

2014 Graduates, Ready to Rumble!

by Candi Sage

On Saturday, May 31, thirty-four Custer County High School seniors walked over the bridge, received formal graduation approval and a handshake from Superintendent Chris Selle held a congratulatory hand shake with a School Board member, changed their tassels and before leaving they officially became members of society under a new name of high school ‘Graduate’.

Surrounded by the bleachers full of friends, family and parents, they heard Secondary Principal Barb Jones say, “May you proceed with abundant love and a strength of purpose. Be wise and courageous in your decisions. Be compassionate and forgiving in your relationships. Journey with integrity and boldness. Seek truth and practice justice. May your path be strewn with great joy and God’s richest blessings.”

Salutatorian William Brandon reminded them they will be making their “first step alone” and, “Do not

look at today as the end because it is not, by any means, an end. Today is Day One. It is the dawn of our futures. It is the first step. It is a new beginning.”

Valedictorian Rebecca Tiltonson encouraged them to take a lead in, “choosing their life’s path” and that they go with expectation of becoming who they set out to be. She ended with, “Congratulations Class of 2014 and always remember, you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.” Senior Trevor Hockaday recognized the teachers and said, “I am not alone when I say teachers, mentors, and staff, thank you for leaving your mark on us. I promise you, we will take your mark with us on our journeys. Thank you.”

The seniors each sought out their parents in the crowd to give them the class flower, a blue iris, and met with hugs and a few tears while hearing the class song, “Don’t Stop Believing” by Journey.



Presenting Custer County’s 2014 Graduating Class!

Counselor Troy Bomgardner reminded them that, “the future is always exciting.” Many local businesses and organizations participated in giving scholarships to students. Thirteen seniors will be receiving scholarships for

a collective total of nearly \$572,000.

The 2014 class officers were President Casey Nordyke, Vice President Lane Byerly, Secretary Ashley Schlabach, Treasurer Trevor Hockaday. The Class Moto: “Everything the

Sentinel photo by Candi Sage

light touches is our Kingdom” by Mufasa. The class sponsors were Vania Nameth and Roberta Eggleston. Congratulations to The Graduating Class of 2014; 90th class to graduate from Custer County High School.

Mutton Bustin’ and Ranch Rodeo at the Cowboy Church

Wild West Cowboy Church held another Mutton Bustin’ session on June 1st. It is really exciting to watch the kids have so much fun while learning a skill. It might be small but the kids learn how to work as a team, learn how to win and lose, learn values, and it involves the whole family. The kids that participated Brandon Hiltz, Brook Hiltz, Destiny Routt, and Danny Cain. They all got ribbons for

their ride, with Brook Hiktz taking 1st place. The next Mutton Bustin’ will be on June 15th at 1 p.m.

The Ranch Rodeo has been rescheduled for June 28th, at 5 p.m. The participants need to be in teams of three or four to compete in team penning, roping, sorting, branding, and trailering. The entry fee is \$25 per person, with 70% payback. Contact Sherri Cayce at 512-308-7711 for details.



Danny Cain, Mutton Buster!
Sentinel photo by Carol Clemenson



DeWeese Reservoir Over The Top

Last weekend a flash flood watch was issued for the area around Grape Creek from DeWeese Reservoir in Custer County to the Arkansas River in Fremont County as heavy rains and fast snowmelt put the reservoir over the top. The report stated that the dam was not compromised and was functioning properly.

Sentinel photo by Paul Sage

REMEMBERING D DAY 6 JUNE 1944



VA Scandal:
“Shut up,
Sit down...:
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Obama’s
Transformation
of America
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Colorado’s
Hickenlooper
Economy
page 20

PATRIOT ALERT!

Christian
Responsibility
to Bear Arms
page 19



It is for freedom
that Christ has
set us free.
Stand firm, then,
and do not let
yourselves be
burdened again
by a yoke
of slavery.

Galations 5:1
NIV

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*A different view from
the same mountains!*

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

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

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2013 Associate Member

Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

A NATIONAL SHAME



The health services part of the Department of Veterans Affairs is another overall failure of a big government program. The concept was good initially. But like all big government programs it has become unmanageable. There are simply no incentives for the leaders and employees to actually provide quality and caring care efficiently. They get paid either way. In fact, they get bonuses for lying and distorting the facts about the real care of veterans. In any organization there are good and caring people that want to help and care for those that were injured or exposed to harmful substances while in the service to our country as a member of the armed forces. The problem is that there are far too many that don't care enough, especially the lying leaders. There are plenty of anecdotes about good quality care. The problem is there are thousands of bad anecdotes. We've known for many years that this is a type of socialized medicine and doesn't work for everyone. These government programs have become so big and so protected by federal rules it is not possible to run them efficiently. It is simply a form of rationed care. Can you imagine all the leaders and employers that have been involved

in these shameful practices being exposed now to the public by a few whistleblowers? Hundreds, even thousands, have been party to this. And this is not new. This kind of malpractice and limited care goes back decades. The answer has been to just throw more money at it. Of course that is the solution for all big government programs. More money, more money, and more money is the bureaucrats' answer to just about everything. The problem is that the government has no end to its spending. It has no incentive to do anything in a cost-efficient manner. It has no interest in stopping fraud, waste, and abuse. Why? Because it has an endless supply of money from the taxpayers. The employees have no skin in the game and are not threatened with the loss of their employment. What is their incentive? A personal desire to do well and take care of sick and wounded veterans? Yes, there are some that feel that way, just not enough. Far too many just push papers around and they don't have to look the patients in the eye. Their jobs are secure whether 10 cases are resolved or 100. Their jobs are secure whether 20 veterans are seen and cared for each day or 200. Then you layer

on top of that the management that can manipulate the data and create self-fulfilling prophecies that result in bonuses. That, our fellow citizens, is a recipe for disaster and that is exactly what we have. We have many big government agencies and departments exactly like this. Why are we so surprised? We acknowledge these problems aren't new. The VA budget has grown more than 100% in the last 10 years. And these problems still persist. Have we learned anything? Apparently not! There are already calls for more money. There have been enough false claims by politicians that they will fix this shameful problem. Secretary Eric Shinseki finally was forced to resign. That had to happen. It's sad that it took over a month. Spare us the excuse that he was a wounded veteran himself! That doesn't make a man capable of managing and leading a gargantuan organization. He was not a good leader. He failed the veterans in this country and he had to be fired. It will do nothing to solve the problems and yet it had to be done to make a point. Military commanders are taught that they are responsible for everything their unit does or fails to do. That point here is he went into this job knowing

all these problems existed and did virtually nothing to solve them for over 5 years. We were actually told, by the equally responsible president, that Secretary Shinseki just wasn't told the bad news and that he was too trusting of his subordinates. That is pure and simple poppycock! A good leader seeks out the problems and the truth. Shinseki didn't do that. He had to be held accountable. Bush and his administration also failed to fix these problems during their time. But, they told the Obama administration that they couldn't trust the reporting of the career managers in the Department of Veterans Affairs. A good leader would have rooted out these problems and done something, anything to stop them. This "I just didn't know" claim is beneath the honor and dignity of a man charged with overseeing the care for our wounded and sick veterans and he had to go. His shame is that he didn't do the honorable thing and resign immediately. And what about President Obama? Are we to believe he also was unaware of these problems? That is just not so. His shame is that he campaigned on these very issues since 2007. He told the veterans and the veteran organizations repeatedly that this time was different.

He told us he was going to put the money, manpower and resources in the VA to get the job done. He was going to cut the waiting times and get our veterans the care they deserved, the care they earned. This time would be different he said. Well we now know that wasn't true. For him it was just another broken promise. The administration lied and veterans died. This kind of reaction (I was unaware) and lack of attention and action shouldn't surprise any of us. It is just another example of how President Obama doesn't govern. This lack of care and concern for our sick and wounded veterans is a national shame, and he bears a great deal of that shame. Let's watch closely how the politicians convince us they will fix this problem. Might it be more money?

A closing note today on D-Day: Today marks the 70th Anniversary of the attack to gain a foothold on the continent of Europe. We owe a deep debt of gratitude and respect for the courageous soldiers, marines, seamen, and airmen that flew over, parachuted behind, and stormed the beaches of Normandy 70 years ago today. God Bless them all.

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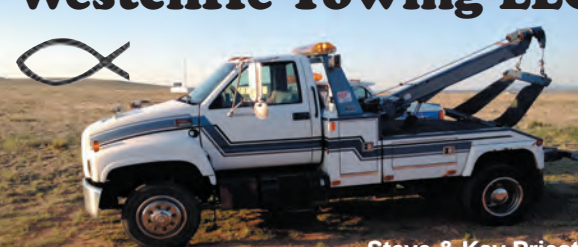
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National Climate Assessment Report-Part I

Regarding the latest Obama Administration proposal that calls for the EPA to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030, Congressman Doug Lamborn released the following statement: "President Obama and the EPA seem determined to artificially increase the cost of energy and harm the pocketbooks of the American people. Americans deserve

an all of the above energy plan that includes clean, cost-efficient coal. I will use my position in Congress to advance comprehensive energy legislation that recognizes the true fiscal and economic realities facing America's families and businesses. Low-cost energy must be a critical part of our nation's energy future."

~ Congressman Doug Lamborn (CO-05)

by Joe Cascarelli,
Westcliffe, CO

I'm a weather junkie. As an educated applied scientist, AKA engineer, I am interested in most aspects of science. This goes back to the 1950s when I rarely missed an episode of "Watch Mr. Wizard." Don Herbert, no-doubt, encouraged a lot of ten year olds to become "nerds." Now, Barack Obama is once again trying to get Americans to take his "global warming"...no, "climate change"...no, now its "climate disruptions" seriously. Frankly, I'm not sure how many will actually read this 840 page report. After all, no one in congress read the "Affordable Care Act," 2400 pages, before they voted on it. The lack of intellectual curiosity of our elected officials is truly amazing.

So, we will likely be treated to a whole plethora of new regulations by unelected bureaucrats based on an unread report which claims to predict what the world's climate will be in 86 years. Now, that would be a trick. The beauty of this report is that few who are alive today will be alive to see if any of the predictions have come true. As usual for government, NO ONE will be held accountable. Right or wrong, the president, the lap-dog media and 40% of Americans will defend what is in this report to their last breath.

Here is the reality of weather forecasting. The U.S. Weather Service has about a 50% accuracy rate and it

is the envy of the world's weather forecasting agencies. That's right. The art and science of forecasting the weather is about the same as a flip of the coin. I do not belittle weather scientists for this accuracy record because I know that forecasting the weather is very complex. Computer models and instrumentation can only do so much. This is why I ask, what kind of a mind would even attempt to forecast what the climate will be in 86 years? Well, if these "climate experts" will never be held accountable, why not give it a try? The gullible in America will take it...hook, line, and sinker.

Let's consider the mind-set of politicians like Al Gore and Barack Obama. They are both lawyers. I wonder which hard sciences they mastered while getting those law degrees. They must take the word of others as gospel truth. Frankly, with these "weather experts" having a 50% accuracy rate about the weather tomorrow, I'd surely be skeptical if I were them. To kick off the fawning over this new report, the President allowed himself to be "interviewed" by several TV weathermen. The dialog was "gripping." People with only a passing knowledge of the subject were viewed while interviewing a man with no climate knowledge what-so-ever. They remind me of the punch-line on the TV commercial, "I'm not a climate expert, but I play one on TV."

If people actually believe

all the "man-caused global warming" rhetoric, why haven't owners of sea side properties started selling it while it isn't underwater? Maybe their gullibility goes only so far. Then there is all that talk about melting ice and drowning polar bears. Try this if you are curious. Fill a glass tumbler with ice cubes and then fill it to the brim with water. What you are doing is simulating the ice floating at the North Pole. You need to think back to 5th grade geography. There is no land mass at the North Pole. There is only ice floating on the ocean. Now watch the glass tumbler while the ice melts. Note that the water NEVER over flows the rim of the glass. Even in the unlikely event that the North Pole ice melts, the sea levels will never increase. Just think about it. This is why all those wealthy Americans who own beach front property are NOT selling.

To be brutally honest, I'm sick of elected officials who never took physics in high school making public policy decisions about what the climate will be in 2100. Custer County had a close brush with Agenda 21, but many members of the community showed up to tell the BOCC that "man caused global warming" or whatever name the president gives it is nonsense.

The climate disruption extremists must get a grip. The whole business over CO2 in the atmosphere is so misunderstood that even the so-called administration experts can't explain it in a way that the general public,

most of whom haven't taken physics in high school either, can understand it. Frankly, I'd love a community debate over the issue. Maybe the C-1 School Administrators would sponsor it. I would be honored to participate.

Scientists Slam Latest
Doomsday Climate Report
- On Background

Climatologists and other experts are blasting a new climate change report from the Obama administration calling it a "litany of doom" that objective scientists won't take seriously.

The National Climate Assessment (NCA), an 840-page report compiled by 300 scientists and experts that was released at a White House event on Tuesday, warns that climate change is a clear and present danger.

"Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present," according to the report.

Rising temperatures, it asserts, will be responsible not only for more drought, wildfires, flooding, and sea level rise, but also an increased risk of heat-related deaths.

The report states that the effects of climate change are evident in every region of the country, according to Gary Yohe, a Wesleyan University economist and vice-chair of the NCA advisory committee.

"One major take-home message is that just about every place in the country has observed that the

climate has changed," he told the Guardian. "It is here and happening and we are not cherry-picking or fear-mongering."

But that is exactly what the experts are seeking to do, critics charge.

Heartland Institute Senior Fellow James Taylor declared: "Leading authors of this report include staffers for activist groups like the Union of Concerned Scientists, Planet Forward, the Nature Conservancy, and Second Nature. Few objective climate experts will take this report seriously.

"Even those scientists who are not overtly affiliated with environmental activist groups were almost uniformly on the record as global warming alarmists before being chosen to write this report."

Mark Morano offered a round-up of reactions to the global warming report on his Climate Depot website.

Former Colorado State University climatologist Dr. Roger Pielke Sr.: "That much of the media accepted the NCA without questioning its findings and conclusions either indicates they are naive or they have chosen to promote a particular agenda and this report fits their goal."

Dr. Judith Curry, chairwoman of the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology: "The report effectively implies that there is no climate change other than what is caused by humans, and that extreme weather events are equiva-

lent to climate change.

"Worse yet is the spin being put on this by the Obama administration."

Competitive Enterprise Institute Senior Fellow Marlo Lewis: The report is "designed to scare people and build political support for unpopular policies such as carbon taxes. Alarmists offer untrue, unrelenting doom and gloom."

Dr. Roy Spencer, principal research scientist at the University of Alabama in Huntsville: Part of the report "is just simply made up. There is no fingerprint of human-caused versus naturally-caused climate change."

Weather Channel Co-founder John Coleman: The report is a "litany of doom," a "total distortion of the data and an agenda-driven, destructive episode of bad science gone berserk."

Climate Depot's Morano said: "By every measure, so-called extreme weather is showing no trend or declining trends on 50-100-year timescales. Droughts, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes are not increasing due to man-made global warming.

"Why does the report now call 'global warming' a new name, so-called 'climate disruption'? Simple answer: Due to earth's failure to warm — no global warming for nearly 18 years — another name was necessary to attempt to gin up fear.

"This report is predetermined science."

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Letters to the Editor

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A Vote for Baltzly for Coroner

I'm writing this letter in support for Brad Baltzly for the office of Custer County Coroner. I have known Brad since we moved to Custer County 14 years ago. From conversations with friends Brad gets high marks in his business practice. We used Brad's crane service when building our home. During the campaigns in Custer County for various positions some candidates and even retiring officials "blow smoke" and use the words "hearsay" and "innuendo" when nothing else relevant can be thought of. We see promises from everyone. We see 20 year old goals that haven't been met.

Brad tells me that in his five years as Deputy Coroner he has over 300 hours of training which is 60 hours a year. How would I know Brad is not "blowing smoke." The answer is quite simple. On May 30th I called the Colorado State Coroner's Office and spoke to the Executive Secretary. I was told that "Brad Baltzly has attended about every course offered along with multiple conferences in the past five years." Brad has done much of this without compensation. Brad Baltzly has the qualifications to be certified but needs current County Coroner to sign off on the process.

A year ago we had several speakers at our SAR meeting who spoke about different aspects of "death in the mountains." After the meeting I received nothing but high marks for Brad. Since Brad announced his candidacy in January the present Coroner has refused to call on him. Why would a manager call upon the fourth string when the first string was available?

Brad is young, energetic, available, computer savvy and willing. Hopefully you will vote for him.

*Bob Pruikma
Former Custer County
SAR 7 year Captain*

Endorsement of Eric Thompson

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Eric Thompson in his bid for election as Sheriff. Eric served for nearly twenty-four years with the Oklahoma City Police Department, a great deal of which he devoted to the administration and development of our Police Athletic League (PAL) program.

In my tenure with PAL, I had the privilege of witnessing substantial growth of that program thanks in large part to the vision and drive of Eric Thompson. His knowledge and ability to apply for and successfully receive incredibly significant

funding from grants and donations lead to the development of wonderful facilities designed to serve at-risk kids.

Eric brought about one of the greatest turning points for PAL in our city. With his strong ability to connect with people and establish partnerships, Eric was able to secure a solid financial future for PAL with what still remains today as our largest fundraiser, Fight Night.

The Oklahoma City Police Department prides itself on the recruitment and training of the best police officers in the country. The duration and experience of Eric's

career with our department lends greatly toward his prospective success as Sheriff.

I am very confident Eric Thompson will serve your community with the distinction and honor expected of every member of our department. I wish him great success in this endeavor.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

*Sincerely,
Major Brian Jennings
Division Commander-
Springlake Briefing Station
(405) 297-1160
brian.jennings@okc.gov*

Big Thanks to Salty Pine for After Prom Support

It must be one of Murphy's Laws...when you leave out a sponsor, it is always one of your most loyal and giving sponsors! So yes, I did it again. In our After Prom thank you, Salty Pine Floral and Boutique was inadvertently left off of our list of sponsors. Pepper and the Salty Pine have been tremendous supporters of our students and school; and not just as After Prom sponsors but with providing flowers

and arrangements to Prom, Homecoming, and just about any event. All it takes is a phone call and Pepper takes care of it! So, my apologies to Salty Pine and thank you for your After Prom sponsorship AND your tremendous support of Custer County Schools!

*Troy Bomgardner
CCHS After Prom Sponsor*

Some Clarification from Eric Thompson

I appreciate the letters to the Editor from Fred (May 22 issue) and Shannon's response (May 29 issue), but there are a few points I would like to clarify.

First of all, the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) is the largest law enforcement organization in the state. The FOP offers legal support to paying professional members when needed, including the threat of civil suits. Importantly, in Colorado the FOP is not a union and does not have jurisdiction in the hiring and firing of police officers.

Shannon made the point that the FOP is not a union here or in other states. He is partially correct in that it's not a union in Colorado. However, in several other states it functions as a

union in that provides labor services for its members.

Secondly, Fred's letter states that some camps are spreading rumors and innuendos about other candidates. I have consistently run a positive campaign and have suggested proactive changes in the sheriff's department without defaming the sheriff or other candidates. For Fred to suggest that my campaign has attacked others is not accurate and his comments are detrimental to all candidates who I view as running straightforward campaigns.

I decided to run for sheriff since I have skills to offer all residents; these skills include my 24 years of policing experience, my Bachelor degree in Human Resource Management and

my years of expertise in law enforcement administration.

Also, I recently learned people inquired about an automobile accident I was involved in 16 years ago. As an Oklahoma City police officer, I was on duty. Blinded by setting sun, I collided with another vehicle. The other driver sued the city and the department settled, as it routinely does. This accident did not negatively affect my career advancement.

Hopefully, this letter clarifies any unanswered questions people may have and that a positive campaign can be maintained by all people involved as we move forward into the election.

*Eric Thompson,
Candidate for Sheriff*

Corruption, Cover Ups, Half-Truths...Will the REAL Please Stand Up?

*Commentary
by Candi Sage*

It is sad that such beautiful surroundings can be filled with any kind of corruption, cover-ups and half-truths, yet these are around us. Then again, there is the human factor; we are all able to falter, cheat, twist the truth, shove what should be transparent under the proverbial rug. It is, to most that are real and honest with themselves a fact of human 'nature' to hide mistakes, talk or fight your way out of a corner, avoid responsibility and accountability especially if it means you will hurt yourself if you don't. There is another part of human 'nature' that is up-right and on the side of what's real and full of truth, unwilling to

hide anything under the proverbial rug, standing up taking responsibility and being accountable for mistakes.

So, here we are: in the midst of tough issues in God's beautiful country and attempting to focus on the good and positive which is of upmost importance... as long as your head is not in the sand about the not-so-positive situations that you can have positive impact on helping to solve before they become too difficult.

One example: the upcoming elections, always a time for slinging mud and within the mud is truth, half-truths, or complete fabrications. I am encouraging each person to not blindly vote via someone else's opinion,

instead do your own research. Take the time to find out and make an informed decision based on a phone call or email to all candidates to speak with them personally, ask the tough questions. Then, gauge for yourself who is most transparent, truthful, trustworthy, responsible and reliable.

Another example: having been to the County Commissioner's meetings with the Clinic board, the EMS meetings with the Clinic board, and a Clinic Board meeting I am continually astounded by their words and actions. Please note that the current Clinic board did not create all the issues they have had to deal with and

**See CORRUPTION
on page 15**

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will want to see a sample. Does your pump blow fuses, trip the reset button or circuit breaker? This is a desperate cry for help. It's past time to get it looked at! Do your lights dim when the pump comes on? If so something's not right. Does your faucet 'belch' air occasionally? It shouldn't.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Inquiry About Sheriff Candidate Thompson's Old Accident Reveals Lack of Transparency



by Paul Sage,
Analysis and
Commentary

(Editor/GG: Paul tried repeatedly to get an interview with Eric last week to discuss this Oklahoma newspaper article. After initially agreeing to an interview, Eric changed his mind and refused an interview. He told Paul that he covered the issue in the letter printed in today's edition in the Letters to the Editor section.)

In a letter to the editor in today's issue of the Sentinel, Sheriff Candidate Eric Thompson makes a brief reference to a traffic accident he was involved in 16 years ago as an Oklahoma City Police Officer in response to inquiries made of him about information forwarded to the Sentinel anonymously from a local source about this accident. Mr. Thompson described the incident as being "blinded by the sun, I collided with another vehicle. The other driver sued the city and the department settled, as it routinely does."

This sounds like a somewhat different incident from the one described fifteen years ago in the Oklahoma City Community College Pioneer newspaper, September 6, 1999, edition describing the accident that involved an Oklahoma City Police Officer "speeding and driving left of center when he ran a stop sign and hit Hulseberg's van." In this incident, "a police investigation concluded that (Eric Thompson) was at fault," according to Oklahoma City Police Sgt. Nate Tarver. That report further states that "Tarver said Thompson was issued no citations, but that some

type of internal action was brought against him. Tarver could not comment on the type of action but he said it did not involve termination or loss of pay." This also matches with Mr. Thompson's assertion that the "accident did not negatively affect my career advancement."

In conversations with Mr. Thompson, he asserted that this was, after all, an accident and that it was a long time ago. Of these facts there can be no doubt, and not wanting to think about it any more than necessary is understandable. However, his letter to the editor does not really clarify "any unanswered questions people may have," and glossing over the less pleasant details of the past is not a luxury afforded to a holder of public office, nor does it necessarily equate with running a "positive campaign." Or indicate that he would "maintain a transparent administration," as he stated in his speech published in the May 29th issue of the Tribune.

The incident Mr. Thompson described as colliding with another vehicle was described in the Pioneer as of such ferocity that "the impact knocked Hulseberg's vehicle into a utility pole. The car eventually came to a stop on top of Thompson's police car." And the other driver who sued the city, Diane Hulseberg, who was on her way to pick up her son from work in her mini-van at the time of the accident, "was taken to Baptist Medical Center in critical condition. She was diagnosed with a broken shoulder, arm, and hip. Several of her fingers were broken, the vertebrae in her neck were damaged, and her ribs were cracked,"

according to the report published in the Pioneer. Nearly a year after her fateful meeting with Mr. Thompson's police cruiser on Delmar Gardens she was still undergoing restorative surgeries and therapy. She had already undergone several previous surgeries resulting in "plates in her hand, screws in her hip and wirelets in her shoulder" after an initial 21 days in the hospital, according to the editor of the Pioneer. At the time of the reporting Ms. Hulseberg was scheduled for another surgery and intense physical therapy in an effort to restore movement to her fingers and hand.

Ms. Hulseberg expressed her disappointment that neither Sgt. Thompson nor the Oklahoma City Police department ever apologized about the accident or her suffering. "It might be different if the police officer or the city had expressed some kind of remorse," the Pioneer reported. "They could have sent me something to say 'I'm sorry,'" Ms. Hulseberg is quoted as saying.

Clearly a settlement of some sort was reached as indicated by Mr. Thompson. Ms. Hulseberg did not respond to an inquiry by the Sentinel, in all likelihood as a result of a gag order imposed with the settlement. Mr. Thompson had not chosen to disclose these facts until questioned about them by the Sentinel, and the resulting disclosure in his letter to the editor was less than complete or transparent.

The original Pioneer story can be found at: http://pioneer.occc.edu/pdfarchives/1999_09_06.pdf http://pioneer.occc.edu/pdfarchives/1999_09_06.pdf

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Silver Cliff Town Board Meeting

by Larry Luikart

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Silver Cliff Town Board began with the Pledge and roll call. All members were in attendance with Mayor Weber presiding.

Dorothy Urban gave a report on the Frontier Pathways Overlook project. The necessary paperwork from the Colorado Department of Transportation and other agencies involved has been approved. The first phase of the project will involve cutting in the entry to the land located at or near mile marker three on Highway 96. A request was made to reduce the permit fees for the project from five hundred ninety dollars to two hundred and ninety-five dollars. The Board approved the request with a unanimous vote.

Major Weber opened a public hearing regarding Ordinance 01-2014 Excavation Permits.

After considerable dis-

cussion regarding various parts of the proposal with no public comments Mayor Weber closed the public hearing. The Board, after returning to regular session, then voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 01-2014 Excavation Permits.

The Board approved the purchase of a side-by-side ATV-type vehicle from Stanwood West for use at the ballpark. The funds for the purchase will come from the current cash-on-hand in the City accounts. An amendment to the budget will be made in the near future to reflect the purchase. The School District currently owns the side-by-side at the ballpark with an understanding Silver Cliff paid for all the maintenance. Mayor Weber and the Board felt it was time to seek a new arrangement allowing both parties to start over. The cost of the vehicle was reported at six thousand dollars with many extras included almost doubling the actual value.

The Silver Dome requested to have fireworks at their location after the show at the lake on July 4th to celebrate thirty continuous years in business. The Board raised several insurance and safety issues during the discussion. They did approve the request with a number of required safety provisions for the display to go forward.

Marty Wolf discussed the recycling project indicating in general the program is moving forward with success. She noted someone is leaving bags of semi-recyclable (some garbage) in front of the bins at the Silver Dome. This creates a very unsanitary and difficult task for those working on the project. Please stop this practice or the bins will be removed.

The Staff reports were heard, the bills were approved for payment and having no public comments requested the meeting adjourned.

Westcliffe Town Board Meeting

by Larry Luikart

The Westcliffe Town Board settled into a two and one – half hour meeting regarding several issues which seemed to require an inordinate amount of debate. Mayor Veltrie opened the meeting with the Pledge and all of the Trustees were present.

The approval of the previous meetings minutes, the Treasurer's report and the approval of the bills took place in short order. There was no old business to discuss so the meeting moved directly into new business.

Bill Cullison, president of the Senior Center gave a report to the board regarding their activities followed by Sheriff Jobe reporting the first quarter results of activities in the Sheriff's Office. Near the end of the Sheriff's report the question of continuing vandalism at the City Parks came to the floor for discussion.

The continued damage done by marauding juveniles has become so serious the Town Board asked the City Attorney to write a park closure ordinance. The Sheriff has been asked to charge those responsible for such damage with vandalism and the Board asked the city curfew for juveniles to be strictly enforced.

Four considerations of request were heard by the Board. The application for the COGO grant to replace existing playground equipment was approved. The Wet Mountain Saddle Club Parade on July 20th was approved. The request to make application for Enhancement Grants with CDOT for 2015, 2016, and 2017 was approved. Donovan Baggett requested an extension to the boundaries of the Entertainment District for the July 4th weekend was approved pending the resolution of insurance building liabilities raised

by the City Attorney.

CART reported the Brew Fest went well with three hundred and fifty people in attendance. The Main Street Manager position is ongoing with a number of resumes received for the position. Paul Wenke reported there is an continuing recruitment process for more candidates.

Paul Wenke requested those individuals not meeting the mowing and weed ordinance to be notified they are in violation and proper steps should be taken to ensure the ordinance is being enforced.

There was some discussion concerning a Jake Brake ordinance and strict enforcement of the speed limit for large trucks inside the city limits.

Hearing no requests for public comment Mayor Veltrie adjourned the meeting.



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Coroner's Job

- Determine the time and manner of death
 - Identify the deceased and take custody of the scene
- Handle the Investigation as needed
 - Depending on the incident, work with various state and county officials:
 - ~DA ~Search & Rescue
 - ~State Patrol ~Neighboring Coroners
 - ~County Commissioners
 - ~Mortuaries ~Hospitals
 - Notify next of kin
- Issue Death Certificates
- Complete all Reports and Paperwork required by the State of Colorado
 - Do the job with the greatest efficiency so that the case can be prosecuted properly if needed

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- Implement up to date policies and procedures
- Establish a code of conduct and accountability for our office
- Establish a well documented and transparent procedure for collection and disposal of prescription Medications
- Standardize reporting procedures to ensure that all investigations stand up well in court
- Work with local law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency personnel and funeral homes

Other Community Service

- Trustee at First Baptist Church of Westcliffe
- Custer County Search and Rescue Board of Directors Member
- Honorary Rotary Club / Paul Harris Fellow
- Custer County Sheriff's Posse Charter Member
- Westcliffe Town Trustee
- Past Member Airport Authority Board
- Former EMT and Ambulance Volunteer
- Treasurer Sangre Snow Runners Club
- Colorado State Coroners Board Member since 2000

**I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR
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JUNE 24th**



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Take Precautions To Avoid Hantavirus

Custer County Public Health Agency Director Gail Stoltzfus RN warns Custer County residents to avoid hantavirus exposure while cleaning cabins or other buildings that were closed up for winter. Hantavirus is a serious and potentially fatal respiratory disease carried by deer mice. When cleaning out rodent-infested structures, people can breathe in dirt and dust contaminated with deer mouse urine and feces and become infected. There have been three confirmed cases of hantavirus in the state this year including one death.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has documented more than 80 cases of hantavirus since it began tracking the disease in 1993. More than one-third of these individuals died from the infection. Most Colorado hantavirus cases happen when people are exposed to deer mouse urine and feces in and around their residences.

People are urged to be particularly careful where there is evidence that mice have been in and around buildings or wood or junk piles. An increase in the number of mice around a home often precedes a person getting the disease.

"Last year's abundant rainfall and the present heavy snowpack have provided moisture for ample vegetation for rodents to eat.

As a result, we see an increase in deer mouse populations," said Dr. Jennifer House, state public health veterinarian at the department. "May, June, and July are the months when most human cases occur. People need to take precautions to prevent exposure to hantavirus before they begin cleaning structures that have evidence of rodent activity."

Dr. House said to ventilate structures before cleaning and spray any accumulation of dust, dirt, and mouse droppings with a mixture of bleach and water. "Never vacuum or sweep an area without first spraying it down," she emphasized. "If you have deer mice around your home, assume there is some risk of exposure to this virus. The more mice, the greater the risk, but some people have been infected by handling a single mouse."

Precautions

- Rodent-proof buildings by plugging holes or other mouse entryways. Conduct year-round rodent control or hire a professional exterminator.
- Keep indoor areas clean, especially kitchens. Dispose of garbage in sealed containers.
- Store food in rodent-proof containers, including food for pets, livestock, and birds.
- Remove rodent hiding places near the home such as wood,

junk and brush piles. Store firewood at least 100 feet from your house. Keep vegetation around the house well-trimmed.

Hantavirus symptoms

Hantavirus normally begins with fever, body aches, headache, and vomiting. The symptoms begin from one to six weeks after exposure.

At first there are no respiratory symptoms. However, the illness can quickly progress to respiratory distress within one to five days. People may have a dry cough and difficulty breathing caused by the lungs filling with fluid.

Because no effective treatment exists for the disease, Dr. House emphasized prevention as the key.

"When hantavirus infection is suspected, early admission to a hospital for careful monitoring is critical. Treatment of symptoms and supportive therapy can be provided in the hospital," Dr. House said. "If you become ill with these symptoms, it is important to tell your physician about possible exposures to deer mice or rodent-infested environments."

For further information, questions or concerns please call Custer County Public Health Agency at 719-783-3369.

Custer County Aviation Museum Moves Forward

by Paul Sage

The Aviation Museum proposed by local resident Bill Geipel moved one step closer to becoming a reality when at the May 30th meeting of the Board of County Commissioner's meeting Mr. Geipel and the Commissioners agreed to a draft of a proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) drawn up by County Attorney John Nailer after consulting with the Commissioners at their May 21st meeting in Wetmore.

The proposed MOU outlines the responsibilities of Mr. Geipel in providing all the necessary engineering studies for the project and holding a surety bond on the project to protect the county from incurring any unforeseen debt related to the museum construction. It also requires that Mr. Geipel make the appropriate arrangements with the Custer County School District to have aviation related programming incorporated into the school curriculum as outlined in his initial proposal. Commissioner Kit Shy commented that he saw this educational part of the project as "one of the main benefits of the project to the county."

For their part the county will agree to waive numerous building permit fees and offer a reduced

lease rate of six cents per square foot per year on the hangar space Mr. Geipel will be building for the museum. A previous sticking point in the negotiations was over the moving of fill dirt from a large hill located on the south end of the airport property to raise the site of the proposed museum facility. In the proposed MOU the county will allow Mr. Geipel to use the dirt available, but will require that he be responsible for moving it as necessary to create his building site.

The draft of the MOU outlines numerous elements of the projects from the moving of the dirt to metering the tap off the existing well at the airport. "I'm good with all of this," Mr. Geipel told the Commissioners in response to the proposal. Commissioner Shy thanked Mr. Geipel for his patience with the length of the process to get to this point, and explained that many of these government processes take more time than anyone would want them to.

Mr. Geipel will now start with his engineering and other preliminary steps in the project. The Memorandum of Understanding will be formalized and signed by both parties. He can then obtain his permits and begin the actual construction process.



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Facebook.com/Byerly for Custer County Sheriff

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Hello, I am Brad L. Baltzly
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- Properly train Deputy Coroners.

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Brad
Baltzly
Custer County Coroner

*I would greatly
appreciate
your vote.*
Brad L. Baltzly

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Local Mountain News & Notices

A Brave Step Into The Unknown

by Candi Sage

Most girls in their early twenties wouldn't dream of traveling on their own. Not so with Destinie Schlabach. Arriving back from Swaziland, Africa she tells of her solo four-month journey and a time when missionaries are getting kicked out of Africa, she is heading in.

Since her freshman year of high school she has wanted to go on a mission trip to help and serve others. The opportunity came through her cousin, Ben Mullett, who had also been on a mission trip and put Destinie in touch with the director of a children's home and orphanage about an hour outside of Mbabane, Swaziland.

The oldest of five children, Destinie suffers with dyslexia and was homeschooled until her junior year before going to Custer County High School. She believes it was God who stretched her, as he did Moses, to accomplish difficult things in light of her inabilities. Even with her inabilities as a reader and writer, she taught English through a translator, provided physical therapy to a young boy with cerebral

palsy, wrote a new curriculum, cared for and worked with the babies. Destinie reports that one of the difficulties in Africa and why there is such a need for help with children is due to the effects of AIDS. What brings the children to the home and orphanage is parents dying of AIDS, lack of food, or the mother being HIV positive.

Some of the difficulties of her time in Africa included not only the sacrifice of everyday comforts, but having to haul water, not being able to talk to her family, traveling by herself, often walking to the capital, Mbabane (an hour away), having to be careful of the illegal marijuana growers all around, and avoiding traveling at night. Even with the difficulties within the land and seeing people living the way they did, she would like to go back to see if there have been changes and growth made in the children as well



Destinie Schlabach with some of children at the home.

courtesy photo

as with the community.

Before leaving Africa, Destinie was able to do some traveling and join a five-day camping African Safari where she saw wild elephants, water buffalo, lions, leopards, giraffes, and rhinos. Included was a three-hour night caving experience. She enjoyed her mission trip and as the culture and traditions of the land left an impression on her, she remains dedicated to her goal of helping and sharing her faith with others.

Guide Dogs Make A Difference For Veterans

We invite veterans, families, and dog lovers to enjoy a FREE special presentation about a program that provides newly blind or visually impaired veterans with the skills to lead a life of safety, security, and independence.

Join us on Monday, June 16, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the West Custer County Library Community Room located at 209 Main Street, Westcliffe, Colorado,

81252. Refreshments will be served.

Sandy Esposito accompanied by Bobby, her guide dog, will share her inspiring true story how Bobby & Guide Dogs of the Desert changed her life by creating opportunities for life-changing independence. This special program is sponsored by the Custer County Lions of the Sangres and the Dundee Memorial Park Association, Inc. We hope to see you there.

Hands-On Henna and Hip Hop Bubble Pop

The West Custer County Library's free Summer Reading program for all ages continues the week of June 9 with bubble experiments and experiential art.

At Hands-On Henna on Wednesday, June 11, teens and adults will learn the ancient art of henna tattooing. A henna expert will teach participants how to do their own temporary henna body art as well as the history behind this multi-cultural art form. Space is limited and advanced registration is

required. The teen class will begin at 3 p.m. and the adult class will begin at 6 p.m. If interested, contact the library to see if there is still space available.

At Hip Hop Bubble Pop, kids will be shaping bubbles, dancing with bubbles and even standing inside of bubbles. This event featuring bubble experiments galore will be held at the Custer County School's multi-purpose room on Thursday, June 12, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and is open to kids entering 5th grade and un-

der. No advanced sign-up is required.

Children, teens, and adults who have not already signed up to earn prizes for keeping up with their reading and experiencing new things this summer can register at the library Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Summer Reading Program and all its events are free.

For more information, please call the library at 783-9138 or visit www.westcusterlibrary.org.



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Full time position available!

Cliffs Action Revitalization Team (Westcliffe/Silver Cliff) is hiring a "Main Street Manager".

This position will be a mix of event facilitator and marketing for the Cliff's businesses and organizations with the purpose of extending the tourist season into the fall, winter, and spring months.

Some work activities to expect:

- Identify target markets outside of the Wet Mountain Valley
- Work with local businesses and organizations to expand the existing events
- Facilitate new events
- Write grants to secure future funding
- Develop and maintain good relationships with local businesses and organizations
- Recruit volunteers

Experience Needed:

- Marketing & sales
- Successful grant writing
- Excellent organizational and communication skills
- Passion for small town community development

Email resumes and questions to cliffsmism@gmail.com

Local Mountain News & Notices

Senior Center Working on Upgrades

by Paul Sage

The local Senior Center has come a long ways since the time in 2012 when it looked like the center might have to close. Two years into the oversight of the new board of directors and with a new cook on board, the center serves meals to a frequently full house at the center. But that is just the beginning of the story, according to center director Bill Cullison. There are frequently other activities going on at the center, and the meals and the other activities aren't just for the 65-plus crowd; everyone is invited to participate.

The center staff are excited about some of the physical improvements in the works for the center. A new heating and air conditioning system is being installed to make the facility more comfortable and cleaner. Presently there is only inefficient electric baseboard heat, and when the windows are opened in the summer for cool-

ing, dust from the nearby alley blows in. The new HVAC system is being installed by local contractor Michael Thiem's Heating & AC and is being paid for by a \$10,000 grant from the Daniels Fund.

In addition, the Senior Center has received a matching grant of \$5000 from the Seegers Foundation for the purchase of a new more efficient oven and stove unit. The center is well on their way to raising their half for the purchase at about \$2200 so far. Any donation to reach this goal can be directed to the Senior Center in the lower level of the Silver Cliff Town Hall. With the addition of these efficiency upgrades, the center's \$500 per month electric bill can be lowered making more money available for the valuable services provided for the community.

An upgrade of the bathroom in the center is also being proposed with possible financial help from the USDA. While the current

facility is "grandfathered" in and is serviceable, the center staff would like to provide a truly ADA qualified handicap accessible bathroom for their patrons. At that time the old inefficient water heater would also be replaced with an efficient and space saving on-demand unit.

Mr. Cullison would like to remind the community that there is a lot going on at the Senior Center and they are there to be of service. Community activities include pool tournaments, potluck dinners with live music, line dancing, and wonderful lunches on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 1:00, for a \$2 donation. All of your donations will help this great center continue to serve our community, and your support is greatly appreciated!

Details of all activities can be found on the center's Facebook page, or call Bill or Roxie Cullison at 719-371-8852 for more information.

Westcliffe Farmers Market Season Begins

The Westcliffe Farmers Market is set to kick-off its 8th season on Wednesday June 11th, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Jess Price Memorial Park on Main Street. The Farmers Market is proud to showcase and support local farmers and handcrafted goods.

To celebrate the summer bounty, the first Farmers Market will include a delicious BBQ prepared by Elin Ganshaw featuring local grass-finished beef from Sangre's Best. Other activities during the kick-off market will include live music by the Free Range Chickens. Lippis Organic Farm will once again anchor the market with Arkansas Valley produce.

This seasonal event is sponsored by the Wet Mountain Valley Food Cooperative. To learn more about participating in the market, stop by the welcome booth at the farmers market or visit the Farmers Market website at: www.westcliffefarmersmarket.com

Local produce, herbal and bee products, baked goods, artwork, and handcrafted items will be for sale. Potential vendors are still welcomed to sign up to vend at the market. Local musicians are invited to bring their instruments down and play throughout the season in a special spot reserved for entertainers.

West Custer County Library Sponsors Workforce Center Workshop

Where should locals go when they need a résumé critiqued? What if they need to upgrade their skills to maintain a job or need for schooling or specialized training to change careers? The West Custer County Library is sponsoring a workshop about these

services available from the Workforce Center and how to access them.

This free workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, at the Library Community Room from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited and will be

on a first-come, first-served basis. The workshop is open to the public and should be of particular interest to job seekers as well as employers. R.S.V.P. is requested, so please contact Vicky Casey at the Cañon City Workforce Center at 719-275-7408 Ext. 104.

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2ND AMENDMENT RALLY AND MARCH JULY 4TH AT THE WESTCLIFFE, CO JULY 4TH PARADE RESTORE THE 2ND AMENDMENT IN COLORADO SUPPORT OUR SHERIFFS



Join the Southern Colorado Patriots Club in their section in the Westcliffe, CO July 4th Parade.
This is the biggest open carry 2nd Amendment march in Colorado!!
Bring your rifles and holstered handguns!
It is Time to STAND UP.

Celebrate and Defend our Constitution. Use it or Lose it! March with your fellow Patriots and make a statement that WE still believe in our Constitution and that we want it RESTORED in Colorado. You have to SHOW UP to make a statement. Bring the family, bring the kids, bring Grandma, bring your friends.
Stand up for your rights.

Assemble at 9:15 AM, July 4th at the east end of Main Street (Hwy 96), Silver Cliff/Westcliffe, CO at the open field just west of the Mining Company Diner (with convenience store and gas station). Look for the Southern Colorado Patriots assembly area (Gadsden Flags, Tea Party Flags, and guns, guns, guns). Plenty of places in town for breakfast and lunch. March is about one mile long, takes about 45 minutes. Short Rally at end of parade.

Firearm Protocol: Rifles: unloaded, safety on, no detachable magazines inserted in rifle, chamber flag appreciated, **MUST BE SLUNG** on shoulder or back. No handling of weapons during the parade. All rifles welcome. Hand Guns: Holstered, open carry. No handling of weapons during the parade.

Any questions email the Southern Colorado Patriots at SCPatriotsClub@aol.com or see the SCP website at scpatriotsclub.com.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcat Scholarship Recipients

Willie Brandon \$5,000 \$1,500 \$10,000 \$1,000 \$10,000	Greenhouse Scholarship University of Colorado-Colorado Springs- Honors Program Kane Scholarship Custer County Medical Foundation Hurliman Scholarship	\$77,000	Kylie Ruzanski \$1,500 \$1,000 \$1,000 \$1,000 \$1,000 \$550 \$1,000 \$2,000 \$2,500 \$3,420 \$1,000	Alumni Scholarship Custer County Cattlewomen Stockgrowers Association A Painted View Ranch Lighthouse Pregnancy Royal Gorge Realtors Custer County Medical Foundation Dan Riggs Colorado State University Ram Grant Colorado State University Commitment to Colorado Stana Adler Memorial/ Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation	\$33,750
Sydney Feldmann \$1,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$1,000 \$500 \$500	Sangre De Cristo Electric Association Custer County Cattlewomens PTSO Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation Richard Wilson Memorial Scholarship	\$5,000	Heather Schlabach \$1,000 \$4,000 \$100 \$250 \$1,750 \$750 \$550	Welcome to the Pack CSU-Pueblo Scholarship Carpet Direct/Crouch Family Scholarship Colorado State University- Pueblo President’s Leadership Program Mel Harmon Chapter of the Air Force Association Ranchers Roost/Cliff Lanes Scholarship Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation Faculty Staff Royal Gorge Realtors	\$8,400
Lily Gerringer \$1,000	Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation/ Hope Peckham Memorial	\$1,000	Rebecca Tillotson \$20,000 \$10,000 \$100 \$1,750 \$1,000 \$200,000	Colorado Christian University Scholarship- Western State University Scholarship- 10,000 per year Mel Harmon Chapter of the Air Force Faculty Staff Masons Daniels Scholarship (<i>up to this amount</i>)	\$322,750
Tyler Havens \$4,000	Colorado State Academic Scholarship	\$16,000	Henry Watson \$500 \$21,480 \$14,000 \$1,500 \$1,500 \$500	John and Mary Dilley Scholarship Gonzaga(Gone-Zag-uh) Dussault Scholarship University of Denver Pioneer Scholarship Emily Hooper Scholarship Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation Altar and Rosary Society Scholarship	\$39,480
Kris Henrich \$1,500 \$1,000 \$150 \$500 \$750 \$500 \$1,000 \$1,000	Alumni Scholarship Black Hills Custer County Women’s Club PTSO Faculty Staff Nacho Mama’s Royal Gorge Art Scholarship Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation/ Community Foundation	\$6,400	Brenda Wilson \$500 \$500 \$18,000 \$1,000 \$1,000 \$500	PEO Altar and Rosary Society Scholarship Johnson and Wales University Merit Scholarship Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation American Legion	\$21,500
Trevor Hockoday \$10,000 \$100	Grant Huber Engineering/ Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation Mel Harmon Chapter of the Air Force Association	\$10,100	Grand Total		\$571,180
Rachel King \$1,500 \$500 \$550 \$2,000 \$1,500	Sangre De Cristo Electric Association Valley Park and Rec Royal Gorge Realtors University of Northern Colorado Scholarship Herman Neige Memorial/ Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation	\$6,050			
Brian O’Connor \$500 \$750 \$500 \$14,000 \$500 \$2,000 \$500	Valley Park and Rec Faculty Staff Lighthouse Pregnancy Regis University Scholarship Altar and Rosary Society Scholarship Chet Haga Memorial/ Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation American Legion	\$60,750			

GREAT JOB BOBCATS!
BEST OF LUCK TO EACH OF YOU!



Mel Harmon Chapter of the Air Force Scholarships

Two students from Custer County High School were nominated to receive the Francisco Garcia Scholarship. Although seniors Heather Schlabach and Trevor Hockaday did not win the main scholarship, they were awarded \$100 each for their efforts and achievements. Both students will be attending CSU Pueblo next year. Presenting the awards is Steve Janssen, VP of Education for the Mel Harmon Chapter of the Air Force Association and Curator of the Southern Colorado Space Museum, both located at the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum. We wish these two outstanding students all the best in their continued education.

courtesy photo by Brenda Janssen

Custer County FFA State Competition

by Noah Tillotson, FFA Reporter

It was a busy month for CCHS FFA members as many of them competed at the State level. The Meats Team which included Ed Berry, Nicole Lorenzen, and Taylor Staton did very well at districts, qualifying to compete at State. As a team, they repeated their excellent performance and placed 15th at State competition.

The Dairy Team, consisting of Casey Brandon, Daniel Brinkley, Symphony Curry, Andrew Feldmann, Ashley Gillum, Chase Hall, Cody Lyons, Seani Millard, and Cody Young did an outstanding job at State competition. Ashley Gillum placed in the bronze category at State as an individual. Sydney Feldmann earned honors in the Bronze division in the State Floriculture Competition.

The FFA leaders also attended the District Leadership Conference that was held in La Junta this month; several members earned district awards. Nicole Lorenzen was selected as District Secretary, and Ashley Gillum earned District Star Greenhand.

Custer County School FFA was also well-represented at the Colorado State FFA Convention in Alamosa during the final week of May. The Parliamentary Procedure team, including William Brandon, Sam Dunlap, Sydney Feldmann, Ethan Gomez, Nicole Lorenzen, and Noah



Ed Berry, Justin Walden, Noah Tillotson, Lane Byerly, Casey Brandon, Sam Dunlap, Ryan Seifkas (Advisor), Andy Feldmann, Ethan Gomez, Seani Millard, Sydney Feldmann, and Willy Brandon (holding the “Most Improved Chapter Award”)

courtesy photo

Tillotson competed against the other District winners, after earning first place in District competition. Although they barely missed the final round, the team was awarded the Silver Award. In addition, Seani Millard received the Bronze Award for her recitation of her district winning “FFA Creed” at the State competition. Ed Berry also received 2nd place in the Heifer Wrangle. Other awards received at State included Lane Byerly who received his State Degree, Nicole Lorenzen who was

awarded the Washington Leadership Conference Scholarship, and the Custer County FFA Chapter that received the Bronze Award for the National Chapter Award Application and was recognized as “Most Improved Chapter.”

Custer County FFA will be welcoming their new FFA Advisor, Lia (Coleman) McGee into the program this summer. Come see the FFA and 4-H members at the Custer County Fair in July!

Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcats Track Team Awards Ceremony

by Jim Silver

The Bobcats Track Team was called together for a final time, but this time there was no running, jumping, or throwing. On Tuesday, May 27th, it was simply to celebrate the end of a successful season. Head Coach Bruce May and Assistant Coach Joy Parrish presented a gold letter "C" award to those who qualified—that is, they "lettered." Eleven members of the team earned letters which meant that they each accumulated at least 40 points over the course of the season based on their placing in the top 8 places of any event (first place is

mentioning once more that Smokey set a school record in shot put: 45'5", and he placed 7th at State in that event.

In the absence of Assistant Coach Brandon Bass, coach of distance runners, Coach May awarded letters to the distance runners who qualified. These qualifiers were 10th grader Jessica Sturtevant and 11th grader Corey Lewenkamp. Corey competed in all three distance runs at State and placed 4th in the 1600m run. Corey also set a school record for that distance this season: 4:33.52. Coach May had a word of appreciation for his time and ef-

hurdles, and Dillon Wommack - sprinter, hurdles and triple jump. Seniors Lilly Gerringer - sprinter, long and triple jump, and Brian O'Connor - high, long, and triple jump. Brian qualified for State in all three events, and he placed 3rd in triple jump.

Throughout the season, the Bobcats have placed well as a team, even though they had a roster of only 18 - 6 girls and 12 boys. Coach May noted that the team always placed above the halfway point every meet. In fact, the 3 boys who went to State placed 13th of 42 schools participating. The



Pictured, left to right: Coach Joy Parrish, Serenity Ham, Sarah Gerringer, Lilly Gerringer, Casey Nordyke, Tyler Havens, Cody Lyons, Denver Mullett, Smokey Solis, Brian O'Connor, Corey Lewenkamp, Dillon Wommack, Katlyn Freeburg, Jessica Sturtevant, Michael Parsons, Coach Bruce May.

worth 10 points). The Bobcats began their season on March 15 and attended 9 more meets to end the regular season on May 10 with the Regional Track Meet. The State Track Meet was held the following week, May 15-17.

Coach May expressed his appreciation in several different directions—first for the seniors on the team who are graduated last week. He noted in particular those he has worked with in the throwing events: Smokey Solis, Tyler Havens, and Casey Nordyke. These three Bobcats were awarded letters. It's worth

fort given to Custer County track and cross-country programs by Coach Bass, with his USMC work ethic passed on to the young athletes.

Coach Joy Parrish handed out the letter awards to the sprinters, jumpers, and hurdlers. These recipients were 9th grader Serenity Ham, who qualified for State in four events - both hurdles races, high jump, and triple jump. Serenity placed 7th in 100m hurdles at State. 10th grader Katlyn Freeburg competed in hurdles, and long and triple jump. 11th graders Denver Mullett - high and triple jump,

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

way Coach Parrish put it, the team was up to the challenge of the bigger meets and were not intimidated by coming up against athletes from even 5-A schools.

The ceremony was about recognizing the athletes, seeing off the seniors, and thanking the parents who were present - for getting the young athletes to the school as early as 4:30 am for yet another bus ride to a track meet. Appreciation back to the coaches was evident from those on stage - both the departing seniors and the younger team members who will be back for more next year.



KidsSight: Custer County Lions Serving Our Community

Custer County Lions of the Sangres volunteers screened 25 pre-schoolers as part of the Custer County School's Readiness Screening this past month. The purpose of the several developmental screenings is to support our youngest students with a good foundation for their path to educational success.

Cañon City Noon Lions Garnet and Chuck Wilcox came with the KidsSight Screen-

ing equipment to support the effort. The free vision screening, using state-of-the-art technology, is effective in detecting vision problems that could lead to lazy eye or other vision problems. This type of vision screening is important because one in twenty children has an undetected vision problem that if left untreated can lead to problems in school. For more information, visit the www.kidsightcolorado.org website.

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Resurfacing
with epoxy
Elite Crete
System

Sentinel Steel
Buildings,
Sales, Erection



KIDS

Friday, June 6, 2014

OPERATION OVERLORD: BATTLE OF NORMANDY

June 6, 1944, World War II -- In remembrance of the seven American members of the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, who were executed in the vicinity of Hemevez, a small farm town in France are as follows:

Pfc Elsworth M. HECK
Pvt Anthony J. HITZTALER
Pvt Andre W. KLING
Pvt Delmar C. McELHANEY
Pfc Daniel B. TILLMAN
Pvt Rboert G. WATSON
Pvt Robert E. WERNER

On this fateful night at 0240, 70 years ago, 14 soldiers of Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 507th PIR, were misdropped over this small village and seven were captured and shot by the local German unit. The villagers buried them but the Allies repatriated them at a later date. The locals built a monument in their memory. Each anniversary the French villagers gather in the church courtyard. The U.S. national anthem is played and they know why it matters and why they gather to remember.

information source: The American Legion Magazine, June 2014

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

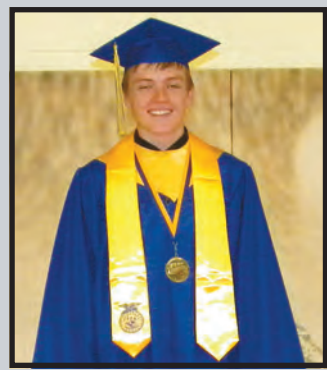
Corner

Custer County High School

Class of 2014

Commencement May 31, 2014

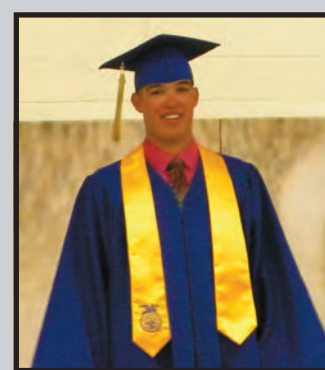
Sentinel Photos by Candi Sage



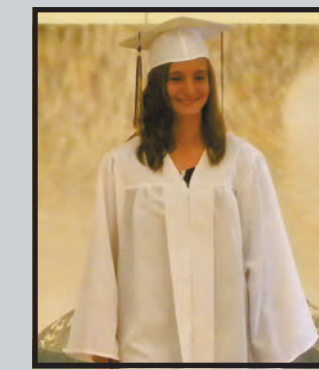
William Mark Brandon
Salutatorian



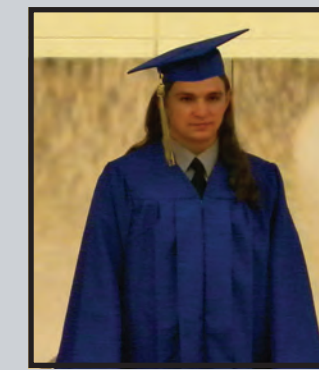
Casey Taylor Nordyke
Class President



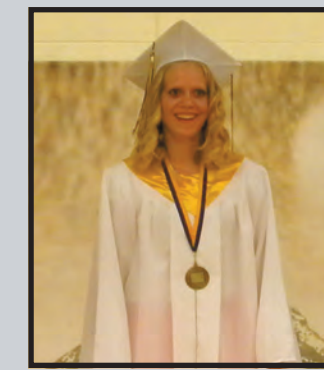
Lane Everet Byerly
Class Vice-President



Ashley Nicole Schlabach
Class Secretary



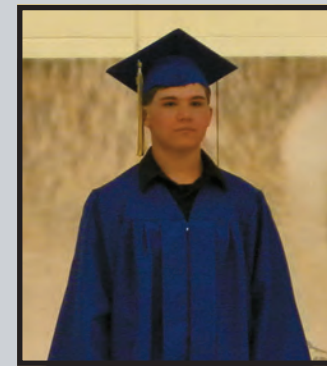
Trevor Dale Hockaday
Class Treasurer



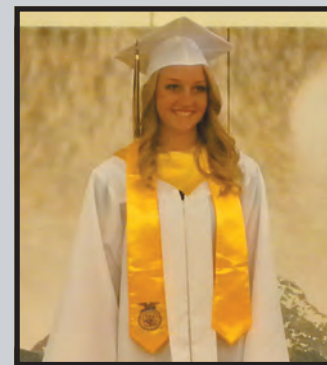
Rebecca Anne Tillotson
Valedictorian



Jamie Leigh Beach



Joshua Trey Carter Jr.



Sydney Anne Feldmann



Rowan Alexander Bell



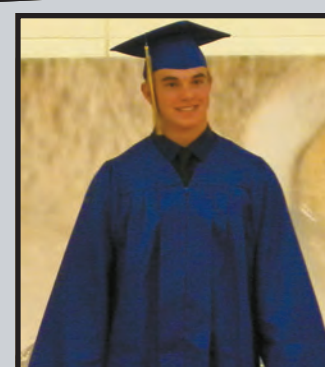
Dace Tanner Curtis



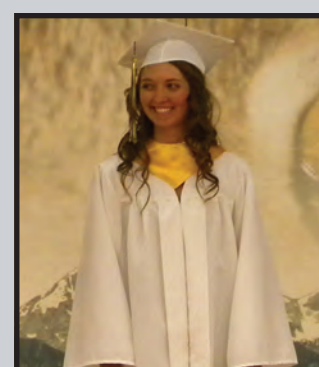
Trevor James Flynn



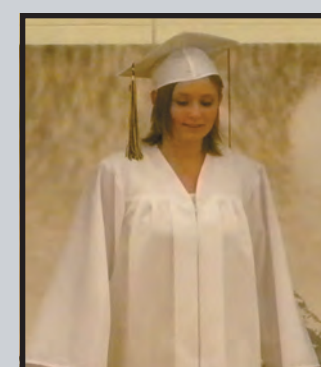
Lillian Elizabeth Gerringner



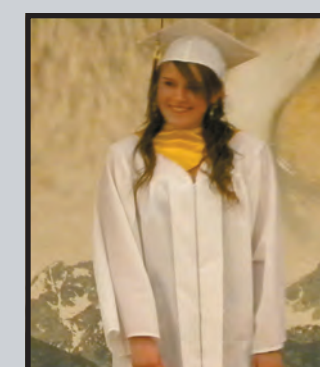
Tyler Christian Havens



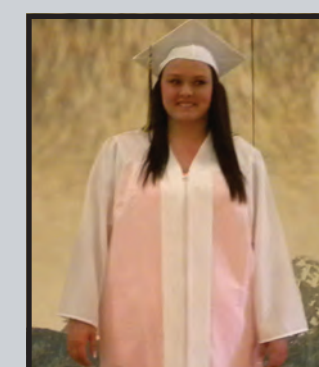
Kristine May Henrich



Caitlin Mae Johnson



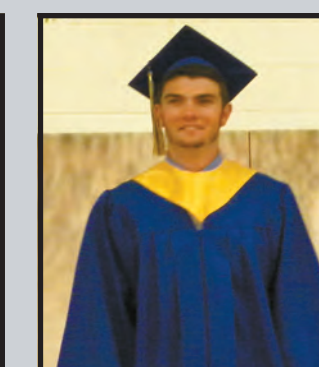
Rachel Nicole King



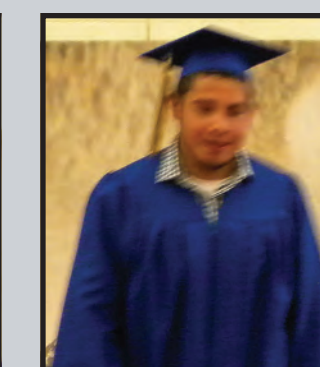
Alyssa Carol Rose
Leuallen



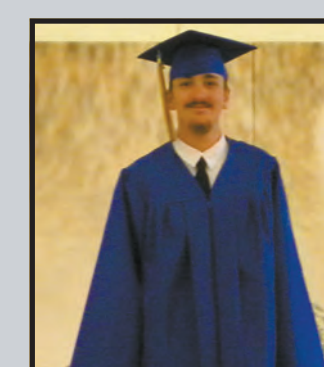
Travis Tschappat Moyer



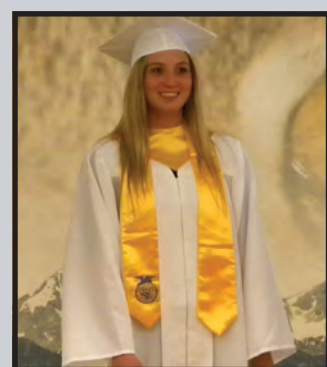
Brian Paul O'Connor



Manuel Lucino
Becerra Pedigo



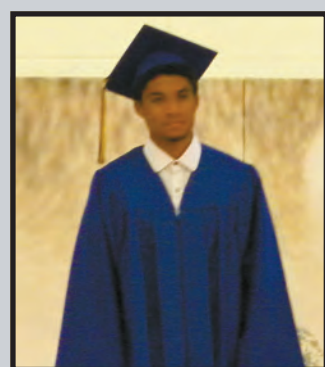
Colin James Rafferty



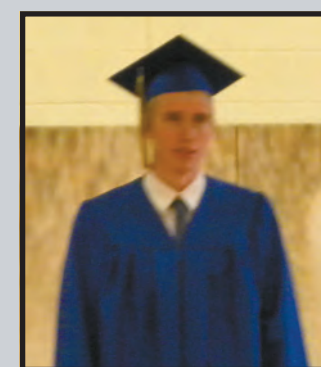
Kylie Jane Ruzanski



Heather Noel Schlabach



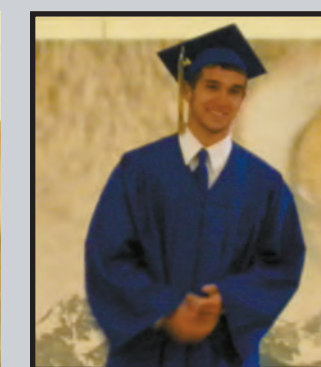
Nathan Paul Schreve



Michael Dean Selden



Smokey Solis



Derek Grant Staton



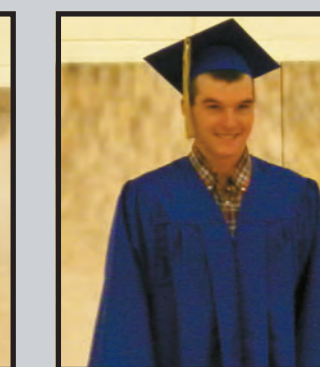
Travis Dean Stuart



Haley Brianna Vieau



Henry Larkin Watson



Tyler Donald Watson



Brenda Marie Wilson

Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

Help Wanted

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

The Custer County School District is accepting applications for a Secretary to the 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.

For Sale

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THRIVE Freeze-Dried Food
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Garage Sale

Multi-family garage sale. Fri-Sat-Sun, June 6, 7, and 8 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sofas, furniture, kitchenware, beds, bedding, and more. 430 L Street, Penrose.

Pets

Adorable mini Teacup Pigs for sale. Only a few left. Great Father's Day Gift! \$500. Call or text for details, 371-4792.

Real Estate

FSBO 206 S. 4th St., Westcliffe. \$110,000 1 or 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath (handicapped friendly), fenced yard. Call for details and pictures (719) 783-0478 or (303) 726-0716

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Tool Sale

Tool Sale/Miscellaneous items June 6, 7, and 8th., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., west side parking lot of Custer County School.

Sen. Larry Crowder Works to Make Improvements

When the Colorado State Legislature finished its session on May 7, over 20 new measures had been enacted, thanks to legislation co-sponsored by Sen. Larry Crowder (R-Alamosa).

Sen. Crowder's legislative efforts focused on three key areas: job creation and economic revitalization, veterans' issues, health-care, and education.

"I'm pleased that we addressed these vitally important issues during this legislative session. Governing isn't always easy, but by building consensus and working for the betterment of all Coloradans, we can move our state in a positive direction," Sen. Crowder said.

Sen. Crowder's efforts in the area of job creation and economic revitalization included measures to:

- Expand broadband Internet service in rural Colorado,
- Provide various tax credits to individuals and businesses that invest in the preservation and rehabilitation of historical buildings, and
- Offer tax credits for bio-gas systems.

Sen. Crowder said he is especially proud of bipartisan efforts to save the Southwest Chief rail line through Southeast Colorado.

The plan to reroute the rail line away from Colorado would have taken 50 jobs and countless tourist dollars. To prevent this from happening, Sen. Crowder met with stakeholders and devised a plan that brought the Amtrak route through Pueblo.

"I couldn't turn my back on Amtrak since the jobs and tourists it brings are vital to communities like Lamar, La Junta, and Trinidad," Sen. Crowder said. The plan devised actually created new jobs by rerouting Amtrak's rail line through Pueblo. Financial impact studies show that by adding Pueblo, ridership may double and ultimately add 50 jobs to the local economy.

Sen. Crowder also worked to improve the health of Coloradans through legislation such as:

- A bill that provides funding for breast and cervical cancer treatment for at-risk populations,
- A bill that calls for trans-

parency in pharmaceutical costs and more competitive pricing in rural areas. "It is important that citizens in southern Colorado receive fair and competitive prices when they fill prescriptions, especially in rural markets where there are few choices of pharmacies," Sen. Crowder said.

- A bill that requires durable medical equipment providers to be licensed with the Colorado Secretary of State before they can bill Medicare for products or services. The bill requires providers to be located within the state of Colorado. "Access to vital durable medical equipment is being jeopardized by suppliers outside the borders of Colorado who win contracts but do not have a physical location in Colorado, do not have inventory available, and do not have employees in Colorado to run the businesses," Sen. Crowder said.

In the realm of education, Sen. Crowder worked to pass the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative which provides higher education tuition assistance to eligible students. The program emphasizes student commitment to education and the Colorado workforce. It will be funded equally between state, non-profit and private contributions.

Veterans' issues are always a priority for Sen. Crowder and this session, he worked to pass legislation that:

- Provides financial support to nonprofit organizations and government agencies that work to improve the health and wellbeing of veterans,
- Recognize and protect the honor of fallen veterans
- Extend the permanent and total disabled veterans property tax exemption to the spouse on their primary residence.

Sen. Crowder supported other legislation during this session as well. For a complete list of bills he co-sponsored, please visit the Colorado General Assembly's website at www.leg.state.co.us.

"I'm pleased I had the opportunity to work on these important legislative initiatives during this session. I look forward to continuing to work on the behalf of the people and diverse interests of southern Colorado in upcoming sessions," Sen. Crowder said.

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.



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**IMPORTANT
DATES
IN FREMONT**

**School Board
Meetings:**

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

**Florence-Penrose
Fremont RE-2
2nd Mon. at 7 p.m.
403 W. 5th St.
Florence**

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

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

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

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

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about an upcoming
event or meeting you
would like to see
printed here, or
covered in an
upcoming issue.
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Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

Is Your Integrity Worth a Parade Down Main Street in the Nude?

The Truth About Recreational Marijuana

by Ashley Smith

As a stay-at-home mother of six active kids it's surprising how often my children help keep my values in check. I'm compelled to stay "in line" as they question why I make the choices I do, and it's usually through the innocent comments of the youngest that I see where my integrity really lies.

It reminds me of "The Emperor's New Clothes" when the openly honest boy states the obvious truth that their leader, the emperor, was fooled into strutting down Main Street in the nude. He didn't have to be a genius to figure that out. The same can be said for the common sense logic our principled youth have about the detriments of recreational marijuana on our community. Even my five burping boys know that endorsing recreational drug use isn't all that proponents

are making it out to be. But, if Fremont County officials cave in and allow permits for businesses to cultivate, manufacture, and sell recreational marijuana, what kind of message are we sending to our youth and future generations?

Cañon City, Florence, and Penrose are all grappling with this highly charged issue. Short-sighted proponents are calling to take advantage of "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to get rich from "sin" taxes. Others say it'll jump-start our economy with jobs. The arguments are about as volatile as the amateur THC labs that have been literally exploding in Colorado homes.

Luckily, we've had time to assess the consequences of legalizing marijuana and new studies continue to roll in. As examples, (a) DUID's in the state of

Colorado have increased, (b) More children are being hospitalized for ingesting marijuana at home, (c) Burglaries in drug homes and businesses are climbing, (d) THC levels, which are considerably more potent than joints smoked in the 60s, are bringing out more violence and even death than expected, (e) Downtown Seattle businesses complain they've been harmed, not helped, by cannabis buyers and climbs in violence. And all this doesn't even touch on the documented surges in physical harm to health and mind.

Just because a law was passed last year on a piece of paper allowing recreational marijuana doesn't magically make its sales and use healthy and risk-free. The medical and law enforcement studies remain the same. Nor is it right to justify promoting and en-

dorsing recreational drug use in order to make a relatively small tax profit. The higher long-term expenses far outweigh the ill-perceived benefits.

This Monday, June 2nd, Cañon City Council is looking to bring the issue to vote on November's ballots and many local residents believe we can easily defeat it. This isn't necessarily the case. In the 2012 election, only 51.24 percent of Fremont County citizens voted to oppose recreational marijuana and in light of the growing "but it's legal now" mentality, the polls are increasingly in favor.

With such an emotionally charged issue our elected officials should do their duty: to research, gather expert council, weigh the pros and cons, and make an educated and rational decision for what's best. Numerous towns in Colorado

have done just that and, as a result, have chosen to ban recreational marijuana sales and production. Our Fremont County Commissioners have already unanimously prohibited the operation of retail and production marijuana facilities in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Although my children help keep my choices of late night television-watching and other questionable activities in line, ultimately, they look to me and to their community to judge what is right or wrong. Is our integrity worth stripping off basic standards of healthy and drug-free living to parade around town like the short-sighted and nude emperor?

We can make all the choices we want, but we can't choose the consequences. Don't let shortsighted people fool you into taking your clothes off.

CMLS Memorial Day Black Powder Shoot

by Steve Barton

Memorial day originated to celebrate the ending of, and to memorialize those who served and died in the Civil War of 1861-1865; it was only later that the holiday was extended to honor those who died in other wars. The Civil War was the last major war fought in the continental United States – over 1% of the entire population died in service of North (Union) and South (Confederate), and was our last major war fought with black powder (a mixture of potassium nitrate, sulfur, and charcoal) as the only significant explosive.

While rimfire cartridges were known – what we know as the "22 short" was introduced in 1857, and a few thousand Henry rifles in 44 rimfire were used by Union, to most soldiers the term "cartridge" meant a paper (or for Maynard and Burnside carbines, brass) tube holding black powder and a bullet, requiring a separate



Who doesn't love black powder cannons??

priming "cap" carried in a pouch. Most rifles, both Springfield and Enfield, were loaded by pouring



Care to try your hand at knife and tomahawk throwing?

powder down the muzzle, then ramming a bullet on top.

The Colorado Muzzle Loader's Society keeps the black powder and muzzle-loading traditions alive

with their annual Memorial Day Shoot at Florence Mountain Park on the north slope of the Wet Moun-

tains. They have a cannon range, a knife-and-tomahawk-throwing range, rifle and pistol or revolver range, and a shotgun range open most of Memorial Day weekend.

Create Cañon City Balloon Classic Draws Hundreds

by Candy Thompson

Memorial Day Weekend saw the culmination of many businesses and organizations in Cañon City coming together to plan a fun-filled event that came off perfectly except for the one thing that could not be controlled, the weather. Create Cañon City visionary Bob Brown teamed with contractor Bob Leck, Tracy Matthews, and Bill Freda as well as many volunteers and sponsors to present a myriad of activities for all ages.

Estes sponsored a model airplane and rocket event and sky divers landed in the Colon Orchard's hay field on Saturday and Sunday, soaring with a huge American flag to honor those who have given their all for their country. On Saturday was the Presentation of the Colors in honor of fallen veterans after the Fort Carson Brass Quintet performed. Bands played on the stage beside the Winery throughout the afternoons as weather permitted, but crowds weren't daunted from coming and relaxing with wine tasting and food vendors.

Friday evening kicked off the weekend with a VIP/Sponsor Appreciation party under a large tent on the site and the teaming up of the balloon sponsors

with their assigned balloon team. Nine teams with balloons came to fly (or float as our pilot Barbi Hann explained). Yes, yours truly and husband, Vernon Thompson, were scheduled for a "float" early Saturday morning in appreciation for supplying the propane for all of the balloons.

Barbi, our pilot, was definitely the most animated of all the pilots, having been an "improv" entertainer as well as having worked in the state Attorney General's office. Her balloon was named Incognito, and had beautiful multicolored stripes. Realizing that there is no steering mechanism, only the propane flame that controls the altitude, we woke up at 4:30 a.m. for the 6 a.m. flight and drove down not knowing what to expect (foremost on my mind was a bathroom visit before a 3 hour flight).

Hundreds of Cañon City residents showed up on Saturday morning to see nine balloons take off. After the huge thunder storm on Friday night, the weather was definitely a concern. Hoping for very little wind and no rain, the crowd waited as the baskets were hauled out and the burners tested. Barbi entertained

**See BALLOONS
on page 22**

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture State, National, & World

The Daily Jot

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

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

President Authorizes Military Force Against Citizens

The occupant of the Oval Office has authorized military force against American citizens in Department of Defense Directive 3025.18, issued on December 29, 2010. The directive assumes presidential authority for the use of force "to quell large-scale, unexpected civil disturbances" and to give civil authorities "assistance in responding with assets with potential for lethality. This support includes loans of arms; vessels or aircraft; or ammunition." Bill Gertz of The Washington Times, whose investigative efforts uncovered the edict, reports that the directive coincides with a buildup of military units within non-security-related federal agencies. A threat to civil liberty? Read on.

The directive states that lethal force may be used against citizens when: "(1) Such activities are necessary to prevent significant loss of life or wanton destruction of property and are necessary to restore governmental function and public order; or, (2) When duly constituted federal, State, or local authorities are unable or decline to provide adequate protection for federal property or federal governmental functions. Federal action, including the use of Federal military forces, is authorized when necessary to protect the federal property or functions." This begs the question: Is the White House "undermining civil liberties under the guise of counterterrorism and counternarcotics efforts"?

The Daily Jot has been documenting stories of federal agencies, such as the IRS, buying ammunition and weapons. Gertz confirms: "Other agencies with SWAT teams reportedly include the Department

of Agriculture, the Railroad Retirement Board, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Office of Personnel Management, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Education Department. The militarization of federal agencies, under little-known statutes that permit deputization of security officials, comes as the White House has launched verbal attacks on private citizens' ownership of firearms despite the fact that most gun owners are law-abiding citizens."

The military build up of non-military federal agencies combined with the White House push for disarming and vilifying citizens is too systematic to be coincidence. From 2009 to 2012, the Department of Homeland Security issued three reports, each profiling gun-owning Christian conservatives as possible terrorists and right-wing extremists. Put two and two together and you have a government granting itself authority to use lethal force on civilians "to protect federal property or functions." The federal government does not own property, the people do. This White House is using your tax dollars to build a tyranny against you. This is criminal and unjust. As Peter and the Apostles said in Acts 5:29, "We ought to obey God rather than men." All law originates from God. An unjust law is no law at all. This directive is not law, and it is unjust.

Read the DOD Directive here: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/302518p.pdf>

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!

Bill Wilson

www.dailyjot.com

by Mac Slavo,
SHTFPlan.com

(Editor/GG: Rumors of this have been floating around for years, maybe decades. Well, the "tin-foil hat" folks were right. Here it is folks, Directive No. 3025.18, giving the president of the U.S. the authority to use our own armed forces against us. Don't forget that Obama granted this power himself, to himself. This is exactly what the Founding Fathers were fearful of. This is flat out tyranny. As the article says, "prepare for the worst". Question for our local veterans: Will our soldiers turn their weapons on the citizens of our country?)

For years the government has been stockpiling weapons, ammunition, riot gear and armored vehicles. Military personnel have been training in tandem with federal and local police using everything from fully armed helicopters to tanks across America's major cities in what appears to be a hybridization of domestic law enforcement agencies. Yet, questions about these shadowy activities have been dismissed by media and public officials as nothing more than training designed to help our country's fight against terrorism at home and abroad.

by Allen West,
AllenBWest.com

Let me state this up front, I stand with ESPN commentator Stephen A. Smith. I am sick and tired of race-baiting pimps in the black community always attacking other blacks because they speak the honest truth. I know what it means to be called an Uncle Tom, sellout, Oreo, white man's porch monkey, and house Negro. Mr. Smith's response to his ignorant accusers was spot on.

This entire episode began with Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban's reference to crossing the street

But while the majority of Americans either have no clue this is happening or simply prefer to keep their heads in the sand, a new report from the Washington Times via Infowars suggests otherwise.

The armaments, training and anti-terror directives, are not for use against terrorists in some far-off war zone like Afghanistan, but rather, are designed for American citizens right here at home.

Yes, you are the target.

The troubling aspect of the directive outlines presidential authority for the use of military arms and forces, including unarmed drones, in operations against domestic unrest.

"This appears to be the latest step in the administration's decision to use force within the United States against its citizens," said a defense official opposed to the directive.

Directive No. 3025.18, "Defense Support of Civil Authorities," was issued Dec. 29, 2010, and states that U.S. commanders "are provided emergency authority under this directive."

"Federal military forces shall not be used to quell civil disturbances unless

specifically authorized by the president in accordance with applicable law or permitted under emergency authority," the directive states.

"In these circumstances, those federal military commanders have the authority, in extraordinary emergency circumstances where prior authorization by the president is impossible and duly constituted local authorities are unable to control the situation, to engage temporarily in activities that are necessary to quell large-scale, unexpected civil disturbances" under two conditions.

The conditions include military support needed "to prevent significant loss of life or wanton destruction of property and are necessary to restore governmental function and public order." A second use is when federal, state, and local authorities "are unable or decline to provide adequate protection for federal property or federal governmental functions."

"Federal action, including the use of federal military forces, is authorized when necessary to protect the federal property or functions," the directive states.

Military assistance can include loans of arms, ammu-

nition, vessels and aircraft. The directive states clearly that it is for engaging civilians during times of unrest.

This is not some conspiracy theory or sensationalist view of government operations. This is an actual military directive to be executed under orders from the President of the United States.

The tens of billions of dollars spent on ensuring that these directives are successful once implemented indicate, in no uncertain terms, that the government is planning on this actually happening at some point in the future. Otherwise, why spend the time, money and effort?

This latest revelation shows that the U.S. government has a plan for quelling widespread civil unrest. It's as if they know it is coming.

Given the evidence, every individual in America should prepare for the worst and assume it is coming too.

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Mark Cuban, Stephan A. Smith and the Dirty Little Secret About Blacks and Racism

to avoid a young black kid in a hoodie or a bald white male with tattoos all over his neck and face — relating to a sense of fear for his personal security.

It's a funny thing —civil rights icon and race hustler entrepreneur, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., admitted 20 years ago, "There is nothing more painful to me at this stage in my life than to walk down the street and hear footsteps and start thinking about robbery. Then look around and see somebody white and feel relieved... After all we have been through. Just to think we can't walk

down our own streets, how humiliating."

So the dirty little secret is that blacks get upset when they're called out for their abhorrent behavior and then lash out at those who are just as black for doing the same. We're at a point in America where the term racism means little to nothing. It has become a political battering ram and a growing number are just simply tired of hearing about it. The fateful result will be that when it actually presents itself, no one will pay attention.

Mark Cuban succumbed to the pressure and apolo-

gized, but he had no reason to, and Stephen A. Smith was right to step in and "cover his six." And you detractors all know that I stand with Smith when he says, "I don't give a ----" what you say about me. The truth prevails, and name-calling just confirms a lack of intellectual rigor.

Welcome to the club, Brother Stephen!

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Honor is a harder master than the law.

~Mark Twain

The VA Scandal - "Shut up, Sit Down, Take a Number, and Maybe We'll See You Before You Die"

by Richard Anthony,
FreedomOutPost.com

Like all of you, I am watching the latest scandal unfold about the Veterans Administration. Am I surprised? No, but what insults my intelligence is the president saying that the situation is "unacceptable." Really? Once again, our president is looking right into the face of the American people and L-Y-I-N-G! Obama knew about the problems with the VA when he took office. Those same problems continued to present themselves during the first four years of his presidency, and all the while he knew about them.

It is obvious that Obama doesn't give a tinkers about what happens to veterans. If he did, these problems would have been taken care of four or five years ago. Instead, he focused on Obamacare, his baby, his signature piece of legislation, which was going to insure not only his legacy, but a place in American history. Well, just like everything else this man has done, problems with the VA are only a small part of a long list of screw-ups.

I am only one of a long list of veterans who have had bad experiences dealing

with the VA. I'll let you in on something. VA employees can say or do anything they want. They can insult you, they can call you names, they can curse at you, they can even threaten you with physical harm, and there's not a thing that you can do about it.

Here's why: the union! VA employees are part of one of the single most powerful unions in this country. As you have seen while watching the news, not even an act of Congress is enough to get a VA employee fired. Maybe if a VA employee was caught red-handed murdering a patient, and they were caught on camera committing the alleged murder, it would still literally take an act of God to get them fired (and that's only "maybe").

I have personally experienced all of the things (except the "murder" part) that I just mentioned. As a patient of the VA, don't you dare say anything remotely offensive, or in a raised voice, because then they put what is known as a "Red Flag" on your records. A "Red Flag" denotes you as a "violent," possibly dangerous person.

What happens then is that every time you have an appointment, prior to being

seen by VA personnel, a VA police officer is called (these are ARMED federal Police mind you), and before you are seen, the officer places himself right outside the office/ treatment room. So much for "Patient Confidentiality," huh? If he feels you are about to harm the VA employee, he has the legal right to burst in the room/office and shoot you dead! That is a stone cold, solid fact - absolutely no exaggeration, folks!

How do I know this? Simple. I have a "Red Flag" on my records, even though I have never, ever threatened, or ever physically harmed a VA employee. Why do I have a "Red Flag" you may ask? I dared tell a VA doctor he was an "A-xxx." That was 10 years ago, and the Red Flag is still on my records.

It was the VA that diagnosed me with PTSD many years ago and I have never received one single dime in disability from them.

Now, don't get me wrong. I appreciate what they do and there are a few kind, decent people who work there, but more often than not, too many VA employees seem to have forgotten that if it weren't for guys like me, they wouldn't even have a job. A VA employee

can say and get away with things that would otherwise, not only get them fired if they were working for a civilian medical facility, but possibly land them in jail and get the hospital sued. But you can't sue the VA (nice huh?). That's "job security" on steroids.

I have never told anyone the things I have just told you about my experiences with the VAMC. The main reason is because nothing would ever get done about it and that's the truth. As other veterans can attest to, I'm sure they have experienced far worse things than I have.

That's what we veterans get for serving our nation faithfully. "Shut up....sit down.... take a number and maybe we'll see you before you die."

Ladies and Gentlemen, if you want to hear something really scary, that's what the future of medicine in the U.S. is headed towards in the next ten years if Obamacare is not repealed.

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Drunk Illegal Alien Who Killed Cop Qualified for Obama Amnesty

by JudicialWatch.org

The drunk driver who killed a veteran Arizona police officer in a head-on freeway collision this month is an illegal immigrant with a criminal history that nevertheless qualified for amnesty under President Obama's broad plan.

Why else would he be free to drive U.S. highways and work off the books as a gardener? The devastating story comes out of Phoenix, where an off-duty Mesa Police Officer (Brandon Mendoza) driving home from work, got slammed head-on. In the other car was Raul Silva Corona, an illegal alien from Chihuahua Mexico with a blood-alcohol level nearly three times the legal limit, according to various news reports.

Officer Mendoza was only 32-years-old and he served 13 years on the Mesa Police Department. Before crashing into him, Corona drove 35 miles along several Phoenix-area freeways in the wrong direction. Authorities received dozens of calls from drivers who saw the drunken man speeding

the wrong way and they tried to pursue him, but couldn't stop him. Both men died instantly and hundreds attended a vigil for the popular officer last week.

Initial news reports did not mention the drunk driver's illegal status or criminal history, probably because it's not politically correct. The media conveniently dismisses these crucial facts as irrelevant, though it's a very important issue. Back in 1994 Corona pleaded guilty to criminal conspiracy in Adams County, Colorado, according to court records obtained by the mainstream news outlet linked above. Evidently, it was part of a deal in which prosecutors dismissed the more serious charges of burglary, assault, and leaving the scene of an accident.

Under Obama's amnesty, tens of thousands of illegal aliens with criminal records more serious than Corona's are being released from U.S. custody. Just last week Judicial Watch reported that in 2013 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) freed 36,007 illegal immigrants

convicted of violent and serious crimes from detention centers throughout the nation. The crimes include homicide, sexual assault, theft, kidnapping, and alcohol-related driving convictions, according to the government's own records. The breathtaking documents were obtained by a nonpartisan research center dedicated to studying immigration issues.

Last summer legislation crafted by the bipartisan Gang of Eight in the U.S. Senate would have granted amnesty to illegal aliens with drunk-driving, domestic violence, aggravated assault, and child abuse convictions. Incredibly, groups that would normally be vocal on these sorts of issues remained silent. For example, the nation's largest organization working to stop drunk driving and support victims of the violent crime—Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)—refused to criticize the proposed law even though it would have rewarded those convicted of driving drunk. Through a spokeswoman, MADD said it "doesn't get involved in immigration matters."

Unbelievably, Corona would have qualified for Obama amnesty before committing the high-profile crime of killing a police officer. Family members have admitted in the media that the illegal alien gardener had been drinking hours before the crash and that they tried to stop him from driving. This guy was a real menace to society yet authorities let him roam freely after his encounter with the law years ago. In a touching farewell to Officer Mendoza published by a local newspaper, a Mesa park ranger writes that the fallen cop worked with troubled youth and helped clean up a crime-infested local park of drugs, alcohol, and prostitutes. "Brandon, sadly unknown to you, you became that last line of defense with assisting your brothers who vowed as you did to 'Protect and Serve' and gave the ultimate sacrifice in order that others may live."

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The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand

2014



Christians Have a Responsibility to Bear Arms to Protect the Church from Her Enemies

by Tim Brown,
FreedomOutPost.com

In recalling recent Islamic terrorist activities in Syria, Malaysia, and the Middle East, Freedom Outpost contributor Theodore Shoebat expounded on the biblical reason for Christians to remain armed: to protect the Church from her enemies.

He said that these modern occurrences remind him of the obligation of the Church to carry arms. He was not speaking in terms of stirring up strife or revolution, but rather he spoke of the use of arms defensively against all those who would seek to do her harm.

"Even Jesus spoke of this when He said, 'Sell your purse and buy a sword,'" Shoebat said. "Of course, there are many interpretations of it, but the physical and temporal application of using a sword to defend one's self can be applied with this verse."

Shoebat claims that the two swords in the passage represent the physical sword for self-defense, while the other sword rep-

resents the spiritual sword, or the Word of God. I'm not necessarily buying into the interpretation, but the reality is that as Christians we are to use both. We use the Word of God in defining law, in pointing out sin, in instructing in righteousness and pointing the way of salvation through the One, true and living God. We also use modern swords (arms of all different types) to defend ourselves, our loved ones, the Church and our neighbors, as well as secure a free state, as Shoebat points out.

Many object to the use of arms by Christians, even going so far as to say that if someone were in your home and had killed your children and was raping your wife that you should merely pray for them. Yes! So-called pastors have even spewed this non-sense. My question to them is, "Is that showing love for them?" The answer is no. It is actually showing cowardice, which I might add, the apostle John says that cowards will find themselves in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8).

Theodore also goes on to point out that the state can use the

sword to protect the Church. We also know from Romans 13, that the state wields the sword for the punishment of evil doers (For more on that topic, I highly recommend my good friend, pastor Gordan Runyan's excellent work Resistance to Tyrants).

While Shoebat pointed out that in an ideal world, there is such thing as a Christian State (a government that rules under the authority of God righteously), he recognizes that in large part, many governments, including our own, seem to have "sold their souls to the devil."

There are numerous examples of those who defended the people of God (the Church) throughout the Old Testament. Before I continue, let me just say that no, the Old Testament is not done away with even though the Messiah has come. It has been fulfilled, but not destroyed. It is still, as the apostle Paul said, "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim. 3:16)

One of the examples Theodore chose to use as an example comes from 1 Samuel 22. King Saul, who was to be the protector of the Church, has now become its persecutor, slaying the priests of the LORD. One of the priests, Abiathar, escapes to David and tells him what has taken place. David says that he knew this would happen, but then goes on to tell Abiathar, "Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard." In other words, David is not going to let anyone harm or kill Abiathar without a fight. What did they fight with in those days? That's right, swords.

This isn't the first time that David had shown his might in defending the people of God against their enemies. If you recall, he also took a sling and some stones, went out against the greatest enemy of Israel, Goliath the Philistine, charged him and slew him and cut off his head with the giant's own sword! What's interesting is how David spoke of killing a lion and a bear to defend the sheep of his pasture. Jesus also spoke of going

after lost sheep and bringing them safely home. To fail to defend the people of God, is to demonstrate a lack of love for them. In fact, it is to demonstrate hate and cowardice.

Jesus would later speak of laying down His life for the sheep. Christ was, and still is, a defender of His sheep and He often employs the means of His people in the defense of His people.

Christians should be those that use the sword of the Word of God to defend the Church against false doctrines and false teachers, but we should also be unafraid and unashamed to use the physical arms we possess to defend the people of God as well. May God grant us courage and strength to demonstrate love for His Church in such a way that we defend Her from the various attacks of Her enemies for His glory.

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Two More Major Restaurant Chains Tell Customers to Leave Their Guns at Home

by Jason Howerton,
TheBlaze.com

(Editor/GG: This is good. The liberal companies are coming out of the closet. Makes it much easier to determine where we can spend our money. Either you believe in our Constitution (here, the 2nd Amendment) or you don't. If a store doesn't support the 2nd Amendment, do NOT spend your money there. Period.)

Sonic and Chili's have joined a handful of other restaurants in asking customers to leave their firearms at home.

The latest decisions come after a viral video showed open carry activists in Texas attempting to visit Sonic and Chili's. They were asked to leave both locations, despite the absence of a company-wide policy on the issue.

"We're asking that customers refrain from bringing guns onto our patios or into our indoor dining areas," Sonic announced on Friday.

Chili's, owned by Brinker International, said in a statement, "We kindly ask that guests refrain from openly carrying firearms into our restaurants and we will continue to follow state and local laws on this



Source: Everytown for Gun Safety

issue."

Judging from Chili's statement, customers are still permitted to carry a concealed firearm as long as they are complying with the applicable state laws. Sonic's statement suggests no guns are welcome at their restaurants.

The announcements were celebrated by anti-gun groups like Everytown for Gun Safety which had created a petition to pressure the restaurants into enforcing a no-gun policy.

Chipotle announced earlier this month that only "authorized law enforcement personnel" should bring guns into their locations, while Starbucks made a similar announcement last year.

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Man Defends Siblings During Home Invasion Shootout - Kills One Intruder, Wounds Another

by Lily Dane,
FreedomOutPost.com

(Editor/GG: Always have an extra magazine available. You never know if it is just one intruder or multiple.)

A 22-year-old man defended his family during a shootout in his California home on Tuesday killing one man and sending another to the hospital.

The man, who was also shot during the incident, was home with his three younger siblings when the break-in occurred. The children's parents were at work.

From the AP: Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux said the 22-year-old man defending his family was also shot in the early morning gun battle but expected

to survive after undergoing surgery. Investigators continue to search for one or two more suspects. Boudreaux said the multiple bullet holes the family's home showed signs of a violent exchange.

Boudreaux said the man was asleep at the home in rural Tulare County near the community of Orosi. At about 5:30 a.m., Boudreaux said he heard somebody kicking down the door, so he took his siblings — ages 8 to 18 — into another room. He grabbed a gun and the shooting started.

Investigators believe this was an attempted home invasion.

Boudreaux said the man fought for his life and those of his siblings: "I can tell you, this was a gun battle," he said, expressing praise

for the man who defended his family. "He was in a fight for his life inside his own home."

When police arrived, they found one of the intruders dead on the driveway. A video surveillance camera at a local hospital showed the injured suspect being dropped off. The suspect underwent surgery and remains in serious condition.

It isn't hard to imagine how differently this would have played out if the 22-year-old hadn't had access to a gun.

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ALL THAT GLITTERS: Why Colorado's Economy Is Failing Under Hickenlooper

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

The Left was out in full force on social media last week, touting what they want Coloradans to believe are great growth numbers. Don't get us wrong Peak-Nation™, we love seeing more Coloradans getting an opportunity to work hard to provide for their families, but we need to be careful and not settle for the swill Gov. John Hickenlooper is hocking right now. We know Colorado has the people, resources, and spirit to lead this country in job growth and innovation, but we all know after these past four years, asking Hickenlooper to lead is like asking Hickenlooper not to drink, or a dog to climb a tree; it just ain't going to happen.

Sure, the raw numbers look good for Colorado's economy: unemployment at 6%, 13K jobs gained in April. But, when we look at the bigger picture,

and especially when we compare ourselves to our neighbors—our most direct competitors—Colorado is mediocre at best, and, in all actuality, falling behind them.

Our Mountain West and Midwest brethren are absolutely crushing Colorado when it comes to unemployment rates. To the north of us: Idaho 5%, Montana 4.8%, little brother, Wyoming 3.7%; to the east of us: Nebraska 3.6%, Iowa 4.3%, Kansas 4.8%; to the south of us: Oklahoma 4.6%, Texas 5.2%; and, to the west of us: Utah 3.8%. Among those listed of our neighboring states, only Texas is remotely close to us with their unemployment rate, and they're still .8% better. Every other state is at least a full percentage point better than us.

If we expand our view to include the entire country,

Colorado's unemployment rate sits at a pedestrian 6% while 25 other states have an unemployment rate below 6%.

Hickenlooper's pro-business persona is nothing more than a slick façade that is masking his milquetoast mediocrity he is pulling the state down to. Were it not for a booming oil and gas industry that Hickenlooper refuses to stick up for, Colorado would find its economic standing more on par with such Democratic dinosaur states like Illinois. It's time for a new governor who can actually lead Colorado's dynamic economy to the top instead of just being another face in the crowd.

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The Recession Is Coming: Economist Warns It's Beyond Control: "I Don't See What Will Save It At This Point"

by Marc Slavo,
SHTFPlan.com

We are on the verge of another recession. So says Shadow Stats economist John Williams who warns that by the end of July it will become apparent to all Americans. That's when the government will release its latest GDP economic figures and, according to Williams those numbers, combined with revisions for the first quarter of 2014, will show negative economic growth for a second quarter in a row, the official definition for recession.

In an interview with Greg Hunter's USA Watchdog, Williams explains that it all boils down to one critical factor. Credit lending has tightened up since the crash of 2008 and without it U.S. consumers don't have enough money to continue fueling the economy through consumption, the single most important element of economic growth.

We're turning down anew. The first quarter should revise into negative territory... and I believe the second quarter will report negative as well.

That will all happen by July 30 when you have the annual revisions to the GDP. In reality the economy is much weaker than

that. Economic growth is overstated with the GDP because they understate inflation which is used in deflating the number...

What we're seeing now is just...we've been barely stagnant and bottomed out...but we're turning down again.

The reason for this is that the consumer is strapped... doesn't have the liquidity to fuel the growth in consumption.

Income...the median household income, net of inflation, is as low as it was in 1967. The average guy is not staying ahead of inflation...

This has been a problem now for decades... You were able to buy consumption from the future by borrowing more money, expanding your debt. Greenspan saw the problem was income, so he encouraged debt expansion.

That all blew apart in 2007/2008...the income problems have continued, but now you don't have the ability to borrow money the way you used to. Without that and the income problems remaining, there's no way that consumption can grow faster than inflation if income isn't.

As a result – personal con-

sumption is more than two thirds of the economy – there's no way you can have positive sustainable growth in the U.S. economy without the consumer being healthy.

It's just not going to happen.

With nearly 50 million Americans on food stamps, a record of over 10 million receiving disability benefits, and millions more depending on unemployment insurance to pay their bills it was only a matter of time before reality caught up with the fuzzy math being used to justify a so-called recovery.

The bottom line is that we, as consumers, have no more money left to throw into the economy. We're using most of it on food, rent, utilities, and now mandated health insurance taxes. And as Williams noted, incomes aren't rising, so without additional credit being pumped directly into the hands of the consumer there is no possible way to keep spending money.

Where is all this headed? Williams warns that the government's failure to address the economy and our national deficits will lead to disastrous consequences.

See RECESSION
on page 23

Vietnam Vet George Barraza Dies While Waiting for Cancer Treatment from Houston VA

by Dean Garrison,
FreedomOutPost.com

(Editor/GG: Local veterans, send us a letter about any problems you have had with the VA. Once we verify your name, we can print the letter anonymously, if you want. Let's get the real story out.)

The allegations surrounding the VA in Phoenix are beyond serious. At least 40 veterans died because of extended wait times for medical treatment. Whether it is proven that these secret waiting lists are factual, or not, may not be the point.

Earlier this week, another whistleblower came forward and claims that a VA supervisor suggested that older veterans should be shot in the head to save money.

Whether any of these allegations are true, the fact remains that the proof of criminal wrongdoing is already there. Veterans, who pledged all for our freedom, are ending up dead because of an inept system of treatment. Whether it is intentional... whether it is conspiratorial... One cannot argue that the results have been tragic.

George Barraza is just the latest story of a veteran who died because the system, that was set up to treat him, proved woefully inadequate.

Click2Houston.com reports: George Barraza love[d] two things in this life: playing the electric guitar with all his heart and this country.

During the Vietnam War, Barraza proudly served in

the U.S. Army.

But on April 16, Barraza, a father of three girls, a chef and an American veteran, died waiting for an appointment at the VA Medical Center in Houston.

At the time of his death, Barraza was battling heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, cirrhosis of the liver, and liver cancer...

Over the next several months, family members said Barraza began to decline physically and he did go to the VA for various tests and other help.

But in March family members said Barraza was suddenly rushed to Methodist Hospital again. This time he was vomiting blood and doctors told him he had a tumor or growth on his liver.

Barraza's family said doctors at that hospital told Barraza he had to get to the VA right away, it was very serious and he needed treatment.

But the very next day, when they took him to the VA Hospital, they said again Barraza was not treated or admitted to the hospital. Instead he was given more prescription medicines and given an appointment more than a month away on May 5.

Barraza died April 16.

Some of the early rumblings are that this will be the biggest scandal of the Obama presidency thus far. We have heard that before but this time it might be true. The implications extend far beyond the treatment of our veterans.

Are we witnessing the fu-

ture of American health care? Whether these "death panels" were planned, or just an unfortunate result of bad legislation, they do exist.

We have just seen evidence in the form of a series of decisions that cost many Patriotic American heroes their lives. That may not be an official "death panel" but the results are, unfortunately, the same.

WE HAVE VOLUNTARILY GIVEN OUR GOVERNMENT THE POWER TO DECIDE WHO LIVES AND WHO DIES.

"Voluntarily" may be a poor word choice because we all remember how Obamacare was rammed down our throats. Veterans have already been there and done that. They have had a poor healthcare system

rammed down their throats for years.

Yet, once again, none of our elected servants will do a ---- thing about it. How many people will die because of long wait times in the future?

You do not need to dress this VA scandal up as any kind of conspiracy to see that it is criminal. Someone should answer for the premature deaths of these veterans.

Is this what we all have to look forward to with Obamacare?

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Obama's Transformation of America - Create an Entire Class of People Dependent on Government

by Richard Anthony,
FreedomOutpost.com

(Editor/GG: Remember what this article says when you vote. Our local and state Dems are true believers of socialism and institutional slavery.)

As we watch the Affordable Care Act lay waste to the healthcare industry in America, the end game result will be a single payer system or socialized medicine because it was not designed to make healthcare either available or affordable to all Americans, but designed to create such chaos, confusion, and anger, that people would beg for a single payer system. Then the takeover of one sixth of this nation's economy will be complete, and everybody will be dependent upon the government to save their very lives. In my youth after my discharge from the United States Army, I worked a myriad of different jobs. My first job after being discharged was working as a hand on an oil rig (or "roughneck") in central Texas. It was incredibly hard, physical work, but the pay was also very good. After that, I drifted across the United States staying with different friends who were still in the army and trying to

find work when and where I could. During that time in my life, I experienced hunger and poverty first hand, but it never occurred to me to ask the government for help. I was taught from a young age that taking a government hand-out was shameful. It took me years of struggle until I was able to have good credit and be able to buy my first home, a home I have lived in for over twenty years, and still do to this very day. I never envied people who had a better car than me, I was never jealous of those who had a larger house than myself. The way I figured it, I had been able, through hard work and sacrifice, to achieve the American dream.

However, during that time I have watched an entire generation of people in this country become addicted to social programs. You see, welfare is not, nor ever was, intended to get people out of poverty. The more certain politicians increased those programs and benefits, the harder it was to get out of poverty. So you could say that government is creating an entire "class" of people dependent on it, only to perpetuate itself. Liberal and Democrat politicians need those people who are addicted to social

programs, to vote for them so that they can keep their cushy, good paying, government jobs. Get the picture? If you can create an entire group of people who are completely dependent on you, you'll always be in control. It's the ultimate gag-reel.

Throughout human history, there are countless examples of two types of people: the ruling class and those that serve the ruling class. We evolved eventually to form a middle class. Those who, through hard work and sacrifice, have managed to pull themselves out of poverty and live a comfortable life. There are always going to be the poor, and no matter how much money we throw at them to make their lives a little more comfortable, we ultimately are not helping them out of poverty. Everybody has heard the saying, "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day, show him how to catch a fish and you feed him for a lifetime." Sadly, we are not doing that because there are those that do not want to be self-reliant. Those individuals, who are content to live on hand-outs, will always be there asking for more. Man will always covet what his neighbor has even though God commands otherwise.

There are the kinds of people that Barack Obama counts on; those who do not wish to work and are content to let others do for them. Over the last six years, he has worked tirelessly to create an entire society that is absolutely dependent upon the government, thereby cementing his position. He ferments jealousy and resentment against the rich, but ironically so, he needs the rich to give him money to further his endless campaign against them. Isn't that a contradiction in itself? An entire generation of social parasites has been created, and voting is the only thing they do for a living.

I'll tell you what that really is: Slavery.

That's what the Democratic Party has always been about. It merely has been repackaged over the years to resemble "charity." Race and class warfare are despicable tactics used by those who wish to be the ruling class. Obama has done an absolute masterful job of using these Alinsky-style tactics to do just that during his time in office. Don't you think if he really wanted to, he could bring us all together instead of pitting us against each other? That was his plan all along, and

some, like myself, have seen this from day one.

But I don't want you to think that I'm letting Republicans off the hook, because I'm not!

Let's face it. The House of Representatives is and has been under Republican control for 4 years. During all that time, what have they been able to accomplish? The Tea Party put them there in 2010, and has kept them there, but as far as being grateful to their constituents and keeping their promise to actually do something to stop Barack Obama.... not so much. To be quite frank, all I have seen over the last four years is political posturing, infighting and at the end of the day, Obama still continues to do whatever he wants. He has told congress that he doesn't need them, because if they don't rubber stamp whatever he wishes, he'll just use his phone and pen to bypass them. But the horrible fear of being seen as a "racist" has stopped most of them in their tracks from doing anything about it. Congressmen and women could put a halt to Obama's outrageous behavior any time they want, so why don't they? Simple. They are afraid of him because of the

color of his skin and don't wish to be seen as "racist." Do you think Obama would have gotten away with half of what he's done if he were white? No, and to prove that I have just two words for you - Bill Clinton.

Dr. Martin Luther King must be rolling over in his grave right now. Instead of being judged by the content of one's character, we have elevated a man to the highest office in the land, merely by the color of his skin, because Obama's resume certainly didn't qualify him for the office he now holds. More importantly, his actions have certainly demonstrated just that.

I'm just saying out loud what the majority of Americans are thinking. Even Hillary is scared to death of Obama. As much as I can't stand her, she should have been elected back in 2008 instead of him.

Remember all these things on Election Day in November.

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The WoodPileReport.com
by Ol' Remus

DC Thanks You for Your Patronage

When a business goes belly up it happens the same way. There are rumors, but there were always rumors. There are odd comings and goings and a string of resignations that nobody talks about. Those things happen. Maintenance has been cut back. Suppliers avoid phone calls. The sales staff spends half their day visiting prospective employers. Times are tough. But one morning it all becomes clear.

CLOSED - EMPLOYEES PLEASE REPORT TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES TEMPORARY OFFICE AT 123 WEST GOODBYE STREET.

Looking back, everything falls into place. It always does. The rumor mill got it right again, it was all so obvious, how could we not have seen this coming?

The place had failed long before Monday's closing. The locked doors and dark buildings are what economists call "realization"—when a loss is entered into the books, when the failure is acknowledged and quantified. The failure happens first, then everybody who's anybody positions themselves for the lightest possible hit, then comes realization time.

And so it is with our economy, default looms and the scramble is on.

The economy has failed. We're insolvent and well into the maneuvering phase. It's both different and the same as "the" Depression. In the 1930s, bank runs happened on the streets, this time they happened on the upper floors of financial institutions, although at the start there was a parallel run on ATMs. By all accounts it was a bloodbath. By all accounts the Federal Reserve was more helpful than their charter, or even simple ethics, allowed. Meanwhile, our creditors see us paying debt with more debt and getting close to where we can't even meet the carrying charges and interest. And worse, we're spiraling into a black hole of prior commitments that couldn't be met by a galaxy of tax-paying planets. Anybody solvent is tip-toeing away, the rest are going Galt or long torches and pitchforks.

It doesn't take esoteric lingo and arcane math to show the problem. Fourth-grade arithmetic will do. We spend more than we take in on the theory that "deficits don't matter". Our debt is now bigger than our income. We're borrowing to pay our debt. Our debt can't help do anything but deepen. Our income is shrinking. Our creditors aren't answering the phone.

The workers who still have a phone are busy networking in the underground economy. Worse, obligations are coming due that we can't possibly pay even if we had no debt at all. Put numbers to these things and you have it.

But all debts must be paid. All debts are paid. There's no such thing as an unpaid debt. If a debtor doesn't repay a loan, it's the creditor who's paid it. Don't be misled by the complexity of the financial plumbing; our debt will be paid by somebody. That's what the maneuvering is all about. The collapse foreseen by anxiety-ridden doomers has already happened, financial Armageddon is behind us, only the details of realization remain. Meaning who takes the bullet and who walks away whole. Always a messy and contentious procedure, this time everybody with an IQ above room temperature knows it's coming.

Security is already walking to the gate, padlock in hand. One way or another, ready or not, this thing is going down. Then the curtain goes up on maneuvering of a different kind.

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A Sheepdog Barks!

Sergeant Bergdahl. A hero or a deserter? My gut knotted up immediately when I watched the Rose Garden Ceremony and as the details of the "POW" swap started to unfold. I strongly believe there is something rotten in Washington, D.C. This is another case of Obama Amateur Hour and rushing to make a bad deal as he rapidly gets us out of Afghanistan. Let's not be too quick to make a hero out of this guy. He may need to be court martialed and jailed right here in America. This story reminds me of the Jessica Lynch one. She was immediately portrayed as a hero, fighting valiantly before she was captured in Iraq. The Bush Administration and the press had a field day, all in the interest of creating a female soldier hero before they knew the facts. After an Iraqi doctor tipped us off she was "rescued" without a shot being fired. Then the truth started to come out. Seems she panicked, hunkered down in the back of her Humvee and didn't fire a shot. After a hero's parade in WVA she finally started telling the truth. What we need here is a complete and honest "swift boating" or truth telling. Bergdahl's platoon and company buddies know exactly what he did and they are telling it exactly like it was. They know him to be a deserter, the worst term one soldier can use about another soldier. It's not used lightly, and when it's used it, is with much contempt. They want him held accountable because good soldiers died because of his actions. Once again Obama and his buffoonish staff have egg all over their face. Susan Rice, the poor misguided and ill-informed lapdog, has already gone onto a few Sunday shows and made a complete fool of herself in order to try and make Obama look good. She actually said that Bergdahl had served his country with "honor and distinction." HOWL! Will she ever learn? She needs to wise up, keep her mouth shut and learn from Hillary. Hillary knew better than to go on the Sunday talk shows and take all the harpoons for Obama even when it was her duty to do so. Hillary is too politically savvy and corrupt to do the right thing and she wasn't about to account for her failed leadership in the Benghazi scandal. Susan,

the poor girl, needs to learn from her past mistakes. Lying for Obama about Benghazi and the video already cost her the Secretary of State job. When will she learn? What a patsy! Honor and Distinction? I think not. Bergdahl may get a hero's welcome back in his Idaho hometown but the rest of America will not be so blind. This man and his father may be America-haters. Read the Rolling Stone article. This was clearly premeditated desertion. The first inkling of trouble for me was when the father used "code" language to his son in both the Rose Garden Ceremony and the press conference in Idaho. I did not like the tone and the carefully chosen words when the father said, "I'm so proud of you for doing what you had to do and how far you went to help the Afghan people." Something just seems a little off. Words like that don't seem to fit the circumstances of a returning hero. When Obama's ill-advised trade, for what is being correctly called the Taliban Dream Team, was discussed a few years ago most of the president's team gave a thumbs down. These guys are too nasty, too dangerous, and too high risk they said. What's changed in a few years? One of Obama's unqualified and inept "advisors" is the current Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel. He is truly a joke. Bergdahl's father said that his son may be having trouble speaking and understanding English. You kidding me? After only 5 years? The guy having trouble here speaking English is the Secretary of Defense. When asked by David Gregory of NBC about the health (since that is the reason Obama says he didn't have time to properly notify Congress) of this deserter, Hagel said these exact words: "He did walk to the extraction helicopter and ah, er, er, ah, er, ah, er perform the basic duties and responsibilities when that process took place." WHAT? Can anybody tell me what that means? Like almost everything else Obama has done as president, this story is full of deceit. WOOF! There's probably nothing wrong with Bergdahl's health that a few Big Macs won't cure. He is being given nutritional supplements we are told. Really? Imagine that! Wonder why the "Fab Five" are not in a hospital



surrounded by psychiatrists and receiving nutritional assistance? Because they were treated better at GITMO than we treat our own veterans. And I must question our senior military leaders here. I no longer trust them. They have all become politically correct careerists, out to make sure they keep their 4 stars in retirement. Many years ago I would have trusted them to do the right thing here. Now I'm not sure. The press tells us the soldiers in Bergdahl's units were required to sign non-disclosure agreements. What in the hades is that all about? Look, this is probably an open and shut case. He deserves to be court-martialed and serve time. He should not be given credit for "held captive as a POW time" as that was a voluntary effort on his part. He knew darn well he would end up in the hands of the Taliban so we must assume that is where he wanted to be. We know he is a deserter. Is he also a collaborator? The facts are pretty clear. There are anti-American emails between him and his father; he mailed his personal belongings home before he deserted; he asked his superiors would it be a problem if he took his equipment; and he failed his country and his comrades-in-arms in a premeditated plan when he walked off. GUILTY, in my book! We will learn a lot more about this guy in the next few months. Here's what I think. He is not an infantryman, but he may be a perfect kind of Obama soldier — a social do-gooder. War is ugly business. Bergdahl was not cut out to be in the military, especially the infantry. He should have been a social worker somewhere or maybe an Obama's White House staffer. With his anti-American thoughts he would have been a good fit. Honor & Distinction? BULL STUFF! WOOF!

May God Have Mercy on America! JMH

BALLOONS

From page 16

lots of children, letting them get in the basket with her and fire up the burners. Sadly at 7 a.m. the event was canceled, but not before two of the teams partially inflated their balloons.

So for three mornings, we mentally prepared to squeeze into that small basket with barely room for three adults and four propane tanks and put our lives in the hands of a stranger and the ever-changing winds over the valley. Sunday morning the sky was sunny and two balloons were inflated but the wind was giving the rope guides a fit with the balloons in danger of being damaged. Another cancellation around 7 a.m. and I breathe another sigh of relief.

On Monday morning, after two cancellations, we were past the initial nerves and ready to go. It was a beautiful clear morning but the wind was near the surface and the trees were an early indication of what was



Balloons in Cañon City.

Sentinel photo by Candy Thompson

to come. Our last chance was scrubbed and the pilots didn't even get the balloons out to inflate.

Over a thousand people attended the Sunday evening balloon event in the field beside the Abbey with all nine balloon burners going like giant candles on the field. Weather didn't permit the inflating of the balloons for a "balloon glow" but lighted windows in the Abbey and the balloon burners made a nice show for the finale of the first but not last hot air balloon event in Cañon City.

Our pilot, Barbi, had a lot

of praise for the people who attended and the planners, saying that the people here were very gracious and some of the nicest she had encountered in her many balloon events. She expressed her disappointment but was looking forward to coming back next year. For an inaugural event, she was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the planners and sponsors and all of the work that was done to make it a success. Thanks to everyone who came together to bring this event to our area. This was a good practice run for an even better event next year.



Colorado City Pays \$25k To Man Arrested For Bringing A Gun To The Movies

by Greg Campbell, DailyCaller.com

A man who was arrested for carrying a holstered handgun into a movie theater a week after the Aurora shootings in 2012 received a \$25,000 settlement check from the city of Thornton last week, according to Denver's 7News.

Jim Mapes had a concealed-carry permit and said he'd carried his gun to the same theater several times in the past. Another theater-goer called 911, saying a man with a weapon had just entered a movie theater. He was originally charged with brandishing the weapon which Mapes denied.

"It never left my holster," he told the station. And although the gun was carried openly rather than being concealed, his lawyer said that's never been against the law in Thornton.

Mapes told Denver's Fox 31 that he was in the same

Thornton theater watching "The Dark Knight Rises" on the night James Holmes opened fire in an Aurora theater across town killing 12 people and injuring at least 70. He had his gun that night too. Police questioned him, but didn't arrest him.

"They had me covered, officers behind and on the sides," he told the station at the time. "Two hundred people in the parking lot but no screaming, no yelling, no scaring the crap out of everybody."

A week later, the police response was much different with Mapes saying the police overreacted because of the shooting the week before.

"So where was the problem that they needed to respond in this manner?" he said. "Just this general perceived thing from the shooting the week before."

His attorney told 7News

that the Aurora shooting was no excuse for arresting law-abiding gun owners.

"Coloradans, with the exception of Denver, have had the right to openly carry firearms since 1865," attorney Robert Wareham said. "We don't take and use the mood of the moment to take away people's rights."

The city eventually dropped the charge, but Mapes sued.

The city settled for \$25,000, but admitted no wrongdoing. Wareham said the check itself was evidence that Mapes' arrest was unwarranted.

"They got to apologize to him in the form of a nice, healthy check," he told 7News.

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RECESSION From page 20

You are not seeing an annual deficit of \$400 or \$500 billion dollars. You are really seeing something close to \$6 trillion.

That is beyond control, and it raises the question of long term solvency of the U.S. It is a big concern for the global markets. It's really the reason why nobody outside the United States wants to hold the dollar. Now, look at the U.S. economy, it is turning down. Economic strength is a big factor in the value of a currency.

As the renewed downturn gains wider acceptance or wider recognition, that will intensify the selling pressure. When someone starts selling, it's going to be a race for the door, and I am looking for a dollar selling panic to be the trigger for the onset of hyperinflation.

What we are seeing in inflation now is a pickup in inflation, but it's not a hyperinflation. Massive dol-

lar selling—that will be the trigger for the hyperinflation.

I don't see what will save it at this point.... Now we are to the point that the dollar has been ignored for years. The federal deficit has been ignored for years. That's what we are on the brink of disaster with, and that is what has to be addressed now, and that's not happening.

The way I see it, the dollar could go to zero in terms of its purchasing power. You don't want to have your assets in U.S. dollars.

John Williams previously forecast that A Domestic Hyperinflationary Environment Should Evolve by 2014. Food prices, gas prices, electricity prices, and the cost of most other essential commodities are rising unabated. Currently, we are seeing an annual rate of inflation for food of over 7%, a level that will lead to serious problems coming into fall.

Now, as Williams predicted earlier this year, a recession

will be apparent once the government is forced to revise their economic growth figures later this summer.

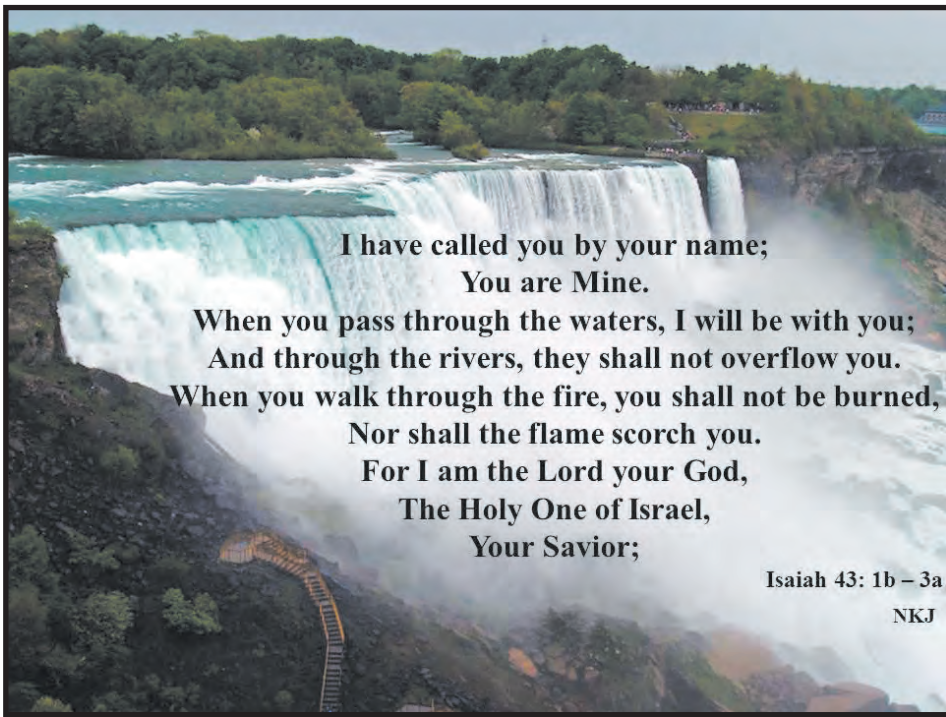
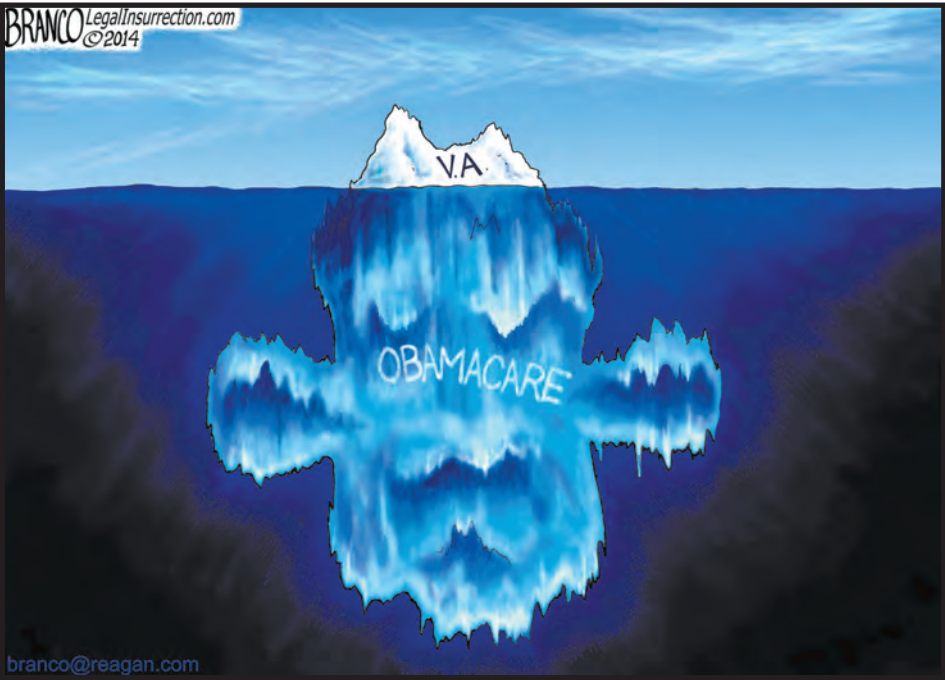
He's two-for-two so far and he says that what we'll begin to see next is a loss of confidence in not just the U.S. economy, but the status of the U.S. dollar as well.

Given the rampant manipulation from government and global central banks, the timing of the end game is elusive. But what we know is that nature always wins out despite our efforts to control it.

This time around, when nature finally shows its economic fury, it could well go down as the largest collapse in the history of the world.

The time to prepare for it is now.

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FYI...

for your information...

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Deadline for all other submissions is noon on Monday, and can be emailed to submittals@sdcsentinel.com

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Please limit Letters to the Editor to 250 words and "We the People" Speak to 500 words. Please include your name, address and phone number.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

WHO'S COUNTING?

US NATIONAL DEBT
\$17,521,759,978,816

SCANDAL SCOREBOARD

FAST & FURIOUS: FIRST CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC WITH THE DEATH OF BORDER PATROL AGENT BRIAN TERRY.

NO RESPONSIBILITY YET!
NOW ON DAY #1,270

1ST AMENDMENT ATTACKS ON U.S. PRESS BEGAN WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPLIED FOR A SEARCH WARRANT AGAINST JAMES ROSEN.

NO ACCOUNTABILITY YET!
NOW ON DAY #942

TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI FOLLOWED BY RELENTLESS LIES AND COVER-UPS.

NO ACCOUNTABILITY YET!
NOW ON DAY #623

IRS TARGETING OF CONSERVATIVE GROUPS ADMITTED BY LOIS LERNER.

NO ACCOUNTABILITY YET!
NOW ON DAY #392

OBAMACARE STARTED ON OCTOBER 1, 2013, BASED ON LIES, INCOMPETENCE AND BUDGET BREAKERS. NEEDS TO BE REPEALED.

NO ACCOUNTABILITY YET!
NOW ON DAY #249

VA NON-TREATMENT OF VETS LEADING TO EXCESSIVE WAITS AND DEATH LISTS.

NO JUSTICE YET!
NOW ON DAY #46

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

From: Representative
Jim Wilson – HD 60
June 1, 2014

“We’re the government and we are here to help.” I am sure that most of us have heard a phrase such as this and thought, “Yeah – right!” Since this is the last of my regular weekly “Takin’ It To The House...” for this session, I thought I might share information about a division of our Colorado government that truly helps the people of HD 60 as well as the other districts across the state.

Upon getting elected two years ago, I got an insider crash course on all the workings of the government of the state of Colorado. While most of the informational meetings left me with a “deer in the headlights” appearance, one of the services offered at the Capitol really got my attention. Located in the basement level of the Capitol is a division of the state government known as Constituent Services. Constituent Services exists solely to help constituents of legislators find answers

to concerns with no apparent solution.

Now do not get me wrong – Constituent Services are not there to answer simple questions that folks have not taken the time on their own to research an answer. Quite the contrary – they take on those frustrating issues that constituents have battled to the point of being ready to “tear their hair out” because of all the dead ends they have encountered. Many of us have been at wits end over such an issue and have wondered, “What else can we do?”

I am glad you asked – that is where your local representative can help. The process is rather simple. Step 1: Contact your representative (in HD60 that would be me...) and let them know the “Reader’s Digest” version of your issue and what you have done to date to get it resolved. If you are truly at a dead end, we would proceed to Step 2: A request to submit a written history of your attempts at resolution, your contact information as well as the contact infor-

mation of the individuals with whom you have been working. At that point, I would submit your request for resolution to Constituent Services. Step 3: Constituent Services would research the issue, contact the appropriate entities and, hopefully, get the issue resolved.

Please understand there are no guarantees in this process. Constituent Services are dedicated public servants – not miracle workers! They know the right people to contact and the right questions to ask. As we all realize, some issues may not have a satisfactory resolution and we just have to move on. However, just the fact that some entities get a call from the Capitol can “nudge” them to seeking a solution.

I have had requests from constituents ranging from automobile equipment recalls, to disability status, to overlooked military awards. If you need assistance in a substantial case that seems to be a dead end in every direction – perhaps Constituent Services could help. If so, please do not



hesitate to give me a call.

Even though this will be the last of my regular weekly updates, I will continue to submit updates regularly during the interim. The primary election is upon us and the general election will not be far behind. Since I am unopposed, I look forward to serving you in the 70th General Assembly. While we are out of session, feel free to call my home number at 719-539-4452 or contact me through my regular e-mail: wilson-forhd60@gmail.com

Yours for HD 60 --
Representative Jim Wilson

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