 250 words or less. No profanity or vulgarity, no personal attacks, and please sign your name. Also, please give us the general location of your residence and phone number or email - for confirmation only.

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

On the Job of the School Board

This letter is written in response to the article/letter to both the Tribune and the Sentinel newspapers written by Dr. Terre Davis on January 31, 2014 to the Sentinel and on February 6, 2014 to the Tribune.

This letter/article by Dr. Davis should be required reading for all residents of our county and in particular parents of all students who attend Custer County Schools. It gives everyone a very clear picture of what a school board is and

should be. It provides a description of it's function and also explains the role of the Board and interactions with the school, teachers, parents, principals and the superintendent. In other words, rules, roles, relationships and responsibilities.

In my almost twenty years as a citizen of Custer County I have never seen such a beneficial and useful letter published for the general information of a community.

How very fortunate we are to have a School Board Member who is truly dedicated to her duties and responsibilities.

"Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless. Knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful."

~ Samuel Johnson

*Respectfully yours,
Jeanne Schmutzler
Rural Westcliffe*

From Westcliffe Trustee Cascarelli

Dear Westcliffe citizen,

We have lived in the town of Westcliffe for 15 years and I've owned a vacation cabin in the area for 20 years. In addition to being a Town Trustee for 5 ½ years, I've been a Posse member for 11 years, a Junior Achievement volunteer for 10 years, a two term VP for the Saddle Club, a five-year board member of the Friends of the Beckwith Ranch, a board member of the Sangre Shooting Sports Club for two terms, a one year member on the board of the Chamber and I've served on numerous committees. It was my 5 ½ years as a Town Trustee that have given me the most satisfaction. Being your elected representative for the period has been my distinct pleasure and I'm grateful for your trust.

I am not running for reelection in April. It is time for

some others to step-up. In my five plus years, I can point to the following:

- I have voted "no" on all tax increases for residents and businesses
- I supported the switch from Black Hills to Sangre de Cristo Electric
- I am still attempting to get the town to suspend the 3% franchise fee that the town charges on every electric bill
- I voted "no" on the Main Street Manager project because the plan is poor and Westcliffe is expected to bear an unreasonable share of the cost
- I designed the Merit Pay system currently in place for town employees
- I led the charge to make the current fee the town pays to the sheriff's of-

fice, which is six times that which Silver Cliff pays, more equitable

- I volunteered for most of the town sponsored events
- It took a while, but today all requests for charity, the requesting agent must tell the board what percentage of Westcliffe residents will benefit
- I fought to get those visitors and county residents who use the town tennis courts to pay for their maintenance

These are some of the positions that I took about which I'm most proud. I took my fiduciary responsibilities seriously and hope that in my absence, the other trustees will do the same.

*Thank you for your trust.
See you around town.*

*Joe Cascarelli
Trustee*

Do the Ends Justify the Means?

Dear editor,

I read with interest your article about Democrats urging other Democrats to switch to Republican for the upcoming caucus and primary election. This is certainly not a new ploy as it has gone on in Custer County for a number of years. The question is why are they doing it?

There seems to be some feeling that a Democrat

can't win in this county, but that is not true. We currently have, and have had very qualified Democrats serve Custer County.

I believe the reason for this tactic is much deeper. It is a "win no matter what the cost" attitude.

To a conservative there is right and there is wrong, but to a liberal it all depends on the situation. Is switching against the law?

Absolutely not! Is it ethical? I don't think so.

Why don't the liberals put up a candidate with their ideals and see if the people of this county will elect them instead of trying to sneak them in.

I am not ashamed to tell you where I stand.

*Rob Canterbury
Hillside*

Endorsement of Trombley for Sheriff

Many of us know that there are many residents here in Custer County that do not speak their mind or do not want to sign petitions, or for that matter, **vote** for the person they think would do the best job for this county because of fear of retaliation by the existing Sheriff's office. It is my understanding that questions are asked as to who you voted for. If this is correct then there is something terribly wrong here. NO ONE should know how you voted. Isn't that why we all live in our great country? Freedom!

Some questions should be asked: *Do we really want more of what we have had for the past several decades?* Another candidate, who has been here for less than two years, who nobody knows, comes from a big city background. *Do we want a 'big-city' sheriff?* The rural county experience is very different from a city police department. *And by the way, how many of the candidates have ever attended a posse meeting?*

Ask yourself to think about the MAN himself, someone

with a proven track record, having experienced law enforcement on the county level, such as having been a posse member, a night deputy sergeant (where the real action happens), a former county employee who knows procedures and questions what goes on in the office, a business owner, as well as an elected Town of Westcliffe official. Very importantly, a man who has proven to be able to handle any situation calmly, rationally, and with respect and professionalism to all individuals involved.

This person is someone with a diverse background. He was raised on a farm and familiar with an agricultural life-style. As an extremely detail-oriented businessman, he is mindful of working within the framework of a budget. This man has been a supervisor in many different situations including a Sergeant in the Custer County Sheriff's Office and having served as an elected Westcliffe town trustee, *trustee* being the operative word.

Credentials do not necessarily provide the whole

picture. Is this job really about what college they attended, if they are currently active at school, if they have lived here forever, been groomed by the current Sheriff, or if they haven't even lived here for two years yet are smitten with the area?

It should be about who can best perform the job with their life experiences, as well as having the personality, attitude, people skills, and the ability to handle any situation calmly. Our Sheriff should be someone who can converse with people from all walks of life. His employees should know they will be treated with respect, compassion, and professionalism.

Let's put cronyism aside. I have done my homework and encourage you to attend the events where the candidates speak. Ask them the difficult questions.

I endorse Steve Trombley, candidate for Custer County Sheriff, clearly the Best Man for the Job.

*Ray PóBlanó,
Rural Custer County*

***"Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God."***

John 14:1, NIV



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Ask a Pro: Does a Well add Value to My Property?

A good well always adds to the value of land. Will you recover the cost of drilling if you sell? Maybe!
If the well is a good producer and is of average depth for the area you might double the money invested in drilling. With a low yield well you might break even. A much deeper than average well that produces less than say 2GPM may cost you money. A dry hole will devalue the property as a whole.
When drilling a well consider all the uses you have; then try to anticipate the uses of the next owner. Whether or not the well you have drilled and the capacity of the pumping system installed is adequate for the house you built and the estimated requirements of your prospective buyer

will affect the resale potential. A lot of couples say "it's only going to be the two of us". Then they build a large up-scale four bedroom, four bath house. Add to that up-scale plumbing and cabinets, then they go cheap on the well and pump system??? Surely these folks didn't get wealthy making investments like that?
- Dave Nequette Lic.1043

Send Questions to Nequette@ris.net
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**EVIL TRIUMPHS WHEN
GOOD MEN DO NOTHING.**

~Thomas Jefferson

Local Mountain News & Notices

Community Elections

by Joe Cascarelli

This is an important local election year for the two towns and the county. In a representative form of government, we all must take care when we have a chance to select the policy makers who will make decisions on our behalf for the next two to four years. It pays to spend some time getting to know who we will entrust with the governing of the communities in the Wet Mountain Valley. How much do we know about the incumbents who are running for another term? What decisions have they made? Are their decisions reflective of the community needs and values? In the case of challengers and those running for open slots, we have no record, so how do we go about discovering what they will do if elected? It is important to meet each and ask them relevant questions. All these acts of due diligence should be accomplished before the caucus, March 4, 2014.

Here is a tip that I use to help me make the best choice. First, I get a copy of the elected official's job description. I read it carefully and then I make a list of skills, knowledge, traits and experience that one must possess in order for a candidate to succeed in that job. This is a worthwhile exercise even for incumbents. When this is completed, I make a list of question to ask candidates when I attend a "meet & greet" or see them on the street or in a local store. Give it a try; it really works.

The Town of Westcliffe has three open seats for four-year terms for trustee. Art Nordyke and John Johnston are incumbents running for reelection. Rod Thornburg and Paul Wenke will compete for the third open seat. The three top vote getters will win. Christy Veltrie, current mayor, will be running for a second four-year term as mayor. At this time, she is running unopposed. Candidates have until February 28 to secure the required ten signatures (15 are best) to be put on the ballot. Don't forget, this election is not a mail-in election, so be sure that you understand the rules. Town residents who have been a resident for 12 months as of April 1 and who are registered may cast a vote.

The Town of Silver Cliff's rules are similar to Westcliffe's rules and all residents should know what the new rules for 2014 are. Residents will not be able to vote by mail-in April 2014. Six of the seven Board of Trustee members are up for re-election. This unusual situation is the result of all six having been appointed. Marty Wolff, Mary Behrendt and Lela Cravens were all appointed in 2012 and all must run for a four-year term. Trustees Bob Hall, Richard Lowe, and Danny Smith were appointed in 2012 or 2013 and they, too, must stand for election. At this point, there are no challengers, but those interested must submit their petitions by February 28, 2014. Mayor Larry Weber still has two

more years on his four-year term.

The county has several races which will be decided in November 2014. Alan Butler (R), the incumbent County Commissioner, will be challenged by Jack Canterbury (R). Art Nordyke, incumbent coroner, will be challenged by Brad Baltzley, deputy coroner. Virginia Trujillo (R), CC Treasurer and Public Trustee, will run for reelection unchallenged. Also running unchallenged are Deb Livengood (D), CC Clerk, and J.D Heinrich (R), CC Assessor.

The race to fill the office of retiring Sheriff Fred Jobe has four, possibly five candidates. Former Deputy Steve Trombley, Cañon City police officer, Shannon Byerly, Undersheriff Anthony Supan, and Deputy Eric Thompson are all running for Custer County Sheriff. Recent drop-outs, Mike Vidmar and Jay Prinz were running, but have changed their minds. The status of candidate Tracy Hall is still unclear. He filed the paperwork, but as yet hasn't started a campaign. It looks like a busy campaign season for the community.

Prior to the November 4, 2014 county elections, there will be the caucus process on March 4, 2014, to select the candidates who will run in the fall. Naturally, candidates may forgo the caucus and get petitions signed that will allow them to get on the ballot. There is also a write-in option.



Eagles Summit Graduation

Eagles Summit hosted a Valentine's week program for Wounded Warrior couples last week, with Pastor Dave Roeve spending considerable time with the group. Friday's graduation ceremony was very special, with the couples renewing their wedding vows.

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

4-H Public Speaking Contest

Did you know that more people are afraid of public speaking than they are of death? Here in Custer County, the 4-H youth are proving they can overcome their fears and are getting ready to share their speaking skills. They will compete in the 2014 Custer County 4-H public speaking contest at 6 p.m. on March 6th at the courthouse. The youth will showcase their talent in the areas of prepared speech, interpretive reading, impromptu, and demonstrations. The public is invited to come and be entertained and inspired by the youth who tell their tales, show us how to do a project, interpret a favorite passage, and shoot from the hip on topics ranging from agriculture to fashion. For more information, please contact the CSU Extension office at 783-2514. Come support our 4-H kids!

TROMBLEY 2014

Steve Trombley has the experience and values that Custer County needs in its Sheriff.



Having worked as a Posse Member, Sheriff's Deputy, Business Man, and Westcliffe Town Trustee, he understands the demands of the job. He has worked with hundreds of citizens and visitors in our community, and has proven himself to be a hard-worker with a sense of urgency and fairness in solving problems and addressing people's concerns.

If you've had an opportunity to talk with Steve, you know him to be a calm and reasonable individual, with an understanding of the big picture and what's important in life. These inherent traits are critical to the individual who will lead our community and our Sheriff's Office.

Our world is changing quickly. We must elect a Sheriff who sees these changes for what they are, who has an understanding of right and wrong, relevant history and our Constitution. Steve has that understanding, and the honor and courage to stand up to those who don't.

"Serving the residents of Custer County is a top priority of mine. I will continue to do so, as I have in the past. As Sheriff, I will be part of the first line of defense against those who would abuse the public trust and pass laws that will diminish our inalienable rights."

I ask all citizens of Custer County to entrust me with their vote and work with me to make Custer County a great place to live and raise families. I will not let you down."

~ Steve Trombley

Feel free to contact Steve at 719-371-1423 to discuss your concerns and hear his ideas.

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I was summoned by my country, whose voice I can never hear but with veneration and love.

George Washington - First President of the United States

If Thomas Jefferson thought taxation without representation was bad, he should see how it is with representation.

~Rush Limbaugh

Local Mountain News & Notices

Homeschooling, a Choice in Colorado

by Candi Sage

Homeschooling is a choice in Colorado. This choice for education looks different depending on the student's age, curriculum offered, whether parent taught, conducted independently online or a combination of online with live instruction, and can also be conducted in a learning center with certified instructors for specific subjects outside the home and coinciding with or without on-line courses. Colorado has numerous opportunities for the family searching for a homeschool option.

Many families homeschool for various reasons including health, special education needs, location, personal belief, outside interests that require the student to travel frequently and others not listed. Colorado law has

recognized that parents have the primary right and obligation to choose the proper education and training for children under their care and supervision.

Finding out how to get started is not difficult for the serious parent who can easily search online and find the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) website specifically designating Home-Based Education outlined in statute C.R.S. 22-33-104.5. Parents will find out how to get started, find a resource link to homeschool organizations that help provide information on curricula, testing, support groups and networking.

The CDE website includes homeschool resources and online schools and districts offering online courses; <http://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/homeschool> and

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/resources>. Parents may also want to research www.homeschoolfacts.com and www.schoolchoiceforkids.org should consideration for the homeschool option be appropriate. Parents will also be able to locate homeschool colleges and homeschool friendly colleges at the school choice for kids website listed above.

Currently there are 27 countries around the globe indicating homeschool support groups and about 179 in Colorado. One of the largest nationally is the Homeschool Association for Military Families. Whatever the reason for not pursuing public education, there are many options available to the family seeking to homeschool that comply with the different learning styles, abilities, and interests of all students.



Building Trades Class

Thank goodness for some warmer weather as the work must go on!

Sentinel photo by Candi Sage



Community Helps After Devastating House Fire

Yvonne Cessnun and sons Daniel Brinkley and Michael Cessnun receive money and gifts from community donations after they experience a devastating house fire that left them homeless. Custer County School Student Council and members of the FFA conducted a benefit chili dinner that resulted in just pennies over a \$1,000 in donations.

Mrs. Cessnun is presented with the check by a few members of student council and FFA, a few gift cards from faculty members, and quilts for Michael and Daniel made by the Comfort Quilts quilting group. Daniel looks forward to new experiences and service with the Civil Air Patrol and brother Michael is looking forward to using his new quilt comforter.

Yvonne is looking forward to getting her family settled again and the family is now in the process of arranging time to look into living in a mobile home offered to them by an anonymous Florida man.

Sentinel photo by Candi Sage

A Message from Superintendent Selle

The legislative session for the Colorado legislature is in full swing. As in past years, many bills will be introduced that will impact how our schools operate. However, it is likely that the single most important education issue debated at the Capitol this year will be funding for PK-12 education. This issue is critical for the Custer County School District. I believe our school has been, and continues to be, in a financial crisis. Please be aware that we have and will maintain a balanced budget. Nonetheless, I consider our current financial condition to be a crisis because we do not have the resources necessary to provide the best education possible for our students.

For the 2013-2014 school year, the Custer County School District is operating with a \$3,600,000 budget. In the 2010-2011 school year, the Colorado legislature introduced a mechanism call the "negative factor" into school finance. The negative factor is, essentially, a method to redirect the revenues that were intended for schools through provisions in Amendment 23 that was passed by Colorado voters in 2000. The following list shows the amount of funding that was intended for our school district but was withheld by the state in the years since the negative factor was introduced.

2010-2011:	\$381,530;
2011-2012:	\$476,057;
2012-2013:	\$606,200;
2013-2014:	\$576,000;
2014-2015 (estimated):	\$550,000.

The cumulative amount of lost revenue for our district, if the estimates for 2014-2015 hold, will be \$2,589,787 over a five year period.

In order to manage our budget during this time we have taken several actions that have had a negative impact on how we meet the needs of our students. The following are a few examples of the actions we have taken to balance our budget. We have made no investments in capital needs. We have boilers that are 40 years old. We have not purchased a new school bus for six years. We have a bus fleet of

nine busses. Four of those busses have over 200,000 miles and another three have over 100,000 miles. Our elementary class sizes have increased by approximately 50% in the past few years. Increases in class size are directly correlated to decreases in student achievement. Our base salary is the lowest in our region and salary schedules have been frozen. In the two years I have been in the district, I have heard multiple teaching candidates tell me how much they loved our district, but simply could not afford to work here because of salary. In fact, we had one teaching candidate turn us down because she was able to make more money working at Bath and Bodyworks in the Pueblo Mall. We are fortunate to have a great staff of dedicated and focused professional educators. In order to retain the quality staff we have, as well as attract quality candidates when openings occur, our salaries must be more competitive.

Most frustrating, right now, is that funds are available, but no significant action by Colorado legislators has been proposed to appropriately fund PK-12 education. \$1.6 billion dollars are in the State Education Fund. This fund acts as a type of 'savings account' for education. Thus, the funds should not be used in one year, but there certainly are enough funds available to provide more resources for schools. Additionally, current projections show that an additional \$1.3 billion in revenue will be available for the State General Fund in 2014-2015. The current 2014-2015 budget proposal calls for a 5.6% increase in all other state funded entities, but only a 2.3% increase to PK-12 education. While many other agencies are necessary for Colorado to function appropriately, I find the difference in funding to be disheartening.

Some legislators seem to be willing to provide funding relief to school districts. However, this relief comes with many strings attached. Legislation has been introduced that includes increases in

funding, but it is only for the projects that those individual legislators would like to see implemented. In general, very little of this legislation truly help improve educational outcomes for children. Furthermore, when our school budgets were cut by the state, no guidance was given to local districts on how to balance their budgets. All districts made decisions they felt were appropriate for their districts. Now that potential exists for restored funding, we may not be given the same freedom and trust. This is wrong. The Custer County School District best knows how to use resources to meet the needs of students in our district, not our state legislators.

I have and will continue to engage in efforts to advocate for resources for our students with our legislators. My voice alone will not create the positive change needed for our students. So, I need your help. Should you wish to share your thoughts about the information in this article, I would encourage you to contact your state legislators to share your opinions about these issues. The state legislators for Custer County are Senator Larry Crowder and Representative Jim Wilson. Their contact information is as follows:

Senator Larry Crowder
Phone: 303-866-4875
Email: larry.crowder.senate@state.co.us

Representative Jim Wilson
Phone: 303-866-2747
Email: james.wilson.house@state.co.us

If you would like help in how to communicate to these individuals, I have sample letters that you are welcome to use. I also have lists of other legislators you may contact if you would like. Should you have any questions about how to contact legislators, or the information in this article, please feel free to contact me at chris.selle@ccbobcats.net or 719-783-4951.

Chris Selle
Custer County School District Superintendent

Bobcats Sport Schedule

BASKETBALL

Friday, February 21, 2014
3:00 p.m. - High School Basketball at Sargent

Saturday, February 22, 2014
2:00 p.m. - High School Basketball at Home v. Antonito

Tuesday, February 25 - March 1, 2014
TBA - Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys

WRESTLING

Thursday -Friday, February 20-22, 2014
State Championship at Pepsi Center

GO TEAMS!

GO BOBCATS!

GO, FIGHT, WIN!

Local Mountain News & Notices

Custer County Board of Education Meeting

by Candi Sage

At the monthly meeting February 11, teachers, Maegan Holycross and Jim Bistodeau attended to seek approval for student trips. Mrs. Holycross plans to take middle school students 6, 7, 8 graders to Washington, D.C., during spring break of 2015. She indicated money from the students needed for the trip can come from scholarships. Mr. Bistodeau added that in all the years he has taken students on this trip there have not been any issues. The students are expected to follow school rules while on the trip and they will be joined by chaperones.

Mr. Bistodeau seeks approval for taking the History Club to the Four corners, Mesa Verde, Black Canyon, and Montrose museum trip. It was confirmed that the school insurance covers the trip and he would take the district's fifteen passenger bus for the weekend. An unofficial consensus for approval of both trips was indicated by the board with an official vote and approval to follow at a later date.

Excellence in Education reported that they paid for 91 Got It Recovery online classes for the new students coming into the district already behind in learning and a few due to sickness which resulted in falling behind.

The Accountability Committee reported looking into using survey gizmo for the 2015-2016 school year, discussing the UIP (Unified Improvement Plan), Safe Schools Policy, and possibly a community outreach centered around Cinco de Mayo.

The Board approved Mark Pedigo as a volunteer assistant football coach, and Betsy Banks as a substitute teacher. The Technology

Plan was reviewed and tabled until the March board meeting while some revisions can be made.

Elementary Principal Holly Anderson reported on the upcoming TCAP assessments beginning with third grade and starting on February 24th. Reading will be their first assessment with Writing and Math to follow. She reported all students in grades 3-10 will be taking a total of 9 assessments, resulting in three one-hour sessions for each area (Reading, Writing, Math). Additional assessments will also be given to select grades in Science and Social Studies.

Mrs. Anderson also reported on the growth students are making within the new Writing program. Five students from third grade read their writing to the board; three writing informational pieces where the board learned about bats, bees and Pennsylvania. The remaining two students wrote opinion pieces; one in favor of no recess and the second in favor of comfy chairs in the classroom.

Secondary Principal Barb Jones reported on the SERT (Student Emergency Response Training) classes held during Freshmen Health culminating on March 5 and 6 where they will be part of a 2-hour long exercise part of their mock training. The High School psychology class will be visited by a CBI (Colorado Bureau of Investigation) investigator demonstrating a lie detector machine. She also reported a mock interview team has been set up for Boettcher and Daniels scholarship finalists Rebecca Tillotson and Brian O'Connor to help them prepare for their official scholarship interviews.

Mrs. Jones also stated that her primary focus is on ac-

ademics first and athletics second, yet acknowledged that students who excel in athletics can excel in academics. She congratulated the Middle School girls and boys basketball teams for being league champions. Mrs. Jones also shared the FFA schedule and that the FFA students will be at the Westcliffe Market on Saturday bagging groceries.

Superintendent Chris Selle reported the student count remaining close to the October official count, now at 410 students. With regard to finance, Mr. Selle reported the state currently has \$1.6 billion in the State Education Fund and those funds may be restored to districts, but with 'strings attached' for the districts to spend as the state directs. Mr. Selle suggests legislators should hear from constituents and shared a letter now being sent to the governor, senators, house representatives and select chairpersons from Colorado superintendents indicating the impacts to students as a result of the state cutting funds from education.

Mrs. Davis expressed concern that the new Common Core tests will share private information with the federal government that should not be shared and suggested Custer County look into aligning with Michigan state superintendents and others to oppose the mandatory sharing the student's information.

Mr. Selle also shared the Colorado Department of Education timeline for implementation of graduation requirements for students graduating 2020-2021 and the UIP process and information. Samples and the school view can be found on the following link: <https://cedar2.cde.state.co.us/documents/UIP201200860-0000.pdf>

Teacher Feature Sarah Thompson



Where were you raised?
Harleysville, PA

Education:
Bachelor of Music Education K-12, choral focus

Hobbies:
Riding horses, singing,

playing instruments, trying new things, adventuring with my dog

Personal Info:
I have a dog named, Oscar.

Currently teaching - Grade Level or Content Area:
K-5 General Music, 7-8th Grade Choir, HS Multi-media

Why did you choose to work in Custer County?
Growing up on the East Coast, I'd never seen mountains like the Sangres before coming here in May. They're beautiful!

And I loved that I had access to them and to horses at any time. CO is a new adventure for me.

What is your greatest motivation to be a teacher?

My greatest motivation is to be with students and share with them my love of life and music.

What is the most important 'take away' you hope for your students at the end of the year?

I hope my students recognize that you don't have to be a "music nerd" in order to enjoy and benefit from being involved in music. I also hope they leave knowing that I am not just hear to teach, but to invest and be a part of their lives as well.



Bobcat Menu • Feb. 24 - Feb. 27, 2014

Monday breakfast
French Toast Sticks,
Sausage Links
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Beef Soft Tacos
Mexican Rice
Choice of Veg. and Fruit
Milk

Tuesday breakfast
Scrambled Eggs, W.W. Toast
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Lasagna w/ Meat Sauce
Garlic Rolls
Choice of Veg. and Fruit
Milk

Wednesday breakfast
Cheese Quesadillas
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Pig 'n' A Blanket
Choice of Vegetable
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Thursday breakfast
Sausage Gravy, Biscuits
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Toasted Cheese Sandwich
Tomato Soup
Choice of Veg & Fruit
Milk

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

KIDS

Friday, February 21, 2014

United States Bill of Rights

The first ten amendments to the United States Constitution are known altogether as the Bill of Rights. They were ratified on December 15, 1791. These rights are important to every citizen of the United States of America.

Amendment IV.*

Created	September 25, 1789
Ratified*	December 15, 1791
Location	National Archives
Author(s)	James Madison

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

What government activities constitute "search and seizure?" What are the exceptions acceptable in a court of law? What is probable cause for these actions?

information source: en.wikipedia.org

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

Corner



Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

For Sale

Local grass-fed beef on the hoof. 400 pounds of grass-fed ground beef. \$6.00 per pound, 2-pound packages. 783-0313

GUNS, AMMO, and Gunsmithing
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Sangres Best Grass-Finished Beef. Call 719.783.2222 to order!
www.sangresbest.com,
www.musicmeadows.com

Help Wanted

In-home elderly care needed 4 days a week, days and nights. Cooking, light cleaning and general assistance needed. 783-9174 or 269-7882

NOTICE
FOR GRAVEL BIDS
Custer County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Colorado (CC) is re-

questing sealed bids for the on-site crushing of a minimum of 80,000 tons of 1 inches minus aggregate base course. Operators will need to mobilize to the South Pit M-95-026 located on Rosita Road, C.R. approximately 2 miles east of Highway 69 near Westcliffe, CO. The bid is to include mobilization, crushing, demobilization and stockpiling of material outlined in terms of price per ton based on the minimum gross tonnage above. The successful bidder must review and agree to meet CC basic safety policies and procedures as well as comply with Mine Safety & Health Administration (MSHA) Regulations 30 part 46. The awarded bid is subject to contractual obligations to be negotiated after acceptance. The receipt of safety policies, bid forms and a site walk-through may be arranged by contacting CC Road and Bridge, 413 N. 4th Street, PO Box 1669 Westcliffe, CO. 81252, phone 719-783-2281 or at

rboffice@centurytel.net. Monday-Friday 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Sealed bids clearly marked "Crushing Bid" will be accepted at the CC Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) office, 205 S. 6th Street, PO Box 150, Westcliffe, CO. 81252 until 4:00 PM on February 27, 2014. The bids will be opened at the BOCC meeting on February 28, 2014. The BOCC reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

The Town of Westcliffe is looking for a part-time Deputy Clerk. Will share responsibility for official administrative duties on behalf of the Town of Westcliffe, covers the front office and responds when the Town Clerk is unavailable.

This position requires administrative skills; excellent customer service, organizational, computer skills (Excel, Word and Quickbooks); must be detail oriented; reliable; work independently; High School Diploma and at least 2

years of related office or clerical experience.

A good sense of humor and an ability to be a team player are desired, as well as experience and knowledge of the community. Non-smoking office, the Town of Westcliffe is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is a municipality, so employees need to recognize this government entity is required to provide services to all citizens of the Town of Westcliffe.

Sixteen to Twenty-four hours /week must be available to occasionally work 40 hours a week when the Town Clerk is unavailable Minimum starting hourly wage is \$10.00. No benefits.

Please pick up a full job description at the Westcliffe Town Hall, 305 Main Street, Westcliffe, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m Resumes and a cover letter are due 4 p.m. on March 12, 2014. All resumes will be kept confidential.

Real Estate

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

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Services

COMPUTER HELP
New technology, Facebook, cell phones, setup problems, or general questions. CCHS student. Reasonable. Kaylan (719) 371-4701

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Detail oriented. One time or continuous. Schedule

filling. Kristi Sandeen with Elite Home Service (719) 783-0219

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

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

Painting by Jerry
Professional interior painting, drywall repair, tile install, honey-do lists, handyman. Contact Jerry at 783-9288 or paintingbyJerry@hotmail.com

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

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

Call (719) 783-3360 to place your ad

SIX-PACK From page 1

and only a week later lost Titus Crawford. Crawford missed the home tournament, then was only back for one week before his season came to an end. Rose was back in action only to be on the benches a couple weeks later when a non-wrestling accident resulted in stitches in his leg. Tyler Watson found himself sitting out the last tournament before Regionals in hopes of regaining strength after an arm strain. Weldon Rusher was forced to watch from the stands at Center, then take injury defaults in two matches at other tournaments when a wrist injury just wouldn't hold up against the pressure of the moves.

In this tournament, Watson's fall against Del Norte still had him ending the day in 4th place, while Aldrich's 4:26 fall over John Mall gave him 3rd place. Senior Manny Pedigo, who has seen Regional action all four years as a Bobcat, took 3rd place, sending him to State for the second consecutive year.

Head Coach Ham believes in his team, and although he would love to see all of

the team compete at State, as would any coach, he is pleased to be going even with only three qualifiers. No doubt he has put them through some tough final preparations this week.

The three State qualifiers head to Denver today to begin competition this afternoon. One hundred

tournament promises the best of the best competition, and the three 'Cats, assisted by their teammates, have done everything they can this week to ready themselves for leaving it all on the mats.

Next week you can find the State tournament recap and results here. Those interest-



Aldrich glances for a quick coaching word.

Sentinel photo by Michelle Pedigo



Pedigo gets wrist control and ties up his opponent.

Sentinel photo by Michelle Pedigo

thirty-two pounder Watson goes as the 16th seed, while 160-pounder Aldrich is 10th seed, and 182-pounder Pedigo is 11th seed. State

ed can follow all the action online at www.trackwrestling.com, or find it live at http://www.nfhsnetwork.com.

Westcliffe Welcomes A New Business

by Carol Clemenson

Westcliffe welcomes the new Westcliffe Home & Ranch, real estate office. "When you come to one of the most beautiful places on earth, the Wet Mountain Valley, we want you to feel you are coming home." Diane Rose, Bruce Lind, and Lucy Cox have teamed up to offer more than sixty years of combined real estate experience, along with outdoor enthusiasm and community involvement to set visitors at ease, finding their perfect place in the Southern Colorado mountains.

The new office is located at 106 South Second Street in Westcliffe with a website at



Diane Rose, Bruce Lind, and Lucy Cox

Sentinel photo by Carol Clemenson

www.WestcliffeCO.com, and phone 719-783-3343. Their goal is, "Exceeding

our Customer's Expectations." We wish them much success!

CLINIC From page 1

form a new clinic district or determine where to fit in the current clinic operations. "We haven't even discussed that and you quit doing 24-7 emergency care a lot longer ago, but you didn't go tell the taxpayers that you weren't going to do it anymore. They thought they were still funding it with their tax money and

they didn't know it stopped happening," said Kit Shy.

Meanwhile the discussions are slated to continue between the Fire District and the EMS personnel regarding forming a relationship between the two and how such an arrangement would be funded. It was revealed by Hospital District appointed EMS director Ellie Czarnota that they no longer have the ability to respond to second

calls. If one ambulance is dispatched and another call comes in, it can't be answered. As a number of the EMS personnel have had to quit due to the current arrangement, the staff are covering increasingly longer shifts and facing the danger of burnout. "I'm just getting off a 36-hour shift and I don't even know when the last time was I had a day off," according to EMS Director Czarnota.

A penny saved... is a penny taxed.

~Anonymous

Local Mountain News & Notices

Events Calendar

Friday, February 21, 2014 All day: Adams State Honor Choir at Adams State College 7:30 p.m. The Jones Theater: play: “Steel Magnolias”	Saturday, March 1, 2014 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.- Conservation District Water Forum in school multi-purpose room
Saturday, February 22, 2014 All day: Adams State Honor Choir at Adams State College All day: Middle School Knowledge Bowl Optimist Brain Bowl at Denver 7:30 p.m. - The Jones Theater: play: “Steel Magnolias”	Monday, March 3, 2014 9 a.m. - BOCC Meeting in Boardroom 4:15 - 5:45 p.m. - Accountability Committee Meeting for Custer County School District C-1 in library
Sunday, February 23, 2014 2 p.m. - The Jones Theater: play: “Steel Magnolias”	Tuesday, March 4, 2014 9 a.m. - BOCC Meeting in Boardroom
Friday, February 28, 2014 9 a.m. - BOCC Meeting in Boardroom	Thursday, March 6, 2014 10 a.m. - Airport Authority Board Meeting
	Friday, March 7, 2014 Jones Theater: No shows for month of March

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 Chuch of Westcliffe.	Friday and Saturday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.: Share Center adjacent to Hope Lutheran Church in Westcliffe open.
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.: Jammin’ band at Mining Company restaurant in Silver Cliff.	Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Library in downtown Westcliffe open. 10:30 a.m.: Story time for kids at the library.

Update from the Custer County Tourism Board

The Custer County Tourism Board met this past Wednesday, February 5th, to select officers for the 2014 year and attend to business at hand.

The Board of County Commissioners re-appointed Bob Weisenbach for a three-year-term and also appointed Brian Clince to the board, filling the appointment vacated by John Mitchell.

Officers for the 2014 term are: Chair – Bob Weisenbach; Vice-Chair Chris Tabb; Treasurer – Cindy Howard; and Secretary - Brian Clince. Rounding out the five-person board is County Commissioner Lynn Attebery, who plans to make sure the CCTB stays in compliance with all county and state requirement, including annual audits, as well as any other county and statutory requirements the Custer County Tourism Board is required to adhere to.

For the first time since its inception, the CCTB also

has four seated ex-officio members, including; Renee Smith, Marlys Hartbauer, Richard Posadas, and Mike Stewart.

The tourism board reviewed its 2014 OSVG ad with collaborative tourism partners from Huerfano County and Trinidad. The full page ad appears on page 45 of Colorado Official State Vacation Guide and features a photograph generously donated for the project by Curt Gillespie, president of the Sangre’s Art Guild. The ad appears next to the editorial content Colorado Arts Sampler. In addition to the VistiSouthernColorado.com collaboration, The OSVG lists, in the South Central Visitors Directory, both Silver Cliff and Westcliffe, on pages 56A and 57A respectively; including both the Association/Chambers of Cliffs Commercial District and the Custer County Chamber of Commerce. Page 17A features a spread on 2014 Colorado Events and Festivals, with Westcliffe

rounding out the May events listing with a Brew with a View on May 31st.

In addition to the online version of the state vacation guide and Colorado.com, 550,000 annual printed copies are distributed and more notably, of those, 400,000 are mailed to visitors prior to their arrival, at their direct request. Collaboration with Huerfano County and Trinidad allows our local county board to apply for grant funding, gain better placement in the guide and also promote VistiSouthernColorado.com. Direct leads received by Custer County are then mailed the printed Discover Custer County fulfillment piece.

The Custer County Tourism Board has also been requested to make a presentation of its endeavors to the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber event is scheduled for Tuesday February 25th at 5:30 p.m. in the Library’s Resource room.

Come and Worship

Christian Science 9:30 a.m. Worship 8 Bassick Place Westcliffe	First Baptist Church of Westcliffe 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:45 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship 417 S. 6th Street Westcliffe 719/783-2498	Sangre de Cristo Mennonite Church 10 a.m. Worship 120 Jerry Drive Westcliffe 719/783-0903
Church of Christ 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 5 p.m. Worship 810 Ohio Street Silver Cliff 719/783-4601	High Country Mennonite Church 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Sunday School 110 Rosita Avenue All Aboard Westcliffe Bldg. Westcliffe 719/783-9045	Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel 10 a.m. Worship 6160 County Rd. 130 Westcliffe 719/783-2447
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg. 12:10 p.m. Sunday School 240 Ridgeline Drive Westcliffe 719/783-9356 719/404-4585	Hope Lutheran Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship 3rd & Powell Streets Westcliffe 719/783-9773	St. Luke’s Episcopal Church 10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Ffellowship 3rd & Rosita Streets Westcliffe 719/783-2477
Community United Methodist Church 8 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Worship 202 S. 6th Street Westcliffe 719/783-2511	St. Patrick’s Anglican Church 11 a.m. Worship 401 2nd Street Westcliffe 719/783-2500	Valley Bible Fellowship 10 a.m. Worship 116 Hermit Lane Silver Cliff 719/783-9050
Cody Park Community Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 517 County Rd. 27A Cotopaxi 719/942-3462 719/942-3526	Oak Creek Grade General Store 6 p.m. Worship Followed by potluck 12 miles north on Cty. Rd. 255 719/783-2245	Westcliffe Community Church 10 a.m. Worship 103 N. Adams St. Westcliffe 719/429-4256
Cotopaxi Community Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship 20326 Hwy. 50 Cotopaxi 719/942-4185	Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo 11 a.m. Sunday Mass 10 a.m. Tuesday Mass 109 S. 5th Street Westcliffe 719/783-3507	Wetmore Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 1045 a.m. Worship 6 p.m. Worship Wetmore 719/784-4197
	Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church 11 a.m. Mass 3rd Sunday of each month 210 S. 2nd Street Westcliffe 719/783-2491	Wetmore Community Church Tues., Dec. 24 – 5:30 p.m. Candlelight Service Cty. Rd. 395 Wetmore 719/784-0596
		Wild West Cowboy Church Tues., Dec. 24 - 6:00 p.m. 60260 Hwy. 69 North Westcliffe 719/783-2676

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

Lateries

Alpine Lodge 6848 Cty. Rd. 140•Westcliffe 719/783-2660 Thurs. - Sun. 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Sun. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Reservations recommended	Mining Company Restaurant 60 Main St. • Westcliffe 719/783-9144 Daily 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tues. 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Silver Cliff Mountain Inn 700 Ohio Street • Silver Cliff 719/783-2688 Wed. - Sat. 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sun. - Tues. 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Candy's Coffee 106 S. 2nd St. •Westcliffe 719/783-9516 Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Oak Creek Grade General Store 12 miles north on Cty. Rd. 255 719/783-2245 Thurs. - Sat. 6 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Silver Cliff Pizza Company upstairs in the Silver Dome Saloon 110 Main St. •Silver Cliff 719/783-9499 Call for hours
Chappy's Mountain View Bar & Grill 213 Main St. • Westcliffe 719/783-0813 Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sundays 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	R's Pizza 630 Main St. •Silver Cliff 719/783-9300 Wed. - Sat. Noon - 8 p.m.	SomeWhere Saloon 215 Main St. • Westcliffe 719/783-4900 Monday-Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. - Midnight
Have a Nice Day Cafe 104 Main St. • Westcliffe 719/783-2313 Mon., Tues, Fri., & Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Grill closes at 2 p.m.	Rancher's Roost at Cliff Lanes 25 Main St. •Westcliffe 719/783-2147 Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sat. 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.	St. Andrews Golf Course Cafe 801 Copper Gulch Rd. •Westcliffe 719/783-9410 Closed for Winter
Hunger Buster 824 Main St. • Westcliffe 719/783-9228 Call for hours	Sangrita 212 Main • Westcliffe 719/783-4054 Reservations recommended Thurs. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun., 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday Brunch 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Subway inside JR's Fuel Stop 425 S. 6th St. • Westcliffe 719/783-2748 Mon.-Sat. 6:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Sun. 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Letter Drop Inn 6654 Cty. Rd. 328 • Rosita 719/783-9430 Closed for Winter	Schlabachs Marketplace & Deli 120 N. 3rd St. •Westcliffe 719/783-9010 Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wed. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Sugar & Spice Mtn. Bakery 411 Main St. B • Westcliffe 719/783-4045 Mon. - Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
The Lodge at San Isabel 59 Cty. Rd. 371 •San Isabel 719/489-2280 Open May 1 - Oct. 15 Wed. - Mon. 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Mavericks 404 Main St. • Silver Cliff 719/783-3333 Mon. - Thurs., Noon - 8 p.m. Fri. & Sat., Noon - 9 p.m. Sun. - Bronco game hours	Westcliffe Wine Mine 109 N. 3rd St. • Westcliffe 719/783-2490 Fri. - Sat., 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.
		Wetmore General Store & Steakhouse 758 Cty. Rd. 395 •Wetmore 719/784-6149 Fri. - Sat. 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Our Local Churches

This is the third in a series on our local churches.

Cotopaxi Community Church



The Cotopaxi Community Church is located at 20326 Highway 50 in Cotopaxi. Pastor Bill Korf along with Associate Pastor Bill Cosson minister to approximately 100 members. This is an independent church run by a board of eight members.

Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Communion services are held the first Sunday of each month. Bible study is held each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. There is also a mens Bible study each Tuesday at 6 a.m. and Friday at 6:30 a.m. with the ladies Bible study each Tuesday morning at 10 a.m.



The mission of the church is to know Christ and make Him known. Their eight core values are faith, prayer, worship, inreach, outreach, giftedness, change, and excellence. Their focus is the sanctity of life and of marriage. The Cotopaxi Community Church supports 19 missionaries all over the world. They also have mission trips by members to the surrounding areas and also in other states helping those in need.

The church will celebrate its 90th birthday in September. The bell that is rung each Sunday morning is from the last steam locomotive to come through Cotopaxi. In the summer you will find a Farmer's Market in their parking lot each Friday morning.

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4:13-14 NIV



Custer County Church of Christ

The Custer County Church of Christ is located at 810 Ohio Street in Silver Cliff. Gary Colvin has been the minister of the Church of Christ for the past eleven years serving a membership of approximately 30. He is a retired professor of theology.

Sunday worship services are at 10:30 a.m. and at 5:30 p.m. Bible Study is held each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. This is a non-denominational church practicing Biblical Christianity with the Bible as the final authority. The Lord's Supper is served every Sunday.

The church building which was completed in 2002 was built and completely paid for by the members.



Sangre de Cristo Mennonite Church



A special children's church on Sunday mornings helps the children connect to God in their lives. For those with no transportation to come to worship on Sunday morning, a program is in place to pick up adults and children. For more information contact the church.

The ladies Bible Study meets every other Thursday at 7 p.m. On alternating Thursdays they help out at Care and Share. The mens Group meets the first and third Saturday mornings at 7 a.m. There is a Tuesday evening prayer group from 7-9 p.m. with the last half hour focusing on group prayer.

Twice a year they have "Love Your Neighbor Sunday" when services are canceled and the congregation helps people in the area in need whether it be for construction help, cleaning a house, or other needs.

The goal of the Sangre de Cristo Mennonite Church is to see each other grow in their relationship to God and to each other and to reach out and help people. They welcome the community to come and join them for worship.



The Sangre de Cristo Mennonite Church is located at 120 Jerry Drive in Westcliffe. Dave Schlabach has been the pastor to approximately 100 adults and children since 1997. Worship services are Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Their mission statement is love God, each other, and the lost. Their vision is anyone who commits themselves to this church will go from being served to being a servant.

Community United Methodist Church



The Community United Methodist Church is located at 202 S. 6th Street in Westcliffe. Deborah Christine has been pastor for the past two and a half years. The congregation celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Community United Methodist Church on August 25, 2013. They are part of the United Methodist Church, Rocky Mountain Conference, Sunshine District.

Sunday morning services with an attendance of approximately 10 people are at 8 a.m. with communion every Sunday. Sunday services are also at 10 a.m. with an average attendance of 60 to 70 with communion the first Sunday of the month. An Adult Forum is held at 9 a.m. This is a group sharing their spiritual journey through various texts. There are also Pastor's classes currently studying the Book of Romans.



Community United Methodist Church is in the process of church-wide visioning and long range planning. They have a new mission statement by their Tiqwah Committee (Hebrew for vision). This is "planting and cultivating God's peace" by being a force in the church, the community, the country, and the world, and to discover the greatest good that can be done in these places.

Photo Feature by Barbara Napolitan

Effects of Marijuana #2

by Candi Sage

Sadly, the command-er-in-chief has grossly underestimated the damage of the effects of marijuana when making his comments with David Rem-nick, nor has he done his ‘homework’ on the effects of marijuana that the gov-ernment under his leader-ship and control publishes. He said he “didn’t think it more dangerous than alco-hol”.

As in my first article, Well Documented Effects of Marijuana #1, today’s mar-ijuana does wreak havoc on a person’s brain and body and yet has been reported to help with some reduc-tion of symptoms in per-sons with various cancer treatments and a few other health concerns.

It has been long and well-documented that the amount of THC (and other addictive drugs added to marijuana) has increased since the command-er-in-chief was “a kid”. ‘Getting high’ then (60’s and 70’s) and ‘getting high’ now looks different and has a higher effect on not only the person ingesting it, but all who are around the per-son who has gotten ‘high’ on the drugs in the marijua-na plant.

No doubt this president is also unaware of the number of fatalities. In Colorado alone, the fatalities involv-ing drivers with positive cannabis shows in 2006 the number was 27 and in 5 years it more than doubled to 58, thus increasing the percentage of total fatali-ties from cannabis use also

more than doubling, from 5% in 2006 to 13% in 2011 as reported by the Colora-do Department of Trans- portation Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2006-2011 and included in the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) Legal- ization of Marijuana in Colorado, The Impact, A Preliminary Report , Vol- ume 1, Published in August 2013. No doubt national fatalities would be all the more troubling.

This ‘effect’ of marijuana use expands to a broad- er group that includes not only those on the road; in front of, next to or behind the marijuana user, but in- cludes the ‘innocent’ under his roof, in his car or at his

See EFFECTS on page 19

Court Report...

David William Collins, age 52 of Westcliffe, was charged with one count of speeding 10-19 MPH over the limit. Plead guilty and was fined \$163.

Louis Delmer Howdshell, age 47 of Silver Cliff, was charged with driving under restraint. Motion to dismiss was granted.

Christopher J. Brown, age 30 of Westcliffe, was charged with a traffic infraction. Plead guilty and was fined \$143.50. Other condition of sentence, restitution, remains open for 90 days.

Michelle Marie Welch, age 24 of Silver Cliff, was charged with one count of criminal mischief and third degree assault. Motion to dismiss criminal mischief granted. Plead guilty to harassment. Credit for three days in jail. Twelve months of supervised probation with 48 hours of community service. Additional probation conditions: in/ out patient treatment, domes- tic violence treatment classes, abstain from drugs, alcohol, marijuana, and random drug screening.

Forest Spitzfaden, age 19 of Westcliffe, and Michael Allen Robeda, age 21 of Pueblo, were charged with one count of reckless driving, engaging in a speed contest and driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Both cases are being transferred to District Court.

James Andrew Bowman, age 32 of Westcliffe, was charged with one count of third degree assault. Plead guilty and was fined \$1,482.50. Probation reinstated. Mandatory re- straining order was entered. Sixty days in jail with twenty-two days credited. Work release. Two years super- vised probation, forty hours of community service, domes- tic violence classes. Phone or written contact only with children.

Daniel Raymond Winans, age 49 of Westcliffe, was charged with one count of harassment (strike/kick/shove). Plead guilty and was fined \$831.50. Must complete community service and domestic violence classes. No alcohol, drugs or marijuana. Order of protec- tion remains.

Desiree Marceau, age 50 of Westcliffe, was charged with check fraud (insufficient funds). Case continued to March 13. Restitution amount is \$998.50. DA moved to dis- miss due to case is civil, not criminal.

Ashley Lynn Watson, age 27 of Westcliffe, was charged with Driving Under the In- fluence and driving without a drivers license. Plead guilty to DUI. Second charge dis- missed by DA. Credit for two days in jail. Eighteen months of probation. Forty-eight hours of community service. Restitution is \$45.50.

Kelly Loran Stapleton Jr., age 18 of Westcliffe, was charged with speeding one to four miles per hour over the speed limit. Plead guilty. Driving under restraint was dismissed. Fine was \$99.50.

Harvey R. Hufford, age 65 of Westcliffe, was charged with hunting/fishing with false information on his li- cense and was also charged with hunting big game (mule deer) without a license. Plead guilty to both counts and was fined \$1956.50.

U.S. Senate Candidate Forum Slated for March 1 in Cañon City

A U.S. Senate Candidates Forum will be held on Saturday, March 1st, at Mountain View Core Knowledge School gymnasium, 890 Field Avenue in Cañon City, 1:00 p.m.

Invited participants include: Ken Buck, Owen Hill, Randy Baumgardner, Amy Stephens, Jaime McMillan, Mark Aspiri and Floyd Trujillo

This regional event, co-sponsored by the Royal Gorge Tea Party and the Royal Gorge Republican Women, will give voters an opportunity to hear and ask questions of the Republican candidates running for election to represent Colorado constituents in the U.S. Senate. All Colorado residents in Fremont and surrounding counties are invited and encouraged to attend.

For more information please contact: Ed Whitcraft or Timme Pearson Royal Gorge Tea Party Royal Gorge Republican Women 719-275-0987 719-371-5314

Sheriff's Report...

Currently 7 men in jail.

February 16 A 14-year-old, male juvenile was charged with burglary, theft, and tres- passing. He will be charged in juvenile court. The male juvenile allegedly entered an apartment in the 300 block of Main Street in Westcliffe. He will appear in juvenile court at a later date.

February 14 Michael Bay- less, age 50, of Penrose, Colorado, formerly of Silver Cliff, was arrested in Silver Cliff for disorderly conduct and obstructing a peace offi- cer in the 400 block of South Street. He was booked into the Custer County jail and later posted \$1,000 bond. Bayless will appear in the Custer County Court at a lat- er date.

February 12 At 10:48 a.m. Arly Garrison, age 53, of

Wetmore was driving a 2013 John Deere front-end loader owned by the Colorado De- partment of Transportation and headed eastbound plow- ing snow when the front-end loader was hit by a 1998 Honda driven by Nathaniel McKenney, age 77, or ru- ral Westcliffe. This accident occurred at the intersection of Highway 96 and DeWalt Street in Silver Cliff when the front-end loader was at- tempting a left-hand turn and the Honda attempted to pass when it was struck. There was medium damage sus- tained to the Honda while no damage to the front-end load- er. The accident was investi- gated by the Colorado State Patrol. Mr. McKenney was cited as being at fault.

February 13 Ericka Davis, age 27, of Silver Cliff was charged with harassment in

the 700 block of South Street in Silver Cliff. She will ap- pear in Custer County Court on April 10.

February 12 A 17-year-old male juvenile was charged with using marijuana at Custer County school. He was taken home from school and will appear in juvenile court at a later date.

February 6 Marcus Patton, age 24, of Westcliffe was charged with harassment stemming from an incident which allegedly occurred on Lea Lane in Westcliffe. He will appear in Custer County Court on April 10.

Ambulance and Fire Calls

February 11 - 16 There were five ambulance calls and one fire call. The fire call was in response to the front-end loader accident as reported.

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Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

State Legislators' Town Hall Dominated by Common Core

by: Candace Thompson

Candidates Senator Kevin Grantham, 2nd District, Representative Jim Wilson, District 60, and Clarice Navarro-Ratzlaff, District 47 were the honored speakers for the State Legislators' Town Hall held at Republican Headquarters in Cañon City on February 15th.

The first question was posed by Barb Penezic who asked about opting out of Common Core, an option that Dr. Gooldy has said was not possible for RE-1. This sparked a discussion about education that lasted for the entire hour. Senator Grantham and Representative Jim Wilson both agreed that opting out is possible. Wilson, a former educator, said the key has to do with the Common Core Standards. Districts may opt out if they can meet or exceed the standards. He further stated that PARC assessment tests should not be a problem for communities like ours, the materials are geared for larger areas.

Anita Stapleton, Common Core activist, says that monies accepted when the District opted into Common Core does not have to be repaid if they choose to opt out. Representative Wilson said he would write a check back and say, "I don't want your money. I don't want that. We'll do just fine, thank you very much." He continued saying, "There is

a problem I can't quite put my finger on, something is missing in education and I don't know what it is." Somehow we have gone from viewing teachers as the greatest people in the world to the worst. Life is no longer important nor the family. We must return to these core values. Representative Wilson also reminded us that we must stand up for our values, say out loud we are Christians and while we will respect and be tolerant of other views that does not mean we will forsake our own moral compass or our Christian values.

Attendees were concerned about the content of many of the books that might be read by our students. When Barb Penezic gave Senator Grantham a copy of excerpts from The Blue-Eyed Boy, the Senator immediately turned it face down on the table in front of him. Senator Grantham spoke of the hearing he attended in which he had to listen to a reading from the book which he described as "absolutely vile, graphic descriptions of pornography." Roxanne Hollabaugh



Colorado Representative Jim Wilson and Senator Kevin Grantham.

Sentinel Photo by John Penezic Jr.

questioned the speakers about the Federal influence of Common Core and the very upsetting issue of data mining. Representative Navarro-Ratzlaff said the Otero County schools are doing Common Core and they do not seem to have any problems, but there is opposition in Pueblo County. The issue of government involvement and data mining are still being strongly opposed. The suggestion that we get rid of the Department of Education was met with a loud round of applause.

The meeting ended with Representative Jim Wilson saying, "We are in a sick society, the problems in our schools are a reflection of that sickness and we have let it happen." We have to continue in a positive direction being sure that we have good, solid people on the board and in leadership positions.

Paying for the Vision

by Edward Whitcraft,
Royal Gorge Tea Party

Listening to the news recently I heard that the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) stated that by 2017 there would be 2 million more people unemployed than there are today. Then by 2020, 2.5 million would be unemployed. This, of course, will be caused by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). With that many more unemployed, I'm wondering who is going to be working and paying taxes so all these government programs and "pie-in-the-sky" projects can continue.

Cañon City Council's Vision for the Future dated January 31, 2013, is quite impressive with all the right Agenda 21 buzz words. Four things caught my eye in Part A: #5 stated, "Provide appropriate, efficient and flexible regulations and processes". #8 reads in part, "Engage our community's citizens

and organizations...." #11 reads "Consider using debt financing and innovative ways to generate additional revenues...." and finally #12 towards the end of the sentence "...and to improve the City's borrowing capacity". Sounds to me like more government intervention and money spending at the local level for our little community. Then in Part B. Agenda 21 really comes on strong. #3 reads, "Establish an active and progressive economic development and efficiency and sustainability plan that: a) improves residents overall quality of life, b) advance a positive perception of community, c) promotes local job growth, d) more effectively promotes Cañon City as a tourist destination), increases the Cañon City's property and sales tax base (without increasing tax rates)...." It goes on but you get the picture. Cañon City Government wants to absolutely get bigger and control more of our lives.

Why is government telling me what my quality of life should be?

The "Vision" calls for getting community organizations and tourist-dependent businesses to establish an organization with the responsibility to bring more tourists to our area. What's wrong with business that would hire skilled workers and increase our tax base? The intersection of 5th and Main is a part of this vision as is the banner over US 50, better known as Royal Gorge Blvd. Also the Library and the loss of the street between the Library and Art Museum. The city wants to extend the river walk into more areas and to build the hog back area into an additional recreation area. This plan goes on and on. The more I reviewed it the sicker I became as it just kept saying more government intervention and

See VISION
on page 15

Commissioner Bell Speaks at RGTP in Cañon City

by: Barbara Penezic

Commissioner Bell greeted the listeners at a recent meeting of the Royal Gorge Tea Party by showing her own personal "Concealed Carry Permit," an action that was met with visible approval. "I believe in the Second Amendment," she then stated to thunderous applause. To her credit, Ms. Bell, had read her audience well and was on solid footing. The Commissioner then addressed several issues including the purchase of Garden Park High School by the county, marijuana, Agenda 21, zoning and building codes.



Commissioner Bell

courtesy photo

Ms. Bell said that acquiring Garden Park High School had been a difficult decision and she had relied on God to guide her in that choice. The sell would also be a god-send to the Cañon City School District. The loss of the tax levies have left them looking for ways to repair leaky roofs and meet other financial needs. Debbie pointed out that the county was in dire need of extra space. The building could eventually be home to a new regional dispatch center and provide the space badly needed by the County Health Department. Privacy issues are not easily managed in the tight quarters they now have on Justice Center Road. Discussions had taken place about possibly building a facility that could be used just for storage. The new building would answer the need for additional space.

Concerned citizen, Johnny Herndon, asked Commissioner Bell if other properties, that may have been less costly, had been considered before the decision to buy the school property was made. She responded that other sites had been considered and some would have been less expensive to purchase initially. The need to remodel those properties however, would have made them more costly in the long run.

Next on the agenda was the

controversial topic of marijuana. "I am opposed to retail marijuana." Debbie Bell told her audience emphatically, "it is not good for kids, adolescents, or adults, and it needs to go away." Commissioner Ed Norton, on the other hand, has not made up his mind. It would appear that the expected tax monies have caught his eye. Could be interesting to see how this plays out.

When questioned about Agenda 21, Ms. Bell stated, "U.N. has no business in the world dictating to Fremont County, Colorado, what we do or do not do here! We don't look outside our own borders for advice

or direction on what we do here." On the subject of Green Energy, the Commissioner responded, "If they want a green house, let free enterprise dictate, don't shove it down our throats. Let 'em put whatever damn light bulb they want." There were some questions about zoning and building codes in Fremont County and Debbie said these issues would need to be dealt with on an individual basis. She offered to meet with anyone who had a specific issue in mind. Chances are she will have several takers.

This is an election year and the RGTP in conjunction with the Fremont County Republican Women will be hosting events to hear what our elected hopefuls have to say about what they have to offer 'We the People'. These events will be listen and speak events, so you are welcome to ask questions. Richard Hollabaugh tells us, "The tea party exists because of political failures." This statement is so very true. This year we aren't so much focused on passing new laws as we are on repealing some old laws. We hope to put the teeth back in the Second Amendment. What an exciting and worthwhile challenge. You are invited to be part of this year of action.

Be Informed.
Get Involved.

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
2nd Mon at 7 p.m.
403 W. 5th St.
Florence**

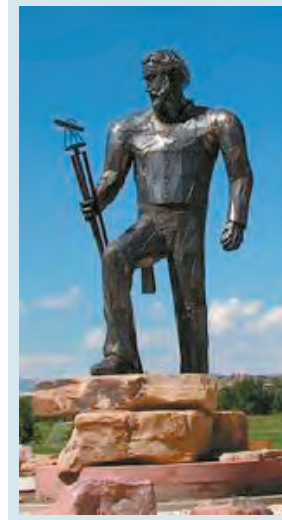
**Cañon City
City Council
1st and 3rd
Mondays at 6 p.m.
City Hall
128 Main St
Cañon City**

**County
Commissioners
2nd and 4th Tues.
9:30 a.m.
615 Macon, Rm 105
Cañon City**

**Royal Gorge
Tea Party
2nd & 4th Thursday
of each month
6:30 p.m.
Core Knowledge
School Gymnasium,
890 Fields Ave.
Cañon City
www.royalgorgetea-party.com
or find them on
Facebook**

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

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The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

The Daily Jot

Daily reporting and analysis of current events from a biblical and prophetic perspective.
NOTE: When writing about God and Jesus, The Daily Jot means YHVH as God and Yeshua Ha Mashiach as Jesus--the actual original names and the true nature and character of them.

The Prophetic Police State

America always has been known for its freedom. Americans always have been known for their love of freedom. Why? Because until the latter part of the 20th Century we have been considered a Christian nation and proud of it. A principle of Christianity is freedom in Christ. As Galatians 5:1 says, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Liberty--freedom from sin and death through eternal life--is a transferring ideal to present physical life and it is contagious. We know from reading the prophets and Revelation that satan and the anti-Christ are the antithesis of freedom. In the dark shadows of prophetic reality, America’s tyranny awaits.

We have seen the liberals, under the guise of freedom, and the conservatives, under the guise of security, take away our freedoms, seemingly systematically. I have heard all the misguided Christian arguments about how we should be heavenly minded and that we answer to another form

of government and therefore should not be concerned with this one. But I am here to tell you in no uncertain terms that nations are important to God. And people comprise nations. And what we do here on earth has a bearing on how we live out eternity. If you are willing to put your bets on the idea that where you live, how you live, the people around you, how you are governed doesn’t matter to God, you are greatly mistaken.

Verses over and over again tell us to occupy till he returns; to overcome evil with good; to let your light shine; to obey God rather than men; to stand against the wiles of the devil; to speak boldly; to let no man deceive you; that the law is good if a man uses it lawfully--really the exhortations go on and on about why it is important for us to be engaged with our family, our friends, our community, our country. Our involvement has eternal importance in ways that most of us probably do not quite understand. When God has given us a nation based on freedom of speech and religion, we

are to protect, cherish, and use it to the full advantage of Christian charity and evangelization--locally and internationally.

The window is closing. Examples in today’s news: Homeland Security is establishing a national license plate recognition system. The American Gestapo will be able to pick you off the street if you don’t tow the government line. Democrats are openly asking the IRS to target their opposition from campaign ads against them. Combined with all the other stories, we are entering into an unnecessary prophetic storm where America is leading the way toward the anti-Christ rather than preparing hearts for the Lord. I am a firm believer that man cannot stop the march of prophecy, but I believe we can determine our place in it. We have got to reconcile our heavenly mindedness with the practicality of what the Lord wants of our lives as we live them. Our time is short. The day is at hand.

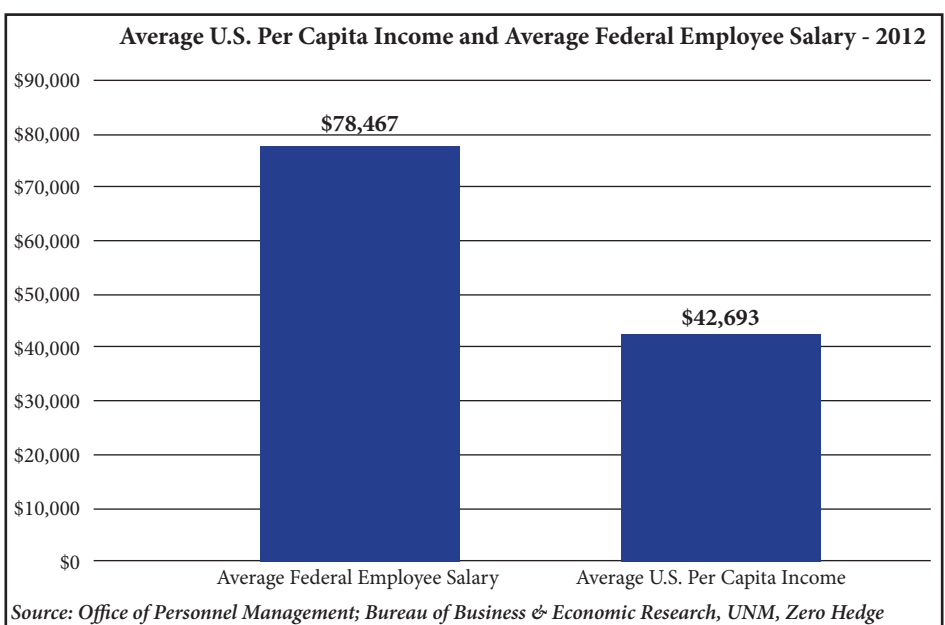
Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!
Bill Wilson
www.dailyjot.com

Spot The Average Federal Employee Salary

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

Moments ago Barack Obama announced the hike of the minimum wage of workers under federal contracts from \$7.25 to \$10.10, which got us thinking: just how disenfranchised really are Federal workers in the US?

On the chart below, try to guess, without peeking, which is the average salary of a Federal worker in the U.S. and which is the average per capita income for all Americans.



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Where is Obama’s Outrage Over Afghan “War on Women?”

by Allen West,
AllenBWest.com

As we wind down operations in Afghanistan the question is, “Did we make any difference?” Sure, Osama bin Laden is dead — then again so is Saddam Hussein and his sons Uday and Qusay, but al-Qaida is in control of western Iraq’s al-Anbar province. During my time in Iraq and Afghanistan, I remember the most difficult thing for many of us to stomach was the treatment of women.

The most rewarding sight for me during my two-and-a-half years in Afghanistan was watching little girls in their uniforms walking off to school. Nothing infuriated me more than reading reports about a Taliban attack against a girls’ school — funny thing, you never heard about that in any liberal media reports. How many front pages were dedicated to Abu Gharaib by the New York Times? And these liberals want us to take them seriously when they start droning on about a damn “war on women?” I have seen it with my own eyes, and it is repulsive.

So as we prepare to depart Afghanistan, and President Obama is more concerned with campaign promises and politics, I must ask, what will happen to the women of Afghanistan?

According to a report in The Guardian, a new Afghan law will allow men to attack their wives, children, and sisters without fear of judicial punishment, undoing years of slow progress in tackling violence in a country blighted by so-called “honor” killings, forced marriage, and vicious domestic abuse.

This is in a nation already considering the return of stoning as a punishment for adultery. Perhaps Sandra Fluke and Nancy Pelosi should visit Afghanistan to understand what a real struggle for women’s rights is — nah, that would require courage. It is an Afghan war on women.

According to The Guardian, the small but significant change to Afghanistan’s criminal prosecution code bans relatives of an accused person from testifying against them. Most violence against women in Afghanistan is within the family, so the law – passed by parliament but awaiting the signature of the president, Hamid Karzai, will effectively silence victims as well as most potential witnesses to their suffering.

The traditions of Muhammad established the level of judicial subservience facing women in Islamic countries, where they can be summarily divorced after their husband repeats “I divorce you” three times, and they have no rights in defense.

Furthermore, it takes three men to offer defense for one woman, as her voice alone means nothing. Barbaric? Absolutely, but hardly mentioned in our news.

As the Guardian reports, under the new law, prosecutors could never come to court with cases like that of Sahar Gul, a child bride whose in-laws chained her in a basement and starved, burned, and whipped her when she refused to work as a prostitute for them. Women like 31-year-old Sitara, whose nose and lips were sliced off by her husband at the end of last year, could never take the stand

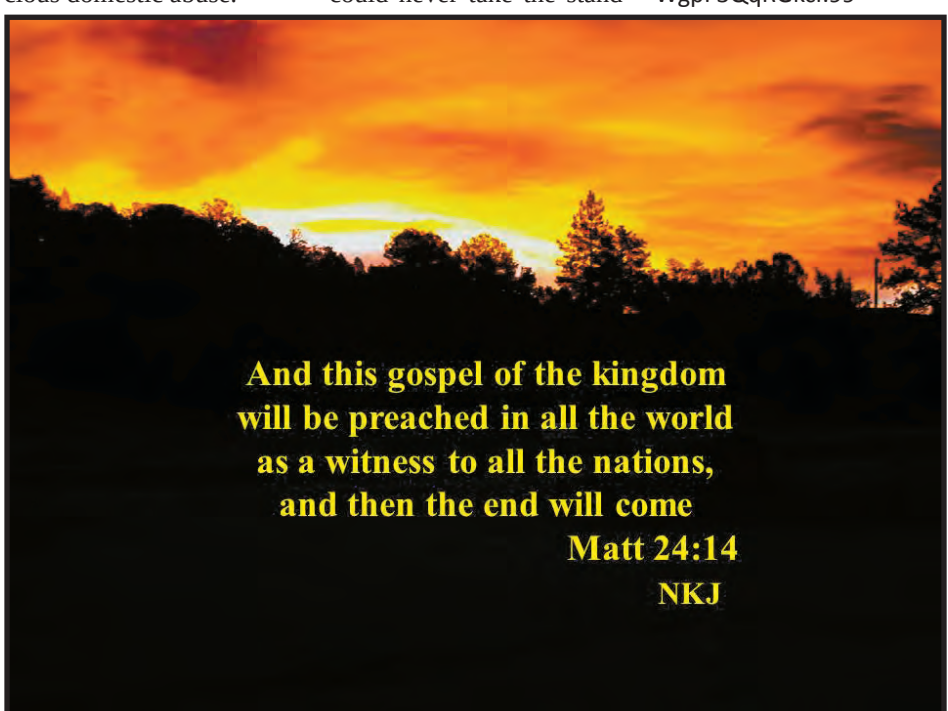
against their attackers.

Countries that spent billions trying to improve justice and human rights are now focused largely on security, and are retreating from Afghan politics. Heather Barr, Afghanistan researcher with Human Rights Watch, said: “Opponents of women’s rights have been emboldened in the last year. They can see an opportunity right now to begin reversing women’s rights – no need to wait for 2015.”

What will become of the female members of the Afghanistan parliament? Those who are serving in the Army and police corps who will now not even be protected from their own husbands? What does it say about our values? So what, we killed Osama bin Laden, but we find ourselves afraid to take on a 7th century ideology that degrades women in the 21st century — shame on us.

President Obama, you and your party like to give lip service to women’s rights. Let’s see what you have to say about this issue after you and the First Lady sit with your daughters in that nice taxpayer-funded movie theater in the White House and watch “Honor Diaries.” I’ve watched it with my wife and daughters. It’s horrific. After you view it Sir, join me in the real war on women. I’ll be waiting for your phone call — quite sure you can get my number from the NSA.

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Study Shows a 626% Greater Breast Cancer Risk for Women Who Have Had Abortions

by Candy Thompson

For years women have been told by various organizations including the American Cancer Society, Planned Parenthood, government agencies, and even the Susan G. Komen organization that there is no evidence that abortion increases the risk of breast cancer despite studies that are contradictory. In China and in India where there isn't a political agenda or a stigma against abortion, recent new studies have found a huge increase in the breast cancer risk for women having abortions.

Historically Chinese women have had lower rates of breast cancer than women in the U.S., but that has changed dramatically over the last two decades with the one-child policy of the Communist Party where women are often forced to have abortions.

In the meta-analysis study (one in which the results of many studies are pooled) conducted by Chinese researchers from the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Tianjin Medical University Cancer Hospital and published in December of last year in the international journal Cancer Causes and Control, women who have had one abortion have a 44% higher risk of developing breast cancer. The risk increases to 76% with two abortions and 89% with three. The conclusion being drawn is that China is on the verge of a breast cancer epidemic that is also worldwide.

It seems that a similar study Dr Joel Brind published in 1996 in the British Medical Association's epidemiology journal, he came up with the same conclusion reporting an overall significant 30% increased risk of

breast cancer in worldwide studies.

Dr. Brind, professor of endocrinology at Baruch College, City University of New York, and an advisor to the Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer, called the Chinese study "a real game changer".

Dr. Brind says he has spent years fighting attempts to discredit his earlier findings from universities, medical societies, breast cancer charities, journals and especially government agencies. He calls the National Cancer Institute another corrupt federal agency like the IRS and NSA. The NCI even held a phony workshop in 2003 in which they officially declared that the Abortion-Breast Cancer (ABC) link was non-existent. This government agency even went so far to try to pass laws to muzzle pro-life centers that were trying to warn women of this link. Since 1957 there have been 73 studies that have demonstrated this link.

Women are being lulled into a false sense of security even by one of the most respected organizations that fights breast cancer, Susan G. Komen, whose website states:

"Scientific evidence from the most comprehensive and well-designed studies in the U.S. and around the world does not support the conclusion that induced abortion or miscarriage raises the risk of breast cancer."

Noteworthy is the fact that this charitable organization also gives hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to Planned Parenthood for mammograms which PPH doesn't even do but refers clients out. Ironically, they could be funding the very organization that is contributing the most to women having breast cancer.

India and Bangladesh came out with two studies last year that concluded even much greater risks for women of over 600% and over 2000% respectively among women who had any induced abortions. The India study compared 320 women with breast cancer to 320 healthy individuals matched individually for age and socioeconomic status. 61.3% of the breast cancer cases had had abortions whereas only 16.3% of the control group had. That's an increase in risk of 626%!

Women in Bangladesh have their children earlier and breast feed longer, do not take birth control hormones and have very few abortions, so this risk is relative but shows a 2000% increase in risk of breast cancer with abortion.

Many factors such as diet, heredity, hormones, child-bearing age and nursing are listed in the search for answers for this huge increase in breast cancer that will be diagnosed in one in eight women in the U.S. this year. Only early detection has kept the death toll down. Early detection, however, does not eliminate the suffering both emotionally and physically that comes with this diagnosis, nor is breast cancer the only effect that women suffer after abortion.

Breast Cancer is the #2 diagnosed cancer in the U.S. in women. Only some kinds of skin cancer exceed this growing rate. Certainly not all women who have breast cancer have had abortions, but at least abortion is one risk that could be completely eliminated if the possibility of a link were not being covered up by those who are waging the real war against women for the money or a political agenda.

ICYMI: Colorado Is Most Expensive Place for Health Insurance

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

(Editor/GG: Thank you dem Senators Udall and Bennet. Oh, I forgot, the Dems are for the working man.....)

In case you missed the January update for the Connect for Health Colorado (that's the Colorado health exchange) recently released its enrollment figures and, shockingly, they aren't great. A few days later, the Wall Street Journal's Marketwatch blog also released a survey of the "10 Most Expensive Areas to Buy Health Insurance in the U.S." Colorado topped the list.

OMG, could the two issues be related?

The January 31st Connect for Health Colorado press release touted the fact that they have a whopping 69,000 "sign-ups" since the health exchange began last October. It's unclear what portion of those "sign-ups" were actual enrollments or just accounts created (can someone define a "sign-

up"?). Since we're feeling generous, let's say all of those are actually enrollments. Of those enrollments, let's say those are all private insurance enrollments, not Medicaid. The goal by March 31, 2014, was 136,000 enrollees. That was the number that made this scheme viable – almost double the existing numbers. Seems daunting. The exchange also notes in the update that it has started yet another new marketing push. Coincidence?

Three days after the January update from C4HC, the Wall Street Journal reported that the Kaiser Family Foundation named Colorado's mountain towns the most expensive place in the country to buy insurance. The survey evaluated the prices of premiums for the lowest-cost silver plan for a 40-year-old person and found Colorado Mountain Resorts to be the worst. The amorphous "Colorado Mountain Resorts" include Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin counties where the lowest-cost silver plan

was a whopping \$483.

The average wage in Garfield County was \$42,254. The median home value was \$344,000. Assuming that those in the \$42,000 income bracket are paying an effective tax rate of around 15%, they're taking home around \$3,000 per month. Assuming a \$275,000 loan for 30 years at 5% interest, this average person is paying around \$1,300 in mortgage payments, exclusive of utilities, taxes and insurance. The bottom line is that \$483 for a single person for insurance isn't that great of a deal, actually. And, what if that 40-year-old has a family, the insurance rates increase even more.

The point of this exercise is to answer the question – how is Obamacare helping Coloradans? The answer – it's not.

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VISION From page 13

control. The city, like the county and state, seem to work best with other government agencies and all of them are like-minded, spend, spend, spend. They will tell us at election time that they hear us but once elected its back to "We know what's best for you". Just keep giving us the funding; we will spend it.

Now I'm not opposed to seeing our city grow and prosper but I am opposed to seeing my tax money spent on what I consider a waste.

Our streets and sidewalks are in deplorable condition all over our city. Our alley ways are cluttered and some almost impassable. I see our city workers building a nice-to-have intersection and I have to ask what is their real job? I see 5, 6 and 7 workers deployed on one job that should only require 1 or 2 workers and I have to ask is that really necessary, or are we over-staffed? And finally, I have to ask why is my city elected officials wanting to become more involved in my life when private enterprise could do the job so much better, quicker, and with no tax dollars expended if

it's a worthwhile endeavor. Just get the government out of the way, stop with all the unnecessary regulations and special fees, and let our entrepreneurs build and grow our city, county, and state.

This may take care of itself if our unemployment rate keeps going up. We won't have anyone paying taxes so our city can declare bankruptcy. Of course, we will all have affordable health care. Wait who will pay for that? Cañon City residences and patriots will.

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2014



Federal Court Just Dealt a Major Blow to Anti-Gun Advocates in California

by Jason Howerton,
TheBlaze.com

(Editor/GG: *Huge win folks, and this is the Ninth Circuit, the most liberal in the nation! We need this to get to the Supreme Court as soon as possible.*)

A federal appeals court struck down key parts of California's permit system for handguns on Thursday, ruling that the state must allow law-abiding citizens to carry concealed firearms in public.

In a 2-1 decision, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that by requiring citizens to prove "good cause" — rather than just the right to self-defense — in order to obtain a concealed weapons permit, San Diego County is in direct violation of the U.S. Constitu-

tion. If the decision stands, the permit system for the entire state of California would be invalidated, the Washington Post reports.

California state law also requires gun owners who apply for a concealed weapons permit to show "good cause" as to why they want to carry a firearm. The permit process would still be left up to individual cities and counties if the ruling holds.

In the majority opinion, Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain said the "right to bear arms includes the right to carry an operable firearm outside the home for the lawful purpose of self-defense."

Further increasing the chances that the Supreme Court will take on the is-

sue, O'Scannlain disagreed with federal appeals courts that have upheld nearly identical laws in left-leaning states like New York, New Jersey, and Maryland, SFGate reports. The high court generally tackled issues when there is a significant split among appellate circuits, as there is in this case.

"The high court ruled in 2008 that the Second Amendment protects the right to keep a handgun in the home for self-defense, but has not addressed its application to carrying weapons in public," the report adds.

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Officials in Connecticut Stunned by What Could Be a Massive, State-Wide Act of 'Civil Disobedience' by Gun Owners

by Jason Howerton,
TheBlaze.com

(Editor/GG: *Our brothers in Connecticut standing up to tyranny.*)

On Jan. 1, 2014, tens of thousands of defiant gun owners seemingly made the choice not to register their semi-automatic rifles with the state of Connecticut as required by a hastily-passed gun control law. By possessing unregistered so-called "assault rifles," they all technically became guilty of committing Class D felonies overnight.

Police had received 47,916 applications for "assault weapons certificates" and 21,000 incomplete applications as of Dec. 31, Lt. Paul Vance told The Courant.

At roughly 50,000 applications, officials estimate that as little as 15 percent of the covered semi-automatic rifles have actually been registered with the state.

"No one has anything close to definitive figures, but the most conservative estimates place the number of unregistered assault weapons well above 50,000, and perhaps as high as 350,000," the report states.

Needless to say, officials and some lawmakers are stunned.

Due to the new gun control bill passed in April, likely at least 20,000 individual people — possibly as many as 100,000 — are now in direct violation of the law for refusing to register their guns. As we noted above, that act is now a Class D Felony.

Mike Lawlor, "the state's top official in criminal justice," suggested maybe the firearms unit in Connecticut could "send them a letter." However, he said an aggressive push to prosecute gun owners in the state is not going to happen at this point.

Lawlor, the undersecretary for criminal justice policy in the state Office of Policy and Management, also suggested that the legislature should reopen the registration period to encourage more gun owners to register their firearms.

You may recall the viral photo of Connecticut gun owners waiting in line to register their guns in December, which one person said reminded them of the "Weimar Germany."

Republican state Sen. Tony Guglielmo told The Courant he recently spoke to a constituent at a meeting in Ashford, who informed him that some of his friends with semi-automatic rifles are intentionally taking a stand.

"He made the analogy to prohibition," the lawmaker recalled. "I said, 'You're

See DISOBEDIENCE
on page 17

SHOT DOWN: Does the Bill Have the Word "Gun" in It? Then, No.

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

It's almost as if Democrats are putting their fingers in their ears and screaming; "LALALALALALA — we can't hear you" every time a bill comes up that has the word gun in it. Perhaps liberal legislators have forgotten that Coloradans are not thrilled with them. Rep. Chris Holbert's attempt to repeal the completely unhelpful 15-round or more mag ban was met with a big fat "no" by Democrats in the legislature. Of course, never mind that this bill hurts Colorado's economy and prevents Coloradans from defending themselves. Wait for the punchline — it actually won't make us safer. AND, the people who proposed this know it.

Exhibit A: Liberal Governor John Hickenlooper, per The Denver Post:

"This person, if there were

no assault weapons available, if there were no this or no that, this guy's going to find something, right? He's going to know how to create a bomb. Who knows where his mind would have gone. Clearly a very intelligent individual however twisted."

Exhibit B: Recalled Democratic Senate President John Morse, per CBS4:

"How does a limit on high-capacity magazines reduce violence?" Democratic Senate President John Morse said. Morse said he's not convinced fewer bullets or more background checks are the answer."

We should all be glad that we compromised hundreds of jobs, tax revenue, and economic growth. For nothing.

Then, last night, liberal lawmakers rejected a bill that would allow teachers

to carry concealed weapons. Apparently, Dems didn't get the message from last week's Quinnipiac Poll: Colorado voters actually support allowing teachers and school officials to carry guns at school — 50% to 45%.

It's also worth noting that 84% of teachers in the United States are women, according to a National Center for Education Information study published in 2011. So, Coloradans want this measure to keep kids safe. It would help women defend themselves and students against those who hope to perpetrate evil acts. Yet, Colorado Democrats say no. This all sounds vaguely familiar.... Kind of like 2013?

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"We are so lucky we had a gun," Woman Says After Husband Shoots Intruder Attacking Him

DATE: 11/18/13	TIME: 11:00 p.m.	LOCATION: Buckley, WA
CRIME(S) PREVENTED:	Home Invasion, Assault, Murder	
TYPE OF GUN USED:	Handgun	
DESCRIPTION OF BAD GUY(S):	Cole Matthews, 21, who drove his car at a high speed through a front gate, crashing through it before colliding with a car in the driveway. He then busted into the house and began assaulting the 67-year-old homeowner, repeatedly punching him	
DESCRIPTION OF GOOD GUY(S):	67-year-old homeowner, who managed to grab his gun in the struggle and shoot Matthews, killing him, while his wife locked herself in the bathroom and called 911	
OUTCOME:	Matthews was pronounced dead at the scene; his relatives tried insisting that he had just gotten into a car accident and was seeking help, but the evidence of his attack on the homeowner is irrefutable. No one else was injured by the gunfire. The homeowner is not being charged with any crime. His wife said, "We are so lucky we had a gun."	
SOURCE:	Reported by KIROTV KING5 NWCN	
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22 Facts About the Coming U.S. Demographic Shock Wave

by Michael Snyder of The Economic Collapse blog, via ZeroHedge.com

Today, more than 10,000 Baby Boomers will retire. This is going to happen day after day, month after month, year after year until 2030. It is the greatest demographic tsunami in the history of the United States, and we are woefully unprepared for it. We have made financial promises to the Baby Boomers worth tens of trillions of dollars that we simply are not going to be able to keep. Even if we didn't have all of the other massive economic problems that we are currently dealing with, this retirement crisis would be enough to destroy our economy all by itself. During the first half of this century, the number of senior citizens in the United States is being projected to more than double. As a nation, we are already drowning in debt. So where in the world are we going to get the money to take care of all of these elderly people?

The Baby Boomer generation is so massive that it has fundamentally changed America with each stage that it has gone through. When the Baby Boomers were young, sales of diapers and toys absolutely skyrocketed. When they became young adults, they pioneered social changes that permanently altered our society. Much of the time, these changes were for the worse.

According to the New York Post, overall household spending peaks when we reach the age of 46. And guess what year the peak of the Baby Boom generation reached that age?...

People tend, for instance, to buy houses at about the same age — age 31 or so. Around age 53 is when people tend to buy their luxury cars — after the kids have finished college, before old age sets in. Demographics can even tell us when your household spending on potato chips is likely to peak — when the head of it is about 42.

Ultimately the size of the US economy is simply the total of what we're all spending. Overall household spending hits a high when we're about 46. So the peak of the Baby Boom (1961) plus 46 suggests that a high point in the US economy should be about 2007, with a long, slow decline to follow for years to come.

And according to that same article, the Congressional Budget Office is also projecting that an aging population will lead to diminished economic growth in the years ahead...

Lost in the discussion of this week's Congressional Budget Office report (which said 2.5 million fewer Americans would be working because of Obamacare) was its prediction that aging will be

a major drag on growth: "Beyond 2017," said the report, "CBO expects that economic growth will diminish to a pace that is well below the average seen over the past several decades [due in large part to] slower growth in the labor force because of the aging of the population."

So we have a problem. Our population is rapidly aging, and an immense amount of economic resources is going to be required to care for them all.

Unfortunately, this is happening at a time when our economy is steadily declining.

The following are some of the hard numbers about the demographic tsunami which is now beginning to overtake us...

1. Right now, there are somewhere around 40 million senior citizens in the United States. By 2050 that number is projected to skyrocket to 89 million.
2. According to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, 46 percent of all American workers have less than \$10,000 saved for retirement, and 29 percent of all American workers have less than \$1,000 saved for retirement.
3. One poll discovered that 26 percent of all Americans in the 46 to 64-year-old age bracket have no personal savings whatsoever.
4. According to a survey

conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute, "60 percent of American workers said the total value of their savings and investments is less than \$25,000".

5. 67 percent of all American workers believe that they "are a little or a lot behind schedule on saving for retirement".
6. A study conducted by Boston College's Center for Retirement Research found that American workers are \$6.6 trillion short of what they need to retire comfortably.
7. Back in 1991, half of all American workers planned to retire before they reached the age of 65. Today, that number has declined to 23 percent.
8. According to one recent survey, 70 percent of all American workers expect to continue working once they are "retired".
9. A poll conducted by CESI Debt Solutions found that 56 percent of American retirees still had outstanding debts when they retired.
10. A study by a law professor at the University of Michigan found that Americans that are 55 years of age or older now account for 20 percent of all bankruptcies in the United States. Back in 2001, they only accounted for 12 percent of all bankruptcies.
11. Today, only 10 percent of private companies in the

U.S. provide guaranteed lifelong pensions for their employees.

12. According to Northwestern University Professor John Rauh, the total amount of unfunded pension and healthcare obligations for retirees that state and local governments across the United States have accumulated is 4.4 trillion dollars.

13. Right now, the American people spend approximately 2.8 trillion dollars on health care, and it is being projected that due to our aging population health care spending will rise to an astounding 4.5 trillion dollars in 2019.

14. Incredibly, the United States spends more on health care than China, Japan, Germany, France, the U.K., Italy, Canada, Brazil, Spain and Australia combined.

15. If the U.S. health care system was a country, it would be the 6th largest economy on the entire planet.

16. When Medicare was first established, we were told that it would cost about \$12 billion a year by the time 1990 rolled around. Instead, the federal government ended up spending \$110 billion on the program in 1990, and the federal government spent approximately \$600 billion on the program in 2013.

17. It is being projected that the number of Americans on Medicare will grow

from 50.7 million in 2012 to 73.2 million in 2025.

18. At this point, Medicare is facing unfunded liabilities of more than 38 trillion dollars over the next 75 years. That comes to approximately \$328,404 for every single household in the United States.

19. In 1945, there were 42 workers for every retiree receiving Social Security benefits. Today, that number has fallen to 2.5 workers, and if you eliminate all government workers, that leaves only 1.6 private sector workers for every retiree receiving Social Security benefits.

20. Right now, there are approximately 63 million Americans collecting Social Security benefits. By 2035, that number is projected to soar to an astounding 91 million.

21. Overall, the Social Security system is facing a 134 trillion dollar shortfall over the next 75 years.

22. The U.S. government is facing a total of 222 trillion dollars in unfunded liabilities during the years ahead. Social Security and Medicare make up the bulk of that.

So where are we going to get the money?

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Report: 95 Percent of Global Warming Models are Wrong

by Michael Bastasch, DailyCaller.com

Environmentalists and Democrats often cite a "97 percent" consensus among climate scientists about global warming. But they never cite estimates that 95 percent of climate models predicting global temperature rises have been wrong.

Former NASA scientist Dr. Roy Spencer says that climate models used by government agencies to create policies "have failed miserably." Spencer analyzed 90 climate models against surface temperature and satellite temperature data, and found that more than 95 percent of the models "have over-forecast the warming trend since 1979, whether we use their own surface temperature data-

set (HadCRUT4), or our satellite dataset of lower tropospheric temperatures (UAH)."

"I am growing weary of the variety of emotional, misleading, and policy-useless statements like 'most warming since the 1950s is human caused' or '97% of climate scientists agree humans are contributing to warming', neither of which leads to the conclusion we need to substantially increase energy prices and freeze and starve more poor people to death for the greater good. Yet, that is the direction we are heading," Spencer wrote on his blog.

Climate scientists have been baffled by the 17-year pause in global warming. At least eight explanations have been offered to explain the lapse in warming,

including declining solar activity and natural climate cycles.

Some scientists have even argued that increased coal use in China has caused the planet to cool slightly. But there does not seem to be any solid agreement on what caused global surface temperatures to stop rising.

The latest explanation from climate scientists is that Pacific trade winds have caused the planet to stop warming. Stronger winds in the last two decades may have forced warmer water deeper while bringing cooler water to the surface.

"The net effect of these anomalous winds is a cooling in the 2012 global average surface air temperature of 0.1–0.2 degree Celsius, which can account

for much of the hiatus in surface warming observed since 2001," wrote Australian researcher led by Matthew England of the University of New South Wales.

"This hiatus could persist for much of the present decade if the tradewind trends continue; however rapid warming is expected to resume once the anomalous wind trends abate," the Aussie scientists added. "Volcanoes and changes in solar radiation can also drive cooler decades against the backdrop of ongoing warming."

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DISOBEDIENCE

From page 16

talking about civil disobedience, and he said "Yes."

Guglielmo said he really thought the "vast majority would register."

Other officials think the low registration numbers are due to ignorance on behalf of gun owners who aren't aware of the new law. It's impossible to know the main reason why gun owners aren't showing up to register their guns without hearing from them directly, though Guglielmo's constituent indicates at least some are practicing "civil

disobedience."

"Sorting out the number of potential new felons is a guessing game. State police have not added up the total number of people who registered the 50,000 firearms, Vance said. So even if we knew the number of illegal guns in the state, we'd have a hard time knowing how many owners they had," the report concludes.

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The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing.

~ Edmond Burke

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by Ol' Remus
The WoodPileReport.com

None of the Above

(Editor/GG: For the first time in a long, long time, GG does not agree with Ol' Remus. But it is worth discussing.)

The productive populace is abandoning many cities and some states, leaving behind reservations of net consumers skilled in grievance politics and efficiently sopping up unearned benefits. Growth in these places is reckoned in numbers of the demanding and civic-minded, meaning they're professional voters rounded up and trotted to the polls, the trip-lever that releases goodies into the trough with promise of more to come. There's a reason it works like this.

No longer allowed to make natural adjustments, even on common ground, the cities and states have self-segregated, partitioning themselves into fiefdoms whose first duty is to menace and loot the others. DC actually prefers to have spoon-fed inmates stumbling around in a fogbound maze, wasting their lives fighting each other. DC simply won't allow the rest of us to make real changes in their cities and states. No, they're not our cities and states. Ask 'em. They'll show you cities and states and courts are their wholly owned subsidiaries. They tip their hand every time some Mother Jones-appointed federal

judge nullifies a state referendum or DC withholds funds to kill a constitutional state law.

It doesn't actually matter to a holding company which of their franchises a customer chooses. It only matters that it be important to us. Every few years well-rehearsed dimwits parachute in from the Emerald City and put on their Punch and Judy show, cheering and scolding and imploring us to elect this or that wizard and subwizard. They do this as if their seating arrangement should matter to us, which is all that's being decided. Voting itself changes nothing because elections change nothing, just as a crew change doesn't mean the train's going somewhere the tracks don't go. What really matters is the turnout. It matters to DC, not to the voters, it's their sole remaining claim to legitimacy.

True legitimacy comes only from the consent of the governed. Bait and switch is not consent. Gerrymandering and vote-rigging is not consent. Imported electorates are not consent. But voluntary turnout at the polls is consent. We've seen this before. In the Soviet Union, where ordinary conversation was also a prosecutable offense—they invented political correct-

ness—turnout was 99%. Simulated democracy was the first step in Marx's communism. Contrary to Cold War propaganda there was some turnover in the Politburo, more turnover than in the US Congress it's claimed, but the direction was just as pre-decided and nonnegotiable. High turnout was taken as consent, and consent legitimized their license as owner-operator.

Voters aren't innocents, they know they're co-conspirators in a criminal enterprise. There is but one legal strategy remaining to honest Americans. Withhold your vote. Withhold your vote and you withhold consent. Withhold your consent and you withhold legitimacy. The surest route to change is empty voting booths. Stay home on election day. Not only is it your civic duty, you aren't really missing anything. Your vote counts for nothing and it changes nothing. If it did it would be illegal. How has voting worked for you so far? Abandoning their dog'n pony show is what really scares 'em, they don't know what you're up to. Noncompliance worries DC. You may be using your time to prepare for the coming Troubles.

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A Sheepdog Barks!

In case you haven't been following the news lately I thought I'd bring you up to date on the state of the presidency by Jay Carney. It goes something like this: Obama is great, Obamacare is great and working well, they are sure they will get the numbers they need, the economy is great, there is no war on coal, Obama is concerned and doing everything he can about more jobs, they have Iran, Syria and the Ukraine under control and everything is working fine in those peace processes because as you know the Administration is holding their feet to the fire in compliance, the CBO knew what they were talking about when they costed out Obamacare but they are totally wrong on the loss of millions of jobs because of Obamacare and the minimum wage, Obama is not doing anything wrong with his pen and his phone, the Democrats will not lose the Senate and CLIMATE CHANGE is a fact, Jack! Whew! I feel better now because I was beginning to worry about a few of those things.

Maybe though, just maybe we should take a closer look at a few of them. We were once told by the "King" that jobs are the last thing he thinks about when he goes to bed and the first thing he thinks about when he wakes up. I now believe that's true because Obama sure doesn't think about this during the day when he could be doing something about them. Anyone with any brains knows that this is probably the most serious issue we have in helping our economy and he's AWOL on it. Recent polls show that Americans are more concerned about unemployment and the poor economy than anything else. Climate Change, by the way, is 19th out of 20. A recent study shows Americans not only have fewer jobs but they are working fewer hours and specifically because of Obamacare. In 2012 there were 6 full-

time jobs for every 1 part-time job. After Obamacare was implemented there are 4 part-time jobs for every 1 full-time job. Obama's policies hurt jobs and according to the CBO it is going to get much worse. And job loss will "skyrocket" when he gets going on the green energy kick. An administration official testified to Congress last week and admitted that the "war on coal" will probably cause the wholesale price of electricity to go up as high as 80%. Is anybody paying attention? Will America stand for this kind of insanity? He further testified that by 2020 there will be 20% less coal generated plants that provide electricity to 50 million homes. WHAT! And all this because Obama and his lackey Secretary of State John Kerry now consider Climate Change to be a weapon of mass destruction. Really? Kerry actually said that if you don't believe in man-made global warming you have to be a "flat earther". You get the drift! The only weapon of mass destruction I see here is his brain. And did you notice the 5th Anniversary of "The Stimulus" came and went with nary a comment. Obama takes victory laps for everything but in this case he laid low. And you can understand why, because it was a colossal failure in "fixing" the economy. It did go a long way to increasing the debt though. And pay close attention to Obama's Missing in Action (MIA) behavior while the world is burning down. Russia and Syria are openly poking him in the eye while they break the cease fire, fail to turn over the chemical weapons and kill a lot more civilians (now estimated at 130,000). Where's Obama? Playing golf. The Middle East/Israeli situation and peace process has totally broken down and where's Barry? Playing golf. The "diplomatic" nuclear talks with Iran are in shambles and where's Barack? Playing



golf. The freedom loving people of Ukraine are now dying in the streets because Putin is preventing them from joining the rest of the free world and where is Hussein? Playing golf. But he did get VP Joe Biden, the laughing stock of Washington, D.C., when it comes to foreign affairs, to make a phone call telling the Ukraine government to back off. WOW! That should do it! Let's move on and wrap up with a few comments on Obamacare. If it's so great, why have there been 35 changes and 29 delays? Because it's not so great! And now the LPSDs want us to let them, the ones who designed this monster in the first place, fix it. No way! Jobs, the economy and Obamacare have the Democrats on the ropes and they know it. We must be vigilant and pay attention. All you sheepdogs stay alert. Everything, and I mean EVERYTHING, the president says and does from now on is to Save the Senate. The U. S. Senate is at risk for the LPSDs and Obama knows that without it his socialist agenda is dead. He needs Harry Reid more than he needs anyone or anything else. Without the Senate Obama is powerless and will simply "occupy" the White House for his last 2 years. That is the best outcome of the 2014 election we can have. And we in Colorado can help do that because we have one of those "running scared" Senators up for reelection. Udall is an Obamadall. Let's do what is needed to help make that happen. WOOF!

May God Have Mercy on America! JMH

IN: Buffie "Mouthy" McFadyen Will Run for CD3

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

(Editor/GG: Oh, this is precious. Remember that article we ran a few months ago on this regal lady politician from Pueblo. She got caught stone drunk, with a drunken man who wasn't her husband, in a parking lot near the nudist Desert Hot Springs party hole by Pueblo County Sheriff's. DUI? Nope, got a ride home by the cops. Now she has been chosen to be the Dems candidate in DC3! Character counts....)

What have we done to deserve such a fantastic gift? Was it something we said that inspired Colorado Democrat Party Chair Rick Palacio to find a candidate, any candidate? And a candidate they found.

The Democratic candidate for CD3 will be [drum roll] former Democratic state representative and current Pueblo County Commissioner Mouthy McFayden. Sorry, we mean Buffie McFadyen. Instead of writing a whole new post about

Mouthy, we would just like to revisit the one we posted last November McFadyen found herself in quite an awkward predicament. From last year:

Former Democratic leader in the State House and current Pueblo County Commissioner Buffie McFadyen was the recipient of some special treatment by police during a potential DUI stop in Pueblo. She was caught in a rather awkward situation — parked in a dirt lot at night, intoxicated and with a man who isn't her husband. But she didn't get a DUI — instead she got a ride home.

But, it gets even better. We have subsequently learned that McFadyen and her companion, the head of the Pueblo Democratic Party Ron Greenwell, weren't just drinking buddies. According to KRDO, they may or may not also be nudists? We couldn't even make this stuff up, folks, if we tried.

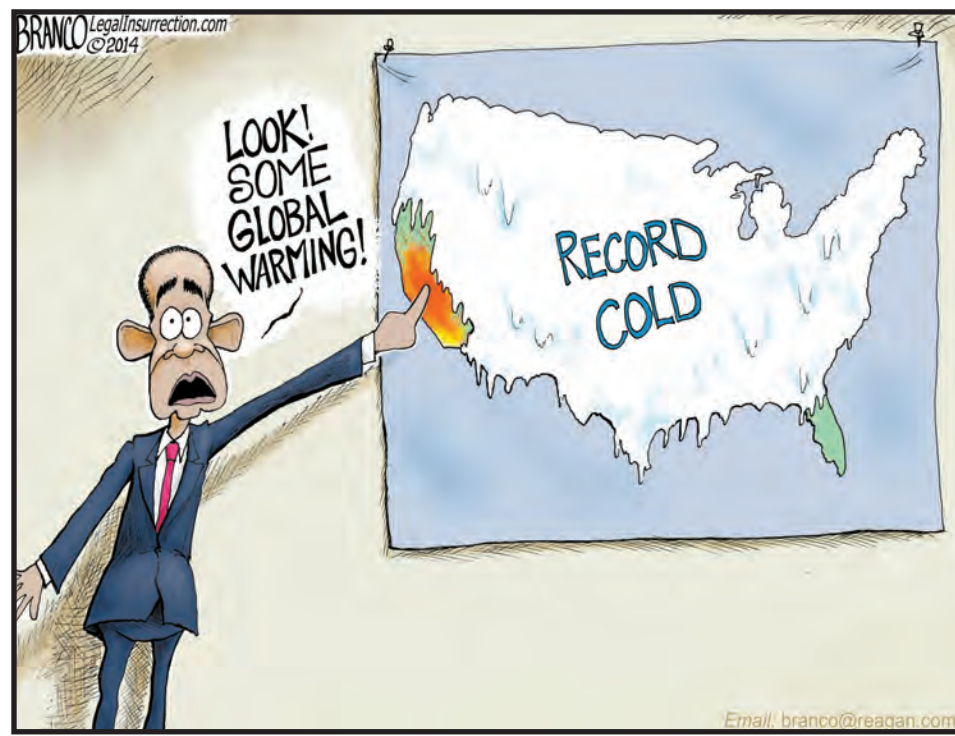
Last January, Pueblo County Commissioner Buf-

fie McFadyen told a Pueblo County Deputy that she and County Democratic Party Chair Ron Greenwell had just been dropped off by friends at a commuter lot on Swallows Road and Highway 50 in Pueblo West after spending "family night" at Desert Reef Hot Spring.

While the Desert Reef Hot Spring is clothing optional on most days of the week, according to the website, "All day Friday is designated a suit only day and will not be clothing optional." McFadyen and Greenwell were at the springs on January 25th...a Friday.

Look, we're not going to judge if McFadyen has... fans. But, nudists, sorry. We're not talking about scenes from "Eyes Wide Shut" here — these are average Americans. As a whole, we're kind of pasty and flabby.

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Obamacare is a Bad Deal For the Young: Cheaper to Be Uninsured, Study Shows

By Lily Dane,
FreedomOutPost.com
(Editor/GG: One of the end results of Obamacare, MORE young people uninsured than before, and now, they have to pay a penalty for the privilege!!! Happy you voted for him young people? Note the projected price increases below. YOU will be paying them for a policy with a stratospheric deductible. The wonders of socialism.)

The success of Obamacare largely rests on the shoulders of the estimated 2.7 million “young invincibles” whose premiums are needed to subsidize healthcare costs for others. People in the 18 – 35 age group are needed to create a balanced risk pool.

Now a study shows that coverage through the ACA is just not a good deal for those young adults.

The study, conducted by The American Action Forum, concluded that for 86% of that demographic, ACA coverage is just not worth it:

The ACA’s perverse economic incentives are well documented. The law makes health insurance more expensive for many young adults, while at the same time making the decision to go without health coverage exponentially less risky than it previously was. It is impossible to predict how many young adults will ultimately enroll in coverage, but it is clear that many young adult enrollees will be worse off financially if they decide to purchase health insurance.

Health “care” coverage premium costs increased for both males and females in

that age bracket: A 30-year-old male can expect premiums for his least costly insurance option to increase on average 260 percent in 2014, while a 30-year-old female will see an average increase of 193 percent.

The study sought to find out whether enrolling in Obamacare or remaining uninsured was the most “financially advantageous” for the young invincibles.

Here’s what was discovered:

After accounting for subsidies and cost-sharing, 6 out of 7 uninsured, young adult households will find it financially advantageous to forgo health coverage, and instead pay the mandate penalty and cover their own health care costs. As the penalty increases, that number will drop from 86 percent in 2014 to 71 percent in 2015 and 62 percent in 2016, before ticking back up to 66 percent in 2019. In two additional analyses, using alternate assumptions explained in further detail below, the exact percentages vary, but the overall finding is constant; the majority of uninsured young adults will benefit financially from opting out of coverage in 2014.

Ouch.

The study concluded:

Even after the mandate penalty is fully implemented, a majority of young adult households will find that it is financially advantageous for them to forgo health insurance, pay the mandate penalty, and personally cover their own health care expenses. Even under our third, and most conservative, scenario we still find that in 2019, 41 percent of young adult

households will be financially incentivized to forgo health insurance.

Through its insurance market reforms and overly prescriptive benefit design, the ACA makes the decision to purchase health insurance more costly than it previously was for the vast majority of young adults, while at the same time significantly reducing the risks associated with the decision to go without coverage. Whether young adults make the decision to purchase health insurance will depend on many factors, but the perverse economics of the ACA discourages young adults from joining the health insurance system.

The study’s co-author Chris Holt told The Daily Caller:

“We’re talking about a population of people who chose to go without insurance when it was much more dangerous to be without insurance and when insurance actually cost less. So the incentives have changed so that these folks now have less risk in remaining uninsured while the cost of getting insurance is even higher.”

Looks like the Obama administration wasted all that money they spent on the endearing Pajama Boy ads and those oh-so-clever racy ads featuring young folks talking about free birth control and boozing it up. Signing up for the Obamacare Ponzi scheme just isn’t worth it to them.

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EFFECTS

From page 12

parties. Since marijuana distorts perceptions, impairs coordination, produces difficulty with thinking and problem solving, and disrupts learning and memory, the increases in potency may account for the rise in emergency room visits involving marijuana use.

A 2012 Colorado report shows emergency room visits for youth (ages 12-17) jumped from 25% during 2005-2008 to 28% from 2009-2011. It noted these percentages are lower than actual as youth less than 12 were reported but omitted/suppressed due to not reaching 30 or more incidents. This means that the number of youth less than 12, were being admitted to the emergency room but the number of incidents was less than 30 in these two emergency rooms. Also, these numbers were only reported from Denver and Aurora Metropolitan emergency room data. What numbers would there be if taken state-wide?

Case reports included showed that as young as 10 month old twins were hospitalized after eating trail mix infused with marijuana, a 3 year old hospitalized after eating a marijuana cookie, a 4 year old ate food with marijuana and was lethargic and vomiting, a 5 year old was omitted after eating marijuana in-

fused chocolate; all living with medical marijuana patients/users.

Research from different areas is converging on the fact that regular marijuana use by young people can have long-lasting negative impact on the structure and function of their brains. Marijuana use by pregnant mothers may alter the developing endocannabinoid system in the brain of the fetus. Consequences for the child may include problems with attention, memory, and problem solving. Marijuana exposures for children ages 0-5 (an age span where the most important brain growth known to happen) is reported a 200% increase. Do the users and voters in Colorado know what they are doing to their children?

Great Britain considers marijuana a controversial class-B drug, yet concerns are growing amid claims that this drug is ‘harmless’ from those smoking a possibly lesser amount of THC and other drug laced cannabis. It wasn’t harmless for mother of three, Gemma Moss of Great Britain who hadn’t smoked marijuana regularly for two years, yet depressed from a recent breakup with her boyfriend she turned back to it. Smoking a half a joint to help her sleep at night proved too much for Gemma as she was found dead as a result of ‘cannabis

toxicity’ determined by the coroner.

The coroner’s determination was based on no other drug being found in her healthy organs but the level of THC in her blood indicated she died from a cardiac arrest. She is the second person in Great Britain to die from ‘cannabis toxicity’ as previously a 36 year old man died in 2004 from the same determination.

One toxic side effect is marijuana raises the heart rate by 20-100 percent shortly after smoking; this effect can last up to 3 hours and runs a risk to the heart and vascular system for any and all users. The use of marijuana having this effect differently on individuals is one of the explanations for some experiencing more significant increased heart rate than others. On the other hand, it also lowers blood pressure and is equally risky for some individuals that would be effected by this result.

Again, I ask as I did in my first article, should there be a mandatory “Use at your own risk” label applied to add doses of marijuana including all the treats of brownies, cookies, cupcakes, trail mix and all other prepackaging? Should this happen before a frenzy of lawsuits begin? Based on the numbers heading to the emergency room and traffic fatalities, it is surprising they haven’t already begun.



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Local Mountain News & Notices



Custer Cuties Day Out at Silver Cliff Mountain Inn

The Red Hat Custer Cuties had a great day on February 18 with lunch and get together at the Silver Cliff Mountain Inn. The food was wonderful and there was much laughter and great conversation. There were about 13 ladies, all with their purple and red on, that had other folks stopping by to ask what all the laughter was about. The Cuties welcomed a new member, Patti Collins. The members who were unable to attend were missed, with some being out of town, and special thoughts going to Inge Munden, who was in the hospital having shoulder surgery after a skiing mishap last week. She is doing fine but was missed. Tracie, the waitress, was overwhelmed but did a wonderful job. The ladies really enjoyed themselves and were very impressed with the service and the food. If you get a chance, stop in for a cup of coffee and meet the folks.

Sentinel photo by Carol Clemenson

"Takin' It To The House..." A Calendar And Commentary From The Golden Dome

From: Representative
Jim Wilson – HD 60
February 16, 2014

Well, once again I am amazed with the ebb and flow under the Golden Dome. I am sure that most of you by now have heard of HB14-1164 (the 134 page "Colorado Local Government Election Code) clarifying when elections are coordinated by County Clerk and Records. This massive bill hit the House floor amidst controversy and drama (and on a fast track). The controversy was over another "election" bill after last year's HB13-1303 and the drama was co-sponsor Rep. Carol Murray (R-Castle Rock) pulling her name off the bill on the floor. I thought, "Wow, what is up with this?" Since I represent HD 60, I figured I had better contact my four County Clerks to see where they were on the bill before I voted. All four responded that they supported it the morning of the vote. I voted "Yes" and immediately became famous (or infamous depending on your perspective). I was the

only "R" to vote for the bill which immediately made it a "bi-partisan" bill going to the Senate!

The plot thickens on the Senate side. My clerks were no longer unanimous in their support, the Senate began to amend the bill several times and, across the state, clerks and election watchdogs were expressing concerns. This chain of events raised a red flag for me and my district – if we are going to pass a bill of this level of complexity, we had better get it right! I contacted the Assistant Minority Leader to see if the bill was going to be fast-tracked through on Monday – she felt it probably would be back on the floor. Even though I was excused on Monday to get a tooth filled, I returned to Denver late Sunday evening (in a snowstorm) so I could vote the bill to a conference committee or against the bill in its present form if necessary. Stay tuned – the flow is getting "choppy" and I am waiting for the ebb...

On a lighter note, SB14-004 -- allowing 2-year colleges

to grant 4-year Bachelor of Applied Science degrees, passed the House on second reading with little opposition. I am the House co-sponsor on this bill that died in the House last year. Sen. Todd (D-Aurora) and I held several meetings over the summer with all the stakeholders to pull the parties together. This bill will greatly benefit rural and small communities' access to 4-year degrees. Since I mentioned Davy Crockett in last week's column, I will quote him this week, "Be sure you are right, and then go ahead." We knew this bill was the right thing to do so we stayed with it...

Battles over the budget continue to heat up as we come closer to the debate over the Long Bill (named because it is really LONG – covering all the expenditures of the state). The majority of the superintendents in the state have taken the "line drawn in the sand" over restoring the funding cuts to education very seriously. They are vigorously opposing any funding not reducing the cuts made since 2008



(known as the negative factor). With so many hands reaching into the cookie jar, it will be interesting to see whose fingers get smashed when the lid comes down! That reminds me of another quote by Davy Crockett -- "The power of collecting and disbursing money at pleasure is the most dangerous power that can be entrusted to man". We have our work cut out for us this session...

Feel free to call (303-866-2747) or e-mail wilson-forhd60@gmail.com or james.wilson.house@state.co.us.

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