

Republican General Assembly Delegates Select Candidates

by Candi Sage

The Republican General Assembly was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at the Custer County Courthouse for the purpose of selecting candidates who will run for office in the next primary in November.

Following an opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, a young 4-H student, Daniel Phillips, presented an interpretive speech given by Ronald Reagan for the National Association of Evangelicals on March 8, 1983. Much to the delight of the crowded

courtroom he spoke of ideals and principles of freedom and democracy with as much (possibly more) professionalism than many famous politicians. He also quoted William Penn, “If not governed by God, we’ll be governed by tyrants.” The end of his speech was met with a standing ovation.

The candidates running for office spoke to the assembly and audience. All candidates spoke of positives and how they would contribute or fit the requirements and some spoke of how well their own charac-

ter fitting into the position they were seeking. Jim Wilson, State Representative, spoke about his continued fight for rural counties in Colorado. “If you are not at the table, you will be on the menu,” said Jim, as he advocated for making a difference with more Republicans to help overturn the “madness” of bills gotten through. He commented that not one bill has been vetoed since our Governor has taken office, and some bills did deserve to be vetoed. He also spoke of state races including senate, house, as well as the Governor’s office needing changes. Taking the changes all the way to Washington that would include giving, “Udall a uhaul,” said Representative Wilson.

After the counting of the delegates’ votes was conducted in a private room, the results indicated that in the race for commissioner one of the thirty abstained from voting, the results for coroner indicated one of the thirty abstained from voting, and the results for sheriff indicated that all thirty delegates voted. Based on the voting delegates, two candidates did not get the required minimum of votes: they were Candidate Kattnig for Commissioner and Candidate Byerly for Sheriff. Both candidates will have until March 31 to turn in the required number of signatures if they decide to go the petition route.

Candidates that received the required number of votes to be placed on the primary ballot are: Tony Supan for sheriff, Alan Butler for commissioner, and Art Nordyke and



Daniel Phillips, 4-H member, received a standing ovation for his speech.

Sentinel photo by Paul Sage

Brad Baltzly for coroner. Also decided was a selection of delegates to head to Brighton and Boulder for the 2014 Republican State Assembly April 11 and 12. Breaking News: Shannon Byerly and Bob Kattnig have informed the Sentinel that they intend to go the petition route to get on the primary ballot.



A packed courtroom await the delegates votes.

Sentinel photo by Paul Sage

Election 2014: The Anonymous Letter

Editorial Comment
by George Gramlich

It has saddened us at the Sentinel, and also a whole lot of folks in the county, that unethical election practices have come to our valley. An anonymous letter, without an author or a return address, mailed from Denver, concerning the sheriff’s race, has reached many of us here in Custer County.

The letter contains three pages: The first page is a Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) printout of an assault, misdemeanor, 3rd degree conviction of Anthony (Tony) Jay Supan, our current Custer County Undersheriff. The arrest date was 11/18/2000, well before Tony became a Custer County Deputy. The second page is a list of “Misdemeanors Which

Will Affect Certification” with regards to the P.O.S.T. law enforcement training program that all officer candidates are required to attend. On it is listed “Assault in the third degree”.

The third page of the letter, the “Allegations” page, contains allegations and questions concerning the hiring of Tony as a deputy, his career and his character without ONE fact to back them up. This folks is the epitome of unethical behavior, dirty politics, and cowardice. The people who wrote this letter obviously live in our county. Where did they come from? What kind of American citizen will lower themselves to anonymous mud throwing and character assassination? Not the kind we want in our valley.

The word “coward” comes

to mind here. There have been numerous debates, town halls, meet and greets, and presentations to various groups by the candidates for months now and to our knowledge here at the Sentinel, no one has brought up this issue in public for the candidates to address. Not once. Also, the Sentinel has not received one letter on this subject. It is pretty much common knowledge in the county that Tony has the misdemeanor assault conviction prior to his becoming a deputy and it can be accessed by simply going to the CBI site and searching by name.

They attempt to address the candidate’s character but what of their own?

So who sent this letter? Was it one of the other sheriff candidates or their campaign team? Was it some-

one associated with their campaigns? Was it someone who simply wants to attack Tony? Or was it just someone who was not officially associated with another candidate but wanted to hurt Tony’s campaign to enhance their own favorite candidate’s chances? One thing is for sure my fellow valley citizens, Custer County is a small place and the people who did this will become known.

The ironic part of this low-life effort, is that it will probably hurt their own preferred candidate’s chances of being elected. Unless the perpetrators become known before the primary vote in June, ALL of the other three candidates (Erik Thompson, Steve Tromley, and Shannon Byerly) will have a shadow of guilt over them. Fundamentally unfair, folks,

unfair. This could suppress voter turnout with people being disgusted with the dirty tricks, or, in a supremely ironic twist, create a sympathy vote for Tony for being anonymously and unethically smeared.

Left coast, East Coast, Denver dirty politics don’t belong here folks. Most of us here in the valley are here because we treasure traditional American values, and when we have a problem with someone or something, we identify ourselves, and speak to the issues like American adults. This simply is an example of the rot that has destroyed our once great country. Do not tolerate it. If the people who sent this letter have any proof concerning the allegations (other than the assault conviction), let them stand up and produce it.

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And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 NIV

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A different view from
the same mountains!

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

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

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

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Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

DIFFERENT VIEWS



There is certainly more ways than one to look at Obamacare. The progressive view is that it's a wonderful thing for us all. Consider the comments of Ellen DeGeneres last week to the president. She praised Obamacare and told him that "everyone" is so happy for what he's done for America. Well, she is clearly wrong. Obamacare is not praiseworthy and not everyone is happy about it. Latest polling still indicates the majority of Americans do not like this economic destroyer. Approximately 70% of all government spending annually is for direct payments to people. About 40% of that 70% is for Obamacare, Medicare, and Medicaid. And the full effects of Obamacare have not happened yet. It will get far worse and affect the middle class the most. Another 33% goes to social security, 21% to poverty programs, and 5% to veterans. Any reasonable and honest person knows that this kind of annual spending is not sustainable. And Obamacare, if unchecked or unrepealed will break the piggy bank. The liberal progressives don't care about that; they want only to provide everything to everyone so that "the people" will become totally dependent on big government. What they don't talk about is what this nanny

state costs. We are aware that a few will benefit from Obamacare, but only at the expense of many others. Nothing is free. There is no free lunch. Everything has a cost. The President bragged during his latest State of the Union address that over 9 million Americans now had health insurance that didn't before. We know he was attributing this to his signature program – the Affordable Care Act. On closer examination we know these numbers are not quite what he was making them out to be. Many of his 9 million were signed up for Medicaid, not Obamacare and many more were kids added to their parent's policies. In fact one of the intended consequences of the Democrats was to enroll as many people in Medicaid as possible. Of course all this "free" health care has to be paid for by someone. And those "someones" are the actual taxpayers in America. Not the ones that "pay" taxes and then get them all back and more when they file. Approximately 47% of Americans pay no taxes at all. So we all know who this leaves to shoulder the major cost of "free" health care and that is the middle class and small businesses. The burden will prove too heavy. Obama's plan was to convince us that if we all followed his Ponzi scheme,

the 30 million Americans that didn't have health insurance would finally be covered. Of course that required millions of young healthy citizens to sign up and pay high premiums in order to cover the older, sicker and poorer Americans. So yes, many would be helped by Obamacare but only at the expense of millions of others. The Congressional Budget Office now predicts that more Americans will lose their health coverage because of the requirements in Obamacare than will be newly insured. The Obamacare premise is that more uninsured people will be covered, all pre-existing conditions must be accepted, 26-year-old "kids" can stay on their parents policies, doctors will be paid less, and we get all this and save money (even reduce the debt) at the same time. You don't really believe that do you? The reality is this. Costs will go up exponentially, doctors will not participate, taxes will rise on all those that actually pay taxes, premiums will go up, needless coverage will be mandated, deductibles will be higher and the young, strong and healthy will not sign up to make this even remotely doable. And the insurance companies will not bear these higher costs. They will be passed on and if there is

still a shortfall you can bet the politicians responsible for this catastrophe will talk bailout. This is all very clear to anyone who wants to be intellectually honest. The Obama administration is bragging about the 5 million that have "signed up." You can bet by the deadline of March 31st they will claim 6 million. When selling this program they stated that 7 million, of which 40% needed to be young healthy Americans, were necessary to sustain the law. Now, of course, they are moving the goal posts because they will not reach their goals. And "signed up" doesn't mean anything. They refuse to publish the statistics of how many of those have paid their premiums and how many of them are young and healthy. Recent, yet unconfirmed, information reveals that of the 5 million probably only 1 or 2 million are newly insured and the rest were those that lost their insurance because of Obamacare. Another 20-25% of those may not have paid their premiums and are therefore not covered and the young healthy demographic is only around 25%. You can bet your last dollar that they know but just won't announce it. There have been so many changes and delays that no one could possibly know what the accurate situation

is. Every day another problem is discovered. The former President of the American Medical Association (AMA) was on TV this last Sunday and said it was a mistake that the AMA Board endorsed this law. The individual mandate has now been gutted by allowing Obamacare itself to be the reason for a hardship exclusion of Obamacare. Now they want the insurance companies to give the signees a 90-day grace period to pay their premiums. We hope you are paying attention to this insanity. The dishonorable and illegitimate way Obamacare was passed only by the House and Senate Democrats in 2009 led to the great election results in November 2010. Nancy Pelosi says the Democrats need to be proud of Obamacare and should use it to get re-elected. Doesn't look like many believe her. We are told even the local Hospice coverage will be negatively impacted by Obamacare. More on that later. The recent special election in Florida may be very telling. We can only hope. May the November 2014 election be similar to the one in 2010. And Ellen, you are so wrong! Obamacare is exactly why we all need to VOTE. It must be stopped.



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Smart Meters Are Here

by Ken Gennetta,
Colorado City, CO

(Editor/KC: Another concern about these so-called 'smart meters' revolves around the detailed information being collected, not just by the electric company, but also by hackers. For example: 'Is there anyone home now?' 'How many people are home?' 'Are their appliances Energy Star Approved?' Consider the unintended consequences before allowing a meter on your home.)

San Isabel Electric Co-op has been on a crusade to install digital smart meters that is stretching the boundaries of ingress access for a utility. I was surprised to find my gate open on private property and a new meter installed without prior notification and with no regard for signs that were posted stating; "smart meter not wanted". A total of approximately twenty-two thousand meters have been installed in Pueblo West, Beulah, Rye/Colorado City, Custer County, Aguilar, Fremont County Walsenburg, LaVeta, Cuchara, and Trinidad. This is being done with little or no discussion with their members in regard to the effects on health, safety, privacy, or data security issues. People who are vulnerable or suffer from electromagnetic sensitivity are not being considered or allowed to opt out. Members are being told if they don't want the meter they will be disconnected from service. Does this sound like a co-op to you? Health studies done by outside health organizations have so far been discounted by SIEA for their long-term effects on human beings.

SIEA will tell you that their industry groups concluded in their tests that (EMF) electromagnetic fields or radio frequencies (RF) emissions are well within safety guidelines. But are they? They will tell you that members will somehow save energy and money. Many have seen their bills skyrocket. <http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/63581287.html?tab=video> (3 minutes). They will tell you that these meters are no worse than a cell phone or computer router. But are they? Many people would disagree, studies have shown that EMF and RF radiation from these meters power supplies are grossly oversized, up to 160 times the strength of a cell phone. A

cell phone and other electrical devices can be shut off at the users discretion, digital meters or as SIEA calls them (advanced meter technology) can't be shut off; they run 24/7. www.Emfacts.com. Well over 5000 studies showed many are claiming health issues ranging from insomnia, ear ringing, anxiety, cancer, nervous system damage as well as reproduction problems. The World Health Organization in 2011 placed wireless digital meters on a class 2-B carcinogen list, and the National Institute of Health along with lab scientists found biological changes in the brain after only minutes of exposure. After hiring independent lab scientists, many insurance companies will not insure liability damage from wireless meters. <http://eon3emfblog.net/?p=382>.

SIEA will also tell you that their meter only pulses radiation 4 seconds every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day. Actually the electric company is receiving data constantly from the meters that talk to each other in the area to check for communication, this "pinging" generates radiation approx 30 minutes per hour. By adding these new radio transmitters in smart meters radiation is much worse than the norm. Olle Johansson, Ph.D. of the Department of Neuroscience in Sweden states, "The inauguration of smart meters w/ involuntary exposure of billions of human beings to pulsed microwave radiation should immediately be prohibited". www.wnd.com/2012/12/health-hazards-linked-to-utility-meters/print. www.electricalpollution.com

Educate yourself for your own family; ask yourself and SIEA why they are so adamant in forcing these utility revenue collection transmitters? Is this a marketing gimmick created by corporations to sell meters made in foreign countries that suck up taxpayer/ratepayer dollars? Is this a feel good green project which uses time-variant pricing schemes that cost you money and your health? You decide!!!

SIEA is not governed by the Public Utilities Commission, they are governed by seven board representatives, that includes someone in your district. SIEA phone number is 1-800-279-7432.

by Mike & Dee Wilhite
Rural Custer County

We have known Jack Canterbury for approximately twelve years. In that time we have come to know that he is an extremely ethical, humble, and caring person. He is authentic in all he does and definitely has the welfare of the county as a top priority.

Just a little background. Jack was born and raised in Colorado. His father was the head wrangler for Eleven Mile Grazing Association in the Hartsel, Colorado, area for many years. So Jack learned the ins and outs of working cattle from a very early age. When he went out on his own he continued to work as a full-fledged cowboy for many years. In 1999, he and Jean married here in Custer County at the Episcopal Church.

Support Jack Canterbury for Commissioner

In 2001 they started Wapiti Realty and during the boom time, employed 8 folks. Being an employer, Jack became intimately knowledgeable in being responsible for all of the taxes associated with payroll as well as what was involved in providing insurance and other employee benefits. He can relate to what other employers go through to meet government requirements. As a small business owner he also understands budgets. One must plan for expenses and must also make sure that expenses don't exceed income. I feel these skills learned over time would benefit Custer County. Other candidates currently running for the office of Commissioner either don't understand or don't want to understand that a budget is very important for our county. It is very im-

portant that the budget for the county be reviewed and ANY wasteful spending be eliminated. Funds collected from the tax payers must be used judiciously and any fraudulent use of tax payers money be eradicated. We need someone like Jack who has not been employed by governmental agencies to represent us as a private business owner. A man who remembers that public employees work for us. Not that we work for them!!

Jack is very familiar with Custer County and is also familiar with the regulations that are currently in place. Some folks have alleged that Jack is a land developer??? Not true- Jack has never developed any property. So I want to put this to rest once and for all. He does have a vision to bring light industry to Custer County utilizing the

existing empty buildings. He would like to see other businesses like ECM who currently employees nine full time workers in Custer County. For those who don't know about ECM, they repair black boxes for big rigs. They provide a valuable service to the trucking industry and more importantly provide jobs for Custer County residents who then, in turn, purchase groceries, fuel etc. in Westcliffe. There are so many empty buildings for sale in Westcliffe, wouldn't be nice to utilize these buildings!!

We feel Jack Canterbury is the very best candidate for commissioner for Custer County. Please consider very carefully who you vote into this office. It is time that we no longer accept the status quo.

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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.

Thank you, from Search and Rescue

Dear Editor,

We at Custer County Search and Rescue thank everyone who so generously donated to Custer County Search and Rescue during the recent Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation’s annual Spirit Campaign in Custer County. We could not do what we do without the support of our donors and our community.

Custer County is known for its mountainous terrain and a lot of it is technically challenging and always potentially dangerous. Around the state of Colorado, among Search and Rescue organizations, we are known to not have as many missions annually as do some Front Range SAR teams, but our missions have been described by other SAR teams as “crazy, wild missions.” Indeed, our rugged, local terrain is a magnet for many well-prepared climbers and some not so well-prepared outdoor enthusiasts. From time to time, we are also called on to locate and assist missing local residents. No matter what the mission, we all volunteer to assist those who need our help at any time of the day or night.

Our team members buy their own personal equipment, but donations such as yours allow us to acquire specialized items such as technical rock climbing rescue equipment. Our All-Terrain Vehicles must be equipped with special tracks to move in heavy snow conditions and our small fleet of four wheel drive vehicles transport team members and gear to jumping off points for rescue missions.

On March 8th, our tracked vehicles were called upon to assist neighboring Fremont County. Authorities there were shuttled into a remote residence for a deceased person. CCSAR personnel assisted in the recovery mission under difficult conditions due to deep snowfall.

The WMVCF Spirit Campaign is our largest fund raiser by far and your donations make possible the acquisition of specialized supplies and mission-critical gear for our ‘territory.’ These donations also help our members get the required specialized training that all SAR teams must have, such as Wilderness First Aid training. Training events are ongoing throughout the year. Without your kind contributions, our job would not be possible. Our response capabilities help make Custer County a safer place for local residents and for our visitors as well.

Again, thank you for your recent generous donation to support our missions.

*Best Regards,
Jerry Tracewell,
Chairperson CCSAR
Board of Directors
Cindy Howard,
Operations Captain
CCSAR*

Byerly to go Petition Route for Sheriff’s Race

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the delegates that supported me and my campaign through the County Assembly. Your confidence in me and belief that I am a solid candidate for Sheriff is greatly appreciated. I want to let my supporters know I will be conducting an all out effort to get the necessary signatures by petition to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for Custer County Sheriff. If you or anyone you know is interested in signing my petition, please contact me at 371-6678 at your earliest convenience. I will also be updating our locations for signatures on my Facebook page at Facebook/Byerly for Custer County Sheriff.

*Thank You,
Shannon Byerly*

Make a Wise Choice

Dear Editors,

In 1966 our family made their first of many excursions to the Wet Mountain Valley. We fell in love with the wholesome people, the beautiful terrain, the freshness of the air and the hometown feeling. Each year we counted the days until we could return. In 2005 we were blessed to move here full time. We were home! We are not alone with those feelings. Many folks have come to Westcliffe because they have fallen in love with this part of God’s creation just as we did.

Today is a sad day in this mountain community. The wholesomeness that we held in such high regard has been tarnished. Today I received in the mail an anonymous letter. My attitude toward anonymous mail is [1] if it is threatening turn it over to the authorities; [2] if it’s just a bunch of “garbage” {as this one was} it goes in the garbage. Mine went into the garbage!! The issue is that one of the candidates running for Sheriff is attempting to slander another candidate. The only candidate mentioned in the letter is Tony Supan. Therefore, he can be removed as a potential writer of the letter.

With Mr. Supan out of the picture that leaves all of the other three candidates suspect. I personally have to ask myself if I could in good conscious vote for any of the other three candidates. Since the letter came unsigned [a cowardly act] I can not support any of the other three today -- or any time in the future. At least one of the three candidates does not demonstrate leadership, ethics, or integrity. Not the type of person I would want in any elected position in this county - one who is not above demeaning tactics based on untruths!

The tragedy: big time national political tactics have arrived in Westcliffe. When an individual cannot win on their own qualifications and merit they go on the attack of other candidate[s]. Not the kind of person for the position as they do not represent the wholesomeness this community expects.

Voters, I challenge you to first of all, vote and when you do, give serious consideration to the kind of person you desire to have in the office of Sheriff in Custer County. Do you want the wholesome qualities of our county degraded further by someone who attempts to slander another candidate with national political tactics? What kind of behavior would they exhibit in the position of Sheriff? Be prayerful and thoughtful about your choice.

Make wise choices for yourself and our county.

*Nancy North,
Westcliffe*

The Cliffs’ Park Community Garden - Meet ‘n’ Greet

Hello Fellow Gardeners:

Please join us on March 29th at 10am in the Community Room at the Westcliffe Library for a meet and greet session to kick off the 2014 season for the Cliffs’ Park Community Garden, co-sponsored by the library. They’ll be homemade pastries, coffee and tea on hand. And we’ll be giving out door prizes.

Penn Parmenter (our own local expert on high altitude gardening—a widely sought-after speaker throughout CO and beyond) will be helping us get our gardening year growing by showing us how to start seeds properly in our high altitude, challenging environment. Robin Young, CSU Extension Custer County Director, will also be on hand to answer questions. The CSU Extension office is a great resource to find gardening information.

If you have visited the garden, you have seen the amazing progress that we have made since we planted our first beds in 2011. Though we are making great strides, we have a long way to go.

We would like to invite the public to join us this growing season. There are still private plots available. Also, we are always looking for volunteers who cooperatively garden multiple plots and share in the harvest. Bring your ideas about what summer and fall crops you’d like to grow & enjoy. If you would like to participate this summer but can’t make the meeting please call Joyce (719) 783-0888 or Nancy (719) 783-0636 to reserve a plot.

Here’s to a bright and productive (oh, and hopefully rainy!) season, and to great friendships that emerge from community gardening.

Ask a Pro: When and why to chlorinate your well.

The rules spec that a well should be chlorinated when drilled and again when the pumping equipment is installed. Most agencies recommend chlorinating your well once a year. While this is excessive for many; shallow wells tapping surface water should be done every spring after the melt and again after a heavy rain. These same shallow wells should be tested for bacteria regularly. Sulfur and iron bacteria can occur naturally in the formations of the area; they either can be helped or even cured with “shock” chlorination. In shock chlorination, high levels of chlorine are used for a short period of time; the chlorinated water is then pumped to waste. The amount of chlorine to use is calculated for each well based on the amount of water and contact time. For those who don’t wish to call and ask a rough figure is one gallon of regular liquid bleach for wells under 300ft.deep.

-David Nequette /Lic. 1043

Send Questions to Nequette@ris.net

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~Mark Twain

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Department Of Labor Sanctions On Hospital District Revealed

by Paul Sage

On Monday, March 24th, a special meeting and press conference of the West Custer County Hospital District Board was held to discuss the results of the U.S. Department of Labor inquiry into their illegal employment practices regarding EMS personnel.

Triggered by an anonymous complaint, the investigation was begun on December 10th of last year into violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act. While the Department of Labor determined that the violations were not willful, the fact that they occurred remained. Initially facing repayments to current and former EMS personnel of nearly \$200,000, which brought discussions of bankruptcy into the picture, the final penalties amounted to just over \$34,000. "With this small amount, we'll find a way somehow to come up with this," according to Board Chairman Joe Arbuckle.

The Hospital District will have 90 days to make the payments to the appropriate current and former EMS staff, and pay the additional state and federal taxes on these amounts. "There were also some irregularities in the way time and accounts and payments were reported," according to Chairman Arbuckle. He further stated that "We were cited also for having incomplete records. Our records were in poor shape. This particular area is still under review."

The remainder of the meeting focused on coming

up with a plan to present to the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District at the next committee meeting on Tuesday, March 25th. This committee was formed by Fire District Chairman Roger Camper to work on finding a solution to the EMS problems in the county. It is made up of members of the Fire and Hospital District Boards and members of the current EMS staff.

The proposal being brought forward is the same as has already been rejected by the Fire District, but includes a proposal to engage the public in the discussions to determine the wishes of the citizens and to determine if there is public support for tax increases to cover the \$75,000 cost of the formation of an Ambulance District and to support the proposed district wherever it may reside.

In addition to working toward getting the public on board with a proposal and a tax increase, the importance of the County Commissioners supporting the moves was addressed. "The Commissioners have got to come on board," according to Hospital District Board Treasurer Chuck Ippolito. He continued, "This pussyfooting around that they all want to do to me is unacceptable in their role." Chairman Arbuckle chimed in, "Absolutely unacceptable."

Board Member Brent Bruiser was alone in expressing the opinion that "I'd like to look hard at keeping the mission within the District with some changes and some fund-

ing so we can have paid staff. He pointed out that this approach wouldn't involve the costs of creating another district, and having a paid staff would be the key to sustainability for the EMS service in Custer County.

Some members of the Board and Clinic Director Delwin Lester also defended the District's departure from its service plan. Board Member Bob Tobin explained that "The Service Plan had language that is no longer operative. We do not provide staff that will cover emergencies 24/7. That's what EMS does; that's what hospitals down the hill do." He further clarified that the "24/7 issue and emergent care is not provided at this facility - period!"

Clinic Director Delwin Lester defended the district's departures from the service plan. "The world changed around us while we're still trying to focus on an archaic, historic service plan," he said. He further cited legal grounds for unapproved service plan changes over time. He said that "if you wish to challenge the action of a special district for an unapproved material departure, you must do so within 45 days of the public's notification or pretty much that change is written in stone that you have done that." He did not clarify what that public notification looked like historically. He also said that Special District guidelines only require that they "shall conform so far as practicable to the approved service plan."

Ambulance Services Face Varying Challenges

by Paul Sage

At a March 21st informational meeting in Fremont County at the Cotopaxi School the problems faced by ambulance services across the board became clearer. The meeting concerned Arkansas Valley Ambulance, one of five ambulance services operating in different parts of Fremont County. Like the ambulance service operated in Custer County, it was established in the 80s. Unlike Custer County, it is a private 501(c) (3) corporation.

After 30 years of struggling along as a volunteer operation, there was a coupe of sorts in 2012 when some

members of the board of directors voted to recall and replace other members of the board. The corporate bylaws were not clear on this and the recalled members chose not to leave the board, but rather eliminated the other board members and suspended or fired EMS personnel that were not in agreement with the move. The corporate bylaws were re-written by Westcliffe's own attorney, Peter Michaelson, and the newly defined corporation went on about their business with changes like paying some of their EMS staff, coming up with creative new methods of fund raising, and making changes which they propose have substantially improved the

service to their area. The exiled board members and staff have formed a group called Concerned Citizens for Responsible Ambulance Service and have filed suit to recapture the ambulance service. That case is awaiting a court hearing.

Several things are clear in all of these EMS operations. There is no standard protocol for how they operate, they all face financial challenges, and they are absolutely necessary for the communities they serve. Above these similarities, it is clear that the service providers, no matter what their level of qualification, are extremely dedicated and passionate about what they do.

Active Shooter Drill, April 18

by Christe Coleman

On March 19th, the Office of Emergency Management had its second Table-top planning session with the Sheriff's Office, the Fire Department, the Ambulance Service, C-1 policy makers and local government officials. This session was held in advance of the Active Shooter Drill which will be held on April 18 (Friday) at the Custer County School. While an active shooter would top the list of "nightmare" crises, many of the tactics used by first responders would be similar to those used for a tornado, a severe wind storm, a building collapse or toxic spill. This gives the community's first responders the opportunity to practice working together during an emergency.

In the words of Dwight D.

Eisenhower, former President and Supreme Allied Commander in Europe during WW II: "In preparing for battle, I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable." The reason that this kind of community drill is important is that it gives the opportunity to coordinate and test what will happen if a disaster happened. No one actually thinks that such a terrible act would happen here in "paradise," but no one predicted the Columbine massacre, the Aurora Theater shooting or the Bailey, CO School shooting. It is the planning process that teaches us to be more effective irrespective of what unforeseen might happen.

Christe Coleman and a consultant from Denver used a case study to encourage the

different groups to share their plans and focus the cross-specialty discussion. The C-1 staff and administrators have been working on an emergency plan for several months and the Sheriff's Department has been preparing its resources to respond to an emergency where coordination, dealing with injuries, and communications will be stretched to the max. The meeting lasted about 2 ½ hours and all left with a list of "TO DOs" prior to the drill in April. Remember, according to the man who organized the D-Day invasion of France, the planning and not the plan is indispensable.

All residents must support this effort. There will be minor inconveniences on April 18th, so be prepared and patient.

Sentinel Subscription Price Increase
Effective April 1st.
See page 19 for details

Eagles Summit Ranch Wounded Warrior Graduation

Friday, April 4, at 6:00 p.m.

The graduation starts with a potluck dinner. Please bring a side dish to share; Eagles Summit will provide the main course.

Please RSVP to esrcolorado@gmail.com or by calling 719-783-9729.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Charles Tomsick Celebrates 90th Birthday

Family and friends started Charles Tomsick's 90th birthday celebration at the Senior Center in Silver Cliff, Monday, March 17, followed by a surprise party in Franktown, Colorado, on Saturday.

Charles was born in Cañon City, the ninth child of 10. At age 3, his family moved to the ranch 10 miles east of Westcliffe, where he still resides. He entered the United States Army in 1943 and served in the 35th Regiment, 25th Infantry (Tropic Lightning) division of the 6th Army. He shipped to Guadalcanal

and then fought in the Luzon Philippines campaign. As the war ended, Charles was part of the occupying forces sent to Japan. He was honorably discharged in 1946.

Soon after returning from the war he met Dorothy Drodts, whom he married in 1947. He worked on highway construction (including the Custer County Highway Department), operated a saw mill with Kenneth Hoza, and continued ranching until he retired. He has two sons,



Charlie Tomsick turns 90!
courtesy photo
two grandchildren and one great grandchild.

9Health Fair Comes to Custer County

by Candi Sage

The annual 9Health Fair will be back to Custer County 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, April 12, at the Custer County School to provide an array of free and low cost health screenings.

Gail Stoltzfus, Director of the Custer County Public Health Agency, reports that the average attendance for Custer County is 650 people. One misconception Gail hopes to overcome is that the Health Fair is only for the over 50 folks. She hopes the view of all people over 30 would be to come out to the Health Fair as most often health issues found at an earlier age are more manageable if caught in an earlier time frame. Early detection from 9Health Fair screenings can and does make a difference in issues such as cholesterol, diabetes, various cancers, heart and basic or general health concerns.

Most all screenings on the list shown are completed on April 12 with the ex-

ception of three that need to be scheduled at the clinic prior to the Health Fair; they are the breast screening, Pap smear screening, and testicular/prostate screening. Upper Arkansas Area of Aging does offer a \$30 voucher for the Blood Chemistry Screening for people 60 years or older. Those qualifying in Lake, Chaffee, Custer or Fremont County can contact 719-539-3341 or toll free 877-610-3341 for seeking the voucher.

Director Stoltzfus also indicated that it takes about 100 volunteers to run the



Gail Stoltzfus, Director of the Custer County Public Health Agency.
Sentinel photo by Candi Sage

Fair and Custer County does have enough people, although would likely take more if there is interest. If you would like to know more information, volunteer or find out about each screening, you can email www.9healthfair.org and enter either city, county, or zip code for further details or call 303-698-3799 or 1-800-332-3078. You can also contact the Custer County Public Health agency at 719-783-3369.

Crowning of Royalty Sunday, March 30

The final stage of the Royalty contest will be held Sunday, March 30, at A Painted View Ranch beginning at 1:00 p.m. The contest is open to the public (free of charge), so please attend to support the contestants. The girls have worked hard on the various elements of the competition, so your support will be greatly appreciated. Beginning at 1:00 there will be modeling, speeches, horsemanship, and the beauty and poise of these young ladies. The ladies will be participating in the Westcliffe Stampede, as well as other area rodeos representing our town and Saddle Club. They will make Westcliffe proud!

Tony Supan Candidate for Custer County Sheriff

The discussion lately has been focused on the experience the candidates have for the upcoming sheriff race. This is where I stand.

It is important to me as a candidate to have a lasting connection with the community where I am running for office, and direct experience for the office I am seeking.

The time I have spent and knowledge gained at the Custer County Sheriff's office has given me an advantage that the other candidates do not have because I have worked at every level throughout the office.

Starting in Detention, I learned and performed all duties pertaining to the jail and its operation including all building and maintenance work. I earned my P.O.S.T. certification which gives me the ability to serve anywhere throughout the state of Colorado and I began serving as a deputy in Custer County. After being promoted to Patrol Sergeant, I supervised patrol personnel, approved reports, and became certified as a firearms and tazer instructor. With my promotion to Undersheriff, I currently oversee all personnel and their duties in detention, jail operation, dispatch and patrol.

Over the past year I have worked closely with Sheriff Jobe on the budget, policy and procedures, and Fire Marshal duties and I actively handle the day-to-day operations of this office, which will make a smooth transition easily attainable.

We have a great group of highly experienced deputies on duty today. This is important in helping us grow in the future. I will bring a **renewed energy** to this office filled with teamwork and training. Together we will move Custer County Sheriff's office to the next level with state-of-the-art readiness, while maintaining our rural community feel. I am prepared for the next step and I believe in our future together.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Supan Candidate for Sheriff

Contact info:
tsupan@centurytel.net
719-783-9296



Vote for Paul Wenke for Westcliffe Town Board

- Economic Development
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Improved Intergovernmental Relationships



Local Mountain News & Notices

“People’s Choice” Talent Show Upcoming- Benefits CCHS After-Prom

The Custer County High School Student Council will be sponsoring a “People’s Choice” Talent Show on Thursday, April 17th. The event is a fundraiser for the CCHS After-Prom event that will take place following prom on May 3rd.

The Student Council invites individuals or groups in the community who may

have an act to sign-up for the talent show. The format will be unique in that the audience will have an opportunity to purchase “votes” and then cast their vote for their favorite act. The votes along with a panel of judges will determine the winner of the talent show.

Entry fee for the talent show is \$10 for an indi-

vidual act and \$15 for a group act. Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 performances, with 1st place receiving \$100, \$50 for 2nd place, and \$25 for 3rd place. Information and sign up for the talent show is at the main office of Custer County Schools. For more information, call Troy Bomgardner, STUCO sponsor at 783-4927.

Bobcats Track Team Results: Center Invitational

by Jim Silver

Head Coach Bruce May is once again pleased with how the Custer County Track Team performed at the Center Invitational last Friday, March 21. Just as in last week’s season opener, the Bobcats competed against a significant number of schools, primarily from the San Luis Valley for this meet. The Bobcat boys placed 4th of the 23 schools competing, and those boys who placed in the top 6 of their respective event(s) are the following:

- Kaylan Stoering placed 6th in the 800-meter run
- Smokey Solis placed 1st in shot-put
- Brian Oconnor placed 1st (tie) in high jump, 3rd in long jump, and 4th in

- triple jump
- Denver Mullett placed 6th in high jump
- Dillon Wommack placed 2nd in the 110-meter hurdles and 2nd in the 300-meter hurdles
- The girls of the Bobcats Track Team placed 7th in over-all girls’ standings at the end of the day, as follows:
- Serenity Ham placed 1st in 100-meter dash, 1st in 100-meter hurdles, and 1st in high jump
- Sarah Gerringer placed 3rd in the 200-meter dash
- Lilly Gerringer placed 6th in the 200-meter dash
- Katlyn Freeburg placed 6th in the 300-meter hurdles

• Jessica Sturtevant placed 3rd in the 3200-meter run

Custer County Schools students are enjoying their Spring Break at the time of this report and will return to classes on Monday, March 31. Practice during Spring Break is on an individual and informal basis. These boys and girls who placed in their events should feel encouraged to work on techniques and conditioning, so as to continue to improve. Many other team members were listed just below 6th place in competition, so we’ll watch for more names to be added in next week’s report as they also listen to their coaches and hone their skills. The Bobcats’ next meet is in Limon on Saturday, March 29, starting at 8:00 am.

Bobcats Sport Schedule

BASEBALL	TRACK
Saturday, March 29, 2014 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.: Double Header - Rye at Rye	Saturday, April 5, 2014 8 a.m.: Limon at Limon
Thursday, April 3, 2014 3 p.m.: Sargent at HOME	Friday, April 11, 2014 8 a.m.: Ray E. Choate Invitational at Primero
Friday, April 4, 2014 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.: Double Header - John Mall at HOME	Saturday, April 12, 2014 8 a.m.: Salida at Salida
Tuesday, April 8, 2014 4 p.m.: Sanford at Sanford	
Saturday, April 12 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.: Double Header - Cripple Creek at Cripple Creek	

GO BOBCATS!



Bobcat Menu • March 31 - April 3, 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
breakfast French Toast Sticks Sausage Links Fruit, Milk	breakfast Scrambled Eggs W.W. Toast Fruit, Milk	breakfast Bagel, Cream Cheese Ham Fruit, Milk	breakfast Sausage Gravy, Biscuits Fruit Milk
lunch BBQ Chicken Sandwich Choice of Vegetable Choice of Fruit Milk	lunch Lasagna w/ Meat Sauce Garlic Roll Choice of Veg. & Fruit Milk	lunch Toasted Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Choice of Veg. & Fruit Milk	lunch Soft Beef Taco Pumpkin Bread Choice of Veg. & Fruit Milk

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

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cornerstones
of my County
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Campaign.**



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County Assembly.
I need your support
by signing my petition
before March 31st.*

*Contact me, Bob Kattnig,
at 520-349-5607 or 1drrdoc@gmail.com
to arrange to sign my petition.*

*This ad is paid for by the committee to elect Bob Kattnig.
To contact Bob, call 719-783-0738.*

KIDS

Friday, March 28, 2014

The First Presidential Election

According to the Gregorian Calendar, April 6 is the 96th day of the year. However, the significant historical factor is the year 1789. The first presidential election takes place on February 4, 1789, but the results were not known until April 6, 1789.

Following the election, the first Congress under the Constitution convened in New York City on March 4, 1789. A month later on April 1, the Speaker of the House was chosen. His name was Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg.

This leads us to April 6, 1789. George Washington was elected the first president of the United States under our Constitution with 69 electoral votes. John Adams was elected vice president with 34 votes.

In Washington’s inaugural address he encouraged Congress to add a bill of rights to the Constitution that would express a “reverance for the characteristic rights of freemen and a regard for the public harmony.” The Constitution does not require an inaugural address but every president since Washington has delivered one.

information source: wikipedia

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

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2 bedroom, small house next to Oak Creek Grade General Store. \$650/month, utilities included. No smokers; No pets. Call 783-2245.

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Westcliffe Towing business for sale. 3 very well equipped tow trucks. Owner moving out of state for family reasons. Priced for quick sale. Serious inquiries only. 719-783-9059 or 719-569-6044

Help Wanted

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Gardener needed for one-acre garden. Working knowledge of permaculture Gardening and Landscaping preferred. Team-oriented and willing to take di-

rection. Send resume/cover letter to resumes81232@gmail.com. P.O. Box 6, Hillside, CO 81232

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The Westcliffe Movie

By Carol Clemenson

Well, folks, here is a little more information about the filming of the Westcliffe movie to be filmed here in Custer County. I got an email from the producers and they have really had some scheduling issues. The patience it takes to put something like this together is really incredible. Getting the actors lined up and the costumes, adjusting the script, a lot of work. But Skelton Creek Productions will get it all together and be here in the near future.

The Pines Ranch will be one of the major production sites. There is a tentative

title for the movie but Rick Simpson, the producer, asked me not to reveal it until it is confirmed. They are working the script around the title.

As soon as I know who will be doing which part(s) I will put all the information in the paper. So please keep reading because there



The Pines Ranch site for Skeleton Creek Productions.

Sentinel photo by Carol Clemenson

will be more information soon. I hope I can meet with the site manager, Michael Stewart, soon and get some more locations where they will be filming. I will have more information later, keeping everyone posted on the progress.

Custer County Lions Fundraising Dinner

Spring is in the air! Please join the Custer County Lions' of the Sangres for a great dinner, silent auction, and fun with great friends.

Custer County Lions' of the Sangres received our charter in May of 2012. Since that time, we have assisted children and adults in need with eye surgeries, eyeglass pur-

chases and KidSight screening of small children.

In order to continue providing these services, we need your support! On Saturday, April 12, at the Lutheran Fellowship Hall, we will be serving a delicious meal of beef brisket, baked potatoes, green salad, rolls, and

homemade peach crisp. Cost of the meal will be \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under. Please RSVP to Elaine Hall @ 783-0432 by April 5, 2014. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$30 per person.

See you all at the Spring Fling!!

Oyster Fry Success!

by Ed Berry,
Custer County FFA reporter

The Custer County FFA Chapter members began preparing for the oyster fry at noon on Saturday, March 15. We started our busy day by marinating the 50 pounds of chicken and getting the 300 pounds of oysters separated.

The advisory committee made the preparations to heat the oil for frying the oysters, while numerous FFA members headed to the kitchen to prepare the salad, beans, chicken, rolls, and drinks with the help of Dani Walden and Sandra Dunlap. Meanwhile, other members gathered the

auction items donated by the Ag Mechanics taking them to the cafeteria for the oyster fry partakers to look at them before the auction. The remaining 15 members set up the gym.

This year all attendees sat at new tables donated to the school by the Custer County Alumni Association. As time ticked down and guest arrived, the oysters were shuttled to the kitchen, the food was laid out, the guests started to come on through the line from the cafeteria through the kitchen and ending up in the small gym. As guests were getting their fill of oysters, Kurt Ruzanski began to

auction of members, items from Ag Mechanics and uncooked oysters.

After expenses, the entire evening brought in approximately \$5900. Thank you to all who came and participated. Special thanks to Carol Custer who purchased 5 members and bid on nearly everyone and everything! The money raised helps FFA Members go to the National Western Stock Show, the National FFA Convention, the State Convention, and for career development events such as Public Speaking.

Thank you to all who attended!



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Mike Kopp ... Roni Sylvester ... Tom Tancredo

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Local Mountain News & Notices

A Life Well Lived By A Man Well Loved Harold Estabrook

Sunrise January 3, 1922, Sunset March 17, 2014

He was born in Northome, Minnesota, the oldest of eight children. He is survived by three brothers; Don, Bill, and Earl Estabrook, and two sisters; Gladys Quinn, and Muriel Ash, a son Keith and 2 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Harold worked in a northern Minnesota logging camp with the CC before signing up with the U.S. Army. He was an Army Engineer from October 14, 1942 until 1946 on Okinawa in the Pacific Theater. He spent the duration of the war in Okinawa helping to build an airport, a road, and a cemetery. They finished an airstrip completed for B-29's and B-32's to begin landing in 6 weeks.

After the war, he moved to Alaska where he homesteaded a small plot of land near Fairbanks. He worked on the Alaska pipeline, and enjoyed buying and selling real estate. He would tell stories of the temperatures in Alaska reaching to 70 degrees below zero.

In 1980 he moved up to the Oak Creek Grade area. He played pool at the General store, was a regular for breakfast, and was always there for Sunday Church Services.

He was a lifetime member of the VFW in Canon City, and a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 170 in Westcliffe.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday April 2, 2014 at 10 a.m. at the Cowboy Church in Westcliffe, with lunch to follow.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Harold's name to the Wounded Warriors at Eagles Summit Ranch, P.O. Box 1002, Westcliffe, Colorado, 81252.



Events Calendar

Monday, March 31, 2014

School back in session
9 a.m.: BOCC Staff Meeting in Boardroom

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

9 a.m.: BOCC Meeting
5:30 p.m.: American Legion Auxillary's Simple Supper followed by meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Hope Lutheran
6:30 p.m.: American Legion Post 170 Mtg. at Cliff Lanes

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

9 a.m.: BOCC Meeting

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Airport Advisory Board Meeting
All day: Knowledge Bowl League at Alamosa

Friday, April 4, 2014

7:30 p.m. Jones Theater: "The Monuments Men"
National SAT Registration Deadline for test date 5/3/14

Saturday, April 5, 2014

7:30 p.m.: Jones Theater: "The Monuments Men"

Sunday, April 6, 2014

2 p.m.: Jones Theater: "The Monuments Men"

Monday, April 7, 2014

6 p.m.: 4-H Public Speaking Contest at Courthouse

Friday, April 11, 2014

7:30 p.m.: Jones Theater: "The Son of God"

Saturday, April 12, 2014

7 a.m. - Noon: Custer County Health Fair
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.: Rotary Van Service Chili Cook-Off at Cliff Lanes

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 at (719) 783-0809

Monday through Friday

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Custer County Public transit service available to everyone through Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Noon: Lunch served at Custer County Senior Center located on first floor of Silver Cliff Town Hall. Call 783-9508 to RSVP

Monday and Thursday

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources in Silver Cliff opens to assist young mothers and families in need. Services include free pregnancy tests, counseling to pregnant women and more. Call 783-4357

Tuesday

12:30 p.m.: Bridge Club meets in the library community room in downtown Westcliffe.
4:30 p.m.: Awanas for kids ages three through sixth grade at First Baptist Church of Westcliffe
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Jammin' band at Mining Company restaurant in Silver Cliff

Tuesday through Friday

10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Library in downtown Westcliffe

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 at (719) 783-0809

Thursday

5:30 p.m.: Weight Watchers meeting in the Hope Lutheran Church basement. Call 783-4144
6 p.m.: Celebrate Recovery program at First Baptist Church in Westcliffe. Call (719) 568-1060

Friday

6 p.m.: Open topic Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172 or Lisa (719) 783-0809

Friday and Saturday

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Share Center adjacent to Hope Lutheran Church in Westcliffe

Saturday

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.: Library in downtown Westcliffe
10:30 a.m.: Story time for kids at the library.

Remembering Ludlow: 100 Years Later

Wednesday, April 2nd
at All Aboard Westcliffe
Admission is \$5 per person.
Doors open at 5 p.m.
and the lecture will begin at 5:30.
Refreshments will be provided.

Frontier Pathways Scenic & Historic Byway will host this presentation by Dawn DiPrince, co-chair of the Ludlow Centennial Commemoration Commission and Director of El Pueblo History Museum.

The Ludlow Massacre erupted 100 years ago this April, as the tragic climax to the Colorado Coalfield Strike. When southern Colorado coal miners went on strike in September 1913, they and their families were expelled from their company-owned homes. As labor-related refugees, families lived on the open prairie in makeshift cities of canvas through the winter of 1913-14. The battle of April 20 ended with the deaths of twelve children, two women, a guardsman, and a passerby and the executions of three union members. Eleven children suffocated in the tent cellar. Another boy, 11-year-old Frank Snyder, was shot in the face and killed.

DiPrince will tell the stories behind the Colorado Coalfield Strike of 1913-14, the fateful massacre, and the modern-day statewide effort to commemorate this history.

BOBCAT BASEBALL



Nate Schreve



T.J. Flynn



Noah Tillotson



Rowan Bell



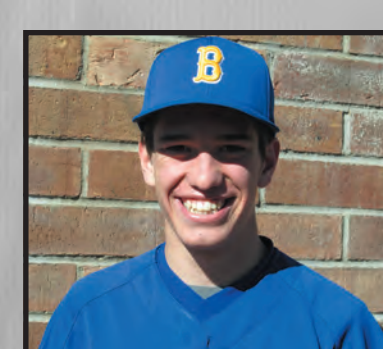
Josh Carter



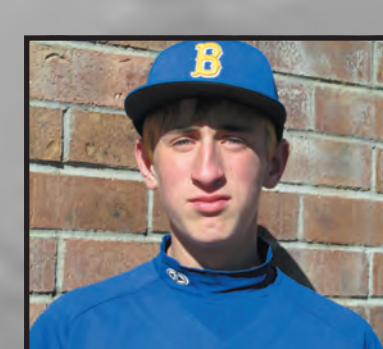
Tyler Schlabach



Travis Stuart



Sam Dunlap



Tylor Howdashed



Conner Rowley



Lane Byerly



Front row from left Brittany Carter Manager, Geoffrey Mellini #22, Tylor Howdashed #18, Josh Carter #21, Megan Shanks #33, Derek Staton #25 and Sam Dunlap #4. Back row from left Kristian Curtis Manager, Casey Nordyke Manager, Justin Walden #9, Tyler Schlabach #37, Nate Schreve #12, Rowan Bell #16, Travis Stuart #23, T.J. Flynn #14, Conner Rowley #6, and Lane Byerly #7. Devon Hockaday #8 was not present.

The Bobcats played a double-header scrimmage against the Canon City Tigers JV last Thursday, March 21 (pictured). They are gearing up for the first conference match-up of the season, traveling to Rye for a double-header this Saturday, March 29, 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. These games come at the end of this week's Spring Break for Custer County Schools.



Roger Bell Assistant Coach, Jay Lont Head Coach and Allen Paxton Assistant Coach



Justin Walden



Megan Shanks



Geoffrey Mellini



Derek Staton

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~ Allen Butler ~
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Whoever would overthrow the liberty
of a nation must begin by subduing
the freeness of speech.

~Benjamin Franklin

“Takin’ It To The House...”

A Calendar And Commentary From The Golden Dome

From: Representative
Jim Wilson – HD 60
March 23, 2014

What a difference a year makes in political parties! This past week in the House Finance Committee, we got to witness a miraculous transformation of committee members. Last year, just like turtles pulling into their protective shells, every Democrat member of the committee voted against personal property tax exemptions. Not once, mind you, but twice... House bills 13-1174 and 13-1177 were both killed last year on straight party line votes. The sun set on those Republican sponsored bills as the Dems seemed to be totally opposed to Personal Property Tax exemptions. Then the sun rose on an election year...

This year, the Dems evidently saw the need to attempt to shed the “anti-business” mantle. Amazingly, with two of their sponsors carrying the bill on the House side, every Democrat member of the Finance Committee that voted “no” on last year’s bills voted in favor of the

concept this year! Be sure to watch for the newly acquired “pro-business” vocabulary on the campaign trail this fall... Oh, by the way, did I mention the coincidental fact that the two bill sponsors are from contested districts?

The two education bills were voted upon in the House Education Committee this week. The “Student Success Act” passed on an 11-1 vote and the School Finance Act passed on a 7-5 party line vote. All 5 Republicans voted against the School Finance Act (myself included) because we felt that the \$17M creating 5,000 more CPP slots should go to districts with no strings attached. (I personally believe that we should fully fund Kindergarten before we fund more pre-school slots. Currently, each Kindergarten student only receives .58 per pupil funding.) The two school finance bills will attract a lot of attention as they move to the House floor and on to the Senate. The rumor around the Senate is that the bills will undergo major makeovers before they come back to the

House. If that should occur, a Conference Committee made up of both House and Senate members would work out the differences. Since nearly \$6 billion of the state’s budget goes to K-12 education, this battle is far from over...

Speaking of battles, the March economic forecast has been released and the Long Bill is headed to the House this week. (The Long Bill carries that name because it is REALLY long – every expenditure in the state is included.) The “feeding frenzy” will now begin in earnest as the two parties battle over where the money should be allocated. According to the word in the hallways, most of the Republican bills with a fiscal note attached will die in appropriations because the Dems have over-promised the available dollars nearly 2 ½ times! Look for the lights to stay on late into the night as the two sides of the aisle debate the perceived needs of the state of Colorado.

The sub-plot in the “dollar drama” is the fact that the chair of the House Appropriations Committee has



been over-promising budget dollars in order to curry favor for votes in next year’s race for Speaker of the House. (The Dems assume that they will retain control of the House for next session.) At the moment, there are no fewer than three Dems maneuvering for the Speaker’s chair! You never know what will pop out of the oven when you turn the heat up on a mixture of egos, politics and money!

For assistance call (303-866-2747) or e-mail wilsonforhd60@gmail.com or james.wilson.house@state.co.us.

Yours for HD 60 --
Representative Jim Wilson

Sheriff's Report

Currently six men in jail.

March 24 Julie Woods, age 50, of Westcliffe was arrested in Westcliffe after being stopped for speeding. Woods was then arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. She was booked into the Custer County jail with a \$2,000 bond then released.

March 23 Michelle Trinajstick, age 25, of Silver Cliff was arrested in Westcliffe for speeding and driving with a license under denial. She was

booked into jail, posted a \$2,000 bond, and was released.

March 21 At 1443 hours, a 2004 Subaru station-wagon driven by Gilbert Costello was westbound on Highway 96 when he lost control of his vehicle at approximately mile marker 12. The vehicle went airborne off of the right-hand side of the road at a left-hand curve across a drainage ditch and through a fence. The Subaru sustained heavy damage. Costello was taken to St. Thomas More

Hospital by ambulance.

March 19 At 9:30 a.m., a 2004 Honda driven by Jennifer Laureano, age 21, of Pueblo West was westbound on Highway 96 at approximately mile marker 9 when she lost control of her vehicle on snowpacked roads. The vehicle slid off of the right-hand side of the roadway and rolled one and a half times. Heavy damage was sustained to the vehicle. Laureano and a juvenile passenger was taken to Parkview Hospital by ambulance.

March 18 Richard Koester, age 36, of Westcliffe was arrested for menacing and harassment. He was booked into the Custer County jail and later posted a \$1,500 bond and was released. Koester is to appear in Custer County court at a later date.

There were four ambulance runs between March 18 and 24.

There were two fire runs to direct traffic at the scene of the accidents.

Court Report...

Robert Alan Clamenza, age 59, of Westcliffe plead guilty to driving while impaired. Was jailed for 60 days and received two years probation. Assessed \$1,792.75.

Jamie Elisa Gallegos, age 35 of Rockvale, Colorado plead guilty to speeding 10-19 mph over the speed limit. Charges of driving

under restraint and an alcohol infraction were dismissed by the DA. Fined \$110.50.

Kevin Benjamin Lewis, age 25, of Indianapolis, Indiana plead guilty to failure to present proof of insurance and was fined \$1,445.50. Spent 10 days in jail and was also sentenced to 40 hours

of community service. Charges of speeding 10-19 mph over the limit and driving under restraint were dismissed by the DA.

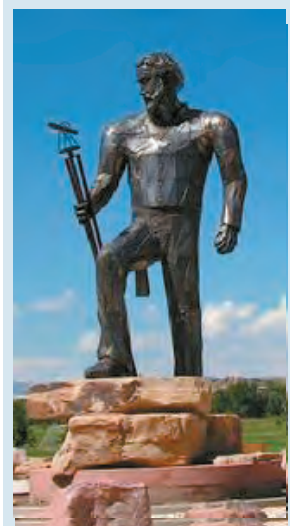
Joshua Baturin, age 37, of Silver Cliff plead guilty to disorderly conduct and was fined \$681.00 with supervised probation. A charge of obstruction of

government property was dismissed by the DA.

Christopher Allan Harper, age 31, of Cañon City plead guilty to driving with licensed restrained. However, a motion to dismiss was granted by the court.



Hydro-Axing at the Gorge, Plants May Not Be The Only Thing Getting The Axe



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.

Inept, Deliberate or Prophetic?

So many people write me each day expressing their views on the condition of our nation. There are many different viewpoints. Some say that we cannot be concerned about America because we are Christians and we belong to a higher kingdom. Others say that the nation is the daughter of Babylon and we are getting what is prophesied. Still others believe the nation is under judgment because of our collective actions against God - abortion, homosexuality, idolatry. Many believe that our nation is doomed because of the bankers and New World Order conspiracy. Others ask, "What can I do? I am just one person." Many demand, "What would you have us do?"

First, I would suggest intensive Bible study, in its context, about nations, kingdoms, prophecies concerning Babylon, and judgment. Don't stand on what others have taught or your belief shaped by them. Study it for yourself. This will bring extraordinary clarity to these suppositions. Second, there must be a firm belief that the Bible is the inerrant and infalli-

ble word of God. Teachers, preachers and modern day prophets, while many are well intended, are fallible and errant. Remember the Lord says in Isaiah 55:11, "So shall the word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing wherewith I sent it." Study it yourself.

Discernment in these times is key. Does a person's actions line up with his words? Further do they align with the word of God? When you see what is going on around you, ask yourself "how does that relate to the word of God?" Is America's leadership inept? Deliberate? Prophetic? Time will tell, but one thing is for certain: most every action of this "president" has resulted in bad things for you; it is exposed as against the word of God, AND a lot of it has moved the prophecy clock forward. Remember, just because it moves prophecy forward, it doesn't necessarily mean good things--look at the judgments against nations in the Bible for their part in carrying out

the prophecies of the Lord against Jerusalem.

This does not excuse a national people from their apathy and weariness in doing God's work, or from selecting Exodus 18:21 leaders "able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness." Yes, you are just one person. Just as one person can change a nation for worse, as we have seen with the occupant of the Oval Office, one person can change it for the good. Edmund Burke is credited with saying, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Further, the Lord said in Ezekiel 22:30, "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it:" The Lord is looking for YOU. Don't let the second part of the verse come about: "But I found none." Let us not be an inept people, but deliberate and prophetic.

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

ICE Texas Field Offices

Remove More Than

800 Sex Offenders So Far

This Year, More Than

2,000 Removed Every

Year in Past Three Years

(Editor/GG: This is an official U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) press release. Can you imagine how many of these illegals have NOT been caught as Obama and the democrats winds down enforcing our immigration laws??? Folks, amnesty will destroy our beloved country.)

DALLAS-
The four Texas field offices within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) have deported more than 860 sex offenders so far this fiscal year.

Of the 862 alien sex offenders deported by the Texas-based offices, about 27 percent were convicted of sex offenses against children.

ICE's four Texas field offices are located in Dallas, El Paso, Houston, and San Antonio. The Dallas area of responsibility includes 128 counties in north Texas, and the state of Oklahoma. Dallas ERO deported 171 sex offenders so far in fiscal year 2014; 47 were convicted of sex offenses against a minor. In all of fiscal year 2013, the office deported 463 sex offenders; 154 were convicted of sex offenses against a minor. In 2013, all four Texas offices deported 2,124 sex offenders; 508 were convicted of sex offenses against a minor. In fiscal year 2012, Texas ERO offices deported 2,007 sex offenders, and 2,127 in 2011.

ICE officers routinely ap-

prehend removable convicted sex offenders during targeted enforcement operations, or they are turned over to ICE custody when local/state jails or prisons release them after they serve their prison sentences. Additionally, ICE and the Texas Department of Public Safety have begun to regularly share information on sex offenders. This partnership allows ICE to cross-reference the list of sex offenders provided from the state to determine if they are removable aliens.

"Identifying and locating aliens convicted of sex offenses and other serious crimes are a high priority for our fugitive operations teams," said Thomas P. Giles, field office director for ERO Dallas. "Ultimately, our efforts to remove these criminals from our streets, our communities and our country have a positive impact on public safety."

Some of the more egregious offenses of the criminal alien sex offenders deported throughout Texas include: sexual assault, kidnapping, and aggravated sexual assault of a child.

Following are some of the sex offenders deported by officers with the ERO Dallas office: (In accordance with Department of Homeland Security privacy policies, ICE cannot include the names of those deported.)

1. A 34-year-old man from Mexico was arrested by ERO officers in Dallas. In November 2013, he was

convicted in Moore County, Texas, of indecency with a child by contact. He was deported December 20, 2013.

2. A 29-year-old man from Guatemala was arrested by ERO officers November 7 in Mesquite. In March 2000, he was convicted in Dallas County, Texas, of aggravated sexual assault of a child, and evading arrest. He was deported December 11, 2013.

3. A 55-year-old man from Mexico was arrested by ERO officers October 31 in Fort Worth. In October 2013, he was convicted of indecency with a child in Tarrant County, Texas. He was deported December 5, 2013.

4. A 20-year-old man from Mexico was arrested by ERO officers October 1 in Lubbock. In September 2013, he was convicted of aggravated sexual assault in Gaines County, Texas. He was deported October 2, 2013.

Nationwide, ICE has removed more than 72,000 aliens with criminal convictions so far this fiscal year. These removals represent the agency's ongoing commitment to prioritizing the removal of criminal aliens and egregious immigration law violators.

ICE is focused on smart, effective immigration enforcement that prioritizes the removal of criminal aliens, recent border crossers and egregious immigration law violators, such as those who have been previously removed from the United States.



My soul magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

Luke 1: 46-47

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HAMMER DROPS: Americans for Prosperity About to Unload on Udall, Udall Left Between Rock and Hard Place

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

Senator Mark Udall's Rasmussen poll numbers published last week might be as good as it gets for the embattled Senator. Starting this week, Americans For Prosperity are going up on TV with this ad for a buy of \$500,000 that will run over the next three weeks as reported by Politico. This will be paired with a simultaneous buy for the Colorado Springs TV market to the tune of \$340,000. The Professional Left has already come out hard against the ad trying to disparage it in any way they can. Noticeably absent in their many critiques is the content. It's not so much who is saying the words, as the words themselves:

From the ad:

"And millions of people have lost their health insurance. Millions of people can't see their own doctor. And millions are paying more and getting less."

Bang the table and shout

at the top of your lungs Lefties because these statements are true and Udall is fully culpable for each of them.

We've linked to earlier AFP ads that have gone up around the country to great effect saying at the time:

We're betting Senator Mark Udall is praying that Americans For Prosperity runs out of money before the organization gets a chance to unleash these devastating ads against him in Colorado.

Not only has AFP not run out of money, but it seems Udall has jumped quite a few other vulnerable Democratic U.S. Senators in line as an AFP target. We can't blame them as bad news on Obamacare and various miscues have taken Udall's re-election chances from bad to worse.

This has left Udall in need of drastic measures. On one hand, he can go all in after this week's bedtime

story and whore himself out to billionaire Tom Steyer in hopes Steyer's eco-dollars can combat AFP's money. While this will endear Udall to the far left (and his wife), polls have shown the majority of Coloradans are in favor of building the Keystone XL pipeline, something Steyer refuses to support in any form. On the other hand, he can try to neutralize Keystone XL by pulling a Ken Salazar, but this route kisses Steyer's dollars goodbye and makes for some awkward backtracking (not to mention it reserves him a spot sleeping on the couch for the foreseeable future).

Looking around and realizing there's nothing but bad options is a sure sign of a failing campaign.

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America Is in Turmoil – Michelle Obama Takes Tax Payer Funded Vacation to China

by Richard Anthony,
FreedomOutpost.com

Everything seems to be going to hell in a hand-basket in the U.S. and around the rest of the planet. What a perfect time for Michelle Obama, her mom, and the girls to take another four-star all expenses paid (ala the tax payers) Chinese vacation.

It is kind of funny, she forgot to allow any media to go with her. I wonder why? Well, it could be because maybe she's finally starting to notice that people are getting really ticked off when she does this. I mean, never mind that almost fifty million people here at home are on food stamps. Never mind that because of Obamacare, millions have lost the insurance coverage they really liked and forgot the fact that the entire planet is in some kind of crisis right now. I mean, if she stopped to think for a moment, she might realize that taking another taxpayer funded vacation is immensely inappropriate right now. Seriously, unless she

is going to China to borrow more money (which she might be doing), it's just more of our money down the toilet.

God only knows what goes on in that woman's mind!

But to be fair, her hubby, "Da-Prez," is here at home laughing it up and taking time to make his favorite college basketball picks, chatting with Ryan Seacrest and even made a little appearance on the LGBT favorite "Ellen" show. Yeah, I'd rather talk to Ellen than that mean ol' bully Putin if I were him. He'd just humiliate him in front of the entire planet again. So it's best to just play it safe here at home.

That little love affair didn't last that long did it?

But seriously Mr. President, and I'm sure I speak for quite a few of my fellow Americans when I say - every time Putin insults you, he insults America, and that means he's insulting me and my readers. So quit acting like a punk and

grow a damn pair! And while you're at it, rein-in that wife of yours and tell her to stop spending our money!

In case you haven't noticed pal, we're broke and can't afford for her to keep acting like she just won the power ball jackpot! Better yet, tell that nutty broad to trim-down on her staffers. They're costing us \$1,415,170 per year in salaries for her 17 personal staff members. She doesn't need all those people! And also, tell her to stop listing your daughters and other members of her family as senior staffers when she goes on vacation. We're on to that little trick. If we stopped paying for all the fancy trips, dinners, and souvenirs, we might not be so far in the hole.

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The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them.
Patrick Henry - Founding Father

Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God; trust also in me.

John 14:1, NIV

The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand

1776

2014



The Taste Of Crow

by T.L. Davis,
ChristianMerc.blogspot.com

The gun owners of Connecticut have an opportunity to turn the clock backward on the concept of gun confiscation. The support for them is nationwide and being watched by every Second Amendment advocate across the country. Patriots are watching too and ready to support their efforts with their lives.

The legislature has overplayed their hand. They are accustomed to using law enforcement as thugs sent out to collect protection payments for their nefarious schemes. Some cops are thugs and like the role, but not all of them.

A few things the legislature might want to consider before they reap the whirlwind: the rights they intend to violate are not just those of the gun owners of Connecticut. An effective confiscation would set a precedent for every other state with the same idea, so Connecticut is poised to cross the Rubicon.

Very probably the legislators, whose addresses are known to Second Amendment advocates everywhere, have acted in a simple-minded and arrogant way. Perhaps they do not

know the consequences of their actions. Call it stupidity, simplicity or arrogance, the result is the same. As soon as the first "new Ruby Ridge" takes place, they will be open to retaliation.

Typically, the concept of retaliation for passing a law would be unthinkable, but these foolish legislators, who have exploited the deaths of children to promote their careers, have failed to grasp the enormity of their actions.

Due to the current militarized nature of law enforcement, including SWAT type raids for such minor offenses as drug possession, where a presumption of firearms is used as an excuse to burst into homes unannounced shooting anything that moves, they have willingly, lustfully exposed innocents to the violence of such raids. They are doing nothing other than attempting to terrorize the gun-owning public. For what, a chance to win an election? To make a statement?

The most rational response would be to repeal this law before a lot of people get hurt. Law enforcement should encourage the legislature to back down, because it is their lives that

are on the line. Of course, the police don't see it that way, because they are not considering that it will be a multi-directional firing range.

What law enforcement should be aware of is that a lot of veterans are on the other side of this issue. A lot of police officers are on the other side of this issue, some of whom might be providing intelligence on the most ardent supporters of the confiscation (probably to distinguish themselves from the others to avoid confusion when it gets hot). There are a lot of people's relatives in the state who might not restrain themselves when the enemies of liberty are so clearly defined.

It is a bad law: it is bad for Connecticut; it is bad for law enforcement; it is bad for gun owners, but where it gets bad for the legislators, is that it is bad for the families they have placed in harms way with their hubris. Sometimes the taste of crow is better than the taste of blood. Be reasonable, be responsible. Do the right thing.

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Idaho Gov. Signs Emergency Legislation to Nullify Federal Gun Laws

by Tim Brown,
FreedomOutpost.com

(Editor/GG: This is what a freedom loving, constitutional state government does - protect our God given rights, not destroy them.)

On the heels of the illegal ATF raid on Ares Armor, Idaho Governor Butch Otter signed into law S1332, a bill which will effectively nullify federal gun laws. The nullification legislation will prohibit state enforcement of any future federal act that relates to firearms, accessories or ammunition.

S1332, or as it is commonly referred to as the Idaho Federal Firearm, Magazine and Register Ban Enforcement Act, passed both the house (68-0) and senate (34-0) unanimously.

According to the legislation, it will:

"Protect Idaho law enforcement officers from being directed, through federal executive orders, agency orders, statutes, laws, rules, or regulations enacted or promulgated on or after the effective date of this act, to violate their oath of office and Idaho citizens' rights under Section 11, Article I, of the Constitution of the State of Idaho."

It also criminalizes any action by employees of the state that violate the legislation:

"Any official, agent or employee of the state of Idaho or a political subdivision thereof who knowingly and willfully orders an official, agent or employee of the state of Idaho or a political subdivision of the state to enforce any executive order, agency order, law, rule or regulation of the United States government as provided in subsection (2) of this section upon a personal firearm, a firearm accesso-

ry or ammunition shall, on a first violation, be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) which shall be paid into the general fund of the state..."

Erich Pratt, Director of Communications for Gun Owners of America, said, "By signing this nullification bill into law, Idaho has joined an elite class of states that are telling the feds to 'get lost' — especially when it comes to unconstitutional gun control infringements."

An emergency provision was also embedded into the legislation, which means the law will take effect upon the signature of the governor.

"This is an important first step for Idaho," said Tenth Amendment Center national communications director Mike Maharrey. "Getting this law passed will ensure that any new plans or executive orders that might be coming our way will not be enforced in Idaho. Then, once this method is established and shown to be effective, legislators can circle back and start doing the same for federal gun control already on the books. SB1332 is an important building block for protecting the 2nd Amendment in Idaho."

There is a potential problem with what is not said in the bill. The Tenth Amendment Center reports that William N. Grigg, an Idaho inhabitant and writer who covers the police state at ProLibertate, is concerned that since the legislation does not ban law enforcement from participating in federal drug or gang enforcement activities, this could be a loophole to get around the law.

"I suspect it was included because of Ada County Sheriff Raney's successful effort last year to defeat

a similar measure," said Grigg. He elaborated on Raney saying he, "cultivated panic among sheriffs and police chiefs by insisting that if they supported a pro-gun interposition measure, they would lose access to civil asset forfeiture funds."

Other states such as Alaska and Kansas have passed similar legislation. Missouri is in the process of pushing similar legislation through for a second time, after Governor Jay Nixon vetoed the Second Amendment Preservation Act last year. Several other states have introduced their version of the Second Amendment Preservation Act to nullify federal gun laws, including Florida, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Arizona.

The legislation rests on a well-established legal principle known as the anti-commandeering doctrine. Simply put, the federal government cannot force or coerce states into implementing or enforcing federal acts or regulations — constitutional or not. The anti-commandeering doctrine rests primarily on four Supreme Court cases dating back to 1842. *Printz v. US* serves as the cornerstone. According to that doctrine: "The Federal Government may neither issue directives requiring the States to address particular problems, nor command the States' officers, or those of their political subdivisions, to administer or enforce a federal regulatory program... such commands are fundamentally incompatible with our constitutional system of dual sovereignty."

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New Jersey CEO Takes a Stand Over Proposed Gun Control Bill, Warns Lawmakers 'We Will Not Comply' Just Like Connecticut

by Jason Howerton,
TheBlaze.com

(Editor/GG: Your friendly democrats are at it again. No difference folks between these New Jersey socialists and our local dems. Remember that at voting time.)

A New Jersey man warned a State Assembly committee last week that he and other gun owners in the state "will not comply" with a proposed gun control bill to further limit magazine capacity.

During the March 13 hearing, Anthony P. Colandro told lawmakers that the proposed bill would turn law-abiding gun owners into criminals overnight. Colandro is the CEO of Gun for Hire, a firearm training center in New Jersey, and expressed concern regarding what the law could do to his business.

"I own, personally, approximately \$30,000 of guns, contrary to what Cease Fire New Jersey Says, that they do not make 10-round mag-

azines for," he explained. "I also have in my possession at my range over \$20,000 of magazines that hold more than 10 rounds."

He then asked the chairman of the committee who exactly would be compensating him if the items suddenly become illegal.

"Have you guys seen what is happening in Connecticut right now?" he continued. "One million gun owners in New Jersey are also gonna say, like our brothers and sisters in the north, that we will not comply. And I can tell you here and now, I will not comply."

The bill currently under consideration, known as A2006, bans all magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. The proposed law exempts firearms with .22 caliber tubular magazines.

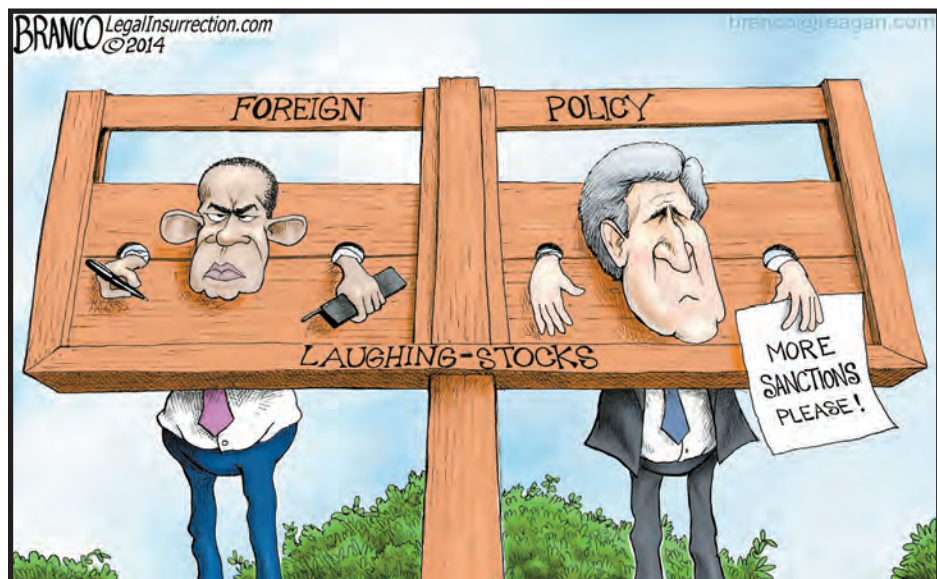
After more than three hours of testimony last Thursday, the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee voted 5-3 to advance the bill. The bill then cleared

Democratic-controlled Assembly on Thursday with a 46-31 margin. A version of the proposed law has been introduced in the state Senate but has yet to come up in a committee for a vote.

As TheBlaze reported last week, Shyanne Roberts, a 9-year-old competitive shooter, also appeared before the New Jersey Law and Public Safety Committee last week spoke against the proposed law.

"I have worked and trained very hard to get to the level I am at and if A2006 becomes law, I will be forced to choose between giving up on a very great and promising future in a sport that I love or asking my dad to move to another state," she said. "I will not be giving up my sport."

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Nationwide Home Sales Collapse: There Is No Recovery and This Chart Proves It

by Marc Slavo, SHTF.com

Now may be the best time to buy a home. At least that's what the majority of real estate agents in America will tell you if you ask them how the housing market is doing.

They'll cite various statistics and give you a "feel" for the market from their personal experiences to convince you this is the case. But if you're paying attention, then it should be clear that there is, in fact, no recovery in the housing sector. And any gains we may have seen over the last few years are nothing short of a Federal Reserve fueled mirage, much like the stock market.

The following chart from Bank of America is indicative of some serious fundamental problems, not just with the housing market, but the broader economy as a whole.

If you ask the experts

a factor in the weak level of first-time buyers.

"The biggest problems for first-time buyers are tight credit and limited inventory in the lower price ranges," he said. "However, 20 percent of buyers under the age of 33, the prime group of first-time buyers, delayed their purchase because of outstanding debt. In our recent consumer survey, 56 percent of younger buyers who took longer to save for a downpayment identified student debt as the biggest obstacle."

Brown notes the survey results are for recent homebuyers. "It's clear there are other people who would like to buy a home that are not in the market because of debt issues, so we can expect a lingering impact of delayed home buying," Brown added.

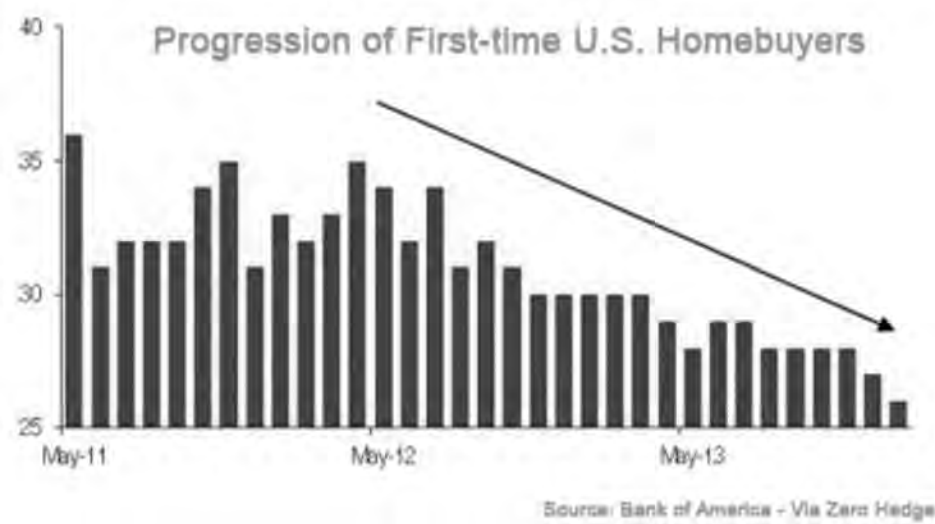
In short, we're broke as a nation and we're broke as individuals.

back into the market. But with the labor market uneven at best, it may take some time before the housing industry regains the momentum seen earlier last year."

As you have probably deduced, there's one key problem here. There is no job growth. And, any income growth already has inflation priced right in, so purchasing power will not increase and is likely to actually decrease because the rate of inflation is outpacing what Americans are being paid.

Thus, if we are awaiting a real estate recovery and the necessary steps for such a recovery require an improvement in the jobs market then you can forget about it.

The housing market is the pulse of our nation. It was the trigger event for the collapse of 2008, and it looks like it is now indicating what many of us



they'll give a host of reasons for why sales are down, as well as prognostications for why the real estate market is about to turn the corner and head back to new highs.

The weather, of course, is always to blame for lackluster sales in homes and consumer products, and that, apparently, is the case once again. But the National Association of Realtors has, for the first time ever, indicated that there is another key challenge facing home buyers.

Student debt appears to be

A recent micro documentary that discussed America's College Debt Bubble in detail predicted that we would soon begin seeing the fall out from trillion dollar student loans. Apparently, that fall out has already begun.

But not to worry because housing experts indicate that we may soon see home sales and prices start to rise, an effect that will be fueled by more jobs and rising incomes:

"Going forward it will take sustainable job and income growth to propel would-be-homebuyers

already know: that we are in the midst of another recession within a broader depressionary trend.

Couple this with the Federal Reserve now indicating that they are pulling back on \$85 billion in monthly market stimulus, and you can probably guess where this is headed next.

Welcome to Round 2.

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These States Have More Registered Voters Than Eligible Adults... What One Group Wants to Do About It

by Fred Lucas, TheBlaze.com

Iowa and Colorado, typically battleground states in presidential and congressional campaigns, each have more registered voters than they have adults over the age of 18 living in the state, according to a conservative watchdog group's analysis.

Poll worker Daniel Andrews shows Jessica Roberts how to use an electronic voting machine at Patrick Henry High School in Roanoke, Va., on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2013. Democrat Terry McAuliffe and Republican Ken Cuccinelli are running succeed term-limited Gov. Bob McDonnell for a four year term starting in January. A third candidate, libertarian Robert Sarvis, is also on the ballot. (AP)

Poll worker Daniel Andrews shows Jessica Roberts how to use an electronic voting machine at Patrick Henry High School in Roanoke, Va., on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2013. (AP)

The same is true of Washington, D.C., which is set to hold a primary in its mayoral election next week.

Judicial Watch is threatening legal action against the two states and the nation's capital if immediate steps aren't taken to clear the voter rolls of dead voters, voters who have moved away or voters that that have become ineligible for other reasons.

States and municipalities are required to keep legitimate rolls under Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act, better known as the Motor Voter Law enacted in 1993.

Robert D. Popper, former deputy chief of the voting section within the Justice Department's civil rights division, said he was part of five lawsuits during the Bush administration over allegations of improper voter list maintenance since he was hired in 2005.

"In the six years of the Obama administration, there's been not a single lawsuit," Popper, now a senior attorney for Judicial Watch, told reporters in Washington on Monday.

Section 7 of the NVRA made voter registration available at local departments of motor vehicle locations and other government offices. Section 8 required a system in place to ensure the voting rolls were kept clean to preserve election integrity.

"There has been to my knowledge a demonstrated lack of interest in the Justice Department in pursuing these lawsuits," Popper said. "In fact, the one claim that had anything to do with this list maintenance coming out of this Justice Department concerned the lawsuit that

it commenced and then lost in which it tried to force the state of Florida to stop removing non-citizens who are on the voter rolls in the run up to the 2012 elections. Other than that, the Obama administration has no interest in pursuing Section 8 lawsuits."

In Iowa, there were more people registered to vote than were living in the state in at least 24 counties in 2012, up from 10 counties in 2010. In Colorado, that number increased from 10 counties in 2010 to 22 counties in 2012, according to Judicial Watch. The data was compiled by comparing U.S. Census data with U.S. Election Assistance Commission information.

In a letter to top election officials, Judicial Watch said it will file lawsuits if Iowa, Colorado and the District do not correct violations of Section 8 of the NVRA within 90 days.

"Specifically, we ask you to: 1) conduct or implement systemic, uniform, nondiscriminatory program to remove from the list of eligible voters the names of persons who have become ineligible to vote by reason of change in residence," the letter says, "2) complete this program no less than 90 days prior to the November election; 3) conduct or implement additional routine measures to remove from the list of eligible voters the names of persons who have become ineligible to vote by reasons of death, change in residence, or a disqualifying criminal conviction, and to remove noncitizens who have registered to vote unlawfully."

A spokesman for Colorado Secretary of State Scott Gessler told TheBlaze the office is "continuing to review the letter."

"The secretary is committed to accurate voting rolls and continues to ask the legislature for the resources to clean the rolls," Gessler spokesman Rich Coolidge told TheBlaze. "Unfortunately, the legislature in Colorado would rather have an honor system for voting than an accurate system."

D.C. Board of Elections spokeswoman Tamara Robinson said the District is part of the Electronic Registry Information Center, or ERIC, a system established by the Pew Trust to allow nine states and jurisdictions to share information about individuals on voter rolls.

"The District of Columbia Board of Elections takes every step possible to make sure the voter rolls are accurate," Robinson said.

While Robinson said the District has found cases of

people being registered in two or more areas, she said there has never been evidence that they tried to vote more than once.

"Voters should be confident in the integrity of the D.C. elections," Robinson said. "There have not been any issues of voter fraud whatsoever."

A spokesman for Iowa Secretary of State Matt Schultz could not be reached for comment Monday.

"Dirty voter rolls mean dirty elections," Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said during Monday's press conference. "Many states are shirking their legal responsibilities to maintain clean voter rolls. This undermines confidence in our election system and outrageously, the Obama Justice Department simply refuses to enforce the federal law that requires states to take responsible steps to clean voter rolls. Judicial Watch is now doing the job of the U.S. Justice Department."

A Justice Department representative did not respond to phone and email inquiries from TheBlaze.

"We have an election in the District of Columbia next week. We can't have confidence in the integrity of that election as a result of the mess that the districts voting rolls are in," Fitton said. "It's not too late for the District to take steps now, at least to make sure for instance, dead people aren't on the rolls. When you have people on the rolls who aren't supposed to be there, that's an invitation for voter fraud. In the age of mail-in ballots and easy absentee ballots, that's where you have ripe opportunities for voter fraud."

Judicial Watch filed a similar lawsuit against the state of Ohio in August, and reached a settlement in January in which Ohio agreed to require county boards of election to send accuracy surveys to the state, participate in the Interstate Voter Registration Cross-Check, and to keep better track of death information.

Earlier this month, Judicial Watch also sent letters to California, New Mexico, Kentucky, West Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois notifying them of "apparent problems" and asking these states to provide records of steps taken to assure the accuracy of the voter lists.

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One of the most striking differences between a cat and a lie is that a cat has only nine lives.

~ Mark Twain

1,154,000 Fewer Americans Working Today Than 6 Years Ago

By Ali Meyer,
CNSNews.com

1,154,000

fewer Americans are working today than six years ago, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In January 2008, 146,378,000 Americans 16 years old and over were employed, and now in January 2014, 145,224,000 are employed, a difference of 1,154,000.

91,455,000 Americans 16 years old or older did not participate in the nation's labor force in January, meaning they neither held a job nor actively sought one. That's a 353,000 decline from December, but 172,000 more than November.

The national labor force participation rate -- the share of Americans who had a job or were actively looking for one -- ticked up to 63 percent in January from 62.8 percent in December.

In January, according to BLS, the nation's civilian non-institutional population, consisting of all people 16 or older who were not in the military, a nursing home or other institution, reached 246,915,000 (number not seasonally adjusted). Of those, 155,460,000 participated in the labor force by either holding a job or actively seeking one.

The 155,460,000 who participated in the labor force equaled only 63 percent of the 246,915,000 civilian non-institutional popula-

tion.

Another 91,455,000 Americans did not participate in the labor force. These Americans did not have a job and were not actively trying to find one.

Of the 155,460,000 who did participate in the labor force, 145,224,000 had a job, and 10,236,000 did not have a job were actively seeking one—making them the nation's unemployed.

The 10,236,000 job seekers were 6.6 percent of the 155,460,000 actively participating in the labor force during the month. Thus, the unemployment rate was 6.6 percent.

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POLITICS BEFORE KIDS: Dems Advance Jessica's Law In-Name-Only

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

Yesterday, the Democrat-controlled Colorado State House State Affairs Committee passed a bill that they have equated to Jessica's Law. But, does it really do the same thing? The answer is no. The bill, H.B. 1260, was sponsored by Boulder liberal Rep. Mike Foote and was the Democrat-approved version. Republican state Rep. Libby Szabo also introduced her version of Jessica's Law, H.B. 1264 which was killed in committee on a party line vote.

The key features of Jessica's Law are the tough minimum sentencing requirements and lifetime probation for sexual predators. Foote's bill offers a tiered system of sentencing, which drops mandatory sentencing down to as little as 10 years. From the bill: at least 10-16 years and up to a maximum of natural

life for a class 4 felony; at least 18-32 years and up to a maximum of natural life for a class 3 felony; and at least 24-48 years and up to a maximum of natural life for a class 2 felony.

H.B. 1260 also lacks sex offender registration and reporting requirements, compared to H.B. 1264, which requires that if paroled, offenders must remain on parole for the remainder of their natural life.

Colorado is just one of a handful of states that does not have a Jessica's Law on the books. The rejection of such a law last year landed liberal Speaker Mark Ferrandino in hot water with Bill O'Reilly. "Jessica's Law" is named after Jessica Lunsford, a young girl from Florida who was kidnapped, raped and murdered by a paroled sexual offender.

The issue is that Jessica's

Law-type laws not only act as punishment once crimes have been committed, but also as deterrents to would-be predators. Passing a Jessica's Law-in-name-only leaves Coloradans with a false sense of security when the truth is that our law does not have the same impact as the surrounding states. This is dangerous.

We just don't understand why Democrats wouldn't want the absolute highest level of protections available for children. Why pass such a watered down bill when a perfectly acceptable alternative was available? The reason? Democrats put politics in front of Colorado's kids safety. This is really dangerous.

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Coffee Shop Owner Encourages Gun Toting Baristas

by Lily Dane,
FreedomOutpost.com

The owner of a coffee stand in Washington state is allowing her employees to bring guns to work.

Sara Chapel owns Jitterz Java in Spokane. After the stand was robbed three times in a month, she's had enough, and told KXLY she refuses to let her staff be victimized anymore:

"It is just a little aggravating, you know; people are just out for themselves these days. It's just sad to put other people in harms way to just get a few hundred dollars."

In the most recent robbery attempt, a man who appeared to be armed and aggressive tried to open a window at the stand. The barista kept the window locked, grabbed her gun and called police. The man took off before police arrived.

Chapel said some of her employees have been bringing guns to work already, but now there will always be a gun at the stand.

"A couple of them bring handguns every day, no matter what shift it is. There is always a gun here now."

Barista Krystal Cogswell wears a .38 Special Laverder Lady. She told KXLY that she used to hide her gun, but wears it on her hip now:

"Before I never, never felt an immediate threat, so I would just have it off to the side or somewhere hidden. But now I feel like if someone can see it, maybe it will just deter it right then and there and I won't ever have to use it."

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A Sheepdog Barks!

What a strange little man we have for a president. It's clear from all his actions that he is bent on destroying or diminishing this great and powerful nation. From the moment he was the Democratic candidate in 2008 he has talked down America's exceptionalism and leadership in the world. He pronounced himself a "citizen of the world" and said America needed to stop being so arrogant and prideful. Once he even said that, the world would not tolerate us using the energy that we do in this country and we needed to install a "smart grid" that could control the temperatures that we heat our homes to. His latest outrageous idea is that the United States should give up our control of the internet to the rest of the world. Can you even imagine any patriotic American thinking this way? Even Bill Clinton had to come out and slap that stupid idea down. My question is where in the heck are all the Congressmen and Senators? Their silence is deafening. This is why we must stop this man as soon as possible and taking control of the U.S. Senate is just the way to do it. You must remember Obama is the man who told us in advance that he intended to fundamentally change America. Not make it better, fundamentally change it. He exposed himself in his book, "Dreams FROM my Father", not Dreams OF my father. His father was an anti-colonialist who hated countries like Great Britain and America and Barack basically informed us those were his dreams, also. He fooled so many Americans. The LPSDs all thought it would be so great to have a black president. They didn't care about the content of his character but only about the color of his skin. This made them feel better. America had to get over its slavery roots. The LPSDs were thrilled with this great opportunity. They didn't care about what he said, they didn't care about his lack of experience, and they didn't care how he had voted as a state senator in Illinois. This man even voted against the Infants Born Alive Act. How evil is that? The LPSDs were certainly fooled the first time. But in voting for him a second time they proved

they were not only gullible, but stupid, also. This is a man that is leading the way in destroying our economy. Maybe it's not a mistake. He says no entitlements will be on the cutting table yet proudly announces to the world that they need to step up as America's military is going to get leaner. He protects Jason, the surfer boy, in California while reducing America's capability in protecting our security. Jason is the ridiculous, lazy, jobless American that plays in a Rock Band (for free) at night, surfs during the day yet eats lobster paid for by the rest of us idiots with his food stamps. Obama doesn't care about America. He cares only about how much he can harm it. This man wants total control of our lives. Russia's acting out on the world stage is a deadly serious moment and it needs treated as such. Obama, however, plays golf and fills out NCAA brackets. Instead of real military aid to make sure Putin has no plan to escalate his invasion the Obama administration is making sure that Unions can accompany OSHA as they go around inspecting safety operations in non-union companies. I'm sure you can all see what's going on there. This man tramples and wipes his feet on the Constitution every day. He believes we should be just another country in the world, no more powerful than Burkina Faso. No true American patriot believes that. On Tuesday of this week he held a press conference in the Netherlands. An ABC reporter asked him if he thought America's influence and his influence in the world was diminishing. Of course, when Obama speaks without teleprompters he usually has a difficult time and this was no exception. Basically, he struggled through a 5-minute response ending with he couldn't believe he was asked that question. WOW! When the "suck up" mainstream media asks those kinds of questions you know things are getting bad. In the press conference he also said the sanctions against Russia imposed already are having a significant effect. What a distortion. I doubt that the 11 individual Russians are very concerned since they all mocked and laughed at



him on social media.

Now, this man has his lawyer at the Supreme Court arguing against our religious freedom rights in the 1st Amendment. He has infringed on our 2nd Amendment rights by Executive Orders and encouraging Congress to do even more. He has ordered his administration to not enforce immigration and marriage laws. He has hired an Attorney General that will not properly investigate nor prosecute criminal wrong doing in our government. He is also willing to give our freedom of speech rights away to a world body by giving up U.S. control of the internet. He also told us he doesn't believe the NSA is now snooping on Americans or the French, or the Dutch or the Germans. RIGHT! HOWL! This from the same clueless man who said he didn't know the NSA was listening to other world leader's cell phone calls. He is completely and utterly untrustworthy. His most treacherous and unpatriotic thing he did on this trip was to agree with 34 other nations that there needs to be international laws on the use of our nuclear weapons. In a ridiculous view in his ridiculous, ideological world I guess he believes the terrorists will abide by the "rules." He is willing to tie America's hands behind its back and let it be controlled by the world. And guess which countries wouldn't agree to the nuclear control idiocy: Russia, China, India and Pakistan. Imagine that! Only our buffoon of a president was willing to do that among the nuclear powers. He is clueless on how to lead the free world or how to oppose the evil tyrannical world. He's only a community organizer. Stopping this man begins with taking control of the U.S. Senate. Let's Roll! WOOF!

May God Have Mercy on America! JMH



Car Dealership Fights Back Against Union Protests

by Chuck Ross,
DailyCaller.com

A car dealership in Wichita, Kansas has come up with an interesting response to a local union's campaign to shame the dealership for using non-union workers.

A large white banner, manned by several people in front of the dealership, reads "Shame on Subaru of Wichita." But the dealership responded with a banner of its own that reads "For Having Unbeatable Prices."

The Carpenters Local 201 says that the car dealer is using a drywall company for a construction project that employs non-union workers. The banner's guards, whom Subaru of Wichita says it believes are temp workers hired by the union, also hand out fliers that accuse the dealership of being "rats."

The carpenter's union has employed similar tactics across Wichita and other cities over the past few years. It recently picketed a jewelry store, a branch of the YMCA, a church, and Wichita State University all over construction projects that use subcontractors that rely on non-union workers.

The union claims that the

contractors pay their workers wages that are below "area standard wages".

Besides targeting businesses that hire the construction companies, the local union also pesters construction companies themselves.

A spokesman for one Wichita drywall company that was targeted by Local 201 described more of the union's tactics to The Daily Caller News Foundation in an email interview last year.

The carpenter's union, which has roots in St. Louis, sends letters to businesses seeking information on their pay scale and hounds others into disclosing which contractors and subcontractors they are using.

"Their letter accuses us of paying substandard wages without offering any evidence of how they arrived at that conclusion," said Jeremy Satterfield, who works for the drywall company targeted during their work for Wichita State University.

"Then it attempts to place the burden on us to prove to them we are paying appropriate wages," said Satterfield adding that if the company refused to company the union "will assume we are paying our employees

substandard wages if we don't provide them with the information they are requesting."

Besides their response banner, Suburu of Wichita also rebutted the union's antics in a blog post.

"After pouring \$1.5 million into the local economy by selecting a local construction company, architecture firm, and bank, we hope you'll understand our taking exception at being depicted as rats eating the American flag, as their flyer suggests," reads the post.

"The phrase 'Labor Dispute' on the banner is also disingenuous, as there is no "dispute" between any of the companies that have performed work on our grounds."

The use of "Shame" signs and literature accusing companies of being "rats" has been found unlawful in at least one instance. In 2012, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a \$1.7 million judgment in favor of a Georgia drywall company for damages against another sign-wielding union.

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LBJ: I'll Have Those N****s Voting Democratic For The Next 200 Years

by Allen West,
AllenBWest.com

(Editor/GG: We "asterisked" the derogatory term for black people in the headline and in the article. And for those of you who don't know the author, Colonel West (Ret.), he is a black man.)

On March 20, 1854, the Republican Party was established in Ripon, Wisconsin. Referred to as the GOP or Grand Old Party, it established for one reason: to break the chains of slavery and ensure the unalienable rights endowed by the Creator of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness would be for all Americans.

The Republican Party was created to achieve individual freedom. Then, as now, the antagonist to the Republican party has been the Democrats, the party of collective subjugation and individual enslavement — then physical, now economic.

The first black members of the U.S. House and Senate were Republicans. The first civil rights legislation came from Republicans. Democrats gave us the

KKK, Jim Crow, lynchings, poll taxes, literacy tests, and failed policies like the "Great Society."

Republican President Eisenhower ordered troops to enforce school desegregation. Republican Senator Everett Dirksen enabled the 1964 civil rights legislation to pass, in opposition to Democrat Senators Robert Byrd (KKK Grand Wizard) and Al Gore, Sr.

As a matter of fact, it was Democrat President Lyndon Baines Johnson who stated, "I'll have those n****s voting Democratic for the next 200 years" as he confided with two like-minded governors on Air Force One regarding his underlying intentions for the "Great Society" programs.

Yep, and who are the real racists? So far, thanks to a Republican Party that is ignorant of its own history and gave up on the black community, Democrats have 50 of those 200 years under their belt.

The problem with today's Republican Party is that it has forgotten its own

history and raison d'etre: individual liberty. The Party must come to realize that GOP also stands for "Growth, Opportunity, Prosperity" and articulate how it stands, as its history and founding clearly demonstrate, for the individual pursuit of happiness as opposed to the progressive socialist (Democrat) lie of a collective guarantee of happiness.

So, happy 160th birthday to my Party, the Republican Party. I am a strong Conservative and I hope Republicans recommit to those fundamental principles which established this Party — the historical antithesis of the Democrats. Do I agree with every Republican on everything? Not always, but I doggone ain't about to join up with the other liberal socialist rascals. And I do have a word of caution to my fellow Republicans, (wo) man up, or go the way of the Whigs.

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*When the lambs lay down
with the lions,
I'd still rather be a lion.*

~ Bodie & Brock Thoene
The Gates of Zion

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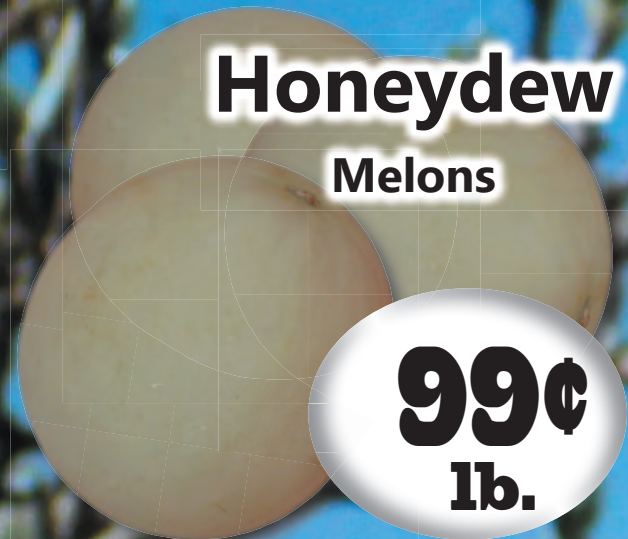
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