

Gymkhana at the Wild West Cowboy Church

by Carol Clemenson

Another great local horse event rocked Westcliffe last weekend: the Wild West Cowboy Church hosted one of their fun Gymkhana events last Saturday in their own arena next to their church at 60260 Highway 69, just north of town. A whole host of events were run including pole racing, flag racing, barrel racing and the 75 up and back. Fourteen participants showed up with ages ranging from kids 6 and under to “big kids” in the over 40 category.

Participants included: Age 6 and Under: Kendyl Ryff, Brylee Shy and Hunter Williams; Age 7 – 10: Roxan Koch and Halley Widker;



Hunter Williams gets ready for the flag race.

Sentinel photo by Carol Clemenson



Novalee Koch in the barrel race.

Sentinel photo by Carol Clemenson

Age 11 – 13: Novalee Koch and Dalton Womack; Age 20 – 39: Michelle Koch, Christon Walker, Steph Miller, Ashton Hutton, and Kasse Ryff; Age 40 and Up: Marci Wommak and Robin Schwartz.

A hearty “thank you” from our valley to the Wild West Cowboy Church, Larry and Jane Smith, and all the parents and volunteers who made this happen. The Wild West Cowboy Church holds its Sunday service at 4 pm.



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**For I am the
LORD, your God,
who takes hold of
your right hand
and says to you,
Do not fear;
I will help you.**
Isaiah 41:13
NIV

Mr. Tomsik Goes To Washington Local WWII Vet Honored with Honor Flight

by Paul Sage

Lifelong Custer County Resident and World War II veteran Charles Tomsik was one of 28 veterans recently flown to the Nation's Capital by the Southern Colorado Honor Flight organization to visit the World War II Memorial and various other memorials honoring America's heroes.

Based in Colorado Springs, the Southern Colorado Honor Flight is a local chapter of the National Honor Flight organization, whose sole mission is to honor World War II veterans by transporting them free of charge to Washington DC to visit the memorial to their service in the war and other memorials located there. According to information on the Honor Flight web site, “we are losing World War II veterans at an estimated 1,000 per day,” and their mission is to help as many as possible make this trip free of charge to “honor these vets and record their memories.”

Like so many from the “greatest generation”, Mr. Tomsik was the child of immigrants who came to America for freedom and a

better life. According to Charles, “My folks came from the old country (Poland) through Ellis Island and settled in Pennsylvania, working in the coal mines there.” From there they moved west to Cañon City “where I was born; Lincoln Park in Cañon City. Then they bought the ranch up here in 1927 and I've been there ever since.”

Mr. Tomsik joined the army in 1943. He had his basic training at Camp Roberts in California. Throughout his military career he served as a Combat Company Runner and Messenger. According to Charlie, “that's where when the radios didn't work you had to run mes-



Charlie Tomsik is pictured here with the plaque given to him on the Honor Flight.

Sentinel photo by Paul Sage

sages between units.” He also worked in Regimental Company Supply and spent some time as an Armorer.

After basic training his first duty station was in Auckland, New Zealand where he was attached to the 25th Division. At that time the 25th Division had just finished the Guadalcanal cam-

See TOMSIK
on page 4



SOUTHERN COLORADO PATRIOTS CLUB

RALLY & CANDIDATES FORUM

One more chance to ask your questions of our local candidates for Custer County Sheriff, Coroner, and Commissioner!

Everyone is invited, and this is such an important election, we hope the turnout is HUGE!

The ballots for this Primary Election will be mailed out soon, so this may be your last chance to ask your questions, and voice your concerns!

David Cox, who is running against Scott Tipton for the U.S. House seat for District 3 will also be there. If you haven't yet met him or heard him, now's the time!

Join us on Thursday, May 22nd, at 6 p.m. at the Lutheran Church's Lange Fellowship Hall at 312 S. 3rd St., Westcliffe.

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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

SALUTE TO THE ARMED FORCES



Tomorrow, Saturday, May 17th, is Armed Forces Day. Thought you might enjoy a little history of it. There are a lot of friendly rivalries between the U. S. Armed Forces. That's understandable and all in good fun. You've probably heard most of these stories for like how the Army guys are always beating up on those Marine guys. Just kidding! One thing that is certain to cause an outcry is when the order of precedence is violated. When marching, playing the service songs and displaying the service flags, it is important to get them in the right order. EVERYONE knows that the U.S. Army (USA) is the oldest and most senior of all the armed forces. George Washington was an Army man before he was our first Commander in Chief. So the Army has a lot to brag about and there is no doubt it is the oldest. After that it can get a little unclear. The U.S. Navy (USN) originally was formed second, but it seems it was abolished for about seven months in 1781 so that has allowed the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) to move up into second place. It was just a month younger than the USN. A quick check of history did not reveal exactly why the

USN was abolished during the Revolutionary War. That seems odd, but more research is needed and we will try to enlighten everyone on that after more research. There remains some disagreement on that issue especially between those Navy and Marine Vets. For the moment the "dispute" is settled by the Department of Defense Directive Number 1005.8, current as of November 21, 2003. That Directive prescribes the following order of precedence for the Armed Forces: United States Army, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Air Force (USAF), United States Coast Guard (USCG), Army National Guard of the United States, Army Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Naval Reserve, Air National Guard of the United States, Air Force Reserve, and the Coast Guard Reserve. So that officially settles it. Each service also has its own "birthday." Here is the list: USA - 14 June 1775, USMC - 10 November 1775, USN - 13 October 1775 (Abolished Feb 1781/reinstated Sep 1781), USAF - 18 September 1947 and the USCG - 4 August 1790. We are sure you noticed that the USCG is older than the USAF. However,

in peacetime the USCG falls under the Department of Homeland Security and loses its seniority. If the USCG is under the Department of Defense in wartime, then it moves ahead of the USAF in the order of precedence.

Each service used to celebrate its own day. On August 31, 1949, the Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace all the separate ones. The single day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department - the Department of Defense. The USA, USN, and USAF all adopted the newly formed day. The Marine Corps League declined to drop support for Marine Corps Day but supports Armed Forces Day also. The Department of Defense provides the following information:

In a speech announcing the formation of the day, President Truman "praised the work of the military services at home and across the seas" and said, "It is vital to the security of the nation and to the establishment of a desirable peace."

There were several purposes for holding Armed Forces Day. It was a type of "educational program

for civilians," one in which there would be an increased awareness of the Armed forces. It was designed to expand public understanding of what type of job is performed and the role of the military in civilian life. It was a day for the military to show "state-of-the-art" equipment to the civilian population they were protecting. And it was a day to honor and acknowledge the people of the Armed Forces of the United States.

According to a New York Times article published on May 17, 1952: "This is the day on which we have the welcome opportunity to pay special tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces...to all the individuals who are in the service of their country all over the world. Armed Forces Day won't be a matter of parades and receptions for a good many of them. They will all be in line of duty and some of them may give their lives in that duty."

Armed Forces Day is celebrated annually on the third Saturday of May. Armed Forces Week begins on the second Saturday of May and ends on the third Sunday of May, the day after Armed Forces Day. Because of their unique training schedules, National Guard, and

Reserve units may celebrate Armed Forces Day/Week over any period in May.

Tomorrow is a day to clearly honor those men and women serving in one of the Armed Services. Many of us have someone in our family or a close friend serving. Take the time to say something to them. Call them, email them, or even twitter, text, or Facebook them a quick thanks. Locally we don't have a parade or a formal celebration. But we all know that without our Armed Forces and the men and women willing to serve in them we would not still enjoy our liberties and freedoms. The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel salutes all those actively serving all over the world in our Armed Forces. Take a moment to remember and thank them. Take a moment to pray for them, their families, and their safe return. Of course, it's never a wrong time to thank any veteran! That is also appropriate. Later this month is Memorial Day on Monday, May 26th. Locally there will be a parade on Saturday, May 24th, to honor the fallen. On Veterans Day, November 11th, we will honor all veterans also. We stand free because of all of them. **THANK YOU for serving!**

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Your Opinions... Letters to the Editor



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

Rules: We will print, at our discretion, the thoughts and ideas of our fellow citizen-patriots. Please limit your offerings to 250 words or less. No profanity or vulgarity, no personal attacks, and please sign your name. Also, please give us the general location of your residence and phone number or email - for confirmation only. *The opinions expressed here are solely those of the author; they do not reflect the opinions held or endorsed by the Sentinel.*

"Homicide Hunter" Endorses Baltzly for County Coroner

In June of this year, the residents of Custer County will be asked to select candidates for a general election that will lead Custer County into the future. Always a matter of importance requiring thought and reflection.

One of the offices to be selected is Custer County Coroner. Death investigation in the present day is a technical and scientific discipline requiring formal education and specialized training.

I am a retired police Lieutenant from the Colorado Springs Police Department where I spent a quarter of a century investigating violent crime and deaths of all descriptions. This included 387 homicides with a clearance rate of 92% and literally thousands of deaths. I can assure each of you there is no greater tragedy

than a death investigation that is done incorrectly due to mistake, oversight, or simple misunderstanding of the facts and circumstances.

Your current Deputy Coroner, Brad Baltzly, has served you faithfully and well for the past five years. He has lived in Custer County since 1994 and is a successful and respected business man. He seeks your confidence that he will serve Custer County as your Coroner out of a sense of civic duty and a keen interest in death investigation.

To that end, Brad has pursued without compensation education and training in the field of death investigation. Due to his efforts and reputation, Brad was one of 25 people selected from throughout the United States to attend the Nation-

al Forensic Laboratory in Florida in 2011. This provided Brad with training in the latest techniques in the investigation and identification of human remains. He has continued to receive training beyond that effort in forensic anthropology, interviewing techniques, chemical suicides, cold case investigations, and many other disciplines.

I therefore strongly recommend Brad Baltzly as an eminently qualified candidate for the position of County Coroner. In my opinion, he is the clear choice to lead Custer County into the 21st Century.

*Sincerely Yours,
Joseph P. Kenda, Det.
Lieutenant, CSPD (ret)
currently starring in
"Homicide Hunter: Lt. Joe
Kenda" on Investigation
Discovery*

Commissioner & Sheriff Endorsements

With a great deal of enthusiasm I support Bob Kattnig for County Commissioner and Eric Thompson for Sheriff. They both are highly qualified; understand, value, and wish to conserve the special lifestyle we enjoy in Custer County; and have had extensive experience of the world outside our Valley that will enable them to keep us a safe and viable community, administer tax dollars efficiently and openly, and help keep us from unnecessary exposure to costly liability.

Bob understands that the County will benefit im-

mensely if the Board of County Commissioners takes a leadership role in the resolution of local challenges, including Economic Development, Broad Band, EMS, and the Clinic. He knows how to get people focused and working together as neighbors to problem solve.

Eric promises to re-energize the Posse and update training and department policies and procedures for more effective and professional law enforcement while meeting local needs. His coordination experience with Local, State and Federal entities in major

disasters will help our community if and when we face one here. Eric has a proven record of working effectively with teenagers. Finally, Eric is committed to fiscal transparency and responsibility and the need to avoid potentially expensive liability for the County.

We are lucky to have so many good people willing to take on these important local government positions and even luckier to have these two outstanding candidates: Eric Thompson for Sheriff and Bob Kattnig for County Commissioner.

*Susan Pitman,
Rural Westcliffe*

What's Up Doc?

I have a funny story - maybe not so funny. My wife fell Sunday night and the next day, Monday, she said, "I should have this checked," so she called the clinic and asked what doctor was on duty. The front desk said they have no doctor today, just nurse practitioners. Then she asked if they could do an x-ray, and again they said, "No." They only do x-rays on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

When moving here we knew there were limited medical facilities, and we knew if anything bad was to happen, we have to go to a bigger city for help. I would

like to see the whole picture of: What is going on in that clinic? How can you only do x-rays 2 times a week? Where is the doctor? How many people have quit and moved on?

Then I hear Dr. Bliss is on his deathbed and had to quit; the next thing I hear he is working in Florence, still seeing patients. I think the board needs to look at this very closely. Because of this, among other things, I think the patient levels are going to drop and people are going elsewhere. The board and all their strategic planning is in the toilet. This is not the army planning an

attack - if it was, you would lose big time. This board is like the Obama administration - caught up in their lies and stringing us taxpayers along. And as far as the notion that the newspaper giving bad press on the clinic is creating these problems, it is not the press. As Gen George Patton said, "Do not make excuses, whether it's your fault or not." As a taxpayer, we the people need this clinic and an operational ambulance. Stop dinking around.

*John G Decker, Ret. FD,
Bull Domingo*

Endorsement for Nordyke

Ideally, coroners should have a medical background and extensive training in criminal and death investigations. They should be moral, ethical, and conscientious. In Custer County they should also be respected by and involved in the community, and work well with EMS, search and rescue and law enforcement. I met Art Nordyke and Brad Baltzly some years ago when we were volunteers on the Sheriff's Posse. I have since worked professionally, attended training, and worked death investigations, fatal accidents and a homicide with both men.

I know Art attends many coroner trainings, and has invited and even sponsored members of the Sheriff's office to attend with him. In the years I have worked with Art he is

respectful of the victims and their loved ones, puts their needs above his own, and is always concerned with protecting their dignity and their belongings. I know he regularly does above what is "required"—calls to keep families informed, trying to locate a pet that was thought to be missing, cleaning up a natural death scene (in an enclosed vehicle after weeks in the summer) for the family. Art doesn't belong to organizations just to be listed on their roster; he is active in search and rescue, in local politics, and at many events and incidents he will show up just to see if he can help—and his offer is always accepted.

Art recognizes experience and expertise in others. I have seen him confer with his fellow coroners on issues

of common interest. His goal is to always do right by the victims and to find the truth. We did not always agree, but after seeing each other's point of view it was always resolved successfully and it was a pleasure to have those discussions. Neither coroner candidate is the 'total package' by themselves, they both have differing strengths and weaknesses. They can and should also be judged by those they choose for their team. I personally know the Deputy Coroners that Art has recently chosen, and with that team, led by a man with his strengths and experience, Custer County would be in very good hands.

Art Nordyke should continue to serve Custer County as coroner.

*Tina King,
Rural Custer County*

Childish Behavior

As you know, I am one of the owners of Mavericks/Nacho Mamas Mexican Cantina. Sheriff candidate, Tony Supan, asked if he could put a campaign sign on our property, and we said yes. A few days after it was installed, someone covered it with a large trash bag. We removed the bag when we discovered it, and two days later the sign disappeared.

I don't care who you support for Sheriff, but it seems awfully petty, to me, that an opponent would stoop to this kind of childish behavior. What does that say about that person?

*Amy Glass,
Silver Cliff*

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Clinic Wrongful Death Lawsuit Update

by George Gramlich

On May 1, 2014, Christine (Kris) M. Lange filed her response to the Custer County Clinic's motion to dismiss her wrongful death lawsuit pending in Custer County District Court against them. If you recall from our previous article on the law suit, Mrs. Lange is asking for \$500,000 in damages alleging that the Custer County Clinic/Ambulance Service was negligent in not providing an ambulance for her husband, William R. Lange, who was having chest pains. He died while Mrs. Lange was trying to transport him herself to the hospital in Cañon City. She also alleges breach of

contract with respect to the Clinic's Service Plan with the citizens of this county.

The Clinic's attorneys Motion to Dismiss alleged that the Clinic is immune from lawsuits as per Colorado's Governmental Immunity Act (C.R.S. 24-10-101 et seq.). Thus, they allege that Mrs. Lange can not sue them. However, as Mrs. Lange points out in her motion, there is an exception to the Governmental Immunity Act: the entity can be sued if it is considered a "public hospital". In her brief, Mrs. Lange sites extensive case law showing that clinics similar to Custer County have been classified as "public hospitals" in Colorado, and thus,

they can be sued.

Mrs. Lange also responded to the Clinic's allegation that they cannot be sued under their Special District Services Plan with multiple examples of Colorado cases where taxpayers of a special district were allowed to sue the district (e.g., "Public Entity is not immune from liability if the claim is for breaching of obligation arising from terms of the contract (Editor/GG: "contract" being the Services Plan)).

So now we await the decision of the Custer County District Court to see if Mrs. Lange's motion is accepted and her wrongful death case can proceed.

Cotopaxi Gets \$500 for Special Education Dept.

by Lauren Buss

At the Cotopaxi High School Awards Banquet on Wednesday, May 7th, Donna Buss presented Special Education teachers Teri Kraemer and Reta Martinez with a check for \$500 from the Colorado Springs Down Syndrome Association. The teachers are free to use the money for their department in any way they choose. In honor of Teacher Appreciation week, the CSDSA gave out ten \$500 scholarships to teachers who have had a positive impact on the life of a child with Down Syndrome. Darren and Donna Buss nominated Kraemer and Martinez saying this about their ten-year-old daughter, Kelsey, who has Down Syndrome: "Due to

Mrs. Kraemer's desire and ability to have Kelsey completely involved with her classmates, to this day, she is looked upon as an equal peer and is accepted and respected by not only her classmates, but by the entire staff and student body." These two ladies have not only had an impact on Buss' daughter, but on her as well. "We appreciate that Mrs. Kraemer and Ms. Reta have always been open to receiving our input when certain situations arise at school with



Teri Kraemer, Kelsey Buss, Reta Martinez receive the check, and Donna Buss at the podium.

courtesy photo

Kelsey, making this feel like a team effort instead of a "them and us" scenario." Cotopaxi School is proud to have Kraemer and Martinez at their school. They both have a positive impact on many, many kids and those kids will carry that with them for the rest of their lives.

TOMSIK

From page 1

paign and Mr. Tomsik and his fellow soldiers were replacements for the losses suffered in that campaign. "The 25th Division had the record at the time in that theatre of being on the combat lines 165 consecutive days," according to Mr. Tomsik.

From there his service took him to New Caledonia, a former French penal colony island in the pacific. From there it was on to Guadalcanal to practice beach head landings in preparation for the planned invasion of Japan. From

there he was called to serve in Luzon in the Philippians. There, final preparations were made and they were loaded on troop ships for the invasion of Japan. It was during this time that President Truman made the call to break the Japanese will by dropping the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. "If we'd had to invade Japan, out of the 25th Division, there would have been 80% casualties," reflected Charlie.

The 25th Division continued on to Japan as occupation forces and served in Osaka and Nagoya in Japan. Along the way in this colorful tour of duty, Mr. Tomsick caught a shell fragment for which

he was decorated with a Purple Heart.

As part of the Honor Flight trip, Mr. Tomsik and the 27 other veterans stayed overnight at a hotel in Colorado Springs. They were bussed to DIA for the flight to the Baltimore Airport. From there the group was bussed up to the Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. During their four-day tour of the nation's capital, they were able to see the White House and the Pentagon. They toured the Washington Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, and each of the war memorials, including World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam War Memorials. They also toured the

Navy museum during their time there. A highlight for Mr. Tomsik was being present to see the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Tomsik was very impressed with the Honor Flight program. "They took care of everything," he said. He was grateful to have had the opportunity to make this trip, which he didn't think would ever happen in his lifetime. Now he would like to return to the nation's capital and tour some of the many museums there if the opportunity presents itself.

In addition to a scrap book and a photo collection to commemorate

the trip, each of the honored veterans received a plaque with their photo and a bronze cast of their hand in a salute. These are made by Honor Hands, a Christian organization that works with Honor Flight to help recognize the great sacrifice and contribution of our veterans.

Anyone wishing to know more about the Southern Colorado Honor Flight or to donate to make this trip possible for other veterans can contact them through their web site at www.honorflightsoco.org, or by phone at 719-287-6095.

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Ask a Pro: Big plans on a budget for a mtn. home?

A lot of folks are making plans to live in the area, some already have property here. We are seeing a return to an earlier time when people did their projects a little at a time or as they can afford it (take note Mr. President). I cut my teeth on these kinds of jobs so it's second nature now.

When proceeding like this the only must is: Someone has to have a vision. A plan is a great start if the planner has vision, if not; it's just a dream.

When developing a lot you need someone with vast experience and the ability to visualize the whole project. Some 'planners' have put the well in the only place a septic system could be installed. These kinds of pitfalls can be avoided.

With a little thought and vision: You can do a well and a septic before you build your home but only if you have chosen a house site and know the type of foundation. Will it have a basement etc.? Do not have a house pad excavated before knowing what type of foundation you will have. For those without a clue you can't make foundation changes after excavating and expect no costs for additional work.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY TAX ALERT: CLINIC GOES CODE RED

Fellow Citizens: The Custer County Clinic's leadership (spearheaded by Clinic Board President Joe Arbuckle and Clinic Director Delwin Lester) have been proposing lately TWO TAX INCREASES on our county!!!! Note that they already have a mil levy of 4.908 that produced over \$500,000 last year for the ambulance service and the clinic.

Now they want to increase our county SALES TAX (just drive the last nail into our retail stores on Main Street) and add either a new MIL LEVY or an increase to the existing mil levy!!!!

Yea, we got money to throw away. Yea, we all got big raises last year. Yea, the price of food, gas, and propane is going down. Yea, the economy is booming. Yea, our other taxes are going down. Yea, Yea, Yea.

We just turned down their last mil levy increase request last year. They keep adding expenses and hiring people for the clinic WITHOUT the added income to support it, and now they want us to pay for it!

Enough is enough. Give us our AMBULANCE SERVICE and an EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICE like we all agreed on in the original Services Agreement and let the private sector provide anything else ('cause they understand what it takes to make a business survive).

NO MORE TAXES!!!

2014 Annual Memorial Day Observance in Westcliffe *All Are Invited*

The American Legion Post 170, Auxiliary Unit 170, Sons of The American Legion Squadron 170, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12063 are presenting the tenth annual Memorial Day Observance at Memorial Park (4th Street at Hermit Road) in Westcliffe on Monday, 26 May 2014, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend this special occasion. This year's observance includes a tribute to Veterans who have served our Country, who are currently serving in the Armed Forces, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their Country. Our guest speak-



er will be Major General Joe Arbuckle, U.S. Army/Retired. Ceremonies at this year's observance offer introduction, recognition, and thanks to all Veterans who have served our Country. Taps will be played and the Honor Guard will offer a three-volley rifle salute followed by folding

and placement of the Flag. The National Anthem will be presented by Don Paul, Guy Madden, Howard Smith, and Don Panella. Following the ceremonies, refreshments will be served by Auxiliary Unit 170. In the event of inclement weather, this event will be held at Custer County School in the west gym (please note change of venue for this year's bad weather location). Once again this year there will be no fly-over due to Air Force budget restrictions.

For information please contact Anna Orgeron at 719-783-2721 or american-legionpost170@centurytel.net.

Phugoid Oscillation in the Hospital District

*Commentary
by Paul Sage*

Phugoid oscillation is an aviation term which describes the process by which an aircraft that has lost power pitches down and gains speed, thereby increasing lift and allowing it to temporarily gain altitude again until slowing and again heading downward, repeating the process. Ultimately such a condition results inevitably in an unfavorable contact with the ground below.

Such is the condition of the West Custer County Hospital District. The fuel of Medicare and Medicaid payments have been – and continue to be – cut to a starvation level for a public rural health clinic, as the Custer County Clinic is now classified. Add to this bad past and current management decisions, and this has resulted in a multi-year phugoid glide path for the clinic, heading towards its eventual crash.

Leadership of the clinic has been quoted in the past, and Clinic Director Delwin Lester was quoted last week in the Wet Mountain Tribune as saying that "It has been made clear that within five years all rural health clinics across America will either be partnered with bigger organizations or shut down due to decreased funding." The partnering reference here was to the Salida Hospital District. As it is probably not possible legally, according to the Title 32 Special Districts Act, for a special taxing district to provide services to other than those taxed, merging with other districts is probably not a possibility without eliminating special

district status or creating a new special district and service plan encompassing both. Further, as the Salida Hospital District, which operates in all or part of three counties with a 1.6 mil tax levy, and then by comparison tiny West Custer County Hospital District operates on a 4.9 mil levy; the two are hardly tax base compatible.

Even while advocating that the clinic will "shut down due to decreased funding" within five years, District Administration continues to press for higher numbers of low paying clients and adding to the losses by adding staff – like a receptionist for the two physical therapists – and "unexpected expenses" like \$94,000 for "new provider pay" and \$55,000 for "provider credentialing," piling on more cargo to the uncontrollably descending clinic.

In public discussions across the board, maintaining the EMS is rated as of the highest importance to everyone except the Hospital District which "cannot afford to carry the ambulance operations," according to Chairman Arbuckle's testimony to the County Commissioners in October of last year.

By contrast, Fire Chief Dave Tonsing said at a recent meeting, "There's not even an option of not having an EMS." County Commissioners, who have been accused of inaction by Hospital District officials, and of "Leadership Betrayal" by a local newspaper editor who has not appeared at any of the referenced meetings and doesn't even reside in the taxing District, have repeatedly advised the Hospital Board to revise

their service plan and set their priorities right with the will of the taxpayers whose money they collect and spend. Commissioner Attebery has advised the board that their priorities are wrong. "EMS is the number one thing. Whatever it takes to do the EMS comes from the top of the budget. If it takes all that (4.9 mill levy) to run the ambulance, then you use the rest for your clinic." Commissioner Shy said, "This (to provide the ambulance service) is the covenant made with the public and the Commissioners in the agreement to turn over the ambulance to the clinic. It was made with expectations and frankly, they've been let down." Commissioner Butler said again that the "service plan is in the middle of the problem."

The Hospital District Board stands alone in their refusal to follow the advice they have asked for. Board Chairman Arbuckle has said, "Well, that's not how we're approaching it, just for your information." As the Clinic wobbles closer and closer to its inevitable and self-predicted crash - dragging the EMS down with it – the management has refused to act on the sound advice they requested and were given to put the taxpayers' money where they want it - in a viable EMS service - and in whatever clinic services might still be affordable once that is done.

The latest argument against following the wishes of the taxpayers and advisors of whom they have sought advice is that this would

**See HOSPITAL
on page 12**

MEMORIAL WEEKEND 2014 PARADE

Saturday, May 24th 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.

Honor The Fallen

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



WILD WILD WEST
FESTIVAL THIS
WEEKEND!

Come to
Cowboy Supply

"Where the Price is Right"

- Straw Hats starting at \$24.98, Palm Leave by Atwood
- Snap Button Shirts and Blouses • Jeans - Levi, Wrangler, Cruel Girl
- Boots - Tony Llama, Twisted X, & much more!

Men, Women and Children Sizes Available
M-F 9:30-6pm • Sat 9:30-5pm • Sun 12:30-4:30pm

Corner of 3rd & Main
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543-4383
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Local Mountain News & Notices

Four Bobcats Are Headed for the State Track Meet!

by Jim Silver

On Saturday, May 10, the Bobcats Track Team traveled to Alamosa High School Stadium for the Southern Peaks League “Rankings Meet.” This title defines this meet. It was the final opportunity for the roster of 18 individual Bobcats to qualify to go to the State Track Meet. The meet was attended by 23 schools, familiar opponents for the Bobcats at various meets throughout the season. Several of the Bobcats placed in their events last Saturday—deserving recognition, but not qualifying to move to the final level: Katlyn Freeburg in hurdles (100m, 7th and 300m, 6th), Jessica Sturtevant (3200m, 7th) and Sarah Gerringer (800m, 4th), as distance runners, Dillon Wommack in both hurdling events (110m and 300m, 2nd), and Casey Nordyke (5th) and Cody Lyons (6th) in discus.

The big story is that 4 of our Bobcats are bound for State! These are seniors Brian O’Connor, competing in all 3 jumping jumping events (high, long, and triple jump) and Smokey Solis, who made the ranking in both shot and discus. Corey Lewenkamp, a junior, will run in all 3 distance races (800m, 1600m, and 3200m). And, freshman Serenity Ham

made the cut to compete in both hurdles events (100m and 300m), high jump, and triple jump. The State Track Meet is held at Jeffco Stadium in Lakewood starting on Thursday, May 15, and running through Saturday.

At this point track has gotten much simpler for these 4 athletes. Head Coach Bruce May has endeavored to explain that, in actuality, it has been this simple throughout the entire season, from the Banana Belt Classic on March 15 and continuing throughout the season. After competing at any track meet during the entire season, an athlete could track where he or she was ranked in the whole state of Colorado among 2-A schools. It all came down to last week at the “Rankings Meet” that the final opportunity to be ranked among the top 18 had arrived, and this was the only time that it truly mattered. So, it’s this simple: our 4 Bobcats are going to the State Meet to compete against just 17 other elite 2-A athletes, in each of their various events.

Looking at the entire 3-day track meet, however, it is complicated by the fact that schools from 1-A through 5-A size will all be represented. Top-ranked athletes from throughout the state will all be there. Many school colors will

make for a colorful sight, several events going on at any given time - all of it to say it will be a pretty exciting and memorable time for those good enough to have qualified. There will be some adrenaline flowing, most likely.

Coach May, as high jumping coach, has worked with Brian O’Connor and Serenity Ham to help bring them to having this opportunity. He is also throwing coach, so Smokey Solis has gotten his attention throughout the season. Coach May continually praises his high school athletes, “the competitive attitudes shown by the kids,” and especially these who have arrived at this final week of the season. Assistant Coach Brandon Bass steps in to give pointers to high jumpers, but his main focus is distance running. He has been careful to “dial in” Corey Lewenkamp’s training and competing throughout the season, readying him for May 15-17 up in Lakewood. Assistant Coach Joy Parrish has trained Serenity Ham for long and triple jump and hurdles. Referring to all four, Coach Parrish says, “They ALL have an excellent shot at placing. They have worked hard, and we are very excited to see them compete at the State Meet!!!”

To give a little more information

about the individual attainments of those heading for State, Brian O’Connor has high jumped 6’1,” long jumped 19’9,” and triple jumped 42’5.5.” Brian has concentrated on playing basketball (so well!) during his 4 years at Custer County High School, and is now out for track for the first time since the 9th grade-- just to round out his senior year. Brian will compete once each day at State: Thursday afternoon, long jump; Friday afternoon, triple jump; and Saturday morning, high jump.

Smokey Solis has been to State before. In 2013, he placed 10th in shot. Smokey’s accomplishment this year is pretty exciting for everyone in the know. He has already broken the school record for shot put with his 45’5” throw! It must be added that the old record was set back in 1985! Smokey’s events are the first 2 days of the State meet: Shot put on Thursday afternoon and discus on Friday morning.

Corey Lewenkamp has also previously made the grade to compete at State. As a sophomore, he placed 3rd in the 3200m run, 11th in the 1600m, and 13th in the 800m. Corey’s special accomplishment this season is that at the Pueblo Twilight Meet on

May 2nd, he set a school record for the 1600m run with his time of 4:33.52! Corey will have to run 2 races on Friday... He’ll get the 3200m out of the way early. The 800m run is set to start about 4 hours later, a little after noon. That leaves the 1600m run, scheduled for Saturday morning.

Serenity Ham competed in middle school track just a year ago! Now, she’ll compete in 4 events at the 2-A State High School Meet, spread over all 3 days. Serenity’s best in high jump this season is 5 ft.0, which is notable for a girl who stands about 5 ft.-4. Thursday will be a bit disconcerting, for both high jump and 100m hurdles are scheduled at around the same time, late afternoon. 300M hurdles are scheduled for Friday morning, and finally, triple jump early Saturday afternoon.

This issue of the Sentinel will be in readers’ hands as the State Track Meet is in progress. This is a big enough deal to be noted here in that results can be accessed on-line. Web sites to check, at least by the end of the weekend, are co.milesplit.com, www.max-preps.com, and chsaanow.com. If you choose to wait, the Sentinel can definitely be counted on for a full report in the May 23rd issue.

GO BOBCATS!

Hello, I am Brad L. Baltzly and I would like to be your next Coroner.

I have the experience of being Custer County’s only active Deputy Coroner for the past 5 years. I have extensive death investigation training at the national level. Since the start of my campaign, I have been asked the following questions:

What is the role of the Coroner?

The Coroner is responsible for determining the cause and manner of death - why and how someone died. The Coroner is an incredibly important job that determines if the death is natural, accidental, suicide, homicide, or undetermined. It is often a misconception that the responsibility for determining these vital questions lies with the law enforcement agency; however, this is the responsibility of the Coroner.

It is the Coroner’s responsibility to see that the body is removed from the scene, to make a positive identification of the deceased, to notify the next of kin, and assist the family as well as other duties.

The Coroner must keep records and reports of each death investigation. Records are often subpoenaed into court for criminal or civil purposes, and requested by physicians, insurance companies, and families.

Why is the Coroner important?

Many times the coroner is the only person on a scene to make the determination whether or not a crime has been committed.

The Coroner is responsible for issuing a death certificate which is an extremely important legal document used to settle legal matters, civil and criminal, as well as issues related to insurance and beneficiaries.

Ask yourself this important question when considering a candidate for Coroner: Who do I want to look into the death of a family member, loved one, or close friend? I hope your answer is the same as mine. I want the best qualified, most up-to-date, well-trained person with the skills and capability to do the job.

I am that candidate and would greatly appreciate your vote this June.

Thank You.

Brad Baltzly
Custer County Coroner

Paid for by Baltzly for Coroner.



**BYERLY
FOR
CUSTER COUNTY
SHERIFF**

**INTEGRITY, HONOR,
AND DEDICATION TO THE COMMUNITY**

Having grown up in rural Colorado and living in Custer County for 15 years, I appreciate the lifestyle each of us cherish. I want to be your Sheriff for specific reasons. For 12 years I have traveled to another community where I have worked diligently to improve the lives of those whom I do not call my neighbors. I have extensive experience of leading and supervising employees to be successful, productive and professional in the work place. I am respected and well regarded in my department. I am an independent thinker who will not hesitate to challenge the status quo in order to improve a process or help people. I do not have any allegiances with entities, groups, or organizations and I do not owe anyone any favors in the community. I am committed to the Sheriff’s office and the success of those who are employed within the agency. Some have asked if I would “clean house” and my answer has always been a resounding “NO”. This would be unprofessional, irresponsible, and negligent on my part. I can assure you I am none of these things. The sheriff’s office is filled with professionals working to keep the community safe. They are valuable to the office and the community. As a group we will work hard for you, the citizens of this county. I would appreciate your vote on June 24th.

If you would like to contact Shannon Byerly:
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

Local Mountain News & Notices

Custer County Boys Basketball Summer Schedule

May 20th 5:00 p.m. – NOAH Shooting Clinic -- Free

A free shooting clinic for all 7th – 12th grade boys and girls. Very good Clinic for improving your shooting knowledge and form. You will get a lot of feedback on your shooting form. This is a very well regarded shooting clinic across the nation and many colleges use this in their programs.

June 9th – 11th - MEB skills camp \$125

Probably the best skills camp for the money you can get. College coaches teaching great skills and drills to make you a better player. For incoming 8th to 12th grade boys and girls.

June 2nd - June 23rd Crowley County Summer Basketball League

for the High School boys team. Every Monday evening games. We will take a school vehicle to these games so the players will have a ride.

June 20th and 21st Limon Basketball Boys Team Camp \$25.

For incoming 9th to 12th Graders.

We will practice June 11th and 12th, and 16th, 17th, and 18th 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm prior to camp.

June 26th Crowley County Summer League tournament

There will be skill gyms on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. starting May 20th. The gym will not be open to free play but will rather be a structured setting for player development. This opportunity will be open to all Middle school and High school boys and girls players.

If you have any questions please contact Coach Shannon Byerly at 371-6678 or shanbyerly@yahoo.com or Coach Gary Holycross at 972-467-2034 or coachholycross@yahoo.com.

Basketball Shooting Clinic & Camp comes to Westcliffe

Attention all middle school and high school basketball players. On May 20th at 5:00 PM, the NOAH shooting system team will be coming to Westcliffe. The NOAH shooting clinic is open to all incoming 7th thru 12 grade boys and girls who are interested in improving their shooting form by understanding the mechanics of proper shooting techniques. The NOAH system provides video and shooting arch feedback to each player so they can actually see their own shot, and be able to break down what they are needing to improve on, and what they are already doing properly. Parents, grandparents, alumni, and school staff are encouraged to attend as well. Each adult that attends and watches the program increases the chances

of our school winning a free system at the end of the summer. All basketball coaches encourage the kids to come and learn more about proper shooting form. This is a free clinic to all players and fans. We hope to see everyone there.

On June 9th thru 11th, Custer County will be hosting the MEB Basketball Skills Camp here in the East Gym. This camp is open to all incoming 8th thru 12 grade boys and girls. The camp registration fee is \$125 for each player. The camp will run from 8 AM to 1 PM for three days. This camp will be structured around fundamental skills and team concepts to help every player reach their full potential. Two college coaches and players will run the camp and

it is specifically designed around the team concepts we use here at Custer County. This is our second year hosting this camp and it is one of the best camps you can get for the cost. Every player is highly encouraged to attend this skill driven camp. These college coaches also have the opportunity to look at players and build a network of contacts for possible recruiting opportunities for our players. Registration forms can be picked up at the Custer County School Office or you can e-mail Coach

Shannon Byerly at shanbyerly@yahoo.com and he can e-mail you one. We look forward to helping your player develop the skills to be the best they can be.



Bobcat Menu • May 19 - May 22, 2014

Monday breakfast
Waffles
Ham
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Cheese Pizza
Choice of Veg. Choice of Veg.
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Tuesday breakfast
Scrambled Eggs
W. W. Toast
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Sloppy Jo
Choice of Veg.
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Wednesday breakfast
Bagels w/ Cream Cheese
Ham
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Chicken Patty Sandwich
W. W. Roll
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Thursday breakfast
Sausage Gravy,
Biscuits
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Italian Dunkers
Bread Sticks
Choice of Veg. & Fruit
Milk

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

TEAM UP!

Find Solutions to our EMS/Clinic Crisis

“We’ll just sit up here on our fence.”

~ Kit Shy, Commissioners Meeting May 7, 2014

Only spectators sit on the fence, governing IS a participatory activity.

As a Commissioner I will work as part of a team to address issues and find solutions.

- **Hospital District Board is searching for answers.**
 - **Fire Dept. has been actively involved in discussions seeking solutions.**
 - **EMS Committee continues to seek ways to provide service.**

These people are working hard to find a way to provide EMS/Clinic Services for OUR COMMUNITY.

It’s time for a change

on the Board of County Commissioners.

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.

KIDS

Friday, May 16, 2014

ARMED FORCES DAY

Citizens come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country on the third Saturday in May each year. President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for the branches of service known as Armed Forces Day.

TEAMED FOR DEFENSE. That was the theme of the first Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 20, 1950. It is a single-day celebration of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense which replaces separate Army, Navy, and Air Force Days. The Marine Corps League supports Armed Forces Day, too, however they declined to drop Marine Corps Day.

From the May 17, 1952, New York Times article: “It is our most earnest hope that those who are in positions of peril, that those who have made exceptional sacrifices, yes, and those who are afflicted with plain drudgery and boredom, may somehow know that we hold them in exceptional esteem. Perhaps if we are a little more conscious of our debt of honored affection they may be a little more aware of how much we think of them.”

Hats off to all of our service men and women!

information source: military.com

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 Sale

GUNS, AMMO, and Gunsmithing
THRIVE Freeze-Dried Food
OnMarkArms.com
113 Mill, Silver Cliff
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

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

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 a Middle School Math Teacher. Interested applicants may contact Chris Selle at chris.selle@ccbob

cats.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.

KENNEL HELP needed. Dependable, flexible, and willing to work. Dilley Ranch area. www.flickennel.com. (719) 783-2955

Livestock

Does your horse need a summer job? Call Elin at Music Meadows, (719) 783-2222

Real Estate

Lori Kastendieck
Independent Broker
Real Estate
Westcliffe Broker.com
719/269-0653
Serving buyers & sellers since 1982

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

Services

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

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

NORDYKE SANITATION
(719) 783-2747
Cell (719) 371-3523
Please call **Art Nordyke** for your septic pumping and inspections.
Don't let your septic fail!

Get Your Spot for the Independence Day Craft and Flea Market

Are you a local or regional avid crafter? Or perhaps your wife is urging you to clean out the attic or garage. Renting a booth and selling your handcrafted wares and treasures at the annual Independence Day craft and flea market is a great way to have fun and meet people while taking home some extra cash.

Hosted by the Custer County Chamber of Commerce, this year's three-day event is taking place Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 4 through 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day on the west end of Main Street in Westcliffe across from the Westcliffe Super Market.

Booth cost is \$70 for three days, \$50 for two days and \$30 for one day. An extra \$10 a day is added for

those who need electricity as generators are not allowed. The deadline to register for a booth is June 27, with 20 feet by 18 feet spaces available on a first come, first-served basis.

The vendor application can be found on the Chamber of Commerce website at www.custercountyco.com. Just click on Events and Independence Day to find the application. Once downloaded, return the completed application along with payment to CCCC, P.O. Box 81, Westcliffe, Colorado 81252 or drop off at the Chamber office/Visitor Center located inside the All Aboard Westcliffe interpretive center at 110 Rosita Ave. in Westcliffe. Call 783-9163 for more information.

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.

Happy Ending One Year Later

by Candi Sage

On May 2, 2013, Anita Bomgardner was taking her three children to school on black iced roads; then unexpectedly slid off of the road, rolled and hit a telephone pole. Not sure about phone service and concerned for her children, she called the school where husband, Troy, had already reported to work.

The school called 911 and first on the scene was deputy Eric Thompson, followed by undersheriff Tony Supan and the ambulance and fire. EMS, Scott Mutz attended to her daughter Brooke while she flagged down another parent to take her two unhurt children to school. After assessment, Flight for Life was called and Brooke was taken to Children's Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs.

When Mom and Dad arrived, they didn't know



(Right to left) Anita, Brooke, and Troy Bomgardner visit with friends and neighbors.

Sentinel photo by Candi Sage

what they would find. The Doctors found multiple skull fractures including a fractured nasal cavity as well as a large blood clot forming on her skull. Following successful surgery and a stay in ICU, Brooke went home after three days and made a remarkable recovery. The Custer County community responded with a benefit to help them financially with emergency and hospital costs.

On May 7, 2014, the Bomgardner family held a Thank You event at the Fire House for the first responders and the community. Brooke, was happy and healthy running around enjoying her friends and siblings at the event which marked the first anniversary since the accident. All were thankful the family tragedy turned out with such a happy ending.

Open House & Retirement Celebration for Dave Trujillo

May 29, 2014 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
at the Road & Bridge County Shop,
213 North 4th Street in Westcliffe

*After thirty-years with Custer County.
Please join us to wish him the very best,
As he starts his long and well deserved rest.*



VOTE
Jack Canterbury
FOR
Custer County
Commissioner

READY FOR A DIFFERENCE?
I WILL

- ◆ Respond to issues promptly with solutions
- ◆ Listen to and act on voter's concerns
- ◆ Make decisions based on their long-range effects
- ◆ Fight for no new taxes
- ◆ Voice local needs to legislators and deliver results

719-783-9052 jack@westcliffecolorado.com

VALUES and VISION for CUSTER COUNTY



Paid for by Committee to Elect Jack Canterbury

Local Mountain News & Notices

Clifferiders Ride Again Saturday, May 17

by Candi Sage

The Clifferiders of Custer County have scheduled their 2014 ATV History Ride for Saturday, May 17. This year, riders will experience a new route on the west side of Highway 69.

Riders can sign up the morning of May 17 from 8:00-8:45 a.m. at the Silver Cliff Park. Cost is \$15.00 which includes the cost of the annual club membership. President Larry Weber reports that orientation will begin at 8:45 a.m. and the ride will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. A few of the eight stops planned will include Willows School, Abbott Lodge, San Isabel Ranch, the town of ULA and Pines Ranch. Mr. Weber also reports that each stop is scheduled for an average of 25 minutes for a history lesson for that area.

Participants are encouraged to dress appropriately for ‘the valley’ in layers and be sure to bring rain gear, water, snacks and lunch. One of the stops will include a lunchtime visit at A Painted View Ranch with Outdoor Buddies, Wounded Warriors and other Military Veterans. This year’s History Ride is expected to cover approximately 50 miles with a return time of 5:00 p.m. to the Silver Cliff Park.

Arrangements have been made for an early breakfast opportunity from 7:00-8:00 a.m. at the Silver Cliff Mountain Inn and the Mining Company should participants be interested. Clifferiders is a chapter of the High Rocky Riders Off Road Club; for additional club information and rules contact Larry Weber at 783-9468, or Jerry Tracewell at 783-0631, or their website; <http://clifferiders.webs.com>

Senior Center Asks Community for Help

The Custer County Senior Center is in the process of replacing a 30 year-old stove/oven with a new convection oven and induction cook top. The nutrition program is run by the State Health Department and requires them to have a commercial stove which is more expensive. At the present time the electric usage is always in the demand mode when the stove is in operation which costs more per kilowatt hr. With the new appliances, the usage could be cut by 1/3. The Center has started a kitchen upgrade fund and has \$1,500 in it now. Donations from anyone in the valley to help us reach \$5,000 would be greatly appreciated. They are non-profit and all donations/contributions are deductible. Receipts will be given upon request for tax purposes. When they reach that amount a foundation has agreed to match with a donation of \$5,000.

Donations/contributions can be made either in person at the Senior Center or by putting it in the account we have at the First State Bank of Colorado. Please call Bill @ 371-8852 if you have any questions or required information.

Events Calendar

Friday, May 16, 2014 7:30 p.m.: The Westcliffe Center/Jones Theater: the play, "Harvey"	All day: Fine Arts Show at Custer County Schools in Great Room through Thursday, May 22
Saturday, May 17, 2014 7:30 p.m.: The Westcliffe Center/Jones Theater: the play, "Harvey"	Thursday, May 22, 2014 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.: 8th Grade Graduation Last Day for Pre-school
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Barrel Racing Exhibitions, at Wild West Cowboy Church. Open starts at Noon. More info, call Sherri at (512) 308-7711	Friday, May 23, 2014 Entries due for Hardscrabble Mountain Trail Run. Register at www.hardscrabblerun.com 7:30 p.m.: The Westcliffe Center/Jones Theater: the play, "Harvey"
Sunday, May 18, 2014 2 p.m.: The Westcliffe Center/Jones Theater: the play, "Harvey"	Saturday, May 24, 2014 7:30 p.m.: The Westcliffe Center/Jones Theater: the play, "Harvey"
Monday, May 19, 2014	

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

Opening May 16



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Silver Cliff

783-3333

Tony Supan Candidate for Custer County Sheriff



There is a difference between a city Police Department and a rural Sheriff's office. A comment was made the other day that there is no difference, that the law is the law no matter where you are. That is true the laws are the same wherever you go, but the jobs we do are very different. There are several duties that a sheriff is responsible for that a Police Department officer will never be asked to do in his or her line of duty.

First the sheriff operates the jail and is responsible for inmate care, their meals, medical, safety, and over all wellbeing. He is also responsible for the detention staff and their salaries. He takes care of all transportation of inmates between our jail and other county and state facilities including extraditions.

Another is Fire Marshal. It is one of the most important duties. It covers fire bans, open burn permits, and the "delegation of authority" process during wild land fires. This process changes responsibility of a fire from local to state and federal agencies to get the extra resources we need at critical times. This is an important decision that must be made in a timely manner to save lives, homes and property.

The civil process for serving papers involves hand delivering and getting signatures on papers regarding lawsuits, protection orders, foreclosures, and eviction notices.

Next is sheriff sales. This process entails a writ of execution from the court, sending and recording the notice of Levy, publication of sale, being bonded, carrying out the sale or auction, completing certificates and sale deeds, and disbursing payment back to the court.

A sheriff also oversees and supports dispatch, the posse, and search and rescue. These are just a few areas that show the difference in the two jobs. All these duties are learned over time with decisions that need to be made from experience of doing the job. Of the three candidates running for this position, I have put in the time and am actively doing the job. Therefore, I have the experience to fulfill these and all other duties of this office.

I understand and embrace the responsibility that comes with being your sheriff and I do not take it lightly. I feel strong about supporting this community because they have always supported me and my family. I am ready for the next step and I ask for your vote so I can continue to serve in Custer County, my home.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Supan, Candidate for Sheriff

If you would like to contact me:
Email tsupan@centurytel.net
Facebook [Supanforsheriff.com](https://www.facebook.com/Supanforsheriff.com)
Web Page [Supan for sheriff.org](http://Supanforsheriff.org)
719-783-9296

Custer County High School Prom 2014

May 10 at Beckwith Ranch

Prom Royalty

King Willie Brandon & Queen Sydney Feldmann



The students of CCHS would like to thank the following community members and businesses for making the 2014 After Prom a tremendous success! Thank You!

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Roger Camper
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Second Street Studio
Seifert Ranch
Senior Citizens Center
Silver Cliff Mountain Inn

Subway
Sunflower Patch
The Sentinel
Tony's Mountain Pizza
Town and Country Salon
Trails West
Village Shop
Walmart(Pueblo)
Wet Mountain Treasures
Westcliffe Petroleum



Courtesy Photos by Elizabeth Watson

Sheriff's Report...

As of Tuesday, May 13, there were six men in jail.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

May 12 At approximately 11:45 p.m., a semi-truck slid off of Highway 69 at mile marker 64. The semi was a 2011 Freightliner Tractor Trailer, plate K729HZ, hauling a load of lumber driven by Malcolm Cooper, age 47, of California. Adverse weather conditions were believed to be the cause of the accident.

May 12 At approximately 06:45 a.m., a 1997 GMC C1500 Pickup truck, plate 090IQC, driven by Eugene Donley, age 76, slid off of Highway 96 at mile marker 6 due to adverse weather conditions. The vehicle caused damage to a fence and moderate damage was sustained by the truck.

AMBULANCE CALLS

Seven ambulance calls as of May 13, 2014.

May 12 At 23:40 hours, the ambulance responded to a motor vehicle accident on

Highway 69 at mile marker 64. Transported male party to Parkview Hospital.

May 12 At 10:00 a.m., the ambulance responded to 101 First Street. Assistance with oxygen was needed due to a power failure.

May 8 At 11:56 a.m., the ambulance responded to 507 Main Street, in Silver Cliff, regarding a 78-year-old male for being disoriented. He was transported to Parkview Hospital.

May 8 At 11:06 a.m., the ambulance responded to the clinic for a 55 year-old female for stable transport for shortness of breath.

May 7 At 12:33 p.m., the ambulance responded to the clinic for a 90-year-old male for stable cardiac transport. He was transported to Parkview Hospital.

May 7 At 10:44 a.m., the ambulance responded to 115 Evening Star for a male in his 30's with complications from surgery. He was transported to Memorial Hospital.

May 6 At 14:10 p.m., the ambulance responded to 116 South Sixth Street for a male party, age 75, having an allergic reaction to medications. He was transported to Parkview Hospital.

FIRE CALLS

Two fire calls as of May 13, 2014.

May 12 At 23:43 hours, a fire truck responded to a motor vehicle accident on Highway 69 at mile marker 64.

May 11 At 11:49 a.m., a fire truck responded to 30 Main Street on a fire-alarm malfunction.

OFFENSES

May 10 Jeremiah Patton, age 19, was arrested for DUI, Careless Driving, and Underage Consumption. Traffic contact occurred at Highway 69 and County Road 170. Patton was driving a 2014 Dodge Sedan, temporary license 130874H. He posted a \$2,000 bond and will appear in Custer County Court at a later date.

Court Report...

Trenton Von McEwen – Charged with violation of a criminal protection order. All fees were waived and will spend three (3) months jail time concurrent with an additional three (3) months.

Marcus Anthony Patton – Charged with disorderly conduct - offensive gestures. Plead guilty. Fine of \$186.00 to be paid to the clerk's office.

Julie Ann Woods – Charged for speeding and driving under the influence. Plead guilty. Speeding was dismissed by DA and driving under the influence was a deferred sentence. Fine of \$1,282.50 to be paid to the clerk.

Richard Francis Posadas – Owner operated an uninsured vehicle and was sentenced to jail for nine (9) months. Concurrent with count 1. Defendant granted work/pregnancy leave family visitation while in jail. Assessed \$1,469.50.

Andrew Lloyd Lewis – Charged with disorderly conduct-offensive gesture. Plead guilty. Sentenced to 14 days in jail with credit of 3 days already served. Community service completed within 180 days and work release granted. Assessed \$86.00.

Christian Ray Lovellette – Charged with careless driving, plead guilty. Deferred sentence. Assessed \$183.50.

Michelle Trinajstick – The defendant pled guilty to driving while ability impaired. Jail time thirty (30) days. Complete level 1 education with 24-hour therapy. Community service within 90 days, monitored sobriety per probation. Assessed \$1,225.50.

Crystal Mae Wibright – Charged with assault/know/reckless cause injury. Deferred sentence of 1 year; revoked jail- 2 days suspended; probation for 1 year granted. Assessed \$1,238.50.

Joseph Anthony Ontiveros – Charged with speeding, plead guilty. Assessed \$104.50.

Jordan Travis Hedberg – Charged with registration - fictitious plates. Motion to dismiss granted.

George Will Fenley – Charged with failure to proof insurance. Motion to dismiss granted.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Mixer to Welcome Silver Cliff Mountain Vail Inn & Restaurant

The Custer County Chamber of Commerce is holding a ribbon cutting and mixer at Silver Cliff Mountain View Inn and Restaurant. The event that showcases the earlier opening of the inn and restaurant which is located at 700 Ohio Street, is being held Tuesday, May 20, from 3 to 5 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony conducted

outside by the local Chamber of Commerce board of directors, attendees will go inside to enjoy snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.

Owners Willie Quinney and his wife, Cheryl Jenkins, opened the family place late last year. Current hours of operation are Wednesday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

and Sunday through Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, those at least 60-years-of-age receive a 15 percent discount on Mondays.

Call the Chamber office at 783-9163 for more information about the upcoming event or to schedule your own ribbon cutting or mixer, which is open to all current chamber members.

HOSPITAL

From page 5

against the Service Plan they have largely failed to follow in any substantial way for many years and call an "antiquated and outdated" document they have failed to revise as requested anyway.

The new latest nose dive to gain air speed for a little while is either another mill levy or a sales tax or both to keep the dead ship afloat. The District Board will begin by trying to sell the either sales tax/or mill levy argument to local businesses on May 20th at a Chamber Forum at the

fire house. Meanwhile the half million dollars of tax money already collected by this district continues to be poured into a venture which according to their statements they believe will fail while the EMS service taxpayers need and demand struggles to barely survive.

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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

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- ★ Committed to representing all Custer County Citizens
- ★ Believe in limited government and fair taxation
- ★ Principled, qualified, and experienced
- ★ Proven record of fiscal responsibility
- ★ Pledge continuing support for community/economic development



But still young enough to do

Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

Council Members Standing Tall for Cañon City Voters Will Say Yes or No to Recreational Pot

by Barbara Penezic

WOW! It was ‘Standing Room Only’ at the Cañon City General Government Meeting. The room was filled to capacity and the overflow of concerned residents spilled out into the hallway. The issue of recreational marijuana was the topic of discussion. Richard Hollabaugh, Fremont County resident, told the council, “I don’t envy the position you are in; the last time I was here there was a snide remark from the gallery stating there can’t be too much interest in keeping this out of here cause there’s only 13 or 15 of you. Wait till the next time,” I replied. He then turned and thanked over 100 people who had come to voice their opposition to casual pot. The people represented groups such as Penrose Concerned Citizens, RGTP, members of Law Enforcement, RGRW, Churches, and the good residents of Cañon City, Fremont County and beyond.

City Attorney John Havens spoke to the group first, saying there is no conflict of interest on the part of Council members. Most of the audience seemed to disagree with that statement. Mr. Roland Marr commented, “Any action invoked by Council that increases his own income stream ... is a conflict of interest.” Mr. Marr also pointed out the fact that Attorney Havens does not represent the people, he works for the City Council. A fact we should all keep in mind when considering the advice of the City Attorney. The fiduciary relationship that exists is between Mr. Havens and his clients only.

Dana Soux, owner of Fremont County Cannibas, spoke in favor of recreational pot stating, “The issue is with facts and science, not morals and politics.” Pastor Larry Kettle of Bridge to Life Assembly of God Church disagreed saying, “I think that once a moral boundary begins to slide, then more and more moral boundaries will slide afterwards. People may ask where were you when we legalized medical marijuana? I will tell you at this point in time, I want to stand up for moral values and that’s why I am here.” Dana tells us that \$90,000 in taxes have already been paid and the cannabis industry will fill our tax coffers. Where exactly is that \$90,000 being spent; certainly not to fill the pot holes on our local city streets, no wonder the majority of Cañon City residents do not



A packed house for the Cañon City General Government Meeting concerning Recreational Marijuana.

Sentinel photo by Barbara Penezic

wish to add pot heads to the pot holes we already dodge on a daily basis. Bret Provost also wanted to see recreational marijuana approved. His remarks were not well received, “This is a prison town,” he said, “not a town where you bring your children on vacation, well maybe the Gorge, but you want to ‘Get the Hell’ out of here as quick as you can. You might have convicts escape while you are downtown.” This is exactly what many Cañon City residents fear will happen to the perception of our great outdoor community if we allow this drug to be sold for recreational purposes.

Mr. Hollabaugh has stated and rightly so, “We can’t sell our soul for the money. If we become the shining light on the hill, people will come and bring their families to enjoy our community. We will be the example of resisting the flow of this incredible tragedy.” Long time resident, Mike Welsh, spoke passionately about what the abuse of drugs has cost his family. A son with an I.Q. of 140 at the age of 9, now at the age of 36, resides in lock up, his life destroyed by drugs. Mr. Welsh told us also that he had lost his wife 11 years ago in an accident on Highway 115, the result of an incoherent driver. “There is no good in recreational drugs,” he stated. “I have zero tolerance.” Some members of law enforcement added their voices to those opposed to legalizing this gateway drug. They feel this can only add to the number of intoxicated drivers and increase traffic fatalities. Emergency rooms in the Denver area are already seeing more children who have ingested edible marijuana, explosions have been reported during the processing of hash oil and the list goes on. Our first responders are always at risk when these type of incidents occur. Consideration should be given to these courageous individuals who are always ready to put their lives on the line to protect the public. Marijuana cheerleaders need to start paying attention to some of the recent findings associated with the use of this drug. Problem is the user is not always able to focus and make appropriate choices. Even given the evidence that violence is present in some who use pot. A man shot and killed his wife after consum-

ing marijuana edibles. A young man became incoherent and was smashing furniture after eating marijuana candy. He ran out of a room and fell to his death over a hotel railing. This would not appear to be the actions of happy, mellow people. The council to their great credit listened with open minds to the constituents as they voiced their many concerns both for and against the sale of recreational marijuana in Cañon City. Then City Attorney John Havens spoke to the council regarding their options.

- #1 Deny Retail Sales
- #2 Move Forward with Sales
- #3 Go to Vote in November

Council member Scott Eckstrom led the debate saying, “Given the voice that we’ve heard in the last month, I think it would be prudent for us to continue to discuss this. I would hate for us as a community to rush into something and be the guinea pig for the state and the nation.” There is an argument out there that we should get out ahead of this for tax revenue and to draw tourism. I’m not personally convinced that it will be a big benefit. I really think that we as a community should wait and at the very minimum put this to a vote in November.” Council members Dennis Wied and Kevin Ditmore moved to allow to send an ordinance before council to approve the sale of recreational marijuana. Council members Scott Eckstrom, Ron Bates, Gerry Meloni, and Colby Katchmar chose to send the issue to the voters. A choice that was met with thunderous applause and approval by the viewers.

Be warned, however, this is not a binding agreement, this must be voted on in a formal council meeting on the 19th of May. The Council has stood strong for Cañon City, now we must stand strong for our council members. Those who wish to see recreational pot sold in our city will not simply “fold like a tent in a rainstorm.” They will be out there working to undo our efforts. Stay focused on the issue, make plans to attend the meeting on the 19th and see this through to a successful conclusion.

Until May 19th remember to:

**Be Informed
and Get Involved!**

What is the Real Cost?

by Edward Whitcraft,
Royal Gorge Tea Party

On May 8th, 2014, members of the Cañon City General Government Committee met and discussed the retail sale of marijuana. This was a special session as this is a very explosive subject in Cañon City. There was standing room only in the room with both sides of this issue being represented. The City Attorney, Mr. John Havens, started the meeting by explaining that just owning a property that is rented to someone who establishes a retail sale or growing marijuana for sale is a conflict of interest if you happen to also be a councilman. He further explained the ordinance that would allow the retail marijuana within the city limits. A few of the council members asked the attorney to clarify some of his comments. This process took about 30 minutes. Then the floor was open for comments from first, Cañon City residents, then Fremont County tax payers, and finally anyone else who wanted to speak pro or con on this subject.

Several speakers spoke to the moral side of this issue. Others spoke about the hazards of it being a gateway drug, and still others the potential of unintended consequences from allowing an ordinance for opening recreational marijuana facilities in the city. Then we heard about how much money the city would collect from the taxes and what wonderful things we could do with the dollars. Others proclaimed just how safe this drug is and how it does not affect the person digesting the product. So the council certainly had a dilemma. What way to vote? They did the only thing they could to appease folks in the room. They elected to put the issue to a vote on the November ballot.

As I contemplate all the comments from the audience and council members it struck me that a lot of folks in our fair city and county have no idea about the true costs of this issue. Yes, there will be additional dollars collected from this venture. Just how much no one really knows. Yes, the city could designate the funds for special use such as street repair. But what happens to the unintended consequences and who pays for it? There is absolutely no doubt in this world that our social services will be engaged with assisting people who don’t have enough food or family life being disrupted over family members spending dollars on this devastating drug instead of feeding the family or so involved with the drug scene that they let the family life go by the wayside.

What about additional law enforcement? Don’t believe for a minute that this will not affect our law enforcement folks. Domestic calls will increase as well as additional crime in the community, not to mention what is already going on in Denver with organized crime. Folks, there is a reason our County Sheriff is opposed to this and our County Commissioners have put a moratorium not allowing it in the county. It’s bad news for the taxpayer.

Paying for all the additional required services caused by having this recreational marijuana in our community will come from tax payers. There is no way to determine just how much it will cost but if we are patient and watch what other areas of the state are doing we will find out in due time.

Friends, let’s

**Be Informed
and Be 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**

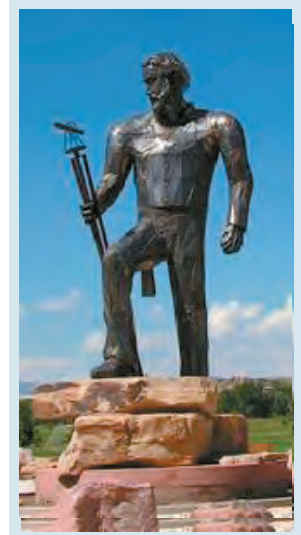
**Cañon City
City Council
1st and 3rd
Mondays at 6 p.m.
City Hall
128 Main St.
Cañon City**

**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
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890 Fields Ave.
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party.com
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Facebook**

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

A Prophetic Shadow for America

WorldNetDaily reports an incident in the San Francisco area where folks came to a school where officials had banned the American flag on the day of the Mexican celebration of Cinco De Mayo "to avoid violence." The ban was actually upheld by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals four years ago, deciding that First Amendment rights to free speech could be "suspended" to avoid violence. It was the Mexican students who threatened violence because others were wearing T-Shirts with American flag themes on Cinco De Mayo. Granted, the 9th Circuit is arguably the most leftist court in the nation, but this incident and the subsequent actions of Hispanic students could be a prophetic shadow for America.

According to WorldNetDaily, a small group of protesters, calling themselves the Gilroy-Morgan Hill Patriots, waved the American flag in front of the school that had banned it. Hispanic students at the school were outraged that these people would wave the American flag on Cinco De Mayo and blasted the social media airwaves with accusations

of racism. Many profanity-laced tweets ensued: What was "wrong with these white people holding up American flags in Morgan Hill??? Racist a-----...; ---- your American flag. Racist a-----. I'll always have pride with my Mexican flag but not the American one." The school superintendent in Morgan Hill said students wearing US flag clothing "won't be kicked out." Really?

You see where this is headed? At one point in American history, those coming to America loved the American ideal. They kept their individualism and heritage, but submitted it to and assimilated it into the American culture. This country was a melting pot that carried the mindset and ideal of being American. I would never venture to say that all Hispanics coming to the United States are represented by these misguided students who are projecting their own racist hearts toward Americans. I will presume, however, that a majority of those who broke the law to get here have a predisposed mindset toward America being a destination to access resources rather than a place

of assimilation and embracing.

Herein lies the problem: At the mere threat of violence, the 9th Circuit Court took away the rights of the law-abiding citizens in deference to the lawless ones, who as a distinct minority do not accept the culture of their "adopted" country. When Congress allows amnesty, the American Constitutional Republic is threatened because the lawless will have taken precedent over the lawful. This is unbiblical and will result in drastic consequences. While the Bible says that we should not vex a stranger, it also says in Exodus 12:49, "One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourns among you." Numbers 15:15 adds: "as you are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD." The sojourner should abide in our laws, and we are all the same before the Lord. There is no place for racism or lawlessness. Both threaten our nation.

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

Hundreds of Schoolgirls Kidnapped by Islamic Boko Haram - Sold into Sex Slavery

by Pamela Geller,
FreedomOutpost.com

(Editor/GG: This is not an isolated incident. This is just a small part in the worldwide jihad against Christianity. Coming to your door soon.)

Nigeria's Daily Trust reported Monday that "most of the 234 Borno schoolgirls in Boko Haram captivity have been ferried abroad to Chad and Cameroon after they were married off to sect members for N2,000 bride price each."

Two thousand Nigeria naira amounts to \$12.45 for each girl.

Even as this savagery escalates, however, no one is discussing the ideology that compels this war on innocents. These young girls are considered war booty under Islam. This is consistent with Islamic teaching and with what Muhammad, "the perfect model," did with the spoils of jihadi war.

Imagine, for the moment, the horror, the terror that these young girls are facing now, and probably will face for the rest of their lives. Unimaginable. But Islamic supremacists and Islamic apologists are working furiously to make sure that no one talks about it.

Boko Haram is the same Islamist group that has slaughtered over 2,596 Nigerians in the first three months of 2014 - all for the cause of establishing an Islamic state in Nigeria. The Islamic jihadists are acting with impunity. They know that the government can do

nothing to stop them. Just recently, these jihadists left 71 dead in a bombing at a bus station at rush hour. And the day before that, this same Muslim group killed 68 people in an attack on their village. Terrified villagers were shot to death as they fled.

This is genocide. This is ethnic cleansing. This is jihad. But there is something more heinous than the conquest and slaughter rooted in jihad doctrine: the silence and the sanction of the West. The world says nothing. The only thing more overwhelming than the body count in the global jihad is the denial, apathy, and endless apologies for Islam that we hear from the mainstream media and the governments of the West. CNN says that the kidnapping of hundreds of schoolgirls by jihadists "isn't shocking."

My fellow human beings, it is shocking and savage. We are descending into a world of savagery sanctioned by the "civilized." The modern age of the savage is upon us. For reasons that only Barack Obama can answer, the State Department took far too long to designate this savage Islamist group, Boko Haram, a terrorist organization. When State Department officials finally did designate it a foreign terrorist organization, they did so while never mentioning that the people being terrorized are Christians who are being targeted for their beliefs. In fact, they implied that the group had other motivations and even that it had "legitimate concerns."

"These designations are an important and appropriate step, but only one tool in what must be a comprehensive approach by the Nigerian government to counter these groups through a combination of law enforcement, political, and development efforts, as well as military engagement, to help root out violent extremism while also addressing the legitimate concerns of the people of northern Nigeria," the State Department said.

The idea that a jihadist group that slaughters in the cause of Islam practically every day and whose very name means "Western education is sinful" has "legitimate concerns," or that its supporters do, exposes the dangerous motives of the pro-jihadist Obama administration.

Boko Haram enslaves schoolgirls. It sets schools ablaze and slits the throats of those trying to escape out the windows. Boko Haram targets teachers and doctors, but above all, Christians. What possible legitimate concerns could these savages have? Imposing Islam is not a legitimate concern.

This is the world Barack Obama has made. The world's policeman is no longer on the beat, and the savages know it.

Reprinted with Permission. Read more at <http://freedomoutpost.com/2014/05/hundreds-schoolgirls-kidnapped-islamic-boko-haram-sold-sex-slavery/#CvTyjuWpiHfQFyVJ.99>



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Report: Colorado VA Workers Falsified Veteran's Documents

by Greg Cambell,
DailyCaller.com

Workers at a Veterans Affairs clinic in Fort Collins, Colorado, regularly falsified documents to show that patients were seen by doctors within 14 days of requesting an appointment.

In fact many had waited months for medical care.

The findings were part of a report by the VA's Office of Medical Inspector which was obtained and first reported by USA Today.

Nearly half of the Fort Collins clinic's 6,000 veterans were behind on scheduled appointments, the report found. Staffers were instructed to fake paperwork to make it seem like the VA was meeting its 14-day goal, and those who reported longer wait times were put on a "bad boys

list," the paper reported.

"By entering [false data], the wait time for that patient appears to be zero days," the report said. "The wait times were actually much longer. ... Employees reported that scheduling was 'fixed.'"

The report also noted that inspectors couldn't find any instances in which Fort Collins patients were harmed because of the practice, but veterans are reported to have died while waiting for medical care at other VA clinics.

A retired doctor claimed that 40 veterans died while waiting for care at a Phoenix hospital, an allegation that USA Today said the VA couldn't corroborate, but which it was investigating. The doctor said the Phoenix staff had also entered false data to hide the delays in care.

In tracking the timeliness of patient care last year, the VA discovered that only 41 percent of new patients are seen within two weeks, including only 66 percent of mental health patients, according to USA Today. An older, less reliable method of tracking that data estimated in 2011 and 2012 that the VA hit its goal more than 90 percent.

Debra Draper, an investigator with the Government Accountability Office, said the VA's inability to track wait times isn't new — and it isn't likely to improve if staffers lie about the data.

"Data has to be reliable to be useful," she told USA Today. "So if you have people going in there and doing all kinds of things (to change the data), it really is not reliable."

Colorado Republican Rep. Mike Coffman, the chair-

man of the House subcommittee on Veterans Oversight and Investigations, said hearings will be conducted on the allegations of soldier deaths in Phoenix.

He also called on VA Secretary Eric Shinseki to resign. In an editorial Wednesday, the Denver Post agreed with Coffman.

"There is no doubt that managing the VA is a very challenging task, but if these allegations are true, it's also clear that the administration will need to move quickly to find someone who is up to the job," the Post wrote.

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The Fruit of Obamaism

by Steve Deace, FreedomOutpost.com

(Editor/GG: How long can this go on before we have some serious social problems?)

One of my favorite guests to book is Wayne Root. He's smart, articulate, winsome, and has lived the American dream. He just wrote a piece for The Blaze that is a stunning but factual indictment of the Obama Regime.

Root points out:

The USA has had the unchallenged number one economy in the world since 1872 (when we passed the United Kingdom). 1872. Eighteen hundred and seventy two. Let that sink in for a while.

That is 142 years of world dominance erased in only six years under one man's leadership.

Under Obama's watch,

Canada just passed America for the crown of number one middle class in the world. This is the first time in modern history that America's middle class isn't leading the world. This was reported by the Obama-loving New York Times.

Under Obama, there are now more food stamp recipients than the number of women working full-time in America.

Under Obama, the average full-time male employee now earns less (adjusted for inflation) than 40 years ago.

Under Obama, there are now 70 percent more Americans collecting entitlement checks than working in the private sector (148 million "takers" vs. 86 million "makers"). This isn't a conservative opinion. It's a fact provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Under Obama, the number of working-age Americans

not in the labor force is at all-time highs.

Under Obama, the workplace participation rate of men is the lowest in history.

Under Obama, the workforce participation rate of women is the lowest on record.

Under Obama, the workforce participation rate for black Americans is the lowest in history.

Under Obama's watch, over 800,000 Americans dropped out of the job market last month. That's almost one million people who have given up...in a month.

That's almost one million dreams killed...in a month. What happens to all these people? Where do they go? How do they survive? Who will pay for it all?

This is a devastating legacy, and it's all true.

There is little doubt the

president and his political allies will pay a hefty price for this devastating legacy in this November's mid-terms. That's the good news. The bad news is many of the Republicans we will replace these Bolsheviks with don't have the testicular fortitude it takes to push back on the damage that has already been done. At best, they'll stop more new bad stuff from happening.

To turn the country back towards American Exceptionalism again will require a standard-bearer in 2016 with the smarts, charisma, and courage to make this case directly to the American people. Someone who has the same sense of urgency on behalf of liberty that Obama has had for statism.

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All Children Left Behind

by Karl Denninger,
Market-Ticker.org

What would you expect to happen when government proposes a program, throws billions of dollars and untold mandates at it, and fails to change the outcome?

U.S. high school seniors, whose school years have encompassed the sweeping education initiatives of two presidents, failed to demonstrate improvement in math or reading on a national exam.

Only 38 percent of those tested in 2013 scored as

proficient readers on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as the "Nation's Report Card," released today by the Education Department. Three-quarters failed to show math proficiency. The scores were little changed from 2009, when the test was last given.

This result has been strongly indicated all the way through by SAT scores, which have failed to show progress. Critics have claimed that this is a flawed measure, since not everyone takes the SAT. I have maintained for quite some

time that this is wishful thinking, and have pointed at what I saw during my time running MCSNet -- young people claiming to be college students who were unable to write a basic business letter or make change for a \$20 in their head!

The biggest problem is that I don't doubt for a minute that these people were in college! That is by itself an indication of abject fraud and not just among those who are behind. The worse impacts are arguably against those kids who are not, because the distraction

that is forced upon them by those other people's presence in the same classroom essentially forces them to waste huge amounts of time.

Note that fewer than half of the high school seniors, according to the College Board, are prepared for college-level work! What are you going to do with the rest of those people? Our schools have destroyed shop class and other trade-related training initiatives in favor of trying to

See CHILDREN on page 19



The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand

2014



Colorado Woman Can't Get Her Gun Back, Thanks to New Law

by Greg Cambell,
DailyCaller.com

(Editor/GG: Another absurd result from the democrats new gun laws passed last year. Vote these people out of office NOW. Start locally and don't forget the RINO's. Our Westcliffe July 4th, Independence Day Parade is coming up where the Southern Colorado Patriots Club (Westcliffe) is again having the largest open carry march in Colorado. Join them, bring a gun, an American flag, and celebrate our sacred Constitution.)

Colorado's new gun law requiring a background check for any transfer of a firearm has left one woman unarmed.

Now she's frustrated that her weapon, taken by police for safekeeping after a car accident, isn't being returned.

Sara Warren said Fort Collins police took her Ruger SR9 which she uses for personal protection in her job as a maid when visiting clients' homes, after an accident required her to be transported to the hospital.

The police want to give it back, but a new universal background check law passed last year amid much controversy requires a Federal Firearms License background check.

Fort Collins police don't have an FFL holder on staff.

"We had an opinion from our city attorney and dis-

trict attorney not to return firearms without a (Federal Firearms License) check, and we don't have an FFL person in our office," Fort Collins deputy chief Jim Szakmeister told the Loveland Reporter Herald.

Warren said she's been in touch with the police repeatedly about getting her gun back, but was given no options, the paper reported. She said she's turned down jobs because she doesn't feel safe entering strangers' homes without protection.

"I'm a lawful citizen," she told the Reporter Herald. "I use my gun legally. I need my gun. This is ridiculous to me. There are people out there who can't get their guns back. They haven't done anything wrong."

The background check law, and another that limits the size of ammunition magazines, spurred gun owners to recall two Democratic state senators who supported them last year. Another resigned rather than face a recall.

Most of Colorado's elected sheriffs filed suit against the state to overturn the laws which they say are either unenforceable or place too much of a burden on law-abiding gun owners.



Ladysmith

courtesy photo

"I'm told there are other people in this situation," Sheriff Justin Smith told the Reporter Herald, referring to Warren's inability to get her gun back. "It's terrible when a law-abiding citizen gets caught up in something like this and it causes them to lose faith in their government."

The police have hit on a one-time solution and are arranging for Warren and others in a similar situation to meet officers at a local outdoor store with an FFL license. Szakmeister told the newspaper he's not sure who will pay for the background checks.

"We're working on a long-term solution," he said. "The greatest solution would be for the legislators to put in a police exemption. Otherwise we're probably going to have to get an FFL and find someone in the office willing to work in that capacity."

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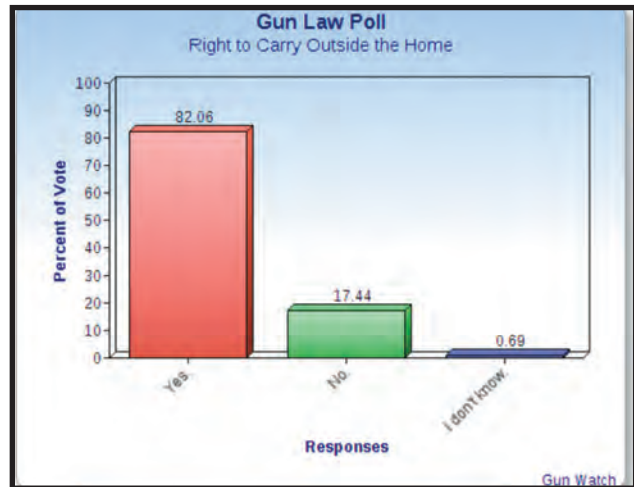
Poll: Should People in New Jersey Have the Right to be Armed in Public?

by Dean Weingarten,
GunWatch.BlogSpot.com

(Editor/GG: Folks, this poll is in NEW JERSEY, one of the most repressive gun rights states in our country. Obviously, the politicians (like some of our local politicians) are completely out-of-touch with their public. Remedy, vote the socialists out of office.)

Nj.com is running a poll. As with most polls concerning Second Amendment supporters, it is running strongly in favor of the right to be armed. What is a little unusual about this poll is that it directly connects the recent Supreme Court decision not to hear the Drake case from New Jersey, that was all about being able to carry a weapon outside of the home, to the poll. What is nasty about the New Jersey decision is U.S. District Judge William Walls simply claiming that:

"The risks associated with a judicial error in discouraging regulation of firearms carried in public



are too great," Walls concluded, without any evidence that it is so. In the 40+ states that have shall issue permits, there is no evidence to support what he says, and considerable evidence to conclude otherwise. Here is the question on the poll and the responses:

Should New Jersey gun owners be allowed to carry in public without having to show urgent need?

Yes.	82.06%	4,168
No.	17.44%	886
I don't know.	.49%	25

One of the commenters at

the article makes an interesting point. They say that NJ.com has run this poll before, and always comes up with over 80% in favor of Second Amendment rights. It falls in the range of what is commonly seen. Of those who care enough to answer an online poll, Second Amendment supporters are between three and ten times as numerous as Second Amendment detractors.

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14-Year-Old Boy Home Alone Defends House from Three Intruders by Firing Shot at Them

DATE: 1/15/2014	TIME: Unreported	LOCATION: Pueblo, CO
CRIME(S) PREVENTED:	Home Invasion, Burglary	
TYPE OF GUN USED:	Handgun	
DESCRIPTION OF BAD GUY(S):	Up to three unidentified males kicked in the back door of a home and were coming in	
DESCRIPTION OF GOOD GUY(S):	14-year-old boy who was home alone, knew where his parents kept a handgun and knew how to use it. He fired one round at the intruders, who turned and fled.	
OUTCOME:	No one seems to have been injured by the gunfire. Nothing was stolen and the boy was not harmed.	
SOURCE:	KKTv	

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The Swords in Our Hands

"My friends and countrymen... the powers of the sword are in the hands of the yeomanry of America from sixteen to sixty.

The militia of these free commonwealths, entitled and accustomed to their arms, when compared with any possible army, must be tremendous and irresistible.

Who are the militia? Are they not ourselves? Is it feared then, that we shall turn our arms each man against his own bosom?

Congress have no right to disarm the militia. Their swords, and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birth-right of an American....

The unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or the state governments, but where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the people."

– Tench Coxe, delegate to the Continental Congress in the Pennsylvania Gazette, February 20, 1788

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SINE DIE: Losers of the 2014 Legislative Session (Winners Next!)

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

It's that time again, PeakNation™. The legislature is finally out of session. We think. Until special session. Welcome to the fourth annual Colorado Peak Politics legislative awards, where we honor the winners and shame the losers.

This year wasn't as rancorous as last year – Democrats were on their best behavior since it's an election year. As usual, Democrats who control the Colorado House, the Colorado Senate and the Governor's Mansion, promised Coloradans the world and deliv-

ered very little.

Without further ado, we bring you, first, the Losers of the 2014 Legislative Session. There were many.

Democratic leadership gone wild – from Senate President Morgan Carroll, storming off her perch to whip votes in the middle of a vote, to Speaker Mark Ferrandino throwing a temper tantrum about putting State Treasurer Walker Stapleton on the House floor. This year's Democratic leadership has proved that nothing is too low for them. But, that's not all. Several Democratic initiatives not only fizzled but blew back

in their faces (see: radical abortion bill and equal pay measure).

Colorado's women – Speaking of the equal pay measure.... this was, perhaps, one of Democrats' biggest flops of the session. In an attempt to gin up the so-called "war on women", Democrats pushed an equal pay resolution, hoping to highlight Republicans' aversion to government-controlled pay. The only problem? As it turns out, Republican politicians pay their ladies better than Democrats, leading to cries of hypocrisy that extended all the way up to fragile U.S. Senator Mark Udall.

Colorado's first-time homebuyers – we have a problem here in Colorado – a lack of cheap housing near fun stuff. Part of the problem is that trial lawyers have run amok raking in huge profits with construction defects. This was going to be the legislature that addressed that. We snickered knowing Morgan Carroll's undying allegiance to trial lawyers. Turns out we were right. Sorry.

Sen. Andy Kerr – when you are a vulnerable incumbent, typically you try not to make any waves. Kerr has managed to do the opposite. From his embarrassing fumble on an election year

abortion bill to two years of bizarre votes against his district, he's in for a rough re-election campaign.

John Morse – you know why.

Bald Eagles – one of the negative affects of wind energy is the negative impact it has on birds, specifically bald eagles (um, our national bird). Republican Rep. Libby Szabo introduced a resolution to protect bald eagles from wind turbines. It failed on party line vote. It would seem that devotion to nature extends only so far as it lines the pockets of green energy investors.

Alan Salazar – oh, poor Alan. He's on this list because he harassed and marginalized Sen. Steve King's plan for an air fleet to fight forest fires, and told the media that there was no way that King's plan would happen. Until it basically did. Sorry, Alan. This wasn't your year.

Stay tuned for the Winners of the 2014 Legislative Session, which can be found here.

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WINNERS: Who Came Out Ahead in The 2014 Legislative Session

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

After the disaster for all of Colorado that was the 2013 legislative session, the fact alone we didn't repeat it makes us all some of the biggest winners of this session. But fear not PeakNation™, we aren't lowering our standards here at The Peak. For example, if someone made our winners list, don't be surprised if they win a Nobel prize next year, or end world hunger.

Without further ado, our winner's list:

Colorado citizens – with the recalls leaving the Democrats with a one seat majority in the Senate, the people of this great state were spared from several pieces of unnecessary legislation this year. One of the untold stories of the session is the Senate being a graveyard for overreaching House bills.

Sens. Mary Hodge and Lois Tochtrop - this dynamic duo were a commonsense backstop when it came to attacks from the far left on Colorado's \$29 billion oil and gas industry. Their willingness to

stand up to those in their own party will allow Colorado's economy to continue to grow.

Sen. Steve King – the Grand Junction Senator took the Hickenlooper Administration head on to get funding for the state's fire-fighting air fleet. This was no small task and we congratulate him for accomplishing it.

Kristen Wyatt, AP – rarely have we seen someone who has the perfect summary for every legislative day. AP's Kristen Wyatt showed quite the range by being able to capture the mood each day in another perfect gif. If you haven't been paying attention PeakNation™, you've been missing out. Her final one for the session is here (twitter.com/APkristenwyatt/status/464163127165464577)

Trial Lawyers – despite a sort of non-campaign to show the ills of the construction defect legislation, nothing was accomplished this session to alleviate this huge issue, which is driving up the cost of housing. We can't imagine why – perhaps it's because Senate

President Morgan Carroll is a trial lawyer.

Bill Cadman – the veteran lawmaker has successfully managed the Senate Republican caucus through two contentious legislative sessions and has managed to bridge the partisan divide when necessary. Heck, Lynn Bartels called him a statesman earlier this year. With increased fundraising and improved messaging efforts, he has laid the groundwork for a successful November.

Rep. Libby Szabo – Szabo has been one of, if not the, largest proponent of passing Jessica's Law here in Colorado. While the version that was passed this year falls short on many levels, we applaud her stick-to-it-iveness in cracking down on child predators...and for forcing Democrats' hands on the subject.

The Capitol (yes, the building) – the Colorado State Capitol got a much-needed facelift with a new gold dome. It's lovely. Have a gander.

Rep. Jared Polis – with Hickenlooper still not

knowing how to lead, a vacuum of who was the head of the Colorado Democratic party was created. In stepped Jared Polis. Now, not only can Polis claim to be a quirky Democratic money man who happened to win by himself a Congressional seat, but his influence over the Colorado Democratic party has forced other Dems to meet him where he's at: the far left.

Treasurer Walker Stapleton – this year, Republicans rarely got what they wanted out of the state legislature. That is, most Republicans. Every bill Stapleton advocated for passed with bipartisan support, and the one bill he advocated against was killed because he drummed up enough public opposition.

And, there you have it, PeakNation, did we forget anyone? Agree? Disagree? Until next year, we adjourn this post sine die.

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TUMBLING: Colorado Falls Again In Another Business Rankings

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

(Editor/GG: Folks, please wake up NOW. We have gone from being ranked 8th in the country as a good place to do business to 16th since Hickenlooper became our socialist leader. This is FREE-FALL under the democrats. More fees (taxes), more regulations, more mandates. Stop this locally. NO more taxes, NO more spe-

cial district levys or levy increases (think the Clinic!!!). Stop it locally now, and then at the state level by VOTING.)

The Chief Executive Magazine released its annual best and worst states to do business in, and Colorado has fallen yet again. Now ranked 16th in the country, Colorado fell a further three spots from its ranking last year (13th),

and a full eight spots from when we were 8th in 2010, the year Gov. John Hickenlooper got elected. Unfortunately for Colorado, the consensus of the 500 CEOs surveyed has Colorado trending negative, meaning it's only going to get worse before it gets better PeakNation™.

What makes it even more frustrating is that there isn't a big secret to being a busi-

ness-friendly state with a thriving economy. Chief Executive even takes time to spell it out:

If there is a pattern in the survey, it is that states have diverged in recent years in their experimentation with economic freedom. Those lightening the burden of government have generally

See TUMBLING on page 20

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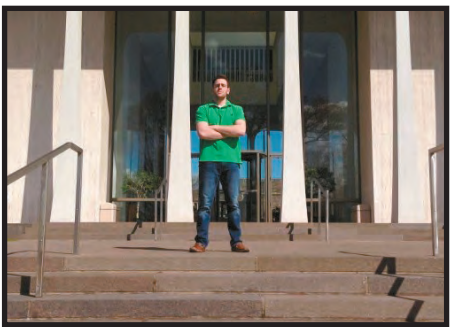
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Going Viral: Princeton University Student's Bold Response After Allegedly Being Told Repeatedly to 'Check Your Privilege'

by Jason Howerton,
TheBlaze.com

Tal Fortgang, a freshman at Princeton University, says he has been ordered to “check your privilege” by his “moral superiors” several times this year because he happens to be a white male. In a column in the Princeton Tory, Fortgang takes on the ideology he says “assumes that simply because I belong to a certain ethnic group I should be judged collectively with it.”



Tal Fortgang, Princeton University
courtesy photo

“There is a phrase that floats around college campuses, Princeton being no exception, that threatens to strike down opinions without regard for their merits, but rather solely on the basis of the person that voiced them. ‘Check your privilege,’ the saying goes, and I have been reprimanded by it several times this year,” the student writes. “The phrase, handed down by my moral superiors, descends recklessly, like an Obama-sanctioned drone, and aims laser-like at my pinkish-peach complexion, my maleness, and the nerve I displayed in offering an opinion rooted in a personal Weltanschauung.”

“‘Check your privilege,’ they tell me in a command that teeters between an imposition to actually explore how I got where I am, and a reminder that I ought to feel personally apologetic because white males seem to pull most of the strings in the world,” he continues.

Fortgang then explores his family’s history to figure out where his “privilege” comes from:

Perhaps it’s the privilege my grandfather and his brother had to flee their home as teenagers when the Nazis invaded Poland, leaving their mother and five younger siblings behind, running and running until they reached a Dis-

placed Persons camp in Siberia, where they would do years of hard labor in the bitter cold until World War II ended. Maybe it was the privilege my grandfather had of taking on the local Rabbi’s work in that DP camp, telling him that the spiritual leader shouldn’t do hard work, but should save his energy to pass Jewish tradition along to those who might survive. Perhaps it was the privilege my great-grandmother and those five great-aunts and

uncles I never knew had of being shot into an open grave outside their hometown. Maybe that’s my privilege.

Or maybe it’s the privilege my grandmother had of spending weeks upon weeks on a death march through Polish forests in subzero temperatures. One of just a handful to survive, only to be put in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where she would have died but for the Allied forces who liberated her and helped her regain her health when her weight dwindled to barely 80 pounds.

Perhaps my privilege is that those two resilient individuals came to America with no money and no English, obtained citizenship, learned the language and met each other; that my grandfather started a humble wicker basket business with nothing but long hours, an idea, and an iron will—to paraphrase the man I never met: “I escaped Hitler. Some business troubles are going to ruin me?” Maybe my privilege is that they worked hard enough to raise four children, and to send them to Jewish day school and eventually City College.

Perhaps it was my privilege that my own father worked hard enough in City College to earn a spot at a top graduate school, got a good job, and for 25 years got up well before the crack of dawn, sacrificing precious time he wanted to spend with those he valued most—his wife and kids—to earn that living. I can say

with certainty there was no legacy involved in any of his accomplishments. The wicker business just isn’t that influential. Now would you say that we’ve been really privileged? That our success has been gift-wrapped?

The real problem with the notion of automatic “privilege,” he explains, is you have no idea what their struggles have really been or “what they may have gone through to be where they are.”

“Behind every success, large or small, there is a story, and it isn’t always told by sex or skin color. My appearance certainly doesn’t tell the whole story, and to assume that it does and that I should apologize for it is insulting,” Fortgang writes. “While I haven’t done everything for myself up to this point in my life, someone sacrificed themselves so that I can lead a better life. But that is a legacy I am proud of.”

“I have checked my privilege. And I apologize for nothing,” he concludes.

Fortgang is from New Rochelle, New York, and plans to major in either history or politics.

His column has received both praise and criticism. One commenter told Fortgang that as a “white male, you are most likely ignorant of the ingrained racism or sexism that lives in society today.”

“You want to play oppression olympics? What about the millions of blacks enslaved in America for 300 years who then had to deal with segregation and Jim Crow while new immigrants were allowed to assimilate into white culture within one or 2 generations,” another wrote.

One commenter on the College Fix website replied, “From a black guy (although my pic doesn’t show it), good for him. And nicely said.”

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A Sheepdog Barks!

The world is upside down, is it not? Black is white and white is black. Right is wrong and wrong is right. I was talking to a friend recently and lamenting about how things were when I was a pup growing up in the 40s and 50s and very early 60s. Something told me then that the Beatles were not going to be good for America, WOOF! Anyway, she told me that it will never be like that again and that there was nothing I could do about it. OUCH! That may be true but I will never accept that. In the past I have blamed our fathers and grandfathers for allowing the unchecked growth of big government and the breakdown of our society’s morals. They were guilty of that. And I realize we have been guilty also. Maybe if there had been a Tea Party movement rise up in the 60s-80s we wouldn’t be where we are. Maybe if we hadn’t let the Dr. Spocks influence us, if we hadn’t let the TV and other electronic items take our pups over, and if we hadn’t let the Liberal Progressive Socialists dominate our Congress for over 40 years, we might have stopped some of this. But we didn’t. We let the LPSDs chip away at our Constitution little by little. We have let them destroy personal responsibility and the rewards of hard work. We have let them destroy limited government. We have let them take over our schools with the almighty dollar and their liberalism. They purposely went after our children and we were too busy to notice it. This was not an accident. It was brilliant on their part. One notorious leader even wrote about it in his book. He said:

“The state must declare the child to be the most precious treasure of the people. As long as the government is perceived as working for the benefit of the children, the people will happily endure almost any curtailment of liberty and almost any deprivation.”

Adolph Hitler,
Mein Kampf

Adolph knew what he was doing and with that knowledge he took over a country. He also took away the citizens’ guns and then he did a lot of evil. Our

founding fathers knew no one, absolutely no one, can be trusted with absolute power. We are seeing the effects of Liberal Progressive thinking and power and it’s not good. It’s moving beyond the subtle and seemingly harmless transition of our country from the way it used to be. We are now seeing the corruption and absolute power of it. The LPSDs have come completely out of the shadows and are wielding their swords of tyranny. Yes, it is nothing more than Liberal Progressive Tyranny (LPT). This is evident in many actions in the last few months. They are out to stamp out anything that gets in their way. And mostly God is in their way. They have been very successful in their campaign against God. They ran Him out of our schools, destroyed His family structure, eliminated His crèches from our government buildings and have tried everything to eliminate prayer to Him by our leaders. They have not been totally successful at that yet and just recently lost 5-4 in a Supreme Court ruling. How sad, 5-4. We are one black robe away from “fundamentally transforming” America. Just like Obama promised. Only this is a promise he intends to keep. HOWL! And the main stream media is out to help him in any way they can and as much as they can. The LPSDs call out for diversity and tolerance yet show none. Political Correctness is running amuck and is their main tool as they impose their brand of thinking. BEWARE of the liberal “speech and thought police.” WOOF! Consider what has happened to some of our fellow citizens like the Robertsons, the Benham brothers, Sterling and Brendon Eich. They have all been “attacked”, yes “attacked” for their beliefs and thoughts. It doesn’t matter to the libs whether it is your religious freedoms or just your right of free speech. If it isn’t to their liking you will be attacked and silenced, even harmed. Mr. Eich lost his CEO Job because he dared to believe in traditional marriage. He didn’t discriminate against anyone he just believed that marriage was between one man and one woman. And for that he lost his job. Simply a case of



Liberal Progressive Tyranny (LPT). He was burned at the stake! Phil Robertson and his family were attacked for their religious beliefs also. Phil didn’t break any laws. He just has his beliefs. Laws cannot make you like anyone or change your beliefs. He is entitled to his religious views. He was subjected to LPT -- Burn him! The Benham brothers lost their TV show on HGTV because they also are Christians. The LPSDs don’t believe they are entitled to those views. More LPT -- Burn them! And consider Mr. Sterling. The selective outrage is laughable. In my mind he is not a very nice or honorable man. He is probably immoral. He is, however, entitled to tell his kept “girlfriend” to not bring black men, or any other men, to his special FREE seats at the Clippers games. His personal views were well known apparently by the hypocrites that have worked for him for over 20 years and took millions of his dollars. Now the phony outrage! If he is a racist, why did he have so many blacks in his organization from the General Manager and the coaches to the players? They should have called him out years ago and walked away. He obviously didn’t discriminate against them or break any laws. He doesn’t have to like anyone. And for being a jealous, dirty old man he loses his team, his business and is subjected to wide spread faux outrage and ridicule. The NAACP could have denounced him but instead were going to give him a lifetime achievement award. REALLY? The hypocrisy is overwhelming. However, the LPT was swift and harsh -- Burn him! I hope he sues the heck out of the NBA. Shame on Liberal Progressive Tyrants! And shame on us if we tolerant this tyranny. WOOF!

May God Have Mercy on America! JMH



Colorado Obamacare Director Director Gets A Raise and a Bonus

by Greg Campbell, FreedomOutPost.com

The CEO of Colorado's Obamacare exchange was given a \$14,000 bonus and a 2.5 percent cost of living raise on Monday, even as the exchange struggles for ways to pay its bills in the coming years.

Patty Fontneau is now the third highest paid director of a state-run Obamacare exchange, earning more than \$195,300, according to Health News Colorado.

She raised hackles after her request for the raise and bonus came to light in October when the exchange was performing miserably, and not hitting even its worst-case scenario goals for enrollment.

Fontneau withdrew the request, but not before earning a rebuke from Republican Rep. Cory Gardner who the Denver Post said was "outraged." Gardner even tried to block raises for any directors of state-run exchanges in reaction to Fontneau's request.

But a board member told the Denver Post the performance bonus and raise was brought up again for consideration now that the open-enrollment period ended with 127,000 Coloradans signed up through it for health insurance.

That's about 10,000 below

the number that exchange managers estimated would be needed for it to be self-sustaining once federal dollars run out.

As a result, staff members have been proposing a variety of fee increases and other measures to keep the exchange afloat in 2015 and 2016. They include raising the per-customer fee of 1.4 percent paid by those who buy policies through the exchange, and another proposal to levy a fee on all insurance holders — regardless of whether the policy came from the exchange or not — to raise \$13 million to cover the exchange's expenses.

Earlier this year, Fontneau warned that "dramatic" cuts would be needed if fees aren't raised.

Despite that, some board members praised her leadership and said she deserved the bonus and raise, which is tied to her performance prior to October, when the Affordable Care Act was rolled out. Some even said the bonus was too low.

"If this were my company, I would have given her a bigger bonus and a bigger raise," said board member Arnold Salazar is quoted in the Post as saying, "She pulled off an incredible job in record time under incredible pressure."

All but two members of the board voted in favor of the salary package — one voted against it and another wasn't present.

Not everyone was so delighted.

"It is absolutely unacceptable that Connect for Health is proposing huge user fees to Coloradans who are already paying too much under the President's healthcare law while handing out cash to their own executives," Gardner wrote in an statement to The Daily Caller News Foundation.

"In fact, I introduced legislation last December that would prevent this from happening," he continued. "Federal grant funds, designated for establishing state-run exchanges, should not be doled out to state exchange chief executives. Connect for Health Colorado simply isn't working with the best interest of Colorado in mind."

Fontneau's new salary makes her the third highest paid director of a state-run exchange behind only California and Connecticut.

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don't finish. Let's face reality here: Government has failed in its "drive" to improve education, as it usually does with most programs. All that has happened is that we've blown crazy amounts of money without result, other than fattening the wallets

of everyone involved in the "industry."

Let's try something new: Get the d****d government out of education entirely.

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Obamacare Poster Child

A Guest Post to Colorado-PeakPolitics.com by Dave Disenbrock

(Editor/GG: This is the end game for the democrats, a completely dependent citizenry. What they are not telling you is that we, that is, the few tax-paying Coloradans left, will be paying for this enormous Medicaid expansion. The only problem, folks, is that in a short time it will bankrupt our state and our country. And sorry to repeat this again, but as Margaret Thatcher famously said, "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of the other people's money." And we are not talking decades....)

Las Animas County (Editor/GG: that is in Colorado for you Common Core geography students.) is Obamacare's poster child. Obamacare purported to be about selling subsidized insurance through health exchanges. For all that hoopla, here's the Colorado reality. Most growth of government-supported health care hasn't been through private exchange coverage. Radical increases of the Medicaid numbers — right at one million total in our state — did happen.

Las Animas County had 2,128 on Medicaid in January. [h/t Steve Block, Trinidad Chronicle-News]. County DHS director Catherine Salazar also reported "other counties in Colorado were seeing similar increases in Medicaid caseload."

Of Las Animas County's 14,446 population, 4,344 (30% of the population) are on Medicaid. Medicare covers another 20% (minus some overlap). The state's Obamacare exchange signed up a paltry 201 people in Las Animas County — fewer than its kids on

CHP+ (239).

Las Animas County saw, on average, every single Medicaid patient in the Emergency Roomn(ER) once. Is this a rational way to provide care?

There are 25 beds in Mount San Rafael, the county's only hospital. Voters last year rejected a tax increase for the hospital's ER facility and other services.

Here's the spooky thing about this Medicaid increase.

On average, of five Coloradans with ordinary insurance, one hits the ER. Ditto if there's no insurance. ER use more than doubles (44%) for Medicaid-covered Coloradans. (Probably because an ER visit is free under Medicaid rather than requiring a hefty copay.)

I roughly estimate Colorado ER facilities will see an extra 100,000 visits. That's 2015 compared to 2010 due to Medicaid expansion. Add in our 8.5% population growth.

Can Colorado's emergency rooms handle this massive traffic boost? Where do needed doctors and nurses come from?

When you take your child to the ER for a critical health need, how stressed will facilities' caregivers be? Even assuming your child gets evaluated immediately? Our ER wait times are below the national average, but it's still 244 minutes (2014 Report Card). That wait time will not shrink.

I promise you that it's not just Mount San Rafael facing inundation. Nor only Las Animas County voters looking at higher taxes. Or seeing revenues diverted

from schools and roads to healthcare needs.

Similar new burdens will hit physicians' practices. Medicaid patients are just two-thirds as likely to get an appointment as a person with private coverage. And that helps explain their high Medicaid ER usage.

How do caregivers survive financially when they aren't adequately paid? For most medical service categories — whether in the ER or physicians' offices — JBC staff found "average reimbursement rates that were less than 80 percent of the Medicare rates." (HCPF staff believes "the volume of Medicaid clients in Colorado is not great enough to significantly affect" at least some care decisions. Is that true even with a million on Medicaid?)

The feds paying most direct Medicaid enrollee costs for a few years doesn't begin to cover this tidal wave.

POST SCRIPT

Of course, some of the Medicaid wave is about money (that we don't have). But it is also about the overloaded admissions clerk after midnight. It's about the nurse who scrambles to manage care and patients' prescriptions. It's about the hospital budget folks balancing different prices for exactly the same care, depending on who's paying. Even a nonprofit hospital can go broke.

Ordinary Coloradans — who won't have access to care — will be the truest losers in this destructive surge of "free" care.

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CHILDREN

From page 15

tell everyone to go to college "because it's to their advantage."

No. It's not, particularly if you go, take on huge amounts of debt and then

FYI... for your information...

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Our office hours are Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

TUMBLING

From page 17

government have generally improved economic growth over those insisting that state-directed spending and governance is best.

... The problem is that states don't invest effectively. States like Texas, Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina, Indiana and others have figured out that economic freedom works.

... The question is why have states nearer the bottom of the ranking not acted on this insight? The answer is likely complicated, but it has much to do with power and control. There will always be leaders who have convinced themselves that they act from superior knowledge and wisdom... However, business leaders are not bound to indulge such delusions... [the Peak emphasis]

A leader who's convinced he has superior knowledge and wisdom, say perhaps to the point that he feels he's above the political fray? Couldn't possibly be our current governor!?

If Hick and his administration have been consistent in one aspect during their time in office, it has been their complete arrogance. Whether they're dealing with fractivists or Sen. King and his proposed aerial fleet, if you disagree with them they think you do it from a point of idiocy. Under Hick's "leadership," this is how CEOs are beginning to view Colorado:

"Colorado is trying to imitate California. We are Colorado-headquartered, but the majority of our capital expansion plans will be in Texas."

Despite how swell of a guy Hickenlooper believes himself to be, and despite how business-friendly he believes himself to be, those who are on the front-line of Colorado's economy think Hickenlooper is leading Colorado down the wrong path. And, no amount of goat holding is going to change that.

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"Takin' It To The House..."

A Calendar And Commentary From The Golden Dome

From: Representative Jim Wilson – HD 60
May 11, 2014

Well, as Yogi Berra said, "It ain't over 'til it's over" – the 69th General Assembly is over! We finished out the 120th day at 10:30 PM on Wednesday the 7th after wading through the 621 bills that crossed our desks this year. We adjourned sine die (with reference to business or proceedings that have been adjourned with no appointed date for resumption), cleaned out our desks and headed home. The good citizens of CO can rest easy until 1/7/ 2015 – we can do no more harm to the state until the 70th General Assembly convenes!

Between now and the convening of the new assembly lies a primary election to finalize the candidate slate for the November general election. The final ballot will include races for our U.S. Senator, our U.S. Reps, the Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, 18 state Senators, and all 65 state Reps plus a host of other county officials. Elections are VERY im-

portant! For example, at the state level, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House are selected by the majority party along with the chairmanship of every committee in both chambers! Currently, the Democrat party controls the Governor's seat, the Senate (18-17), and the House (37-28). Colorado is a targeted state, so watch the "big bucks" that will be spent in the state. Attack ads will become rampant as special interest groups try to focus our attention on reasons why a candidate should not be elected rather than on why they should be elected. This year promises to be nasty – if you do not have DVR, you might want to update your TV service!

On a personal note, the 69th General Assembly was both fascinating and frustrating – not necessarily in that order, depending on the day. However, every day was a learning experience as I worked to understand the process to enable me to better serve HD 60. As a member of the minority, it is a matter of fact that you are not going to have the votes to push through your agenda. The agen-

da belongs to the majority party (another reason elections are important). For example, the minority cannot dictate how the budget will be spent. Trust me, the budget will be spent! The minority has two choices – either they can just vote "no" and watch the money be spent in spite of their vote, or they can build relationships and influence enough votes to get money to be spent in ways that are more acceptable to the minority. I chose option #2 – rather than just vote "no" and be totally ineffective, I found that it was better to build relationships and become somewhat influential. Honestly, I still voted "no" many times, but I was also able to divert some funding to benefit the minority agenda as well.

The battle under the Golden Dome is not over – we are in a kind of "cease fire" until after the elections. The lines will once again be drawn over the environment, marijuana, affordable health care, gun control, _____ (you fill in the blank) but, rest assured, the majority party will drive the agenda. Be sure to get involved and



vote – the direction of Colorado depends on it!

Next week will be the final weekly edition of "Takin' It To The House". I will share the legislative wrap-up of the 69th General Assembly as well as summarize my own bills that made it into law. As always, feel free to call (303-866-2747) or e-mail wilsonforhd60@gmail.com or james.wilson.house@state.co.us. However, since we are out of session, you may want to call my home number at 719-539-4452. Snow? No way...it is May and it is almost summer. Oops, I forgot – this is Colorado....

Yours for HD 60 --
Representative Jim Wilson

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