



Newcomer Cox, U.S. House Hopeful, Wows Crowd at Lincoln Day Dinner

by Jim Silver

The Republican Party Central Committee hosted a well-attended Lincoln Day Dinner on Sunday, May 4th. About sixty local Republicans gathered for a fine meal, and then Daniel Phillips, the already-famous son of Matt and Golden Phillips, started off the proceedings with his presentation of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Once again, Daniel received a spontaneous standing ovation from those present.

Sharon Berry, Central Committee Chairwoman, kept the event moving by introducing first David Cox who is running for Colorado's 3rd Congressional District against incumbent fellow Republican Scott Tipton. Mr. Cox is a 4th generation peach farmer from Palisade and a 2005 graduate of Colorado University with a degree in electrical engineering. He is a newcomer to the political scene beyond his local area and presents himself as a solidly conservative candidate.

Cox spoke about the seri-

ous violations our current government is committing with respect to the enumerated constitutional powers. He is very concerned about President Obama's failure to exercise his responsibilities to enforce the laws of our country and to consult with Congress on the use of our military around the world. He believes strongly in a limited federal government, its overreach with respect to the public land and violations to our individual responsibilities, freedom, and liberties. He wants to represent this district in Washington, D.C., and help put a stop to these violations. He wants to return the control of our government to "we the people" and believes that Obama has committed enough wrong that he should be impeached.

His web site can be accessed for a thorough acquaintance: www.david-coxforcongress.com.

Representative Scott Tipton sent his Field Manager, Alex Bolton, who made a brief appearance. Scott Tipton's web site is: www.VoteTipton.com.

Mr. Bolton stated that Tipton believes he has represented this district well and that his voting record will show that he is totally committed to supporting the citizens in his district. He has worked hard and wants to continue serving the people of Colorado

David Cox acknowledged our HD 60 Representative Jim Wilson as an example of a person in public office who is accessible to his constituents: "You can call him; that's how it's supposed to be." The Wilsons were present, and their driving up from Salida is always appreciated.

Representative Wilson who has no democratic opponent as yet, spoke and reminded the attendees how important it is for the Republicans to win one of the three governing bodies which are all in the hands of Democrats. Turning the State House is a big challenge but the State Senate only needs a net gain of one to be controlled by the Republicans. This would be a huge step in stopping the liberal progressive agenda currently ongoing in Colorado. He



David Cox addresses the crowd at Sunday's Lincoln Day Dinner.

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

believes there is a chance to win the Governorship also. He and his lovely wife, Christie, are proud of his work and they both remain dedicated to serving the citizens of the district. Jim wishes to serve sometime from a position other than the minority.

Auctioneer Kirk Rizanski plied his trade to raise some money for the annual budget before the local candidates were introduced, including Custer County Clerk and Recorder Virginia Trujillo and J.D. Henrich, Assessor—both unopposed. County Coroner Art Nordyke and Brad Baltzly, running for that office made brief statements. Sheriff candidates Eric Thompson,

Shannon Byerly, and Under sheriff Tony Supan were each introduced—once again. Likewise, Commissioner candidates spoke briefly: Bob Kattnig, Jack Canterbury, and Allen Butler, incumbent.

The next, and final, get-together for the candidates which is on the calendar is the Southern Colorado Patriots meeting on May 22nd. In this case, however, the field will be more specifically the candidates for sheriff on the local front, as well as David Cox, so recently entering the race for Congress. This will be an opportunity for questions from the floor, so make plans to be there.



Prom Night 2014

The Custer County Senior Prom, this year at the Beckwith Ranch, was a great success! The evening continued with the After-Prom Activities at Mavericks, Horn Creek, and the Wild West Cowboy Church.

In next week's issue, the Sentinel will devote our double-page photo feature to the prom festivities. Be sure to check it out!

Photo by Elizabeth Watson

MEMORIAL WEEKEND 2014 PARADE

Saturday, May 24, at 10:00 a.m.
Sponsored by the Wild West Cowboy Church

Entry Applications are available at the Wild West Cowboy Church (60260 Hwy 69 N., Westcliffe) or the Sangre de Cristo Sentinel (610 Main St., Westcliffe)

The application and \$5 entry fee must be turned in by May 19th at either location. Call 719-783-2676 for more info.

Join us to celebrate the freedom and liberties that Americans have sacrificed to preserve!



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My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:27
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

PARADES, HONOR & RESPECT



Custer County used to celebrate Memorial Day activities and a parade on the same day. For many Americans "observed" Memorial Day has become just another 3-day weekend for sales, BBQs, and fun activities. It was much different 40 or 50 years ago. The parades were done to properly honor our lost veterans. During one such parade in Westcliffe several years ago the speaker was trying to focus the crowd on the purpose and proper observances of Memorial Day. While he spoke there was a clown riding around the intersection with a big squirt gun and the kids were squealing and yelling in delight. Much of the crowd just continued to walk around, shop, eat, and talk loudly. It was hard to hear the speaker over all the festivities. This combination of parade fun and showing proper respect to the fallen members of our armed forces to many didn't seem to fit well together. Many veterans were concerned and much discussion occurred. It was decided that the American Legion would host a proper observance on Monday, the observed Memorial Day, and the parade on

Saturday would be a community-oriented "beginning of the tourist season" kind of activity. For several years the parade was themed as "Spring into Summer." Many of us remember proper Memorial Day Parades when proper respect and decorum was shown based on the real and actual purpose of the day. Once our Congress moved it to a Monday and made it a 3-day weekend it began to lose its point and became a weekend for car sales, furniture sales, days at the beach and Parades for politicians to march in. In Custer County this separation caused some initial confusion but then seemed to work out. However, most of you know the Chamber and the Town of Westcliffe decided not to sponsor any more parades around here. America is not much like it was 40 or 50 years ago. We are a much divided country and cannot seem to come together for much of anything or for even very long. America seemed united for a short period right after September 11, 2001. Even that didn't last long. Except for the good folks that sponsor the Rodeo Parade there wouldn't be any other parades for the citizens and

visitors of Custer County to enjoy if it weren't for the courage and love of their country by the members of the Wild West Cowboy Church. These patriotic citizens knew that would be wrong and stepped forward to ensure we can continue to celebrate Memorial Weekend, Independence Day, and the Parade of Lights in December. The Wild West Cowboy Church wants to sponsor a proper Memorial Day/Weekend Parade like they used to be done. They want to honor the men and women who died fighting for our freedom and liberties and for those that have served and passed on. It is a noble effort. This is the theme of their parade. Reminds us of how it was many years ago. This is a change for us here. The combined activities were not appropriate and proper respect was not being shown. The split served a purpose. The local American Legion Post 170 (The Best in the West) conducts as good of a Memorial Day Observance as one can find anywhere to attend. It is professionally done with a lot of hard work from the Post's officers, members, and volunteers. It is conducted

on Monday in Westcliffe's Veterans Park. This year it will be May 26, 2014. If you haven't attended one you are really missing an opportunity. Every year another local veteran or two is missing. Even though a large crowd shows up there is room for many more. We encourage you to attend this year and pay your respects to all those that have secured and maintained our freedom. There are not enough young people there to observe and learn why they are so fortunate to live in this great country. Do what you can to make sure more attend this beautiful observance. The leaders and members of the Wild West Cowboy Church want to honor our country and our lost veterans in the traditions of old. This Memorial Weekend Parade will be held on Saturday, May 24th, at 10:00 a.m. We encourage all those that love this country to participate in some way. We know the parade will benefit the merchants of this county. That's okay. Let's all try to make it a proper parade which reflects the respect of all those that have made the ultimate sacrifice and for those that have passed on. We salute the Wild

West Cowboy Church for stepping up and taking on this effort. It is a lot of work. We encourage all clubs and activities to submit an entry and march in support of all those who died in the service of our country. It can be a fitting day and done with the honor and respect due them and America. It was done like that for many, many years in America. Can we do it properly again? We would like to think so. The Wild West Cowboy Church and the American Legion deserve our gratitude for their dedication and responsibility in making these events happen. Let's make this a truly memorable weekend in Custer County in paying our proper respects to our men and women who gave their life and lives to the protection of America's liberties and freedoms. God Bless them all. And speaking of love and respect; Sunday, May 11, is Mother's Day. If you can still hug and kiss or even talk to your Mom be very grateful and please do so. Tell her thanks and that you love her. Moms deserve it. God Bless all you Moms also.

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Common Core Math Question of the Week:

Bill has 3 goldfish. He buys 2 more.
How many dogs live in London?

~ Louis C.K., via TheBlaze.com



Your Opinions... “We the People” Speak



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More on C-1 School Spending and Responsibilities

Point:

From a County Resident

NOTE: This is a personal response and is not to be accredited to any position of the School Board.

Editor:

Your paper is great at constantly criticizing everything, but especially the school. But I see no suggestions, no ideas to fix the problem, or any type of solution whatsoever. It's easy to constantly critique and throw out distorted information in a shotgun fashion, misleading your readers, and not have any viable or constructive solutions.

Reference the Counter-Point in the April 25 paper, where is your solution? If you don't like what we are paying our teachers (one of the lowest in the State of Colorado), then I challenge you to find a teacher that will work for less and will guarantee an increase in scores that you use for your data. Right now our school can't hire the top notch candidates (or even secondary tier candidates) because they often cannot make it work with such a low salary. In fact, one teacher pointed out that she could make more working at Bed, Bath & Beyond than as a teacher in Custer County. So I challenge you to find a teacher that will work for less but bring the scores up. At the same time, see if you can find a principal willing to work for less, but also work full-time, and accomplish all the tasks delineated by Mr. Selle. These cannot be ignored as they are State mandated. If you don't like them, how about an effort to change them at State level. What have you done in this regard? Have you worked with any representative to try and repeal or change any of these requirements? The Superintendent and the BOE has, but we've not seen you or any of your representatives at these meetings.

Second, if you don't like the current standards of teaching, how about instead of the constant criticism you come up with some alternative. What about the responsibility of parents and grandparents to encourage learning, accomplish homework, and work to excel. We have some outstanding students, including Daniels, Boetcher, Hurliman, and other major scholarship winners, so clearly they aren't being hurt by the supposedly terrible instruction at Custer County Schools. If your points are valid, then why do we have so many that continue to excel?

While you're at it, try being more accurate in your reporting. The school system is not a monopoly by default. It is only that way by the population it represents. There is always the opportunity for a Charter School, and homeschooling is frequently used on the county. So it isn't a monopoly unless the people choose to remove any alternatives. While you're at it, why not compare other districts so your readers see what comparable districts are doing, what they pay their teachers, what their administrative costs are, and any other relevant factors.

Once you correct all these deficiencies in your reporting, then you will finally provide an unbiased and complete report on the status quo at Custer County Schools, as well as possible solutions to remedy the many problems you think exist.

Monty Lee,
Rural Westcliffe

Counter-Point:

From the Editor

Editor/GG: We were going to let this one go by without a response, but Monty threw so much “chum” in the water, we had to take a bite....

Monty, thanks for the letter. I see you are a big fan of our newspaper. One of the jobs of a newspaper, or any news media outlet, is to expose and inform their audience of issues facing their community. This has been abdicated locally, state-wide, and nationally for many, many years. It is our RESPONSIBILITY as a newspaper to inform our readers of local issues. This is often called criticism. And it is good. And it is one of the reasons we started this newspaper. And if you are a public official (e.g., school board member) and can't take criticism, then you are in the wrong job.

With regard to our Custer County school, your statement that we are constantly criticizing the school is simply not true. We have run dozens and dozens of positive articles and photo features on our school: articles on the excellent remedial programs, school board reports, in-depth sports articles, photo features on sports, plays, teacher features, etc. The list is long. No other local publication has published more articles/photos on the school in decades. We love our kids.

Our single, greatest issue with the school is its sub par academic performance. Academic performance, in our opinion (and most citizens), is the school's primary mission. And it needs improvement. School officials, on and off the record, have admitted this. The test scores (TCAP et al) don't lie. Colorado high schools are, at best, ranked mediocre nationally (and worse internationally), and our school lags in Colorado. We, as citizens and private sector employers, find this unacceptable.

And it is unfair to the students. We simply want better academic performance at the school.

In the private sector (and to us in it, it is the “real world”), success comes from leadership. Leaders have accountability, vision; they innovate and they have common sense. When they fail, they are out of a job, and in many cases, their businesses will fail.

Sadly, in the public sector, effective leadership is rare, and accountability is almost non-existent. The age old lament that “we can't find good help” is a scapegoat for ineffective leadership. Almost no organization has “enough” money to buy the best workers. Well-led organizations will find good workers. It takes leadership, effective marketing, etc. It is one of the defining differences between success and mediocrity for a leader. And frankly, with tens of thousands (if not hundreds of thousands) of new and experienced teachers out of a job in this country, I find the “can't find good help” argument an excuse for administrative failure. I suspect most truly dedicated teachers will “work for less” (and we are not talking about a lot “less” here) given a school environment and community where they can excel (plus a “cadillac” health and retirement package that is virtually nonexistent in the private sector). And try to find a more beautiful spot to live than in our valley.

And don't try to obfuscate the mediocre test scores by stating that we have some outstanding students. Those students would excel anywhere. And to deny that C-1 is not a monopoly is simply ludicrous. We are forced to pay for this service. Charter schools are simply non-existent in rural Colorado (and underfunded compared to public schools) and our

home-school parents still pay for the public school. Most parents work today, so home-schooling is not an option. For the average parent, there is NO alternative to the public school. A monopoly, my friend. And as noted previously, monopolies always become bloated and ineffective.

Now on to “solutions”. In the private sector, the owners, Board of Directors, the President of the company, the management, etc. are the ones who are responsible for finding the “solutions”. It is not the customer. Somehow, Monty, in your world, and that being the C-1 public school system, the citizens are responsible for improving the academic standards of the school, and NOT the school board or the school administration (School Superintendent, Principals). It seems to me, and most folks, that it is YOUR job and not the citizens. You (collectively) volunteered to run for that job and we elected you to do that job. There is no harm in asking for suggestions, but don't push the failure to achieve good academic standards back onto the citizens.

So, instead of just the offering of solutions, let's also look at some recent decisions by the School Board, and a suggestion or two:

1. School Week: Going to a 4-day school week was an extremely poor decision. There are literally thousands of work productivity/learnability/quality studies over the last 100 years showing that there is a dramatic, and I mean dramatic, drop in productivity after 5 or 6 hours of work. And with students it is probably even worse. These four-day work weeks have been pushed by school administration and teachers under various guises, the latest being “energy

See SCHOOL on page 12

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Letters to the Editor



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Differing Views on the Sheriff Candidates... for Byerly

I have known Shannon Byerly for about six years. The last time he ran for Custer County Sheriff, four years ago, I asked him for a face to face meeting and he agreed. We talked a great deal about police work, his career and how he would use the CC Sheriff's Pose for which I had been a member for seven years... now eleven years. Shannon has been a member of the Canon City police department for 12 years. I like that he is a supervisor, Sergeant, and that he supervises both police personnel and civilian employees.

I have no doubt that he is qualified to be our sheriff. Since I have been an elected official myself, the fact that he manages a \$3,000,000 annual budget for his department is very important. He is young, energetic, smart, a veteran of Desert Storm, and possesses the personal qualities that Custer County needs. His performance at the most recent Chamber of Commerce Candidates Forum was very memorable. He did something which in my opinion was bold. Byerly told the audience that if they wanted to know what kind of boss he is to call the Cañon City police department and "ask anyone about me." A boss needs to be pretty sure about his reputation and competence to make an offer like that.

Then without hesitation, he gave the audience the phone number.

Well, I gave that number a call. I asked the woman who answered, a civilian employee, what she thought about Shannon as a boss. She used words like "awesome," "professional," "fair minded," and "dedicated." I did give her my name, but did not ask for hers. She sounded to me like an employee who was sincere about her boss. I urge all in Custer County who see the value of unbiased personal endorsements to give the department a call.

At the Chamber Forum, there were questions about city cop vs. country cop. I'm not sure how important this is in Shannon's case. After all, he was born and raised in Rye on a family ranch. Cañon City isn't exactly New York or Chicago. Here is what city cops have over country cops. They just get more experience with police matters. This isn't just a matter of comparing Shannon's 12 years to Tony Supan's six years as a deputy. A cop in a small city gets to experience three or four times more crimes, investigations, and public relations matters than a cop from a rural community. This just adds to a candidate's competence and personal experience. Personally, I would

like to see the next sheriff serve for as long as Fred Jobe has served and that will require a sheriff in his mid-40s and not a fifty-five or sixty-year-old.

If elected, Shannon Byerly will come to Custer County, where he lives by the way, with new ideas, new proven methods, and new commitment to make the policing function in the community better. I like this aspect of his candidacy. I also like the direct way that he answered the question about the Bundy matter in Nevada. He did not mince words. He called it like he saw it. The Sheriff in the Bundy matter did "fall asleep at the switch." He didn't do anything to protect the rights of his constituent. I do believe that if the BLM or any other federal agency tried to strong arm a local rancher that Shannon would be strongly on the side of law and order and on the side of the local rancher and his family. Byerly pointed out that if a federal agency showed up with dogs, tasers, and an army of SWAT equipped soldiers that he would stand for individual property rights for those in his jurisdiction.

This is why I support and will vote for Shannon Byerly for Sheriff in June.

Joe Cascarelli,
Westcliffe

for Supan

I have known Tony Supan since 2006 at which time I was a deputy. During the years that I have known Tony he has excelled in law enforcement. He first started as detention officer, then attended a police academy, graduated with honors and became a deputy sheriff. Tony then was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Through Tony's hard work and the respect of the community, he was promoted to the rank of Undersheriff, which he currently holds.

Tony has taken many advanced trainings, including USDA certification in Horse Neglect Investigation; Incident Command

course in Law Enforcement; Incident Command in Firefighting; Certified Firearms and Taser Instructor and many smaller seminars all related to law enforcement. Tony has attended the Colorado Undersheriff conferences where invaluable information is exchanged with other Undersheriffs and Sheriffs.

Tony was at the rank of captain and had approximately 25 years experience as a fire fighter with the Custer County Fire Department. One of the greatest fears and threats that can happen to a community such as Custer County is

the threat of wild land fire. Tony was one of the very first responders in the 2012 Wetmore fire. Tony was involved in every aspect of that fire, including dealing with other police agencies, fire agencies, and the complicated process of dealing with the Federal Government. Tony received a Medal of Valor after this fire. Custer County should demand this type of experience from their Sheriff.

Get out and meet Tony and you will agree he is the right person for sheriff.

Gary Johnson,
Rural Custer County

for Byerly

I first came into the valley in late 1980. Through the years I've seen a lot of changes, some are good, some aren't so good. I have seen changes in the sheriff's department. I know and respect Fred Jobe and appreciate the job that he has done. But now that he's retiring we will see more changes. I believe that we have two excellent candidates running and that makes a tough choice. On one hand we have Tony Supan who has been on the sheriff's department for years. He has spent his

time there striving to make this county the best it can be. I know and respect him. On the other hand we have Shannon Byerly, a small town boy from Rye. He now lives in Custer County and certainly has a feel for our problems. His son goes to high school here. He has not worked on our sheriff's department, but does work for the Cañon City Police Department. As this is a small town it has kept him local. He has not learned to have the detachment from the citizens that a big city can bring. Being a sergeant

with them has given him the opportunity to develop contacts that could be very useful to our county. With the new laws our state has passed I think we are going to see more changes coming into our peaceful community that we don't like. Because of this I am supporting Shannon Byerly as having more qualifications to lead the sheriff's department forward.

Sincerely,
Jim Shapland,
Rural Custer County

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I have mentioned before it is usually less expensive to fix a problem before a serious failure. Also a planned service versus a sudden unexpected loss of water is easier to deal with. System failures never happen at an opportune time.

A common sign that you need immediate service is the system blows a fuse or breaker. Don't just keep resetting the breaker or replacing fuses as usually the problem is simple but will become catastrophic if not remedied. So do yourself a favor and listen to your system when it's trying to tell you something.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Airport Takes Center Stage at Commissioners' Meeting

by Paul Sage

At the May 5th meeting of the County Commissioners, the World Aviation Museum came one step closer to becoming a reality. The museum is proposed to be located at the Silver West Airport and in addition to holding a variety of aircraft for display, would also "offer free ground school to the kids – or anybody really – who wants to come. And then we have flying at a 75% discount," according to museum founder Bill Geipel. If plans move forward the World Aviation Museum would only be Custer County's second museum. Currently the Silver Cliff Museum on Main Street is the only museum in the county.

After an extended period of discussion between the Commissioners and Mr. Geipel, it was agreed that he would need to produce drawings and plans of his proposed facility and would need to have engineering done on dirt moving and foundation work before moving forward.

Anxious to proceed with the building, Mr. Geipel pressed the commissioners for some kind of time frame when concessions he has asked for could be agreed upon and work on the project could begin. Commissioner Kit Shy said that he would be willing to work with the county attorney on coming up with some terms of an agreement before their May 21st meeting at the Wetmore Fire House. At that time the proposed

agreement could be discussed and prepared for a possible approval at their end of month meeting in May.

While Mr. Geipel's organization proposes to pay for the cost of the construction and outfitting of the museum, he has requested that the county make concessions to reduce the expense of the endeavor. Some examples of his proposed concessions are the waiver of permit fees and a reduction in the lease payments on the property. He also requested that the county assist in the development of a level building site for the large facility and the relocation of the airport security fencing. These issues will be worked into the form of an agreement for review at the Commis-

sioner's meeting at the end of the month.

In another airport related matter, Commissioner Lynn Atteberry suggested to the Airport Advisory Board Members present that they might want to consider looking at what would be required to make the airport more usable for fire crews and as a fire staging area. With recent fire problems in the state, the need for these facilities has become a much higher priority and the state has made money available for these kinds of improvements. Commissioners made suggestions of contacts to look into this and proposed that the Airport Advisory Board could be doing the citizens a great service while funding desired airport improvements at the same time.

Rotary Holds Q & A for Sheriff Candidates

by Candi Sage

On Monday, May 5th, the Rotary held a question and answer forum for the sheriff candidates. The predetermined questions were asked out of order and the candidates were given two and a half minutes to answer.

When asked what changes they would make, if any, should they be elected, Tony Supan said, "The law's the law, and we are in community service." The style would not change but he would add more training for a rural atmosphere with state of the art training. He would also like to see more money going to the posse and acquiring new vehicles.

Eric Thompson said that it is "obvious" that Policy and Procedures is where he would look for changes. He stated he would look for a Policy and Procedures manual for the same size town, set up a better financial position, get the posse on a 501(c)(3) status, and that training would have to be done.

Shannon Byerly said that he would "integrate" the posse and the deputies training together so they would "be on the same page", and as a non-profit they would be eligible for grants; but with the federal monies tighter and harder to receive, he would look for collaboration with others. He also would "ramp up" technology.

When asked what are the biggest challenges with staff levels, technology in car or camera helmet, and marijuana enforcement, Eric Thompson said the budget is an issue that will effect funding because of the small size of the department. With technology costing thousands he would find funding since he has experience writing grants. He said that they don't have a tax base to put in people cost since they are on a "shoestring" right now.

Shannon Byerly said technology needs to be innovative and to create different avenue for source of funds is needed. He

suggests moving to a body cam as it reduces liability for the department. As far as marijuana, he said it is "all around"; "is going to come", "it is here", and the department has "to know how to handle it".

Tony Supan said technology is, "very, very expensive". Seven years ago one position was taken away and has not been replaced. They are operating on a shoestring budget. He stated that he currently uses a body camera and that marijuana is 40-50 miles away and the goal is to "keep distribution and manufacturing out of Custer County".

When asked about the relationship with the school, Shannon Byerly said he sees it as the same as with any business: listen to have a good relationship. His job would be to educate them, even if there is a good plan in place. He said he already has a good relationship with the school since he has had kids in this school for several years and been coaching for seven years.

Eric Thompson said out of all the relationships, school is most important. He would develop programs with the school that focused on integrity, character, pride in school and community, and start with 5th grade. He said it is good for the kids to see the officers "out of uniform" as they would see you as a "different person as opposed to a cop" and this is effective in keeping drug use down and increase communication. He stated he has a unique skill set to bring to the office.

Tony Supan said he has a good relationship but the recent events opened his eyes to the school and the staff who showed genuine worry and concern about the children. He stated that this new administration wants to see law enforcement at the school and thinks communication with the principal and administration as well as training is important. Also, he would like to see the drug dog's presence at the school more.

Roever's TV Program Time Correction:

The correct time for Dave Roever's new TV Program, 'Tragedy to Triumph', on Daystar is 11:30 a.m., Mountain Time on Fridays.

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Tony Supan
Candidate for Custer County Sheriff

Things I believe in:

- God
- Straight forward honest leadership
- Development and growth of strong relationships
- Communication that is open and honest
- Equality, fairness and respect for everyone
- Contributing as a strong team player
- Helping Custer County to thrive
- Serving the community with dedication and passion
- Importance of protecting our rural values and lifestyle

Tony Supan
Candidate for Sheriff

If you would like to contact me:
Email • tsupan@centurytel.net
Facebook • Supanforsheriff.com
Web Page • Supan for sheriff.org
719-783-9296
Paid for by Committee to Elect Tony Supan Sheriff

Chamber of Commerce to Hold EMS Forum

The Chamber of Commerce will be holding a forum on the EMS in Custer County on Tuesday, May 20th, at 6 p.m. in the fire house. Business owners are encouraged to attend and have their questions answered by the Hospital Board.

Please RSVP to the chamber at 783-9163 by 6 p.m. on May 19th if you plan to attend.

CHILI DINNER AND ALL THE FIXIN'S FOR PEGGY QUINT SATURDAY, MAY 17, at 2 p.m. At the Saddle Club
To help defray medical costs for Peggy, who has been diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Obituary Lawrence Edgar “Bud” Bishop

Lawrence Edgar “Bud” Bishop, age 86, was born on June 30, 1927, in Galesburg, Illinois. He was born to Etta Bess “Bothwell” Bishop and Jasper Perry Boone Bishop. Bud passed away on April 27, 2014, at his home in Westcliffe. He is survived by his wife, Marge Bishop; daughters Marilyn Payne (husband, Bob); Gail Peddycoart (husband, Jim); Marci Wommack (husband, Stormy); and Barbara Riley. He is also survived by 17 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren,

and extended family.

Bud worked in Colorado Springs in his younger years where he put up the very first television antenna. He worked at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. He also drove a truck for many years. His passion in life was raising quarter horses for the track and racing chariots. He also loved to restore old buggies and wagons.

His memorial service will be on May 14, 10 a.m., at the Saddle Club building at 72 County Road 247.

The Latest from the Town of Silver Cliff

by Larry Luikart

Mayor Weber opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed with introductions of the individuals in the gallery.

Bill Cullison began the reports for the evening with an update on the Senior Center. He reported the Center has been serving forty-four meals per day while open on their regular scheduled days of Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. The approaching summer will bring more open days and many more people. Several grants were discussed including a Daniels grant to improve the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning at the Center. John Stevens, the Center treasurer, has applied for a USDA grant to upgrade the restrooms to handicapped status and the Seeger foundation granted a five-thousand dollar matching grant to fund the replacement of the thirty-year-old stove in the kitchen. The new equipment will include a convective oven and cook top. Watch for those upcoming fund-raisers to bring in those needed matching funds.

Roger Camper recognized a number of individuals for their effort in helping with the spruce-up at the Spotted Pig. Bill Caldwell, owner of the establishment, thanked all those who helped in the clean-up effort. He felt the community responded in a positive way in regard to the Pride Code ordinance. Mayor Weber indicated for those who continue to ignore the Pride Ordinance the grace period is over. The ordinance has been in effect for over a year. Fines are imminent.

Dee Wilhite, representing the Cowboy Church, asked for approval to close Hermit Lane for the scheduled parades on May 24, July 4, and December 6, 2014. She reported that the Custer County Posse would handle traffic control at each of the events. The Council approved the request with a unanimous vote.

A reminder to all residents of the two towns. Silver Cliff/Westcliffe clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2014, from 7:00 – 11:00 a.m. Be sure to have your items out by 7:00 a.m. There will only be one pass through the towns. Be sure to set out your tires,

(separated from the rims), batteries if not cracked, brush and limbs, (bundled and tied), metal appliances, and scrap metal and now electronics. Remember tires have a four - dollar fee and mattresses are five dollars. Be sure to pay before May 9, 2014, to have these items picked up. Contact Ileen Squire, Silver Cliff Town Clerk, 783-2615 or Kathy Reis, Westcliffe Town Clerk, 783-2282.

The Silver Cliff Museum will open the weekend of June 7-8. The museum will be open until Labor Day. They have several items for sale to benefit the Museum, so stop in and look at their selection. A plan has been developed to put Mining Loop signs from Hwy 69 South at Rosita Road to Hwy 96 East with a trail head sign located at both ends. The Custer County Road and Bridge Department will assist in this effort.

Various staff and committee reports were heard by the Town Board before the public comments. The Board had no open discussion issues before adjournment.

Outdoor Buddies Community Appreciation Day Honoring Our Military

On Armed Forces Day, May 17th, Outdoor Buddies will hold the third annual Community Appreciation Day Honoring Disabled Veterans and other Military Personnel and Veterans.

Again this year, thanks to the generosity of ranch owners, Ralph and Donna Hood, the event will be held at A Painted View Ranch. The ranch is located three miles west of downtown Westcliffe. Activities will start at 10:00 am and end at 4:00 pm.

The Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes is co-sponsoring the event.

Everyone is invited! There will be games, demonstrations, free food, and much more.

The Mounted Color Guard from Fort Carson along with representatives of local American Legion Post 170 will participate in the flag ceremony. Immediately following the flag ceremony, the eight-member mounted color guard and mule team and wagon will perform an equestrian demonstration.

Rob Adams, Outdoor Buddies Activities Coordinator, and his crew will prepare and serve a free lunch consisting of barbecued pork, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, iced tea, lemonade, and water. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

Planned activities include participation by Wounded Warriors from the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Carson, flag ceremonies with a military mounted color guard, a mechanical bull ride, the Blooming Bush Women (music and Samurai Sword Dance), pack mule demonstration with mules (by local U.S. Forest



The always popular Bounce House!

courtesy photo

Service), archery range, laser shot video game trailer, and fishing game (by local Colorado Parks & Wildlife), Paca Peace alpaca educational program with alpacas, Mission Wolf’s 30-minute educational program with wolves, and much more.

Special attractions for kids (and some adventurous older folks) include a bounce house, ducky race (using an irrigation canal that runs through the ranch), stick pony barrel racing, face painting, animal balloons, and cotton candy.

Displays/Raffles 10:00 - 3:00

Huey Helicopter Display
Outdoor Buddies Display
Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes Display
American Legion Display - Poppies
Eagles Summit Ranch Display
Club America WMV Display
Mountain Man Display
Raffles

Activities Schedule

10:00 - 3:00:
Archery Shooting
Kid’s Fishing Game
Laser Shot Trailer
Pack Mule Demonstrations
Mechanical Bull Rides
Bounce House

10:40 – 11:45
Ducky Race
11:00 – 1:00
Alpaca Demonstrations
11:00 – 3:00
Face Painting/Cotton Candy/Animal Balloons
11:45
Flag Ceremony/Pledge/Invocation
12:00 – 12:30
Mounted Color Guard
Equestrian Demonstration
12:30 – 2:00
Lunch
12:30 – 2:00
Blooming Bush Women Band/Samurai Dance
1:45 – 2:45
Stick Pony Barrel Races
2:45 – 3:00
Raffle Drawings and Presentations
3:00 – 3:30
Mission Wolf Educational Program

Some of the special guests expected this year from Pueblo include patients from Haven Behavioral War Heroes Hospital and Pueblo VA Nursing Home.

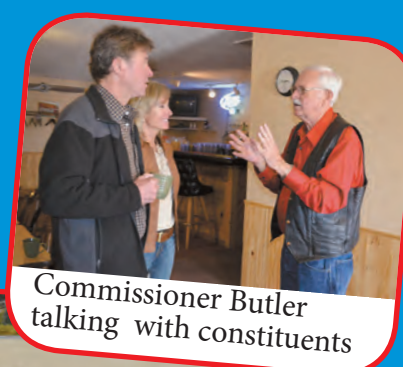
Last year’s event was a huge success, so a large turnout is expected. Please plan to join the fun at A Painted View Ranch on Saturday, May 17th.

For more details, contact Dwaine Robey at 783-9044 or drobey@centurytel.net or Ann Robey at 783-9100 or ann@apaintedview.com.

Re-Elect Allen Butler Commissioner



Commissioner Butler talking with an airport advisory board member



Commissioner Butler talking with constituents



Commissioner Butler judging during the 4-H Public Speaking Contest

Old enough to know how

- ★ Transparent and Accessible
- ★ Qualified and Experienced
- ★ Common sense, Reliability, and Good Mediator
- ★ Community Builder
- ★ Successful Business Owner
- ★ Works Well With Others



But still young enough to do

Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcats Baseball District Play-Offs

by Jim Silver

The Bobcats Baseball Team has had nearly 2 weeks to hone game plans—two of them. Our Bobcats, at number 2 seed in the league (5 and 3 in league play) must corral the Burros from South Park (7 and 3 in league play) in their first match-up this Saturday, May 10 in District Play-Offs in Rye. The teams met just 2 weeks previous on April 25th, and each team left with a win in the double-header. Once again, says Coach Jay Lont, “It’s our ace pitcher against theirs,” and that means Conner Rowley of the Bobcats against the Burros’ Dakota Conners. Last time, our Conner pitched for a 7 to 6 Bobcats win, and incidentally, batted in the winning runs in the 7th inning. Beating South Park will advance the Bobcats to the “sweet 16,” as Coach Lont

describes the Regionals to be played on May 17th. That is, the game winner of the Bobcats versus the Burros will go up against Rye for the District Championship. And, both teams advance to the Regionals. In saying all of this, we’re assuming a win for Rye in the first game of the day against Cripple Creek- Victor, since Rye stands at 8 and 0 in league play.

Like all athletes had best say, “We have to take it one game at a time,” and that’s the case even if both games are on the same day. The Bobcats-Burros match-up is at 12:30, and the District Championship game is set to start at 3:00 pm. Derek Staton is expected to get the pick on the pitcher’s mound for the game against Rye. Lane Byerly, who has pitched throughout the season, has had to move to second base to give his in-

jured elbow a rest. TJ Flynn is still rehabbing a pulled quad, but is expected to be in good form in center field for the upcoming weekend, says Coach Lont.

The Bobcats’ game plans are simple: “Focus on what we’ve seen from South Park and Rye this year,” and both teams have some weaknesses defensively that the coaches have been showing their players how to capitalize on. With discipline at the plate, the Bobcats can play “small-ball”—hit and runs and well-placed bunts, when needed. The team has worked on hitting the fast-ball, since both opponents have that going for them.

Coaches Lont, Bell, and Paxton have been working the players hard to get them ready for this part of the season, where it all comes together. District—Regionals—State—“One game at a time.” GO BOBCATS!

School Solicits Community Involvement

by Candi Sage

Resident Gary Taylor led the May 5 meeting held in the multipurpose room of the school presenting the strategic plan process for Custer County School District. He led the meeting explaining his part which is not having an agenda and strictly facilitating the process. He contends that he is taking the task of ‘getting all the ingredients together’ as in making bread, and is acting as the “yeast” to bring the ingredients to the final product “without changing the flavor”.

The Custer County School Board is seeking the input from all the stakeholders:

parents, community members, Board members, staff members, and students (most likely with either a junior or senior standing). As part of the process beginning with community involvement, Mr. Taylor asked those in attendance interested in participating in one of the five scheduled focus groups to sign up. Meetings are scheduled for the week of May 5 with the final focus group meeting to be held on May 12.

The purpose of the focus group is to ‘think outside the box’ while deciding on the broad goals in Education such as; academic excellence, facilities, budget, staff and resources, among others, focusing on the

‘customer’ and the ‘competition’ with what’s best for Custer County. Each focus group will meet in the Administration building. After the focus groups meet, Gary will summarize the information collected, then he and Superintendent Chris Selle will select the next ‘working group’ members. The working group will then draft the Strategic Plan to be ready to present for School Board review on June 2. The timeline is set for the approval scheduled for the next school board meeting on June 9. Any questions regarding this process or the focus groups can be further directed to Superintendent Chris Selle at 783-2357.



Bobcat Menu • May 12 - May 15, 2014

Monday breakfast
Waffles
Sausage Links
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Nachos
Oatmeal Muffin Bread
Choice of Veg. & Fruit
Milk

Tuesday breakfast
Blueberry or Banana Muffin
Ham
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Cream of Chicken over Rice
Choice of Veg
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Wednesday breakfast
Scrambled Eggs
W. W. Toast
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Hot Dog on a Bun
Birthday Cake
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Thursday breakfast
Sausage Gravy,
Biscuits
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Chicken Nuggets
W. W. Roll
Choice of Veg. & Fruit
Milk

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



Battle of the Books

On May 5th, three Custer County Middle School students traveled to Cañon City to compete against other students in a Battle of the Books. Kayla Carter, Hannah Kennedy, and Nora Lewis (pictured above) competed as a team against seven other teams from Cañon City Middle School and Harrison Middle School. The girls had to read nine young adult novels over the course of the school year and study them in depth to demonstrate their knowledge of each. The Custer County Middle School team came in second place, and had a great time! The team was organized by librarian Dianne Bohach and volunteer Sam Frostman.

courtesy photo

Gymkhana! Muttin' Bustin'!

At the Wild West Cowboy Church

1st Summer Gymkhana is Saturday, May 10, at 8 a.m.

**Pole Bending, Barrel Racing, and many more
fun events for you and your horse!
All ages welcome, only \$4 per event
Call Sherri at 512-308-7711**

**Next Muttin' Bustin' is Sunday, May 18, at 1 p.m.
Come out and join the Pee Wee Woolly Riders!**

KIDS

Friday, May 9, 2014

The Yard

What a sight it must have been to see “Old Ironsides,” officially known as the USS Constitution, sail into Newport Harbor on May 8, 1862. During the Civil War, the United States Naval Academy temporarily relocated from Annapolis, Maryland, to Newport, Rhode Island, in the event of a Confederacy attack. *Constitution* was a training ship and housed the first-year students. Classes were held below deck. The temporary stay lasted about four years.

The Yard is a name given to the U.S. Naval Academy’s scenic campus located today in historic Annapolis, Maryland, on Chesapeake Bay. The Naval Academy reflects our country’s history commemorating bravery and heroism. It is also a four-year college where midshipmen are on active duty. John Paul Jones was a Revolutionary war hero who inspired many a midshipman throughout the ages with the words, “I have not yet begun to fight.”

One of the displays at the Naval War College Museum in Newport, Rhode Island, is the history of the art and science of naval warfare since ancient times. It is worth investigating!

information source: usna.edu

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

Corner

Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

Estate Sale

501 Main Street Barn
May 16th, 3 - 7 p.m.
May 17th, 8 a.m. - 12 Noon
Quality Items

For Rent

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

For Sale

GUNS, AMMO, and Gunsmithing
THRIVE Freeze-Dried Food
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11 - 5, Thurs. - Sat.
719/371-3158

FOR SALE: Miscellaneous gun stuff: powder, target stands, bore guides, etc. Call or email for list. Mike, 783-0258; n0mik@centurytel.net

Help Wanted

Part-time **Ranch Hand** for small cattle ranch in Westcliffe. Cattle/horses. Duties include: livestock care, irrigation, building and maintenance. Information - 303.994.8042

Like to greet people and share our community with them? Then consider volunteering one day a week in the Custer County Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center. Training is provided. Call 783-9163

Seifert Enterprises is seeking an Accounts Payable Clerk/Administrative Assistant. Successful candidates will have general office and AP experience. Inventory and/or fleet management is a plus. This position requires an organized, detail-oriented individual with the ability and desire to multi-task within a team environment. Résumés

are being accepted by mail only: Attn: HR; PO BOX 210; Westcliffe, CO 81252

The Custer County School District is accepting applications for a Secretary to the School Board. This position would require attendance at school board meetings and generating meeting minutes. It is anticipated to take approximately 6 hours per month and the wages will be \$10 per hour. Interested applicants may contact Chris Selle at chris.selle@ccbobcats.net or 783-2357 to request application materials, pick up applications at the Administration Office at 709 Main St. in Westcliffe, or download an application from the school district's website at www.custercountyschools.org. CCSD is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the

basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in employment.

The Custer County School District is accepting applications for the position of head middle/high school cross country coach, head middle school volleyball coach, and head high school girls basketball coach for the 2014-2015 school year. For more information, please call Greg Cravens at 783-4948 or pick up applications at the Administration Office at 709 Main Street in Westcliffe between the hours of 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday. CCSD is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in employment.

The Custer County School District is accepting applications for a Middle School Math Teacher. Interested ap-

plicants may contact Chris Selle at chris.selle@ccbobcats.net or 783-2357 to request application materials, pick up applications at the Administration Office at 709 Main St. in Westcliffe, or download an application from the school district's website at www.custercountyschools.org. CCSD is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in employment.

Livestock

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Real Estate

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

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Cell (719) 371-3523
Please call **Art Nordyke** for your septic pumping and inspections.
Don't let your septic fail!

The deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is **Tuesday at Noon** for that week's edition. Call (719) 783-3360 to place your ad.

Custer County Middle School Track

by Jim Silver

The Middle School Track Team will have brought their season to a close by the time many Sentinel readers get this brief report. It has been a short but intense season, that lasted only a month, and yet with two meets per week, the team traveled to seven track meets. For the Middle School students, the season is intense in yet another way: the team practices between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. each school day. The coaches have to push the young athletes hard from start to finish, making up for the little time available.

The coaching staff is: Head Coach Luke Schnickel (Middle School writing teacher) for running, jumping; Assistant Coach Greg

Cravens (Athletic Director, Volleyball Coach, Maintenance Supervisor) for throwing; Assistant Coach Joann Sturtevant, for distance running; Student Coach Corey Lewenkamp for running; Student Coach Casey Nordyke for throwing.

Coach Cravens says about his throwers, "All had great seasons." He mentioned top discus throwers Jessie Henrich for the girls and Billy Berry for the boys. In shot put, Sierra Stepanich is top girl and once again, Billy Berry for the boys. "All of these student-athletes are 7th graders, so we look forward to them coming back next year." About his Student Assistant, Casey Nordyke, Mr. Cravens said that it was great to have his leadership and knowl-

edge for the kids to feed off of. "I learn from Casey at every practice," he added.

Student Coach Corey Lewenkamp was busy teaching "fast feet" in an indoor practice session (pictured), and his input for the younger students must have paid off in their performance at the meets. Michael Neal and Dylan Billone placed well in the 100 meter dash. Dylan placed at the top in Long Jump, and Katie Florom is a good High Jumper. Billy Berry also placed in Triple Jump.

These student-athletes will step up to take the places of some big brothers or sisters of the Bobcats High School teams, in all sports. We can watch for that to happen for all of them in the years to come.

by Jim Silver

Once again, The Custer County Bobcats Track Team traveled to two invitational track meets in a week. On Thursday, April 24th the destination was Weston, CO for the Primero Invitational, where the Bobcats were one of 20 teams participating. The boys placed 3rd, and the girls placed 5th, for their day's efforts. On Saturday, the 26th, the team competed in a smaller meet. Both boys and girls placed 5th of the 12 schools which showed up at the Palmer Ridge Invitational. The individual athletes who placed in the various events at both meets are as follows, and several "Personal Bests" for the 2013-14 season will be noted:

For the boys:

Dillon Wommack placed 5th in 110 meter (m) and 300m Hurdles at Primero and 4th in 300m Hurdles at Palmer Ridge.

Corey Lewenkamp placed 1st in the 1600m Run both days.

Michael Franta placed 3rd

in the 800m Run at Primero.

Smokey Solis placed 6th and 4th in Discus at the respective meets. Smokey placed 2nd in Shot at both meets, and he posted a 45'5" "PB" at Primero.

Casey Nordyke was recently cleared by his doctor to join the track team, now recovered from a football season knee injury/surgery. He placed 5th in Discus at Palmer Ridge.

Brian O'Connor placed 2nd and 5th in High Jump. At Primero, he jumped 6'1" for a "PB." He placed 2nd and 3rd in Triple Jump and posted a 4th place Long Jump at Palmer Ridge.

Denver Mullett jumped at Primero also, placing 4th in High Jump, and 3rd in Triple Jump.

For the girls:

Serenity Ham placed 1st in 100m Hurdles at Primero, 2nd and 1st in High Jump, and 2nd and 2nd in Triple Jump for the two meets. Serenity's :17.12 time in the 100m Hurdles and 32'8.5" Triple Jump are "PB"s for the season.

Kaitlyn Freeburg placed 6th and 8th in 100m Hurdles, 5th and 5th in 300m Hurdles, and 4th and 5th in the 200m Dash.

Jessica Sturtevant placed 5th and 3rd in the 3200m Run.

Sarah Gerringer placed 2nd and 7th in the 800m Run and 7th in Long Jump at Palmer Ridge.

Caitlin Johnson placed 7th in the 3200m Run at Primero.

The Bobcats wind up the regular track season the same day this issue of the Sentinel is being read, when they go to the Pueblo Twilight at the CSU Pueblo campus on May 2nd. The following weekend, the destination is the ASU campus in Alamosa for the Regional Track Meet on Saturday, May 10th. This meet is all about qualifying to move on to the next and final level—the State Track Meet! This event will be held at Jeffco Stadium in Lakewood. Some of our Bobcats have been there before, and more will be competing to get there this year. **GO BOBCATS!**

YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO A CATERED LUNCHEON

"PUT ON YOUR DANCIN' SHOES"

Wednesday, May 21, 2014, from Noon to 1:45 PM

Feature: ANDREA, FROM THE TENDERFOOT DANCE COOPERATIVE IN SALIDA SAYS, "MOVING YOUR BODIES IN DANCE IMPROVES YOUR HEALTH!"
Music: SUNNY SOLOS FROM MICKIE HERRICK OF WESTCLIFFE
Speaker: "DANCIN' IN THE RAIN!" CARRIE CARR, NURSE-TURNED-LINE-DANCING TEACHER, GIVES A ZANY LOOK AT GROWING UP AND GIVES HOPE FOR THE STORMS OF LIFE

\$8 (includes meal and program) At the Coaldale Community Building, The Historic Schoolhouse, 1/4 mile South of Hwy 50 on Hayden Creek Rd, Coaldale

For a Reservation: Email howardcotopaxicwc@live.com Or phone Kathryn 719-942-3052 or Monte 719-783-2300

PRESENTED BY HOWARD/COTOPAXI CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONNECTION
AFFILIATED WITH STONECROFT MINISTRIES
Prayer Connection, Wednesday, May 14, 9:30 a.m. at Cotopaxi Church Basement

Bobcats Sport Schedule

BASEBALL

Saturday, May 10
12:30 p.m.: District at Rye
3 p.m.: Championship game

Saturday, May 17
Regionals TBA

Saturday, May 24
State Championship - Lakewood

TRACK

Saturday, May 10
9 a.m.: Regional Track Meet at ASU - Alamosa

Thursday - Saturday, May 15 - 17
State Track Meet at Jeffco Stadium in Lakewood,
Time to Be Determined

GO BOBCATS!

Local Mountain News & Notices

Events Calendar

Friday, May 9, 2014 7:30 p.m.: The Jones Theater: "Noah"	Friday, May 16, 2014 7:30 p.m.: The Jones Theater: The movie, "Divergent" 7:30 p.m.: The Westcliffe Center/Jones Theater: the play, "Harvey"
Saturday, May 10, 2014 7:30 p.m.: The Jones Theater: "Noah" 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.: Music Meadows Ranch Open House, Potluck. For directions, go to musicmeadows.com	Saturday, May 17, 2014 7:30 p.m.: The Jones Theater: the movie, "Divergent" 7:30 p.m.: The Westcliffe Center/Jones Theater: the play, "Harvey"
Sunday, May 11, 2014 2 p.m.: The Jones Theater: "Noah"	Sunday, May 18, 2014 2 p.m.: The Jones Theater: the movie, "Divergent" 2 p.m.: The Westcliffe Center/Jones Theater: the play, "Harvey"
Monday, May 12, 2014 Fine Arts Show at CC School's Great Room through May 22	Monday, May 21, 2014 8 a.m.: TEFAP Distribution behind Courthouse
Tuesday, May 13 11 a.m.: BOCC Special Meeting in Boardroom 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.: School Board Meeting in Great Room	

Recurring Events and Business Hours

Monday 6 p.m.: Closed step study 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	6:45 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church, Post 170 Auxiliary monthly meeting (March-October).
Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Custer County public transit service available to everyone through Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343	Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Library open in downtown Westcliffe
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 by 9:30 a.m.	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
Monday and Thursday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources in Silver Cliff open to assist young mothers and families in need. Free pregnancy tests and counseling to pregnant women and more. Call 783-4357	Thursday 5:30 p.m.: Weight Watchers meeting in the Hope Lutheran Church basement. Call 783-4144 Second Thursday of the Month: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m., "Ask a Nurse" at the library
Tuesday 12:30 p.m.: Bridge Club meets in the library community room in downtown Westcliffe. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Jammin' band at The Mining Company Restaurant in Silver Cliff	Friday 6 p.m.: Open discussion Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172 or Lisa (719) 783-0809
First Tuesday of the Month: 6:30 p.m. at Cliff Lanes - American Legion Post 170 monthly meeting	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 open in Westcliffe

Teacher Feature Michelle Selle

Where were you raised?
Simla, CO

Education: BA (Major - Physical Science, Secondary Ed Emphasis, Chemistry Minor)

Hobbies: Hiking, Exercising (Rollerblading, Biking, Kickbox, Pilates, etc), Reading, Exploring/Traveling, Learning new things...BEING WITH MY FAMILY!!!!

Personal Info: (e.g. married, children) Married to Chris Selle, for 13 years in June. Blessed with two beautiful, amazing, daughters - Ainsley (8), Adison (7).

Currently teaching - Grade Level or Content Area: Multiple content areas - 9-12(Science, Math, Personal Finance)

Why did you choose to work in Custer County? My husband was hired as the superintendent here and I honestly wanted to go to school every day with my family!

What is your greatest mo-



tivation to be a teacher? My students. There is no greater privilege than being able to positively (hopefully) impact young lives on a daily basis. I also absolutely LOVE when those "light bulbs" turn on!!!

What are your greatest challenges as a teacher? On a very personal level... my greatest challenge is watching students walk through my doors who have not been given the life they deserve. My heart breaks to see students who have not been loved, cherished, given hope, and disciplined out of love. As a teacher,

it's very difficult to get a student to reach their full potential when they haven't had the proper nourishment (physically and emotionally) at home.

What is the most important 'take away' you hope for your students at the end of the year? That they will be able to make choices that will get them on the "train/tracks" they are meant to be on. I don't want them to stay on some predetermined path they think they are supposed to be on, but, really figure out their purpose in this life. Enjoy the journey....

Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social!

Bring your family! Enjoy the afternoon!
Tap your toes to Sugarfoot!

Sunday,
May 18th
from 2-5 p.m.
Rancher's Roost
Meeting Room



Renew old
friendships,
make new
ones.

I want to hear your concerns.
I want to understand your needs.
I need your vote to facilitate change.
My Word is my bond.
My handshake is my contract.
I am Bob Kattnig.
I ask for your vote for County
Commissioner in the June Primary.
To contact Bob, call 719-783-0738, email 1drrdoc@gmail.com,
or mail PO Box 1254, Westcliffe, 81252.
This ad is paid for by the committee to elect Bob Kattnig.



Norup Gas Inc.

28 Rangeview Loop
(Rangeview Industrial Park)

Located

one mile north of Westcliffe
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Office hours:

Monday through Friday
8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

719-783-9338

BOBCAT TRACK - HERE'S THE FUTURE

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK PRACTICE

Head Coach: Luke Schnickel (pictured with runners)—running, jumping; Assistant Coaches Greg Cravens (Athl. Dir.)—throwing and Joann Sturtevant—distance running. Student Coaches Corey Lewenkamp (lower left)—running and Casey Nordyke (middle right)—throwing.



Runners - Front row from left Alyssa Barnes and Lindsey Gilmore. Middle row from left Cash Rowley, Brittany Benoit, Holly Young, Savannah Langford, Ellie Wahl, and Sebastian Mackleer. Back row from left Dalton Wommack, Haylee Hutterer, Kobe Lewsader, David Kinsey, and Tel Cose.



Jumpers - Front row from left Dalton Wommack, Violet Funk, Chad Lewenkamp, Patrick Post, and Logan Kinsey. Back row from left Alex Gall, Tel Cose, Chris Jenkins, Haylee Hutterer, Kat Potts, David Kinsey, and Billy Berry.

Team members unavailable for pictures - Kamri Garhart, Melody Harson, Alisha Lyons, Pearl Moore, Liz Stewart (Manager), Dylan Billone, John Feldman, and Michael Neal.



Throwers - Front row Billy Berry. Back row from left Jessie Henrich, Alaska Koester, Sierra Stepanich, Alisha Dryer, and Devon Ray.



Sheriff's Report...

As of Tuesday, May 6, there were six (6) men in jail.

May 5 Joy Lewis, age 58, of Silver Cliff was issued a Silver Cliff municipal summons for having too many dogs on her property. She is to appear in Silver Cliff Municipal Court on May 13.

May 5 William Mercer, age 30, of Westcliffe was issued a Westcliffe Municipal Court summons for keeping a horse on his residential property. Mercer is to appear in municipal court on May 20.

May 5 Joshua Desherlia, age 33, was arrested in Moffat County off of two Custer County bench warrants for failure to appear. One violation was for bail bond conditions, \$4,000 bond. The second warrant was for felony burglary of a building in Westcliffe. That bond is for \$10,000. Desherlia has a charge in Moffat County. Once that charge and bail bond of \$100,000 have been satisfied, Desherlia will be extradited to Custer County.

May 4 Krystel Delhommer, age 29, and Steve Delhommer, age 29, from San Isabel were both charged with second degree criminal trespass for allegedly breaking into a house in the San

Isabel area. They are scheduled to appear in Custer County Court at a later date. They were released on a misdemeanor summons.

May 3 At 1700 hours a 1997 Ford pickup driven by Casey Fall, age 23, of rural Westcliffe was driving eastbound on Highway 96 at about mile marker 14 when he swerved to miss two deer and went off of the right-hand side of the roadway. The vehicle went through a fence and sustained moderate damage to the front-end of the pick-up truck. No injuries to driver.

April 30 Lori Noland, age 54, of rural Westcliffe was arrested for driving under the influence and careless driving. The arrest came after Noland was involved in an accident with a 1993 GMC pickup truck being driven by Kelly Stapleton. Stapleton, age 18, is also of rural Westcliffe. The accident occurred on County Road 271. Ms. Noland was booked into the Custer County jail. She posted \$1,000 bond, released, and will appear in Custer County Court at a later date.

AMBULANCE CALLS
Three (3) ambulance calls as of

May 6.

May 3 The ambulance was dispatched to Hardscrabble, the scene of an accident which involved a motorcycle. State Police were involved and they stood down.

April 30 The ambulance was dispatched to the scene of an accident that occurred on County Road 271. There was no transport.

April 29 The ambulance was dispatched to the clinic for a 97-year-old female who had fallen. She was transported to Parkview Hospital.

FIRE CALLS
(2) fire calls as of May 5.

May 5 At 7:55 a.m., a fire truck was dispatched to County Road 291 for a smoke investigation. It turned out to be a control burn not called in.

April 30 The fire department was dispatched to an accident that occurred on County Road 271.

April 29 At 1717 hours, a fire truck was dispatched to a smoke investigation. It was low clouds in the foothills northwest of Westcliffe.

Court Report...

Jake Russell Platchek plead guilty to a Count 3 Sexual Contact. Defendant was originally sentenced on 12/14/2012 to probation which is now revoked on 5/02/2014 after admission to violation. He was sentenced to jail for 351 days with a credit of 113 days already served. He must register as a sex offender and stay registered for at least an additional 5 years after probation is

terminated. Defendant is to turn over any porn in his possession to probation. Fees and fines assessed. All seized property is forfeited. The defendant shall also pay \$4,074.50 with a balance of \$2,554.50.

Tommy Linn Davis was issued a Mandatory Protection Order from protected party Douglas Rickman. Davis shall not ha-

rass, molest, intimidate, retaliate against, or tamper with any witness to or victim of the acts you are charged with committing. He shall vacate the home of the victim, stay away from home of the victim, and stay away from any other location the victim is/are likely to be found. Shall refrain from contacting or directly or indirectly communicating with the victim.

BYERLY FOR CUSTER COUNTY SHERIFF



What makes a good Sheriff, Chief of Police, Administrator, or Business Executive? How do you know what the best qualities are that will provide the best services to you, the citizens? The answer in short is integrity, dedication, a desire to serve others, and the ability to make those around him or her successful. I have the track record to show I am the person who can transform the Sheriff's Office into a modern Law Enforcement Agency. I have the experience of leading personnel in a stressful environment to a positive and productive result. I can and will be a positive influence on the community as the Custer County Sheriff. I would appreciate your support on June 24th.

Cell Phone: 371-6678 / Email: shanbyerly@yahoo.com
Facebook.com/Byerly for Custer County Sheriff

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Byerly for Sheriff



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enxxpropane@bresnan.net

*A fondness for power is implanted, in most men,
and it is natural to abuse it, when acquired.*

Alexander Hamilton - Founding Father

SCHOOL From page 3

savings”, for decades. It is great for the staff, 3-day weekends. It is horrible for the students especially with many families having both spouses working full time or a single working parent. I believe our school is on a 145 work-day year, while the average 5-day Colorado school is 180 days. Do not tell me you can teach kids as much in 145 days as 180. I believe that a standard 180 work-day year would significantly improve our academic performance. Suggestion: The school board should immediately move to a 180 work-day school year.

2. School Board Executive Positions: I think this situation really illustrates where a major leadership problem exists in our school. After a fairly intense election, the citizens of Custer County elected two “reform” candidates, Doctor Terre Davis and Bob Jolley in the last board election. Doctor Davis is one of the MOST QUALIFIED school board candidates in the country. Period. She is a life-long educator, superintendent of a large, major school, PhD in Educational Administration, and a national level educational consultant in many sectors, with a proven, solid, success record. It is like having Payton Manning join our football coaching staff. Bob Jolley is an accomplished accountant/financial type guy with public sector experience. He has overseen government contracts in the tens of millions of dollars. So, the night the new board members are sworn in, the board also elects the new term’s board officers. With Doctor Davis’s experience, she is an ideal candidate for board president or even treasurer. Bob Jolley is more than qualified to handle the treasurer’s job. A no-brainer maybe? No. The old board members (which includes Monty Lee) completely ignore Doctor Davis’s and Bob Jolley’s qualifications and elect NEITHER one to an executive position. And, I believe the elected treasurer, Jill Rowland, has no serious financial education or experience. Doctor Davis could easily be the president of ANY school board in the country and our school board ignores her. I think it speaks for itself. We made Payton Manning be the water boy. Leadership? Suggestion: Elect Doctor Davis to be school board president or at least treasurer.

3. Common Core Adoption: Find the dead horse, and beat him again. The Sentinel has run multiple articles analyzing Common Core. It is the worst thing to come along from the career educational bureaucrats in decades. It is simply a disaster for our children. States and school districts are dropping it like crazy, even union dominated states. The down line cost to us as taxpayers in Custer County will be devastating. Our school board adopted it with gusto. Any serious research into the issue should have raised huge warning flags. Due diligence was not done, folks. With adequate pre-adoption analysis, any citizen with

common sense would have opposed it.

Go online, folks, and do a little homework. You will be shocked. Suggestion: I know it is a complex issue, but at least try to determine a path out of this foolish decision.

4. Variable Salaries: Pay more for teachers within the core mission curriculum. This pertains mostly to grades 7 - 12 and the mission critical subjects of math and science. There is a vast oversupply of primary grade, music, art, gym, language, etc., (i.e., non-core mission) teachers and a scarcity of math and science teachers. We need to offer higher salaries for the core curriculum teachers to attract better candidates. Simple supply and demand economics that seems to strike fear into timid school board members. Why are we paying a music teacher the same as a hard-to-find high school math teacher? Answer: Unions and the union mentality. More and more school boards around the country are implementing this easy-to-do and common sense reform. Suggestion: Implement a variable teacher salary structure to attract better core curriculum teachers.

5. Merit Pay: Bonuses for teachers whose students score high on standardized tests (e.g., TCAP). I can hear the screaming now. Forget about teacher “evaluations” by the administration and other fudge factors. Get real and reward real results. Complex subject but incentives work. Implement carefully with core mission subject areas first.

(Note: Immediately eliminate any salary increases or bonuses for masters or higher degrees for teachers. There is NO correlation between advanced degrees and student performance. NONE. This is an old union scam instituted decades ago. Today’s teacher college advanced degrees are a joke.) Suggestion: Implement a plan to award merit pay for secondary core curriculum subject teachers.

So in the end, Monty, you write us a letter stating that we are “constantly criticizing everything” (not true, but it kinda makes me think we are doing our job here at the Sentinel after 20 years of media abdication here in the valley) because we write some articles criticizing the school’s academic performance. Fair enough. And this feedback by you is GOOD. The issues are out in the open, opinions are being voiced, the usual suspects are outraged, the people are being alerted and informed, and free and open speech and debate is occurring. The issue is finally being addressed! We need more citizens like Monty to come forward with their opinions. With an issue like school academic performance, I believe we all want to improve it. It’s just that we need to work out the path to accomplish it. The discussion might get a little heated, but in the end it is worth it. And parents, it is time for you to take a real interest in your children’s future.

Custer County School District C-1 Regular School Board Meeting, in the Great Room May 13, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Welcome of Guests (remind guests to sign-in and indicate if they wish to speak)
3. Modification/Approval of Agenda
4. General Public Comment Session - (Comments will be limited to a maximum of three minutes)
5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Modification/Approval: Minutes of regular board meeting of April 8, 2014
 - b. Acceptance: Resignation letter from Kyle Doughty
 - c. Acceptance: Resignation letter from Luke Schnickel
6. Reports from Students/Staff
7. Reports from Public
 - a. Excellence in Education report
 - b. Accountability report
8. Board Committee Reports - Accountability Committee, BOCES, FFA, Legislative Update, Preschool Advisory
9. Action Items

- a. Approval: Check Vouchers
 - b. Approval: Financial Reports
 - c. Approval: 2014-15 Classified staff at-will employment notices
 - d. Approval: Insurance renewal
 - e. Approval: Policy DBD (Budget Priorities) - second reading
 - f. Approval: Policy GBGG (Staff Leave) - second reading
 - g. Acceptance: FY 15 Preliminary Budget
10. Principal’s Reports
 - a. Elementary – Holly Anderson
 - b. Secondary – Barb Jones
 11. Superintendent’s Report – Enclosed
 12. Items introduced by Board Members
 13. General Public Comment Session - (Comments will be limited to three minutes)
 14. Executive Session (If needed)
 15. Adjournment

Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

Controversial Fremont County Coroner's Race: Cause of Termination, Conflict of Interest or Sour Grapes?

by Barbara Penezic

Local funeral home employees have been involved with the Fremont County Coroner's Office for the past 50 years. Therefore, Deputy Coroner Randy Keller who has also been associated with Holt Funeral Home for the past 8 years was understandably surprised to receive his 'walking papers' one day after filing as a candidate for Fremont County Coroner in the upcoming November elections.

Fremont County Coroner Carlette Brocious says the termination "is the result of a change of standards for this office. The intent is to show no bias or conflict of interest with our local funeral homes." This would obviously put Randy Keller in a position of conflict because of his association with Holt Funeral Home. This shiny new standard has the ring of truth at first glance but simply falls apart under closer inspection.

The timing of this 'upgrade of standards' is suspicious to say the least. The termination letter is dated January 27th, Randy Keller announced his candidacy on January 28th at the Fremont County Republican Meeting, and the letter was hand-delivered to Mr. Keller's office on January 29th. Delivery of this letter by Coroner Brocious was witnessed by retired Colorado State Prison Warden William Price, a highly respected member of this community. Mr. Keller was out of town attending a Medico-Legal Death Investigation class at the time but did ask his office manager to date stamp the letter.

Please recall Randy Keller's position was terminated so there would be no appearance of conflict of interest because of his association with Holt Family Funeral Home. A brochure that can be found at the Coroner's Office, (information from the office of the Coroner), bears the wording, Carlette M. Brocious, RNC, CDI, Coroner. The very first question in this brochure reads: "Where Will My Relative or Friend Be Taken?" The Answer: Fremont County has an agreement with Holt Family Funeral Home to care for the deceased until your family's funeral home arrangements can be made. How then, one would wonder, could the appearance of favoritism or conflict of interest exist when the Coroner's Office already has an existing agreement with the Funeral Home in question? More to the point, why was Mr. Keller fired from his long-standing position as Fremont County Deputy Coroner?

The funeral homes here in Cañon City tell me they do not have a problem with Randy's

association with Holt Funeral Home and have never felt any unethical behavior has ever existed in the choice of funeral home arrangements from the Coroner's Office. Carolyn Larsen, part-time employee of one of the Homes tells me she has enjoyed working with Randy and she said, "I have never seen him behave in any way that was not totally professional." Randy has been hired to fill the role of Deputy Coroner by Art Nordyke, Custer County Coroner. Custer County Coroner's Office added, "We are pleased to welcome Randy to our staff. He is a valued team member."

A higher standard does indeed seem to be in order for the Coroner's Office. According to Cañon City Police Captain Jim Cox, Carlette Brocious' son-in-law, Adam Messer, was issued a summons for a misdemeanor charge of third-degree assault when Messer pushed candidate Keller during a "Meet the Candidate Event." A few weeks later at yet another public speaking engagement tempers flared between the two candidates and some audience members at the mention of the "Letter of Termination." Thanks to the appropriate action of RGTP leader Ed Whitcraft the situation was defused without the need of further police intervention.

A candidate should not have to wonder if they will be accosted or if their employment may be terminated should they decide to oppose an employer for an elected office.

The Coroner responds to natural, accidental, homicide, suicide, and undetermined deaths. The Coroner is the person who decides if a death should be further investigated for foul play or deemed natural causes. Both candidates possess the required qualifications to hold the office. This is a position of heavy responsibility and should be held by a person who not only has the mandated skill sets but a person of strong personal character and integrity. Carlette Brocious has been endorsed by retired Coroner Dorothy Twellman. Randy Keller has the endorsements of Custer County Coroner, Art Nordyke, Fremont County Sheriff Jim Beicker, and Senator Kevin Grantham: a matter of Conflict of Interest or plain old fashioned Misuse of Power? This is a question each voter must decide before they step into the voting booth this November. I stopped by the Coroner's Office and left messages but was unable to reach Ms. Brocious for her comments.

Be Informed,

Get Involved!

Marijuana & Cañon City

by Edward Whitcraft,
Royal Gorge Tea Party

There is a grassroots movement coming together in Cañon City and the surrounding communities to keep recreational marijuana from being sold, grown, packaged or distributed within the city limits of Cañon City. This grassroots movement has many different elements from our society from religious folks to strong conservative types, from business owners to retired people, and from senior citizens to high school age young people. They have one thing in common to convince the Cañon City Council that allowing recreation marijuana to become a part of our community would be detrimental to us as citizens and to what is a wonderful place to live. This grassroots opposition to recreational marijuana feels they have just cause for this objection and in the following paragraphs allow me to expand on just a few of them.

I first became aware of marijuana and what I considered its detrimental effects in Vietnam. Now, I'm sure most of the folks around my age are aware of the many stories that came from Vietnam that all our soldiers were smoking pot and high all the time. That simply is not true. While I did see soldiers use weed it was only a small percentage and I also have seen alcohol abuse. What I did notice was the effect marijuana had on those using it. They lost their sense of time, lacked motivation, impacted their coordination, and the users lost the ability to make sound decisions. These are all abilities that a soldier needs when confronting the enemy so you can understand my concern as a leader in combat. This was an issue that I was concerned with until I retired from the military; keeping my soldiers well-trained, disciplined, and clear headed in order to engage the enemy. All drugs were off limits to include alcohol.

As a citizen of my city I have seen the effects of marijuana on many of the

citizens. They are the same as mentioned in the above paragraph but perhaps worse as it has led to even more severe addictions to more powerful drugs. I have witnessed even in my own family where constant use of this drug has caused such lethargic behavior that the individual can no longer function in our society. I have seen men injured working around equipment with someone high on weed and not paying attention and the accident happened. These are symptoms we face daily but what about the effects that we don't know about yet. Long-term effects play havoc on the body, like heart problems, lung problems, long-term self control, and the addiction to stronger and stronger drugs. Finally what about our young people. I can hear the naysayers now, you have to be 21 to use marijuana so the young folks won't have access to it, therefore, no problem. Really, how does that work keeping our young ones from the liquor?

This grassroots organization is very serious about keeping recreational marijuana from becoming legal in Cañon City. They truly believe that any revenue that come from the sale would not cover the cost of the unintended consequences that would be derived from making it legal. Additional law enforcement requirements, additional medical costs for addicts, social problems, educational costs, and cost of losing tourism because some folks just won't want to bring their family to a town that does not honor family values. We encourage all citizens of Cañon City and the surrounding area to contact the Cañon City Council and let them know your feelings. Better yet join the grassroots team in the Council Chambers at City Hall during a council meeting and join in the campaign to keep marijuana out of the city. Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month at 6 p.m.

Be Informed,

Get Involved.

Tea Party Float A Favorite at Music & Blossom Festival

by Barbara
Penezic

The 76th Annual Music and Blossom Festival was blessed this year with fantastic weather and a record breaking number of people. The parade featured royalty, bands, clowns, marchers, and beautiful floats. The Royal Gorge Tea Party float was entitled, "Still Standing Tall for God, Guns, and for Country." The theme was reinforced by an amazing Statue of Liberty (courtesy of Chandra Serfoss) complete with raised golden torch.

The float made its way up Main Street to crowds of roaring fans, many standing to remove their hats and salute or cover their heart as the Flag of the United States waved proudly in the breeze; truly one of those you had to be there, Proud to be an American, moments. At several stops along the way, float riders sang our National Anthem, "America", and parade watchers along



The Royal Gorge Tea Party's float.

Sentinel Photo by John Penezic Jr

the route joined in. A Great Day for Americans! The booths set up in the parks were also a resounding success, from 9th street to 3rd street crowds were shopping and enjoying a wonderful day. Many families gathered at the park tables and children were laughing and playing everywhere you looked, many with lovely face painting designs on their smiling faces. The Tea Party and numerous other stands were greeting the people and handing out information.

Thanks be to God for blessing this event with beautiful weather and amazing crowds.

Be Informed,

Get Involved!

IMPORTANT DATES IN FREMONT

School Board Meetings:

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

Florence-Penrose Fremont RE-2

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

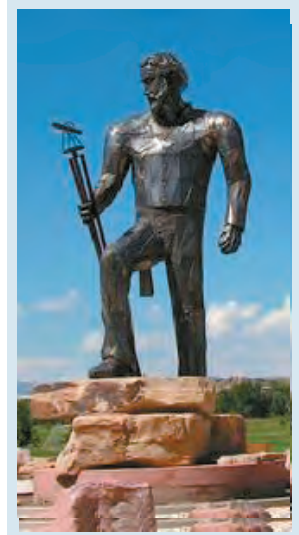
**Cañon City
City Council
1st and 3rd
Mondays at 6 p.m.
City Hall
128 Main St.
Cañon City**

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

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

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

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about an upcoming
event or meeting you
would like to see
printed here, or
covered in an
upcoming issue.
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The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

The Daily Jot

Daily reporting and analysis of current events from a biblical and prophetic perspective.

NOTE: When writing about God and Jesus, The Daily Jot means YHWH as God and Yeshua Ha Mashiach as Jesus--the actual original names and the true nature and character of them.

Of Benghazi and Dobson

No one I know would link Focus on the Family founder Dr. James Dobson with the Administration's cover up over four Americans dying in a terrorist attack on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi, Libya, September 11, 2012. Dobson is an example for all Americans that should be exercised at every opportunity. The first Thursday of May, Christians gather from across the country to pray for our nation. It's called The National Day of Prayer. While the National Day of Prayer was taking place, the media, members of Congress, and henchmen of the occupant of the Oval Office were embroiled in a war of words over the Administration's lies and coverup of what happened in Benghazi. But what does Dr. Dobson have to do with it?

The news media and Congressmen were catching members of the Administration in lie after lie, especially with the condemning testimony of military personnel confirming that they knew Benghazi was a terrorist attack at the earliest possible stages, 3:00 a.m. during the attack. Yet, the Administration, including the president himself, continued to lie to the world that the attacks were the result of a spontaneous demonstration over an offensive video for well into two weeks afterwards. Re-

tired Air Force Brigadier General Robert Lovell told the House Oversight Committee, "This was no demonstration gone terrible awry." The Administration's lies are not in dispute. What is in dispute is why they lied.

Across the way, another gathering was taking place on Capital Hill--the National Day of Prayer. A Founder of the event, Dr. Dobson spoke of how this current president is the "abortion president," and how he was trying to force Dobson's Family Talk ministry into paying for abortion through socialist healthcare. Dobson took the Administration to court and won. WND reported that Dobson recalled his thinking: "I believe in the rule of law, and it has been my practice since I was in college to respect and honor those in authority over us. It is my desire to do so now. However, this assault on the sanctity of human life takes me where I cannot go."

He continued: "I WILL NOT pay the surcharge for abortion services. The amount of the surcharge is irrelevant. To pay one cent for the killing of babies is egregious to me, and I will do all I can to correct a government that lies to me about its intentions and then tries to coerce my acquiescence with extortion. It would be a violation of

my most deeply held convictions to disobey what I consider to be the principles in Scripture. The Creator will not hold us guiltless if we turn a deaf ear to the cries of His innocent babies. So come and get me if you must, Mr. President. I will not bow before your wicked regulation." The link between Dobson and Benghazi is the Administration which lies to cover the deaths of many.

The president lied about the Affordable Care Act to cover up his plan to redistribute wealth, and promote abortion and homosexuality at taxpayer expense. The Administration is lying about Benghazi to cover up something else. Dobson has called the president out on his lying tongue. He did so straightforwardly and powerfully saying, "It would be a violation of my most deeply held convictions to disobey what I consider to be the principles in Scripture." You see, all law comes from God. Because God is just, an unjust law is no law. And as Peter said in Acts 5:29, "We ought to obey God rather than men." We need to follow Dobson's lead in standing up to this evil regime for righteousness sake. Speak boldly and often.

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

The Real Unemployment Rate: In 20% Of American Families, Everyone Is Unemployed

by Tyler Durden, Zero-Hedge.com
Submitted by Michael Snyder of The American Dream blog,

According to shocking new numbers that were just released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 20 percent of American families do not have a single person that is working. So when someone tries to tell you that the unemployment rate in the United States is about 7 percent, you should just laugh. One-fifth of the families in the entire country do not have a single member with a job. That is absolutely astonishing. How can a family survive if nobody is making any money? Well, the answer to that question is actually quite easy. There is a reason why government dependence has reached epidemic levels in the United States. Without enough jobs, tens of millions of additional Americans have been forced to reach out to the government for help. At this point, if you can believe it, the number of Americans getting money or benefits from the federal government each month exceeds the number of full-time workers in the private sector by more than 60 million.

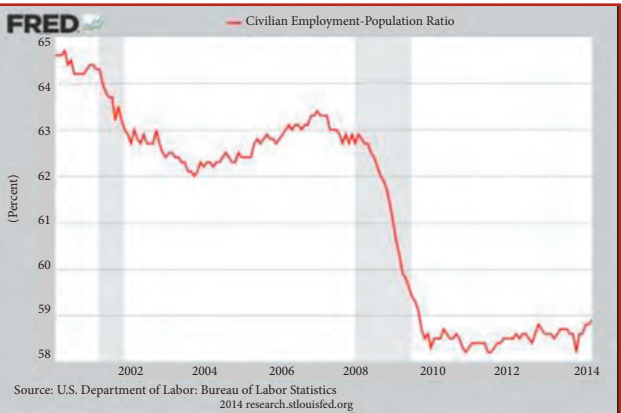
When I was growing up, it seemed like anyone that was willing to work hard could find a good paying job. But now that has all changed. At this point, 20 percent of all the families in the entire country do not have a single member that has a job. That includes fathers, mothers, and children. The following is how CNSNews.com broke down the numbers...

A family, as defined by the BLS, is a group of two or more people who live together and who are related by birth, adoption, or

marriage. In 2013, there were 80,445,000 families in the United States and in 16,127,000—or 20 percent—no one had a job.

To be honest, these really are Great Depression-type numbers. But over the years "unemployment" has been redefined so many times that it doesn't mean the same thing that it once did. The government tells us that the official unemployment rate is about 7 percent, but that number is almost meaningless at this point.

A number that I find much more useful is the employment-population ratio. According to the employment-population ratio, the percentage of working age Americans that actually have a job has been below 59 percent for more than four years in a row...



That means that more than 41 percent of all working age Americans do not have a job.

When people can't take care of themselves, it becomes necessary for the government to take care of them. And what we have seen in recent years is government dependence soar to unprecedented levels. In fact, welfare spending and entitlement payments now make up 69 percent of the entire federal budget. For much more on this, please see my previous article en-

titled "18 Stats That Prove That Government Dependence Has Reached Epidemic Levels".

And what is even more frightening is that more families are falling out of the middle class every single day. As a recent CNN article explained, approximately one-third of all U.S. households are living "hand-to-mouth". In other words, they are constantly living on the edge of financial disaster...

About one-third of American households live "hand-to-mouth," meaning that they spend all their paychecks. But what surprised the study authors is that 66% of these families are middle class, with a median income of \$41,000. While they don't have liquid assets, such as savings accounts or mutual fund holdings, they do have homes

and retirement accounts, with a median net worth of \$41,000.

"We don't expect them to be living paycheck to paycheck," said Greg Kaplan, study co-author and assistant professor of economics at Princeton University.

The American Dream is rapidly becoming an American nightmare.

When I was growing up,

See UNEMPLOYED on page 20



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Eminent Domain: Andy & Ceil Barrie Finds Out Their Land is Theirs, But Only Until the Government Wants it

by Daisy Luther,
FreedomOutpost.com

(Editor/GG: This is a direct result of the famous Kelo decision by the U.S. Supreme Court where the plain language and intent of the Constitution was destroyed by the liberals on the court allowing local, state, and federal governments to take your land for ANY reason whatsoever, and even give it to another non-government entity or person. After Kelo, private property, the cornerstone of our freedom, was no more.)

Imagine this:

You do your research and you choose a retreat property far off the beaten path. You spend time and money developing it, making it your own. Maybe it is a vacation home, or maybe you're a prepper and this is your bug-out location. Regardless of the reason you chose it, it's yours, so maybe you plant some perennial vegetables and some fruit trees. You dig a well or locate a spring. You make it your own.

Then the government comes along and says, "Nope, we want this land – you're out."

And they just take it, evicting you like they are the landlord and you are merely a tenant, despite your name on the deed.

That's exactly what happened to a couple in Colorado. Andy and Ceil Barrie fought the government and the government won.

The Barries had purchased and idyllic 10-acre parcel of land in the midst of the White River National Forest. The private land had

on it a rustic cabin, an out-house, and an old boarded-up gold mine. It was a day use cabin, and therefore totally off the grid. No electricity, no plumbing – just peace and solitude, accessible only by an ATV via a road that Summit County didn't even know existed. The cabin is 1.2 miles off the main road. From a preparedness standpoint, the place is what most of us dream of – a sweet little piece of paradise far off the beaten path, without a powerline in sight.

The government used many different bizarre strategies to get the Barries off of their land. Pay close attention because precedents are being set that could affect hunters or those creating bug-out retreats.

1. ATV access threatened an endangered species:

The government's first line of attack against the Barries was forbidding them to use a motorized vehicle to reach the property. This will sound familiar to anyone who has been following the Cliven Bundy case in Nevada: Summit "county officials issued a report that stated "public motorized access" to the property threatened the alpine tundra and the habitat for the lynx, an endangered species." (source) County officials took a vote in October of 2013, and in order to save the lynx threatened by the Barries' occasional access, agreed that their property should be seized. (In the case of the Bundy ranch, his cattle were massacred by the government while they claimed to be concerned about the fate of the desert tortoise.)

2. The county demanded

that "various commercial activities" be halted:

And exactly what nefarious money-making schemes were the Barries up to? Why, Andy Barry had the audacity to gather up fallen pine cones and take them home for his Christmas wreath making business. He used a cart attached to the afore-mentioned ATV to take them back to his home where the wreaths were created.

3. The county condemned the cabin because of electrical and plumbing issues:

Umm...it's an off-grid cabin so there was no electricity and no plumbing to start with. In their haste to protect the environment, one would think that bringing in electricity or plumbing would be far more of an issue than a low-carbon-footprint place that used no public utilities. This was strictly a day-use cabin, thus requiring no plumbing or power. How many off-grid homes that adjoin national land exist across the country right now? How many hunting and trapping cabins are snugly sitting out there in the wilderness? Are all of those properties next on the government's list of properties to steal?

4. The cabin was in violation of zoning laws:

A previous owner had expanded the cabin without a permit. Because we have to ask the government's permission for everything, you see.

In the end, the government won.

On Thursday, the Barries had no option but to cede the land. They did not have the money to fight against

the bottomless coffers of the government. They were paid \$115,000 for the land. The couple had spent \$75,000 waging a legal defense. Ceil Barrie said in a statement:

"The cabin was condemned on the grounds of plumbing and electricity when it doesn't even have plumbing or electricity. All those things added up in my mind. This is ridiculous, we can never win and our money is not unlimited. I have two kids in college this year. To me, what just came out of it is, you can't fight the government."

The moral to this story is, the government does not support the lifestyle to which many of us aspire. Self-sufficiency and freedom from the grid are not celebrated, but demonized. The government, through various agencies masquerading as do-gooders, have waged war on woodstoves, off-grid lifestyles, front-yard vegetable gardens, and anything that might allow you to live without their daily input or without being subject to their many taxes and fees.

Private property rights are ignored and according to the government, we must all submit to their "eminent domain". What it boils down to: You might think you own something, but it's clear that it is only yours until the government decides that they want it.

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Medicaid: Does It Work?

by Dave Diepenbrock,
ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

(Editor/GG: Thanks to democrats, we are now entering the medicaid Colorado financial death spiral. It won't be long.)

John Hickenlooper pushed to increase Colorado's Medicaid coverage. Extravagant promises appeared.

Proponents promised greater Medicaid coverage would improve recipients' health. It would even out health outcomes across society, some said.

In fourteen counties more than one-fourth of all county residents have now signed up for Medicaid. Suppose Medicaid worked

well. These folks would be healthier than the rest of the state, right?

So, did having lots of people on Medicaid make people healthier?

ZERO BENEFIT

Nope. They're almost 20% less healthy in total. Here's how we know.

Colorado has a measure of healthiness called the "illness burden." All Coloradans average an illness burden rating of 1. Some people are sicker (higher numbers). Some are healthier (lower numbers). Every Colorado county has an illness burden number. [Colorado All Payer Claims Database for 2012; www.cohealthdata.org/#/home]

These counties' residents have an average illness burden of 1.19. Only one county (Saguache) has a rating on the healthy side (less than 1.0). That's with 31% of residents in these counties on Medicaid.

Dive down a bit. Only three counties' Medicaid patients are healthier than the statewide Medicaid average. The more people on Medicaid, the worse the system seems to work for them. Democrats want to cram even more people into a creaking system. Swell.

Closing the gap? No joy there either. These counties' privately insured are 3.4% less healthy than the statewide private coverage average. Those having

Medicaid are 7.6% less healthy.

Medicaid works exactly opposite to Hickenlooper's promises.

This is a big deal. Colorado will spend two billion extra dollars (over FY 2012) offering Medicaid to more people. For this pile of cash we ought to get more, shouldn't we?

Sure, there may be other factors causing these counties to look sickly. But Colorado's Medicaid failure echoes a formal study of Medicaid's impact in Oregon.

Oregon had a lottery for

**See MEDICAID
on page 17**



The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand



Wayne LaPierre: 'One of America's Greatest Threats is the National News Media'

by Brendan Bordelon,
FreedomOutpost.com

National Rifle Association CEO Wayne LaPierre excoriated America's journalists in a fiery speech opening the NRA's annual convention, declaring that "one of America's greatest threats is the national news media."

LaPierre inaugurated the NRA Annual Meetings, held this year in Indianapolis, with an impassioned denouncement of the decline in long-held American principles, part of which was broadcast live Friday afternoon on MSNBC.

"You feel it in your heart," he said. "You know it in your gut. Something has gone wrong. The core values that we believe in — the things we care about most — are changing, eroding."

"In virtually every way, for the things we care about most, we feel profound loss," he declared. "We're sad. Not because we fear something is going wrong, but because we know something already has gone wrong."

"That's why more and more Americans are buying firearms and ammunition," LaPierre asserted. "Not to cause trouble. But because we sense that America is already in trouble."

And who, in the NRA

head's estimation, is to blame? LaPierre minced no words.

"Political dishonesty and media dishonesty have linked together in this country — joined forces — to misinform and deceive the American public," he accused. "Let's be straight about it. Right now in this room, the political and media elites in this country are lying to us."

"They lied bills into law," he declared to applause. "You know that. They pass legislation they admit they haven't even read, and yet they eagerly go on television and defend it. Health care policies, economic policies, foreign affairs: all seem repeatedly reckless."

"Rather than expose government dishonesty and scandal the way they used to, the media elites whitewash it all!" he claimed. "'Move on!' they tell us. 'There's nothing to see here, don't worry!'"

"One of America's greatest threats," LaPierre warned, "is the national news media that fails to provide a level playing field for the truth."

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Meet the Army Veteran Who Could Once and for All Destroy One of the Left's Key Gun Control Arguments

by Jason Howerton,
TheBlaze.com

INDIANAPOLIS

Eric Dietz, Ph.D., the former director of Homeland Security for the state of Indiana and 22-year Army veteran, says he is only interested in one thing when it comes to the debate over stationing armed personnel and teachers in America's schools: saving lives.

Now a professor at Purdue University and director of the school's Homeland Security Institute, Dietz could be the guy who — once and for all — destroys the left's argument against putting more guns in schools. And it's all based on numbers and facts.

That research? More guns in schools equal fewer deaths during active shooter situations.

At the 2014 National Rifle Association convention in Indianapolis on Friday, Dietz told TheBlaze that he set out to determine what realistic measures could be taken to reduce deaths during school shootings. Using an "agent-based modeling" method that he says is as straight forward as it gets, Dietz and the university were able to conclude that the "introduction of a minimal (10%) armed faculty in conjunction with [a] resource officer" could reduce overall casualties in

school-related shootings by roughly 70 percent.

Since the 1950s, all but two mass shootings have occurred in locations where victims were restricted from carrying weapons for self-defense, his work says. This stunning statistic led the university to question the effectiveness of so-called "gun free zones."

The methodology of the research is fairly simple and rooted in common sense, Dietz claims. It takes into account four separate scenarios involving an active shooter:

- Scenario 1: No access to control or security.
- Scenario 2: Resource officer
- Scenario 3: 5-10 percent of work force has concealed carry
- Scenario 4: 5-10 percent of work force has concealed carry and a resource officer

In scenario one, potential victims of a school shooting must rely only on police. On average, police response time is roughly 10-12 minutes. Accordingly, an "active shooter" generally shoots someone every 20 seconds, Dietz explained, citing his research.

"That's a really long time for a killer," he told TheBlaze.

The research found that the most critical element to reducing casualties in an active shooter situation

at a school is "time," Dietz said. Obviously, the less time a shooter has to carry out his twisted plan, the less people the shooter can kill.

The model created by Dietz and his students seemingly reveals a clear trend: More guns equals fewer casualties in an active shooter situation.

"The issue of school shootings is obviously a very emotional debate," he said. "What we are trying to do is take the emotion out of the debate and figure out how we can save the most lives and educate the policy makers, as well as parents and citizens."

In the scenario where there is an armed resource officer, casualties dropped by 66.5 percent and response time was cut 59.5 percent. When five percent of teachers were carrying concealed weapons, deaths were reduced by 6.8 percent and response time dropped by 5.4 percent. When 10 percent of teachers were carrying concealed weapons, casualties fell by 23.2 percent and response time went down 16.8 percent.

However, the real reductions came when teachers carrying concealed firearms were supplemented with a resource officer, the results show.

In the scenario where five percent of teachers were

carrying concealed guns and a resource officer was present, casualties dropped an astonishing 69.2 percent and response time dropped 59.7 percent. Finally, when 10 percent of teachers were carrying concealed firearms and a resource officer was present, casualties fell by 70.2 percent and response time was reduced by 62.7 percent.

The National Center for Education Statistics estimates that 57 percent of public schools in the U.S. had no security staff present at any time during the school week in 2009-2010.

To the critics who say more guns always translate into more crime, the Purdue research notes that there has been an increase in firearms ownership by 61 percent between 2004-2012 — yet there has been a reduction in violence crime by 12.9 percent since 2008.

Dietz says there is more research to be done on the issue, including instances where there is no active shooter, to determine if there is a significant risk to having guns present at schools on a daily basis.

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Michigan: "Progressives" Deplore Chief Craig of Detroit Encouraging Self Defense

by Dean Weingarten,
Gunwatch.blogspot.com

Justified defensive shootings are fairly common in Detroit, with 12 justifiable homicides occurring this year and several other criminals wounded. Police Chief Craig has made national headlines by encouraging honest citizens to defend themselves. He has made it clear that citizens involved in self-defense shootings will not be harassed and hounded. The full power of the state will not be used to make examples of those who dare to defend themselves. At least not in the way that George Zimmerman was.

Instead, the Police Chief will sympathize with them, and suggest that Detroiters

are sick of crime and are fighting back. Some people think this is a bad idea.

Here are a couple of quotes from detroitnews.com:

At last week's Command Accountability Meeting, Sandra Hines of the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality called the chief "irresponsible" for his comments, and said he is encouraging vigilantism.

Ron Scott, a former member of the Black Panther Party, a Community organizer/activist, and also a member of the DCAPB:

"When you take a Wild West approach and say, 'Shoot them,' it's irresponsible," Scott said. "It's frontier justice at its worst."

Craig actually said nothing of the sort. Craig defended his views:

"I'm only talking about situations where someone's life is in imminent danger. When a citizen is faced with a life-threatening situation, they absolutely have the right to defend themselves."

What is particularly interesting are the views expressed by those who bothered to comment. When I checked the article there were 251 comments. I only found one commenter that seemed to be somewhat critical of Chief Craig. Even then, of the two of her comments that I saw, one was neutral, and the one quoted below is rather ambiguous. From Heidi Ausgood:

La Shanna I didn't even bother to read the article... why? They do want us to exterminate one another. The plan is to regulate all these people to one side of town and have them prey on one another.

People are starting to shoot one another and alleging home invasion. What happened to the story a week ago about the young man and woman who allegedly tried to break in a man's home and he killed the young man, only to have his mother say on camera he had been hiding from this couple for weeks.

The vast majority of the comments are explicitly

See DETRIOT on page 18

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A Terrorist Government

by T.L. Davis, Christian-Merc.blogspot.com

In the early 1950's the United States Government, particularly the CIA, overthrew the government of Guatemala. The reason for this is that United Brands (of Chiquita Banana fame) claimed that communists had taken over the government. The charge was made as a result of Jacobo Arbenz Guzman's Administration when they, taking a lesson from the United States, nationalized a small, unused portion of United Brands land in order to distribute it among the Guatemalan people to farm.

It was a desperate measure to create private ownership of land. They went about it the wrong way, but sought to use capitalism as a means to eliminating poverty. Jacobo Arbenz Guzman understood that to eliminate poverty, the people must be able to own land in order to become prosperous.

In effect (at the urging of Harry Reid) the United States Government, specif-

ically the Bureau of Land Management, has engaged in a very similar act. Except the BLM, in the Bundy case and more accurately the Hage case, has taken property (grazing rights are a form of property since it contains certain value) from the people in order to give it to large corporations.

A recent poll found that 37% of Americans fear their government. In America, where the government is supposed to fear the people. That is terrorism. Their intent is intimidation and the threat of incarceration, physical harm, and even executions are implied. The military-style image of American federal agents is designed to intimidate, to terrorize.

A government cannot rely so heavily as it does on this absolute threat of violence without creating terror in the hearts of citizens. There is no terror so absolute as that created by one's own government. And another thing, a criminal or a foreign terrorist do not strike the same fear in people, because they can believe

that there is a counter-balancing force against them on behalf of the people: the police. But, when government-sponsored terrorism is directed at the people themselves, there is no hope of rescue, or justice - there is only terror.

In a lot of countries such injustice and oppression, as are present in America, would spawn an insurrection, rebels, etc. In America, it has spawned the citizen's militia movement. These are organizations dedicated to the defense of inalienable rights of the Constitution. It is the only resort citizens have against a lawless, terroristic government bent on the subjugation and humiliation of their own citizens. Militias are not of the insurrectionist ilk. Instead, they serve as defenders of the law, of the people against an out-of-control, lawless, unbound and hostile government. A terrorist government.

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UNBLOODIED: Democratic Candidates Far From Battle Tested

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

Untested. That will certainly be the theme for three of the biggest 2014 elections in Colorado. But, surprisingly, this applies to the Democrats' candidates. Between Senator Mark Udall, Governor John Hickenlooper and professional politician Andrew Romanoff, none have faced a campaign like they will this year. All three have specialized in winning deep blue areas of Colorado (Boulder and Denver), yet, through fortune and timing, none have been tested in truly competitive races.

Despite being the Western version of a Kennedy, Udall almost twice lost Boulder-centric elections to Republicans. In his 1996 bid for the State House, Udall received just 50.49% of the vote, and, in 1998 in his election to the U.S. House of Representatives in CD2, he received just 49.88% of the vote. Udall's only statewide election, when he was first elected in 2008, was in

a notoriously toxic year for Republicans. Eight years of Bush fatigue, a flailing economy, and McCain as a weak top-lined candidate put the 2008 election so far out of Republican hands in 2008, Lincoln himself wasn't going to beat Udall.

The story for Hickenlooper isn't much better. Being Mayor of Denver is not a good stepping stone to the governorship. In fact, no other Denver Mayor has ever gone on to be elected to be the Governor of Colorado for the first time (the first Governor of Colorado, John Long Routt, took a demotion to Mayor after two terms, before coming back to be Colorado's 5th Governor). Hickenlooper, himself, lucked out in 2010 when Colorado GOP self-destructed into running Dan Maes.

Finally, Romanoff, the apple of reviled U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi's eye, has never won an election outside the deep-blue of Denver, and now he expects to compete in the purple-est

of purples? If we learned anything from 2010, it was that after eight years representing the heart of Denver, even other Democrats around the state thought Romanoff was too extreme for them, causing him to lose to a political novice like Michael Bennett in the primary.

Much has been made about Republicans not having strong candidates in Colorado, but Democrats would be fools to mistake incumbency (and in Romanoff's case, being a professional politician) for battle-tested campaigners. For Udall and Hickenlooper, who were handed their seats, it will be interesting to see how they react to the first few punches that land in these slugfests of campaigns.

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\$6 Bil Vanishes From State Dept. Under Hillary Clinton

by JudicialWatch.org

In a mind-boggling example of how the government blows—or perhaps steals—our tax dollars, billions vanished from the U.S. State Department mostly while Hillary Clinton ran it, according to a new alert issued by the agency's inspector general.

Could the former Secretary of State be using the cash to fund an upcoming presidential campaign? In all, \$6 billion are missing and it's highly unlikely any of the money will ever be recovered. The cash was supposed to be used to pay contractors but it just disappeared and documents that could help track the dough cannot be located. How convenient! The paper trail, which federal law says must be maintained in the case of government contracts, has been destroyed or was never created to begin with.

How could this possibly happen? Like a lot of government agencies, outside contracts are a free-for-all at the State Department with virtually no oversight. Hundreds of millions of dollars are doled out annually for a variety of services and no one bothers to follow up on the deals. This “exposes the department to significant financial risk,” according to the State Department Inspector General, which issued a special management alert this month outlining the lost \$6 billion. The watchdog further writes that “it creates conditions conducive to fraud, as corrupt individuals may attempt to conceal evidence of illicit behavior by omitting key documents from the contract file.”

Among the examples listed in the memo is a recent investigation of the close-out process for contracts involving the U.S. mission in Iraq. Investigators

could not locate 33 of the 115 contract files totaling approximately \$2.1 billion. Even of the files they found, more than half contained insufficient documents required by federal law. In one billion-dollar deal involving the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement in Afghanistan, the actual contract was determined to be “incomplete.”

In one alarming case a contract file conveniently omitted that a \$52 million deal was awarded to a company owned by the spouse of another State Department contractor employee performing as a specialist. In other cited cases a contracting officer actually falsified government technical review information in a \$100 million deal and a contracting officer's representative allowed nearly \$800,000 to be paid on a deal with no official documents to support the payment. It's the free-flow of public funds under extremely suspicious circumstances.

At the very least the State Department is violating its own policy, according to the inspector general, which divulges that its found “repeated examples of poor contract file administration over the years.” The watchdog confirms that “it is the Department's policy that all contracts, regardless of dollar value, be properly documented so as to provide complete record of: pre-solicitation activities; the solicitation, evaluation, and award process; and [sic] the administration of the contract through closeout.”

This unbelievable report documenting the mysterious disappearance of \$6 billion from the coffers of a major government agency brings to mind a similar and equally enraging story reported by Judicial Watch

a few years ago. The Pentagon somehow lost \$6.6 billion sent to Iraq for post-invasion “reconstruction.”

The money was bundled in chunks of \$100 bills and transported in turbo-prop military cargo planes known as C-130 Hercules. About \$2.4 billion fit in each aircraft and 21 flights made trips, transporting a total of \$12 billion in American currency to Iraq. More than half the money has never been recovered, according to the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

A year later nearly half a billion dollars in oil destined for the Afghan National Army vanished. We will never know what happened because the Pentagon improperly shredded records that could have solved the mystery, according to a federal audit that exposed the fraud. The oil was part of a \$1 billion fuel program largely funded by the U.S. government, which of course, means it was mostly Americans who saw their tax dollars blown in yet another government corruption scheme.

Waste and fraud are par for the course in most bloated government agencies and JW has exposed a number of alarming examples over the years, both domestically and internationally. They involve practically all agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) scandal-plagued food-stamp program, Medicare and Medicaid, the famously corrupt U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and President Obama's fraud-infested \$787 billion stimulus boondoggle, to name a few.

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MEDICAID From page 15

Medicaid. Some Oregonians “won” Medicaid. Some missed out in the lottery. Winners' Medicaid coverage “generated no significant improvement in measured physical health outcomes.”

Two billion bucks in Colorado for this? Add on the latest proposed \$13 million

fee you pay on unsubsidized private insurance.

Set aside purported financial mumbo jumbo claims about Medicaid expansion. They rely on fairy gold deficit federal spending. Purported benefits vanish in the cold light of reality. Deficits must eventually be paid. [Gory details here, www.economics21.org/commentary/unfolding-fiscal-disaster-behind-aca-enrollment-figures]

High Medicaid counties: Alamosa, Baca, Bent, Conejos, Costilla, Huerfano, Las Animas, Montezuma, Montrose, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Saguache. Assumption: Current high Medicaid coverage replicates 2012 coverage.

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Proof of Citizenship to Vote: Federal Judge Rules in States' Favor

by Ed Wood,
FreedomOutPost.com

(Editor/GG: This is a big deal.)

Don't you think a voter should be a citizen of the United States?

One would think that the very basic requirement for voting in an election is to be a member of the body or group that is holding the election. You cannot vote for leadership in your church unless you are a member of that congregation. You cannot vote to elect officials in your labor union unless you are a card-carrying member of that union. Then shouldn't you be required to be a citizen of the United States to vote in its elections? The answer is not quite as simple as it may sound.

Believe it or not, it is not easy to determine just who is eligible to vote in government elections. Voter qualifications are not included in the Constitution, since the responsibility for the conduct of elections is left to the individual states.

In my home state of Tennessee, as an example, in order to vote you are required to be a citizen of the United States, 18-years-of-age or older on or before the date of the next election, and a resident of the State. The Office of the Secretary of State even publishes a Guideline for Determining Residency. State voting requirements are then similarly applied to federal elections.

But in order to participate in an election of public officials, you must be "registered" to vote, and there the citizenship requirement gets a bit fuzzy.

In the sweep of public sentiment that surrounded the civil rights movement

of the fifties and sixties, came the Civil Rights Act of 1965. Its purpose was to make the voting process as easy as possible. As a result, voter registration can now be accomplished in person at any of the following locations:

- County Clerk's Offices
- County Election Commission Offices
- Public Libraries
- Register of Deeds Offices

Then came the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, also known as the "Motor Voter Act," making registration possible, even encouraged, during a transaction with any of the following offices:

- Department of Health (WIC program)
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Mental Health
- Department of Safety (motor vehicles division)
- Department of Veteran's Affairs

Such applications are then "mailed in" to the appropriate Election Commission office for filing, with no verification of the accuracy of the information being provided. In fact, the Motor Voter Act specifically makes it unlawful for a Social Services employee or a Department of Transportation employee to challenge the identity of, or the information provided by, the voter registration applicant. Thus, in the years since its enactment the Motor Voter Act has become the single largest source of election fraud.

Tennessee is one of only seven states that at least require photo IDs at polling booths. This matches the identity of the person voting with the registration record, but still but does not verify that the person so

identified is a U. S. citizen.

Last July 18th, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), et al., submitted Senate Bill S.1336 to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Motor Voter Act) to permit all States to require proof of citizenship for registration and to vote in elections for Federal office. However, in keeping with overwhelming Democrat sentiment against requiring voter citizenship, or even identification, Senate Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has not yet even brought the bill up for consideration.

However, now armed with a favorable opinion from U.S. District Court Judge Eric Melgren in a March 19th ruling, the states of Kansas and Arizona are now requiring proof of citizenship in order to vote in state and federal elections.

"This is victory not only for Kansas and Arizona, but for all 50 states," Kansas Secretary of State Kobach told CNSNews.com. "Any one of those 50 states may now choose to follow our example and require proofs of citizenship when people register to vote. Alabama and Georgia are doing it already, and I would encourage more states to do so because any time an alien votes, it effectively cancels out the vote of a U.S. citizen."

By means of this article, I am publicly calling upon you to contact your State Representative and your State Senator to submit similar bills into their respective houses of Legislature.

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even wish there were some actual vigilantism.

I believe Chief Craig's job is secure. Perhaps other city police chiefs with crime problems are looking at this situation. We will see if crime drops in the next year or two. I am not sure it will or will not. Detroit's problems have been building for decades. But I suspect that the vast majority of people in the city appreciate a police chief that they believe is on their side when it counts.

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A Sheepdog Barks!

Greetings fellow sheepdogs. A great sheepdog couple I know used to live here and sadly they moved. That's okay because we need good sheepdogs all over America. Anyway, they shared a good story with me recently and I want to share it with you. It's called "Rattlesnake Logic." I think you'll get the idea. We know we need to alert and protect the sheep from the wolves. But, we also need to be wary of the rattlesnakes. Rattlesnakes are deadly. Anyway here it is:

"Rattlesnake Logic:

After the Boston bombing the news media has spent days and weeks trying to determine why these men did what they did. They want to know what America did to make these brothers so angry with us. They want to know why these men were not arrested before they did something so terrible. The media is in a tizzy about this new era of homegrown radicals, and about why they could live among us and still hate us.

A friend of mine from Texas explained it all to me: "Here in west Texas I have rattlesnakes on my place living among us. I have killed a rattlesnake on the front porch. I have killed a rattlesnake on the back porch. I have killed rattlesnakes in the barn, in the shop, and on the driveway. In fact, I kill every rattlesnake I encounter.

I kill rattlesnakes because I know a rattlesnake will bite me and inject me with poison. I don't stop to wonder why a rattlesnake will bite me; I know it will bite me because it's a rattlesnake and that's what rattlesnakes do. I don't try to reason with a rattlesnake...I just kill it. I don't try to get to know the rattlesnake better so I can find a way to live with the rattlesnakes and convince them not to bite me. I just kill them.

I don't quiz a rattlesnake to see if I can find out where the other snakes are, because (a) it won't tell me, and (b) I already know they live on my place. So, I just kill the rattlesnake and move on to the next one. I don't look for ways I might

be able to change the rattlesnake to a non-poisonous rat snake...I just kill it. Also, I know, for every rattlesnake I kill, two more are lurking out there in the brush. In my lifetime I will never be able to rid my place of rattlesnakes.

Do I fear them? No! Do I respect what they can do to me? Yes! And because of that respect I give them the fair justice they deserve.... I kill them..."

Maybe as a country we should start giving more thought to the fact that these jihadists are just like rattlesnakes, and act accordingly!"

We all need to be vigilant. Remember rattlesnakes are native to our country. We have "homegrown" rattlesnakes all over America. We didn't make them rattlesnakes; they chose to be rattlesnakes. Don't get bit because you think we can all just get along. Our president believes that if we all just talk, everything will be just fine and everyone will love everyone. I doubt anyone ever "talked" a rattlesnake out of striking. Let's properly recognize the threats against us and call a rattlesnake a rattlesnake... WOOF!

How about a few "Only in a Liberal America" to keep you updated. Free Speech Zones (a small little corner or area where you can speak your mind or hand out free copies of the U.S. Constitution) keep cropping up on college campuses and elsewhere around America, like in Nevada. What is going on? I thought America was a free speech zone! WOOF, WOOF!

And how about these bonuses our government is handing out. Recently the IRS handed out over \$3 Million to their agents. Over \$1 Million went to employees that OWE BACK TAXES. I'm not kidding. And get this – their union contract doesn't allow the government to consider any past behavior issues when it is passing out awards. Is that insane or what? And we learned this week that the EPA has paid out over \$500 Thousand in bonuses to 11 employees over the



last 7 years. You can bet that money didn't go to the "little people." Only in a Liberal America!

And how about Condo-leezza Rice being hounded out of speaking at Rutgers' Commencement. A few liberal professors and maybe a hundred young, liberal progressive idiot students made such a fuss she, with a lot of dignity and class, stepped aside. Rutgers officially didn't withdraw her invitation but they did little to let her know she was still welcome. Where are the "institutes of higher learning" that supposedly believe in tolerance and free speech? Not one in New Jersey for sure. Where are the minority police? Where are the "war on women" police? Nowhere to be found defending a conservative, minority woman for sure. Only in a Liberal America!

A little update on the VA debacle. Doctors are coming forward now and "spilling the beans." It is much worse, as always, than first reported and much more widespread. We now learn they DELETED over 1.5 million computer entries that sure weren't helping that old backlog problem that Obama and Shinseki said they were going to clean up. That's one quick way to fix the old statistics! The only good news here is that the American Legion has called for the resignation of the top 3 VA leaders. That is a good FIRST step. This kind of incompetence and wrongdoing is usually tolerated. This time Obama really does need to hold someone accountable and that should be the leaders. They FAILED the veterans of the country. They need to be FIRED! WOOF!

May God Have Mercy on America! JMH

DETROIT From page 16

praising Chief Craig. Here are some examples:

From Pam Csfari: "Chief Craig, respectfully, YOU ROCK!"

From Michael Morelli: "Blame him? We should be congratulating him for showing some common sense. People feel threatened, and protect themselves, and that is somehow a bad thing? Unfortunately, in the minds of idiots the answer is yes."

From Rick W. Sutliff: "Chief Craig is trying to

deal with a lawless city that has run wild for 30 years. The armed homeowners are just exterminating vermin that got in their homes. A good thing."

From Mel Walters: "Doing a super job chief Craig and NO there's NO way you can even share blame. Law abiding homeowners had had enough of the feral thugs roaming the streets."

I could keep going. There are scores of similar comments. But I think the point is made. In spite of being told that Chief Craig is encouraging vigilantism, the commenters simply do not believe it. Some of them



Canadians Wasted Over \$1 Billion Just Waiting For Health Care

by Sarah Hurtubise,
DailyCaller.com

Patients in Canada's single-payer healthcare system spent \$1.1 billion of their time waiting for health care in 2013, according to a study from a free-market Canadian think tank.

The Fraser Institute's health care experts determined that the cost of waiting for care averaged \$1,202 per person of the 928,120 Canadians who had to wait for treatment last year. The median wait time to see a healthcare provider in Canada is 9.6 weeks, up from 9.3 weeks in 2012. The queue for health care services in the single-payer nation has been lengthening since 2009.

With that amount of time, it's not surprising that many of Canada's better-off citizens have historically frequented private American healthcare systems for surgical procedures and services as commonplace as MRIs, which are notoriously difficult to access up north, as opposed to waiting for months to move up in the Canadian queue.

The Fraser Institute found

in January that 2013 saw almost 42,000 Canadians seek healthcare services in America as a result of the three-month waiting periods and lower quality care.

Canadians travel to the U.S. for healthcare due to "concerns about quality, seeking out more advanced healthcare facilities, higher tech medicine, or better outcomes."

The estimates of the cost of waiting includes work-week hours not lost time on evenings and weekends, which brings the estimated cost of waiting up to \$3.4 billion, an average of \$3,681 per patient.

The study's author Nadeem Esmail noted that additional damages pile up as well, causing the ultimate cost of the nation's inefficient health care system to climb even higher.

"The costs of care provided by family members (in time spent caring for the individual waiting for treatment) and their lost productivity due to difficulty or mental anguish" are not included in the tally, Esmail wrote.

The study calculated wait

times before having an advanced procedure after having an appointment with a specialist across twelve medical specialties, including orthopedic and cardiovascular surgery, neurosurgery, and medical and radiation oncology.

The marked price for some medical treatments is lower in countries with socialized healthcare than in the U.S. In Canada's case, the government fixes prices for healthcare services and ensures patients see artificially low rates.

In the U.S., only physician reimbursements for Medicare and Medicaid participants are set by the federal government. The programs have been faced with worsening doctor shortages for years due to physicians' inability to break even on their services, drastically limiting availability of care for the poor and elderly populations.

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VETERAN CAPITOL REPORTER:

Senate GOP Has Two Most Memorable Bills of Session, Democrats Running Scared

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

If you're looking for an honest take on how the Colorado legislative session has gone so far, your best bet is to ask one of the veteran reporters who've spent years covering this stuff. Guys like Charles Ashby.

Ashby, a capitol reporter for the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, is best known for his curmudgeonly disposition and dry sense of humor. Imagine an old-school reporter who tells it like it is – that's Ashby. He was recently interviewed about the end of the legislative session and made some striking observations. First, that Republicans ran the most interesting and memorable bills. Second, that Democrats "signature" bills were mostly a waste of time because they would have been accomplished without stand-alone legislation.

Here's the transcript from what Ashby told Colorado Public Radio:

CHARLES ASHBY, GRAND JUNCTION DAILY SENTINEL: What's actually, I think, most interesting about this year's session is probably the two

most memorable bills from the session that people will be talking about afterwards – two of the bills that Ivan just talked about was the firefighting fleet and the red light cameras. Interestingly, even though they have bipartisan support, they are really Republican efforts, and in a Democratic controlled legislature it's kind of an interesting aspect that you don't normally see. (Peak emphasis)

BENTE BIRKLAND, COLORADO PUBLIC RADIO: Democrats this session haven't been nearly as ambitious as they were last session, they've definitely toned things down, maybe that's part of the reason we're seeing some of these Republican measures rise to the forefront of the session?

ASHBY: Well, what's kind of interesting about the Democratic measures is they're signature bills are really almost just made up. I mean they don't even really need them. I mean \$100 million they're giving back, \$110 million I guess they're giving back to K-12. Which, you know, they created a special bill to do that, they didn't need to do that, there's a normal bill process for that. They

have \$100 million going to higher ed, they didn't need a special bill for that. That's usually handled in the budget bill. They're playing it close to the chest, they're playing it very quiet, they're playing it as safe as they possibly can, except for, you know, when they tried to do the abortion measure that didn't last very long. It's almost like they're running a little scared, and that's part of the issue going on coming into the session because of the recalls last year, Democrats losing those two seats, then having a narrow majority in the senate. (Peak emphasis)

Ashby's analysis nails it and should have Republicans feeling confident heading into the 2014 election. The GOP showed true leadership this session, and it did not go unnoticed by the Capitol's opinion leaders. Meanwhile, Democrats piddled around creating faux accomplishments that would have happened with or without them.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

UNEMPLOYED From page 14

I lived in a pretty typical middle class neighborhood. Everyone had a nice home, a couple of cars and could go on vacation during the summer. I don't remember ever hearing of anyone using food stamps or going to a food bank. In fact, I can't even remember anyone having a parent that was unemployed. If someone did leave a job, it was usually quite easy to find another one.

But today, the middle class is being ripped to shreds and according to one new report there are 49 million Americans that are dealing with food insecurity in 2014.

How can anyone not see what is happening to us? America is in the midst of a long-term economic decline, but the mainstream media and most of our politicians seem to think that things are better than ever. They continue to try to convince us that "business as usual" is the right path to take.

But one-fifth of the families in the entire nation are already totally unemployed.

At what point will we finally admit that what we are

doing right now is simply not working?

30 percent of all families unemployed?

40 percent?

50 percent?

If we stay on the road that we are on now, things are going to continue to get worse. Millions more jobs will be shipped overseas, millions more jobs will be replaced by technology and crippling government regulations will kill millions more jobs. The middle class will continue to shrink and government dependence will continue to rise.

Most people just want to work hard, put food on the table, pay their mortgages and provide a nice life for their families.

But the percentage of Americans that are successfully able to do that just keeps getting smaller.

Wake up America.

Your middle class is dying.

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

From: Representative
Jim Wilson – HD 60
May 4, 2014

The 120 day countdown is down to the last 3 days as of Monday morning. Only 72 hours until the good citizens of Colorado are safe from legislative action until next January! The bill count for this session surpassed last year's total of 619 – at last count we were at 621. Do not assume the count is final – we still have 3 days to go! A week ago, with just 10 days to go in the session, there were still 226 bills remaining to be heard – does this sound like insanity or what? We are caught up in LONG days on the House floor as we attempt to deal with all the late bills. We left the floor at 10:30 PM on Wednesday, 1:35 AM Thursday (I guess that would be Friday) and 1:30 AM on Friday night (actually Saturday morning). There may not be enough time left...

I mentioned in last week's column that one has to stay alert in the closing days of the session as some mem-

bers might attempt to slip something under the radar. Well, the big "bogey" that popped up on the radar this last week came from the Governor's office. HB14-1398, a 43 page bill to create marijuana "credit unions", showed up on the fast track in the House. The bill was dropped on Wednesday, heard in committee on Thursday and debated on Friday. Because the marijuana industry does not have access to banks (because they are federally controlled and marijuana is illegal at the federal level) there are evidently millions of dollars out there in shopping bags. The bill sponsor claims that it is a public safety issue, so we have to create a "system" for the dollars to enter the federal banking system.

I understand that marijuana is now legal in Colorado. However, those that chose to enter the retail world of medical and recreational marijuana knew going in that they would not have access to banks. I do not believe that it is the duty of state government to build a bridge between the state

level (legal) and the federal level (illegal). The Feds said they would stay out of the issue when the state legalized marijuana. Just last week we heard on the news that the Feds kicked in doors and broke into safes in an arrest operation that targeted an alleged marijuana money laundering operation. It seems to me, at the least, we would be putting our state at risk for more federal intervention. Worst case scenario – we would be opening ourselves up to expanded money laundering. We have been trying to feel our way through this marijuana minefield in the dark for several months. Going faster in the dark seems to me to be a good way to run into something that could really hurt us...ya' think?

Believe it or not, I have had 5 bills passed this session with 2 more still in the mix. That fact is pretty exciting considering the fact that we are in the minority. One remaining bill (HB14-1118) is the Advanced Placement Pilot Program – a program that would make AP courses more accessible to rural



and small school students. I have worked on this bill for two years – I hope this time it will go through so we can start to level the playing field for accessibility to advanced placement courses.

Next week will be the wrap-up column for this session. If you cannot wait for the wrap-up, drop by the Capitol on one of the last 3 days and watch "Sleepless At The Capitol" in person...

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

Yours for HD 60 --
Representative Jim Wilson

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