



Kassi Ryff: Champion at the Snaffle Bit Futurity!

by Jennifer Leiker

With five generations of Wet Mountain Valley ranching in her blood, it’s no surprise that Westcliffe cowgirl Kassi Ryff has made her way to the champion’s circle at the 2014 NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity. Her road to Reno, Nevada, this fall has not been an easy one, but she and her good gelding Chico Flo (Chic Pleas x Scarlet Flo)—affectionately known around the barn as “Howard”—prevailed in the Limited Open Bridle on October 1st.

Ryff has been an avid horsewoman her whole life, active in both 4-H and FFA throughout her Custer

County High School years and serving as a two-time Rodeo Queen in 1999 and 2001. She purchased Howard, a stout bay bridled horse originally bred by Wagonhound Land and Livestock in Douglas, Wyoming. The big gelding had won around \$3,200 prior to the purchase, but his earnings have swelled to \$17,000+ in the past three years with Ryff in the saddle.

“I couldn’t have done any of it without the help of Blue Allen, who found Howard and helped me for my first two years; Keith Vogel, who helped me prepare this year; and Don Murphy, who has taught me more than I imagined possible—and the many

friends who have been so willing to help me learn and improve, and make it to the Snaffle Bit. It’s been my goal since 2011 when I went to Reno for the first time to watch.”

In fact, Ryff and her husband, Dr. Kit Ryff of Mountain Shadows Animal Hospital,

See KASSI on page 11



Kassi Ryff, Champion in the Limited Open Bridle class.

Courtesy photo by Primo Morales

Illegal Pot Plantations In Deer Mountain Area Citizens in Uproar: Guns, Trash, Properties Values Plummet Where is Law Enforcement?

by Barbara Penezic, Tira “Tee” Doran, George Gramlich

Take Copper Gulch road, just north of Westcliffe on Highway 69, north a few miles to the Fremont County border. Cross the border into Fremont County and you will be in the Deer Mountain Fire District, the Glen Vista subdivision, and the Iron Mountain Wilderness area (collectively, the “Deer Mountain” area). You have just entered into a war zone. And that war might be coming here to Custer County soon.

This area has been known for a

long, long time as a safe haven for illegal pot plantations and meth labs. Everybody knows it. Including the Fremont County Sheriff and DA. Residents report there are constant burglaries, robberies, trespassing, armed confrontations and actual gunfights over the illegal pot “grows”. Huge piles of trash left all over. This beautiful, rural area has become literally a dangerous area to be in. During the summer you can drive around the subdivision roads and spot, from your vehicle, dozens of illegal pot plantations. This was happening before the legalization of pot, but now, with Colorado legalizing the growing (in general six plants maximum

per person), it has become an epidemic. The six-plant limit is a joke to these illegal growers. Dozens to hundreds of plants are the norm.

Guess what your property value is when you are next to, or even near, an illegal pot grow? Does the amount of ZERO come to mind? When your “neighbors” are walking around their properties day and night with AR15’s and shotguns, you might find it a little hard to sleep. Gunfire in the middle of the night, and sometimes large volumes of gunfire are heard in late summer during the pot harvest period. This is the world that the good citizens of this area are living in. And it ain’t right.

Finally, after years of futile complaints to the Fremont County authorities, a group of Fremont County citizens have recently formed a group called the Concerned Citizens of Fremont County whose aim is to bring this outrage out in the open and force the police authorities to take action. (The group is also involved in exposing the dangers of the legal pot plantations in the county. The Sentinel will be covering this in the future.)

This group, led by Richard and Susan Hildebrand, held a community meeting at the Deer Mountain Fire District building last Wednesday night and over 80 residents showed up to voice their concerns.

Denice Garrou, a resident of the area says. “There are over twenty grows that are not licensed. We have driveways going in right and left, most of which are so private we are hesitant to go up and see.” They have called every number available to them to report this but have had no response. “We have called the Sheriff’s Office numerous times. The County is not enforcing building permits for the houses going up. They were told to stay away if there was any chance of threat. We are being ignored and this beautiful area is being turned into a dumping ground.”

One gentleman who would not give his name told me (Reporter B.P.), “If anyone tries to tell me I can’t carry my AK-47 on my own property, they’ll get a bullet in the head.” As I looked into those cold gray eyes I knew this was a promise not a threat! Even though several sheriff deputies were standing nearby, I confess a cold chill ran up my spine.

Tallahassee resident Richard Hollabaugh also addressed the Deer Mountain residents, “The good times living in the mountains enjoying nature and your rural life are threatened.” He said, “Until this gets under control we’ve just got to buckle down. We’ve had ‘Cartel

Another Clinic Shocker: EMS Manager Forced to Resign! page 7

Colorado: 550,000 Healthcare Policies to be Canceled page 24

Former Leftist: The Left is “A Very Selfish Group of People” page 23

PATRIOT ALERT!

Christian Persecution in the U.S.: Openly Gay Houston Mayor Demands Pastors Turn Over Sermons page 19



“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5, NKJV



Illegal Pot Plantation (“Grow”) in the Deer Mountain Area, Summer of 2014. One of dozens in the area.

Photo taken by a local concerned citizen

See POT on page 16

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*A different view from
the same mountains!*



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

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

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

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Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

TRUST BIG GOVERNMENT? WHY SHOULD WE?

In 2007, then Senator Barack Obama promised that if he was elected President of the United States he would be a different kind of leader in Washington, D.C. He also said he would restore faith and trust in big government. He also said he would be a uniter. One out of three is not that good. He is, for sure, a different kind of leader. He leads from positions of weakness and inexperience, from ignorance and from behind. On the other two promises he was way off. He is the greatest “divider” president in our history. Maybe his most devastating failed promise is that he would restore faith in our government. Actually this may be impossible to do but he claimed he could do it. It may be that he is actually responsible for lessening our faith in every aspect of big government. There already have been, or are on-going scandals, in almost every agency that he “leads.” The latest problem is in the Center for Disease Control (CDC). A few short weeks ago Obama told us that it was “highly unlikely that Ebola would come to America but that if it did we were prepared.” That was simply wrong and another one of his lies. Everyone else knew that it was highly likely that Ebola would show up in America precisely because of Obama’s policies. He refuses to restrict or stop the travel from those areas

in Western Africa where the disease is originating. When it did arrive every initial action in the first few weeks was wrong and risky. The CDC Director has been weak and uninspiring when he tells us that they know what they are doing. Three weeks later Obama had to hold a White House staff meeting and press conference to tell us they are going to get aggressive NOW. How ridiculous is that? NOW (?) they are going to get serious after two nurses have contracted the deadly virus while following the CDC

***If governments
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manage and
fund the really
necessary ones.***

protocols. Talk about closing the barn doors after all the horses are gone. But that is common practice for this Administration.

First they tell everyone that everything is under control or they were unaware, then that an investigation will be conducted to find those accountable, then they deny any Obama or White House wrongdoing, and finally they blame the media or the Republicans and then provide the “optics” to make it look like they are in control and know what they are doing. It doesn’t work any longer. The CDC was and is unprepared. Nurses with their skin exposed were allowed for several days to treat the Ebola patient that later died. How does that happen? One of the nurses was allowed to fly to Cleveland and back with CDC approval. In Dallas the citizens were told that anyone in direct contact with Mr. Duncan was in a self-controlled and monitored quarantine. Who in the CDC world would approve her travel to Cleveland to potentially expose dozens or even hundreds of other Americans to this deadly virus? Why would the CDC do that? Incompetence, that’s why. Is that person still employed? The liberal progressives, like Pelosi, want us to believe that those “dirty Republicans” are at fault because they “cut” the CDC budget as part of sequestration. Another big lie. Sequestration, by the way, was a bad idea that came from Obama. It’s simply not true anyway. The CDC

budget is about \$2 Billion dollars more a year than it was under Bush. And the liberal progressives must have thought they had plenty of money as Obama, through an Executive Order, told the CDC to study gun violence. We believe maybe they should have been “preparing” America for the known Ebola outbreak! The CDC was ill prepared to protect America and they still don’t believe a travel ban is a good idea. Utter nonsense! Just another example of big government incompetence!

Most Americans rightly don’t trust our big out-of-control government. Why should they? A recent CBS poll found the following approval rates for government agencies: FBI—51%; CIA—44%; Homeland Security—43% (that’s distorted graceful); EPA—39%; Secret Service—38%; CDC—37%; Food & Drug—37%; IRS—31% (too high); and the Veterans Administration—30%. We didn’t see a rating for the NSA which was caught spying on Americans. It should be 0%. The list could go on and on. The CDC—Ebola debacle is just the latest. The CDC Director told us that handling this kind of infectious disease outbreak is what they do and they know how to do it. Maybe not! Just this last Wednesday the CDC had to release NEW protocols because they had it wrong.

They also argued against travel bans or restrictions based on economics of the small countries involved. This is insane. Their only responsibility is to protect the American people and their recommendations about keeping Ebola from American soil should be based solely on that. They have no business involving themselves in economics. It is certainly right that America and the CDC go to Africa and help stop this deadly pandemic. They should not help bring it to America or help it spread once it’s here. Big government is far too arrogant and far too incompetent. It is such a leviathan that our elected leaders are not capable of properly overseeing it. Not enough time in the day because too many non-essential government agencies are meddling in our lives! If governments at all levels weren’t so involved in so many needless and costly intrusions in our lives, maybe the leaders could properly manage and fund the really necessary ones. We urge you to keep this in mind as you vote. One Party wants even bigger government to control even more of our lives while the other Party at least wants a slightly smaller one with slightly less interference in our lives. Let’s at least start with that Party and begin to demand our liberties, freedoms and personal responsibilities back.



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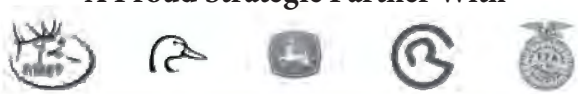
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Election 2014

The Sentinel Endorses Shannon Byerly for Sheriff

Shannon Byerly, winner of the hotly contested Republican primary, is clearly an outstanding candidate for Sheriff. A local boy who grew up in Rye, eight years in the U.S. Navy, veteran of Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom wars, twelve years with the Cañon City Police Department rising to the rank of sergeant, Shannon's police training has been second to none. He is extremely well-connected in the Colorado law enforcement community which will help tremendously with the sheriff's office training program. His involvement over the years with coaching high school basketball at our school also is a huge plus. He is a man with extremely high standards and great organizational skills.

Vote for Byerly for Sheriff.

The Sentinel's Recommendations:

United States Senator

☒ Cory Gardner

Representative To The 114th United States Congress - District 3

☒ Scott R. Tipton

Governor/Lieutenant Governor

☒ Bob Beauprez / Jill Repella

Secretary of State

☒ Wayne W. Williams

State Treasurer

☒ Walker Stapleton

Attorney General

☒ Cynthia Coffman

State Board of Education - Congressional District 3

☒ Marcia Neal

State Representative - District 60

☒ James D. "Jim" Wilson

**CODE RED!
VOTE NO**

on

Colorado Amendment 68

Gambling is a tax.

The amendment has no wording guaranteeing that any of the tax money will go to classroom instruction! The educating bureaucracy will simply devour it and our children will get nothing. Also, the Colorado PTA (Parent Teacher Association) hasn't even endorsed it!

VOTE NO ON 68

VOTE YES

on

Colorado Amendment 67

"Crimes Against Unborn Human Beings Should be subject to the same legal penalties as crimes against human beings who have been born"

~ 2014 State Ballot Information Booklet

**CODE RED!
VOTE NO**

on

Clinic Mill Levy Tax Increase

This is the last item on the ballot entitled "West Custer County Hospital District Ballot Issue 4A"

VOTE NO

URGENT UPDATE: It was just discovered last week that the clinic will be taking \$102,608 out of the estimated \$280,000 tax levy for existing, already-paid-for administration expenses (e.g.: the Executive Director's salary). This has NOT been previously disclosed by the clinic. Vote NO on 4A!

*So much for their claim
that the mill levy is all going to EMS!*

Victim's Family Greaves Over Hickenlooper's "Amnesty" for Mass Murderer

See article on page 24

Cotopaxi Schools: Vote Yes -- Pay Nothing More Cotopaxi School District RE3

Vote Yes on 3A

See article on page 14

VOTE YES

on

Colorado Proposition 104

This proposition forces school districts to open contract negotiations with teacher's unions to the public. Taxpayers have a right to observe the process. Vote YES on Proposition 104. (Please see our Editorial on page 2 for more information.)

VOTE NO

on

Colorado Proposition 105

This proposition would force Colorado producers to specifically label canned or boxed foods that contain any GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms). Poorly worded, conflicts with federal statutes and will cause much hardship to our producers in our state. Vote NO on Proposition 105. (Please see our Editorial on page 2 for further information.)

Judges

*The Sentinel believes two terms for any
elected/appointed office is enough.
More than two - time to go.*



Your Opinions... "We the People" Speak



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

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

Support for the Incumbent Sponsors of the Independence Day Parade

I am responding to the 2015 Independence Day Parade letter regarding proposed rules for those who plan to march. There are three proposed rules and I strongly object to all because they are in direct violation of the Bill of Rights and with local tradition. My reasoning follows:

1. The Westcliffe Board Of Trustees has investigated this issue thoroughly. At two official meetings at which I was present as a trustee, the Westcliffe mayor asked the sheriff if carrying open or concealed (with a valid CCW) was legal and he replied without reservation that marching with firearms either loaded or unloaded violated no laws. The BOT should be aware that banning the carrying of firearms in a parade would

expose the town to a federal lawsuit. Such a ban would be a clear violation of the Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights and the First Amendment precedent regarding free expression.

2. The banning of pro-Second Amendment and/or political signs would be a clear violation of the First Amendment's free speech guarantee. Further, it has been a long tradition in the community to allow the carrying of political signs in all parades. In an election year, nearly all candidates for local office march, hand out brochures, and hold "Vote For..." signs. I'm confident that over the past 15 years that I've been a resident, that I've seen numerous signs held by Democrat candidates.

3. The attempted prohibi-

tion of "the right of the people peaceably to assemble" which limits government from interfering with free speech is ridiculous. This proposed limit is clearly in violation of the First Amendment. Secondly, the self-appointed parade committee has no standing to even attempt to ban rallies. This proposal is chilling on its face.

I urge Westcliffe BOT and the CC Democrat Central Committee to abandon this un-American effort. The Wild West Cowboy Church is the incumbent sponsor and must be allowed to conduct the 2015 Independence Day parade without interference.

*Joe Cascarelli,
resident Westcliffe
and former Westcliffe
Trustee*

Voting Democrat or Republican

Raised with Democratic principles, support for President John F. Kennedy, the Ten Commandments, and my mother's religion, I thought my foundation was firm.

Just ten short years after Kennedy's assassination, this President who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," the Democratic Party took a turn away from the old democratic views and changed history in 1973 by supporting abortion. As I aged, this became the first and biggest 'game changer' for me because abortion certainly affects two lives, not only the life of the baby, but also the mother, and potentially the father. Not to mention that it is a slap in the face of God.

Hugh Brown, President and CEO of AKA Printing and Mailing, recently wrote in an article entitled, "Viewpoint" and printed in the September-October 2014 Issue of Celebrate Life Magazine said when asked if he was a Democrat or Republican he states he responds:

"Since 1973, the Democratic Party has facilitated the deaths of over 60,000,000 innocent preborn children through decriminalized surgical and medical abortion. They have embraced every form of killing: surgical abortion, chemical abor-

tion, medical abortion, infanticide, and outright murder. They have embraced perversity and homosexuality as a God-given right, and have demonized timeless moral truth and those who stand for virtue. Their deception is relentless, and many of them shamelessly profess, in the same breath, that they are 'Christians'."

For some time I have been concerned with those claiming to be Christians and then stepping inside the voting booth or filling out a mail-in ballot, voting nothing close to Christian, biblical, and Godly directives for our community, state or nation based on the Christian faith.

We will always be divided, unless we stand on the same foundation created just for us. Therein lies the division and the issue; we are free to choose what to believe and have been given free will to choose our foundation. I am quite thankful for the free will to choose, yet it is obvious in our own country and all over the world that people do have different foundational beliefs that separate us and cause us to be divided.

If you are professing to be a Christian, it is your responsibility to investigate the issues beyond reading the ballot initiatives, since more often than not just by the mere verbiage those initiatives confound

and confuse the wisest of men. If you are professing to be a Christian, it is your responsibility to vote for life, those who support life, biblical standards regarding family and marriage, and those regarding work, finances, governing, etc.

The Bible is not Democratic or Republic per se, but a Christian can look at both party platforms, or any party platform for that matter, and know which is closer to God's edicts and Christ's life and teachings. God's word is firm; on what we are judged by, and about the deceptions of darkness that are in this world.

Wake up, Christian, and pay close attention to your vote and the ramifications, being fully aware of man's deceptiveness. The 'greater good' is not one party's directives, but God's and God's alone. If you are an American, you have already been given (by your birth in this country and during this particular time in history) part of His plan to make a difference and change the direction of our nation by your vote to move closer to Godly directives rather than farther away.

I pray we all seek His wisdom before voting in this 2014 election.

*Candi Sage,
Rural Custer County*

Still on the Fence about the Hospital District Mill Levy Increase?

Editor:

Ballots are now in voters' hands, but many folks may still be on the fence about the hospital district mill levy issue, and many have already decided, but whether it is voted up or down, perhaps my observations are still useful and certainly are valid.

For context, I am not politically inclined nor am I a lobbyist. My resume details are not necessary, but I am privileged to have worked in the medical field since 1981 in a number of capacities in various settings, including clinics and emergency services. I'm not a disgruntled EMS or clinic employee, past or present. I'm a full-time community citizen and local taxpayer. I've kept up with the discussions and participated in various meetings. Like many others, I have personal experiences with the clinic to substantiate my concerns (for example,

how are services provided, billed to one insurance company then months later the same services are billed to a different insurance company under a different patient's name, payment received, and when brought to their attention, no follow-up is provided?), but I still believe we need the clinic and the EMS, not one or the other.

This topic has been discussed ad nauseam across several venues. So here's my point. Approving the mill levy for the hospital district is voting to continue uncertainty, confusion, ambiguity, and potentially further mismanagement of funds. We all agree we want or need medical services and we're willing to pay for them. What we don't want and need is to pay and then have our money mismanaged and not receive the quality of care that is entirely possible both through the clinic and EMS. From

personally talking with some EMS crew members, even with the financial concerns for their department and salaries, they do not all support the mill levy as it is written on the current ballot. It's time to stop discussing, arguing, whining, and blaming. If this is approved, we better get involved and actively require accountability with our tax dollars. But it's still uncertain about EMS being its own special district, joining with fire, staying where it is or some other solution, and if the mill levy is approved and history repeats itself, the money will not be only for EMS (as the ballot issue want you to believe), and we will be left with a continued need to fund emergency services. If there is even a question as to whether this could or will happen, we must vote NO on ballot issue 4A.

*Michelle Pedigo,
Rural Westcliffe*

A Word of Thanks from Our Rodeo Queen

Dear Editor,

My name is Katlyn Freeburg. I'm 16 years old and a junior at Custer County High School. This year I have the honor of representing the Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club as the 2015 Rodeo Queen. I would like to introduce my court: Brittanee Bohannan as Queen's Attendant, Grace Flynn as Miss Stampede, and Brook Flynn as princess. We look forward to having a great year representing Custer County.

I would like to thank everyone who came to the pageant on Saturday, October 11th. There was a great turn out. Also, I would like to thank all four judges who came from different parts of the state to judge us. I would like to thank the visiting royalty that came from Huerfano and Chaffee County to support us. The arena at the saddle club was flooded due to recent rains so we were

unable to ride there during the competition, so Glenn and Carol McNitt were generous enough to allow us to use their indoor arena, a huge Thank You to them! All of this could not have been possible without Stephanie Miller who organized practices, planned the pageant, and made sure everything ran smoothly. And of course, this could not have been achieved without the support of the Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club and its members. I am sure there are many more people who worked behind the scenes and we would like to thank all of them also.

This year is going to be great and I am really looking forward to fulfilling my dream of being Rodeo Queen.

*Katlyn Freeburg
2015 WMVSC Rodeo Queen*

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1Peter 5:8, NKJV

"We the People" Speak

From CO Senator Crowder, on Senator Udall's Comment

I, along with many others, was taken aback when Senator Udall stated Benghazi was a non issue in a recent debate with Rep. Cory Gardner. To state that this was an issue of no importance was just what a non-veteran politician would say. On one hand, political leaders claim to support the troops and when the reality of doing this comes about, then they downplay.

I realize that the loss of life at Benghazi was a delegation of consultants, but the fact remains that two of these people were Navy Seals who, in coming to the aid of the

Ambassador, died. To say this is a non-issue by Senator Udall slaps in the face of all military personnel and veterans. All the public is asking for is the truth. Why were forces, that were ready and willing to assist,asked to stand down?

With Veterans Day coming, I would think it appropriate to not only honor these men and woman in uniform, but to be honest and forthright with them.

Senator Larry Crowder
Southern Colorado

No Postage = No Vote? NOT

I was in town today (Monday/20th) and heard something that made me laugh and sad at the same time. Seems the leader of the Democratic Party of Custer County is saying that if you put anything other than a 49 cent stamp on your ballot, the Post Office won't mail it. If you lick/stick 4/10 cent & 9/1 cent stamps

or any combo like that, it won't get mailed. Your vote won't get counted according to the Democratic Party leader. This is not a wild @## claim, it's been verified.

So you can put any combo you want (49/1 cent) and IT WILL GET MAILED. Now if you are a poor liberal and all you have is your

free phone, you can still vote and the post office will forward it to the courthouse where the county clerk will pay postage. PLEASE DON'T DO THIS unless you can't afford 49 cents.

The Democrats just won't stop!

Dave Englen,
Rural Westcliffe

Not a Rebuttal to The Custer County "Twilight Zone" but a Few Facts

To be eligible for nomination, election, or appointment to the office of sheriff the following qualifications are:

30-10-501.5 Qualifications - A person must be a citizen of the U.S., citizen of the state of Colorado, and is a resident of the county to which the person is to be appointed or elected; Possesses a high school diploma or its equivalent or a college degree; Has had a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency. Such law enforcement agency shall forward the fingerprints to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation shall notify the County Clerk and Recorder of the county wherein the person is a candidate of the results of the finger print analysis.

The results shall determine if the individual is qualified or not to run for the office of sheriff.

30-10-501.6 Training - Every person elected or appointed to the office of sheriff for the first time shall:

attend a minimum of eighty clock hours at a new sheriff training course developed and facilitated either by the county sheriffs of Colorado incorporated, or any other training resource agency approved by the Colorado peace officers standards and training board; obtain basic peace officer certification within one year of taking office; every sheriff must possess basic peace officer certification and shall undergo at least twenty clock hours of in-service training provided by the county sheriffs of Colorado incorporated, every year during such sheriff's term.

If an individual wishes to run for the office of sheriff and meets the qualifications set forth in 30-10-501.5 and either received the nomination of the parties, receives the required number of signatures if petitioning onto the ballot, or files an intent to be a write-in candidate by the required time frame, they are eligible to be on the ballot. Every candidate that has their name printed on the November Ballot has complied with the required

election laws in Title 32 of the Colorado Revised Statutes.

I would urge anyone who has questions or concerns to stop by the office. I am very open to answering any questions you might have, reviewing the election laws with you, and let you listen to the audio of the commissioner's meeting of July 23rd where I stated to the commissioners that Larry Sanders name would be placed on the ballot.

The commissioners did not make any decision of whose name went on the ballot and they do not deserve to have stones cast at them. What the commissioners did say at the meeting was, "they thanked Mrs. Livengood for her commitment and fairness."

It is not my job to pick and choose who goes on the ballot, nor is it my job to determine who the best candidate is. It is my job however, to treat every candidate fairly and equally.

Debbie Livengood,
Custer County Clerk

Expression of Appreciation for Two Previous Hospital District Board Members

I want to personally express my thanks and appreciation to Chuck Ippolito and Ken Lankford for serving on the WCCHD Board. These two members spoke up in financial support and recognition of our Ambulance Corps, EMTs and the EMS Services in our community. Unfortunately, their pleas and efforts were ignored and

fell on the deaf ears of the WCCHB Board Members and the Executive Director of the Custer County Medical Center. Sadly, as a result, our community is in jeopardy of losing the dedication and commitment of our life saving care-givers.

Kris Lang,
Rural Custer County

Good Point on the 35.4%

Having just finished reading last week's Sentinel from cover to cover, and am appreciative of the information and opinions provided for my consideration, I have a bone to pick. In an article entitled, "The 35.4 Percent:" speaking of those who are on welfare or otherwise receive benefits from the government, it alludes to those who received Social Security and Medicare in the same category of those who are on welfare, food stamps, low-cost housing, Medicaid, etc., etc., even though described a little differently (non-means-tested).

My husband and I both worked for the government before we retired. Prior to that, we worked in the private sector and paid Social Security taxes. I did not work long enough to receive a government retirement, but my husband did. As a blue-collar worker, his wages were no higher under government pay scales than they would have been in the public sector - actually they were less. Consequently, his retirement is a pittance compared to the retirements of many public sector employees. Our Social Security

benefits are minimal, and those two combined are what we now live on. Like most Americans, we paid into Medicare all our working lives, trusting that we would have medical insurance coverage after age 65. We PAID for it.

It is no sin to work for the government. Our jobs were meaningful (to us) and productive. I get a little hot under the collar when it is suggested that because our retirement comes from Washington, D.C., we somehow are fleecing our fellow Americans. For those of us who never anticipated that our gainful employment and earned retirement would become a political (and disparaging) issue, we'd appreciate a little consideration. We are not on the dole, we are not taking government funds that we did not earn, and we do not support the burgeoning welfare mentality of this government.

Sincerely,
Don and Sharon Buck
Oak Creek Grade

Public Support Needed for Bid to Become Colorado's First Dark Sky Community

The Dark Skies group in the Wet Mountain Valley has an exciting project: application to the International Dark-Sky Association. for the towns of Westcliffe & Silver Cliff to be certified as a Dark-Sky Community. If approved, this news will spread locally, nationally, and internationally providing what we think will be a big boost in eco-tourism for the towns.

If approved, we will be only the 9th in the world and the first in Colorado, plus we'll be the highest in altitude by far. Our sky monitoring readings taken so far average well above the minimum requirement, as in 10x times darker! Another important component of the application is satisfied by Dark Skies' 15-year history of successful lighting projects to illustrate the willingness of the general public and both towns to reduce light pollution.

Where we need everyone's help is in the

part of the application where organizations and individuals indicate their recommendation for this application in the form of letters of support. If you'll go to: www.wetmtndarkskies.org/letter.html, you'll see a sample letter, a download link for a Word .docx copy, and some instructions on submitting the letter. If you wish to write your own, there are some suggested "bullet points" to consider. Even a one sentence support statement via email to darkskies@skymtn.com is helpful to show the application has wide support.

We who live in the Wet Mountain Valley know how special our area is and the importance in keeping it that way. Here is a way to share it with the rest of the world in a way that will not harm it and provide a needed economic boost at the same time.

Ed Stewart,
Rural Westcliffe

Judeo-Christian Values in America

I have been silent too long and am fed up. I would like you to print this for all to see. I have no objection for words relating to protection of Christian values. But, as a Jewish American it is highly noted that our country is a Judeo-Christian country with similar values. I subscribe as a Jewish Conservative, to the Jews for the preservation of firearm ownership, but that is getting off my original message to the folks of Custer County.

I will not abide by any restriction of my First and Second Amendment rights. Whatever the decision of the July 4th Parade, if

I am not out of state, I will be carrying an unloaded firearm. Let them try to arrest me and, as a life benefactor NRA member, I will request a Second Amendment Lawyer and they can kiss my you-know-what. I am sick and tired of these &!\$\$-ants dictating my rights. They can all go to #@!! as far as I am concerned. I didn't serve my country for 20 years and in Vietnam for their harassment.

Sincerely,
Steve Levine,
SFC, United States Army, Retired,
Pueblo West

"Therefore by their fruits
you will know them."

Matt 7:20, NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

For Rent

House for rent. 3 BR, 2 B with 2-car garage in Silver Cliff. \$800/mo + \$800 deposit. (719) 371-2063

For Sale

FSBO 5 acres north of Oak Creek Grade General Store. Call or see Jack or Audrey at 783-2245.

Beige futon with wood arms. Like new \$125. 783-2421 Leave message

Napoleon 1900 wood stove (used 4 winters), 6 wood racks, utensils, \$999 OBO. 783-0665

Help Wanted

Horn Creek, a Christian Ministry, seeks part-time administrative support. Responsibilities include event planning, administration, registration, phone, and

reception. Requires computer and people skills. Able to multi-task. Love for community and camp ministry. **Email employment@horncreek.org with résumé** if interested.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! Looking for a few good men, women, or youth interested in volunteering their writing/reporting skills and talents. Please contact the Sentinel by calling 783-3360 to arrange an appointment or submit intent of interest to sdcsentinel@gmail.com.

The Custer County School District is accepting applications for a **school nurse**. Starting salary for this position is \$12.55 per hour, but open to negotiation based on previous school nursing experience. Full health insurance and PERA benefits will be provided as well. Typ-

ical working hours will be from approximately 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Applicants with any type of nursing certification will be considered. Applications must be received by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, November 3. Classified staff applications are available at www.custercountyschools.org or the Administration office at 709 Main St. in Westcliffe Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. through 4 p.m. 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.

Real Estate

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LEGAL NOTICES

School Board Vacancy Announcement

Custer County School District is seeking a qualified individual to appoint for the current Board of Education vacancy in director district one. Director district one consists of the town of Westcliffe. The appointee will serve until the next regular school biennial election in November 2015.

Qualifications:

To be eligible for appointment, a candidate must:

1. Be a registered elector of Custer County School District C-1 at least twelve consecutive months prior to the date of appointment.
2. Must not have been convicted of a sexual offense against a child.
3. Must be a resident of Custer County School District C-1 director district one.

Timeline:

Application Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on November 17, 2014

Interviews: December 9, 2014

School Board action to fill vacancy: December 9, 2014

How to Apply:

Qualified candidates must submit a letter of interest including brief biographical information. Qualified candidates must also complete an "Affidavit of School Director Candidate for Appointment on Qualifications for Office." The affidavit may be obtained at the Custer County School District C-1 district office. The letter of interest and completed affidavit should be submitted to superintendent Chris Selle prior to 4:00 p.m. on November 17, 2014. Qualified candidates may contact superintendent Chris Selle at 719-783-2357 should they require clarification of the process to fill this vacancy.

The deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is **Monday at 5 p.m. for that week's edition.**

School Staff:

Cotopaxi Schools: Vote Yes -- Pay Nothing More

Fremont County School District RE-3 will be paying off its new high school bond, financed through the current mill levy, in December of 2015. Taxes from that mill levy, approximately \$106,000 a year, will no longer be collected. The savings will be about \$16 per \$100,000 of home value. Not exactly an amount large enough to celebrate.

However, in the hands of the School District, that \$106,000 could go a long way in the general fund. Long overdue facility updates - plumbing, heating, concrete, flooring, and roofing - could finally be addressed.

The transportation fleet is, on average, 15 years old, and two of the buses in use are 25 years old. The District is currently saving up for a new bus, but having a healthier general fund to draw from would speed up that purchase.

Increasing staff with additional Math, English, Advanced College Credit classes, Art, and Music, would provide flexibility to better accommodate the needs of students and provide the knowledge they require to succeed as they pursue education and ca-

reers after they graduate.

District RE-3 has much to be proud of. As small as it is, it has been ranked in the top 5% of Colorado's 178 school districts and has received the "Accredited with Distinction" award for the 3rd time in the past several years. Ironically, while providing the District with accolades, the state has chosen to reduce funding by \$1.4 million since 2007. Even though the salary schedule for teachers is the lowest of school districts in the surrounding area, Cotopaxi continues to attract and retain talented and dedicated teachers because of its impressive reputation.

So, what is there to ponder? It should be obvious that extending the mill levy is a good thing. Without any extra taxpayer money, important improvements to the school buildings and school programs could take place.

The problem is the wording. The initiative must be worded as a mill levy override. Voters are usually not in the mood to have more money taken out of their pockets. While voter approval this year would merely transfer the cur-

rent mill levy into a general fund once the bond is paid off next December, the wording implies a tax increase. So, to repeat: Approval will not cost the taxpayers any more than they are already paying.

We are all bombarded with charitable appeals: For the price of one cup of coffee... How about considering something closer to home? By voting "no," you can pocket enough change to enjoy one extra meal out per year, or you can vote "yes." You can forgo that extra change, not pay anything more, and know that local children are enjoying a safer trip to school, sitting in classrooms under a roof that doesn't leak, and preparing for college by taking advanced classes. Let's make our dedication to local quality education a priority in this special little community we all call home.

The Staff of Cotopaxi Consolidated Schools

For more information, visit the District's website at: www.CotopaxiRE3.org. To offer your opinion or ask questions concerning the mill levy override, contact Mr. Bohlander at: 719-942-4131.

Allen Butler Citizen of Year

The Chamber of Commerce's choice for 2014 Citizen of the Year is Silver Cliff resident Allen Butler.

Butler was recognized for his commitment to community on Saturday, October 18, during the Sons and Brothers Band concert at A Painted View Ranch.

Butler, his wife, Lynn, and their young family moved to the Valley from Oklahoma in the early 1980s. They have owned and operated the Conoco/Country Store and The Mining Company Restaurant ever since.

Growing up in rural Oklahoma instilled in Butler the commitment of service to neighbors, friends, and community. Rural Custer County is now his home and he knew that helping his neighbors would only make his life and the community a much better place to live.

Early on Butler became involved in the local 4-H program and served as leader of the Aviation Club. He took the young club members on field trips across our nation to expand their horizons beyond Custer County while teaching them all aspects of aircraft and flying.

Butler also became an active member of the Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Club, where he served as president of the club. For many years he participated in the Rotary Club's annual golf tournament to raise funds to provide scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Additionally, Butler is a former Custer County Search and Rescue member who volunteered to fly his airplane to search for lost and missing hikers and mountain climbers. And, when the local sheriff's posse was formed some ten years ago, Butler was one of the first in line to volunteer to assist with security at a number of community events.

Having served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam and as a National Guard reservist, Butler joined the local American Legion Post 170 when it was reactivated several years ago. As a legionnaire, he served two years as counselor at Boys State, a program that teaches youth American government at the local, state, and federal levels. He has also gone into Custer County school classrooms to teach teens about government and patriotism.

He is also an active member of Community United Methodist Church who has served on the finance board and he has directed the children's choir.

Butler loves to play his trumpet, and is a member of the Wet Mountain Valley Community Band.

Butler is past president of the Custer County Chamber of Commerce and was chairman of the annual Independence Day Car Show when it was held in Westcliffe's Veterans Memorial Park.

Butler was chairman of the SilverWest Airport Board and, during his tenure, he saw many airport improvements come to fruition. For a dozen years, Butler served as trustee and mayor for the Town of Silver Cliff, another volunteer position, before being elected county commissioner for District One four years ago.

Butler remains involved in many community activities and is always willing to come to someone's aid when asked. He and Lynn were not at Saturday's award ceremony as they were visiting their son and grandson in Kansas. Accepting the award on his behalf were friends Barb St. Amour and Nora Drenner. Both spoke highly of Butler and were proud to accept the Citizen of the Year award of his behalf.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Events Calendar

Friday, October 24
 5 p.m.: Presenter, Author Bill Scott at the Westcliffe Public Library for presentation, book signing
 7:30 p.m.: Jones Theater: "Magic in the Moonlight"

Saturday, October 25
 8 a.m. - Noon: ACT Testing at CCSD library
 7:30 p.m.: Jones Theater: "Magic in the Moonlight"

Sunday, October 26
 7:30 p.m.: Jones Theater: "Magic in the Moonlight"

Friday, October 31
 9 a.m.: BOCC board meeting
 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.: Writer's Workshop with Lisa Jones at Westcliffe Library, Cost \$300, mizzlisajones@me.com

Halloween in the 'Cliffs
 7:30 p.m.: Jones Theater: "The Equalizer"

Saturday, November 1
 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.: Writer's Workshop with Lisa Jones at Westcliffe Library, Cost \$300, mizzlisajones@me.com

5:30 p.m. Bobcat Band Chili Supper Fundraiser
 7:30 p.m.: Jones Theater: "The Equalizer"

Sunday, November 2
 2 p.m.: Jones Theater: "The Equalizer"
 Daylight Savings Time ends: Fall back 1 hour

Recurring Events and Business Hours

Monday
 6 p.m.: Closed step study Alcoholics Anonymous at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Westcliffe. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172 or Lisa at (719) 783-0809

Monday through Friday
 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Custer County public transit service available to everyone through Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
 Noon: Lunch served at Custer County Senior Center located on first floor of Silver Cliff Town Hall. Call 783-9508 to RSVP by 9:30 am

Monday and Thursday
 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources in Silver Cliff open to assist young mothers and families in need. Free pregnancy tests and counseling to pregnant women and more. Call 783-4357

Tuesday
 12 - 4:30 p.m.: Bridge Club meets in the library community room in downtown Westcliffe.
 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Jammin' band at The Mining Company Restaurant in Silver Cliff

First Tuesday of the Month:
 6:30 p.m. at Cliff Lanes - American Legion
 Post 170 monthly meeting

6:45 p.m. Post 170 **Auxiliary** monthly meeting (March-October) at the Saddle Club.

Tuesday through Friday
 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Library open in downtown Westcliffe; 783-9138

Wednesday
 Line dancers meet at the Methodist Church from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Call Clem at (303) 909-7370
 6 p.m.: Closed Big Book study Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Westcliffe. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172, or Lisa at (719) 783-0809
 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Custer County Community Band practice in band room at high school

Thursday
Second Thursday of the Month: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m., "Ask a Nurse" at the library

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

Friday and Saturday
 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Share Center at 308 S. Third Street adjacent to Hope Lutheran Church in Westcliffe

Saturday
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.: Library open in Westcliffe

Sheriff's Report...

As of Tuesday, October 21, there were 3 men in jail.

OFFENSES

October 16 John Stuart, age 65, of rural Westcliffe was charged with menacing and third degree trespassing from an incident that occurred on September 5.

October 15 Joshua Baturin, age 37, of Silver Cliff was arrested in Silver Cliff for violation of bail bond conditions. Baturin is being held on a \$500 bond. The original charge was assault; then bonded out and violated the conditions of the bail bond.

ACCIDENTS

October 21 At 0650 hours, a 2007 Subaru station wagon driven by Robert Ryan of rural Westcliffe was southbound on County Road 231, just north of the Highway 69 intersection, when he hit a deer. The vehicle sustained moderate damage.

October 18 At 1215 hours, a 1995 Ford Bronco driven by Richard Henderson, age 74, was backing from a parking space near the intersection of Third and Main Streets in Westcliffe when he backed into a 2002 Subaru driven by David Lytton-Sarazin, age 28, of Pueblo West. There was minor damage to both vehicles.

October 14 At an unknown time, a vehicle traveling eastbound on County Road 170 near mile marker 3 drove through a fence at a T intersection into a pasture and back onto the highway while breaking through a fence in a different location then left the scene.

VANDALISM

October 15 At approximately 2327 hours, two young male juveniles committed several acts of vandalism around town as seen by a Main Street resident and a deputy. When the deputy pursued, the vandals ran south onto Fifth Street and then disappeared into the dark. Around town, pumpkins were thrown into the streets and smashed, stop signs uprooted, school staff signs uprooted, and a 'used' vehicle had been rolled into the street from Hartbauer Auto Sales lot just to name a few acts of vandalism. If anyone has any information, please call the Sheriff's Office at 783-2270.

ACCIDENTS

October 19 At 1338 hours, a motorcycle southbound on Highway 165 near mile marker 4 lost control on a left-hand curve and went off the embankment on the right side of the road and suffered extensive injuries. The male rider was taken to a Pueblo hospital by Flight for Life. State Patrol handled the scene.

AMBULANCE CALLS

October 18 At 1610 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the fire station for a male patient who had arrived there with a cut arm. He was taken to Parkview Hospital in Pueblo.

October 18 At 1556 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to County Road 341 responding to a male with cardiac problems. He was transported to Parkview Hospital.

October 18 At 1612, an ambulance was dispatched to the clinic to transport a 72-year-old male who had been involved in an ATV accident to Parkview Hospital.

October 16 At 1839 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the Sheriff's Office for a 61-year-old female patient possibly suffering a heart attack and who had been driven there, then refused the ambulance and was taken by private vehicle to Parkview Hospital.

FIRE CALLS

October 19 A fire truck was dispatched to the motorcycle accident on Highway 165 near mile marker 4 and assisted with the landing of Flight for Life.

October 14 At 2014 hours, a fire truck was dispatched to a residence at Shy Circle where a carbon monoxide alarm sounded off. After investigation, it was a false alarm.

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Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

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

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

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about an upcoming
event or meeting you
would like to see
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covered in an
upcoming issue.
Submittals@
sdcscsentinel.com



Smoke and Mirrors

by Edward Whitcraft

It's almost time to pull that lever and cast your vote for the candidate of choice or a yea or nay on the many issues that are on the ballot this year. Many of you already know who you will vote for and how you feel about the ballot questions that require a yes or no answer. Many of you have thoroughly vetted each candidate so you will make an intelligent decision based on fact and not just name recognition. Many of you have also researched each state, county, or city initiated issue and will make a decision based on facts and not just hearsay or what your neighbor might think. It is really fun to vote when you really understand what you're casting your vote for or against. That brings me to the point of this article—smoke and mirrors.



Royal Gorge Tea Party rallies the citizens for the upcoming election.

Sentinel photo by John Penezic, Jr.

There is one issue facing Cañon City voters that just made my head spin—to the point that I'm not really sure exactly what they are asking me to vote yes or no on. I'm talking about Referendum #2C. I knew there was to be a ballot issue on whether to allow recreational marijuana to be sold within the city limits as I was at the city council meeting where it was decided to allow the citizens to decide this issue via the November General Election. You can't imagine my surprise when I started reviewing Referendum #2C as printed in the County of Fremont General Election Pamphlet covering all the elections questions for the county. I could not determine if they wanted a vote to increase taxes or to vote for recreational marijuana. After reading—then reading again and again, I'm still not sure. I'm just an old country boy from Montana but I'm pretty sure that there are a lot of people in Fremont County just as confused as I am. To my way of thinking it should be a pretty simple question: Do you want recreational marijuana sold within the city limits of Cañon City? It's a yea or nay answer.

Here is the way the Referendum read: “SHALL THE CITY OF CANON CITY TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$100,000 ANNUALLY IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR OF SUCH TAX INCREASE, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, BY IMPOSING A NEW EXCISE TAX ON (1) THE FIRST SALE OR TRANSFER OF UNPROCESSED RETAIL MARIJUANA BY A RETAIL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION FACILITY AND (2) THE SALE WITHIN THE CITY OF RETAIL MARIJUANA AND RETAIL MARIJUANA PRODUCTS PERMITTED BY ARTICLE XVIII, SECTION 16 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AT THE RATE OF FIVE PERCENT (5%) WHICH RATE MAY BE ADJUSTED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE COUNCIL SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT EXCEED TEN PERCENT (10%) OF PRICE PAID BY THE PURCHASER OR TRANSFEREE. PROVIDED THAT ANY SUCH TAX SHALL BE IMPOSED ONLY IF RETAIL MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS ARE PERMITTED WITHIN THE CITY . . .”

This is what is called smoke and mirrors. I'm sure it took a lawyer or two to come up with the wording and I'm sure it had to be worded just right to pass the legal smell test but to me it is written to confuse the average citizen. What is the real issue here? Is it to increase the coffers with more revenue or is it to ask Cañon City residences if they want to legalize recreational marijuana in their city? Taxing is a no brainer you know if it becomes legal it will be taxed. I believe it was worded this way to deceive the voter from the real question. Many people will only read a portion of the referendum and see that increased revenue and say yes. That is why we must always be aware of what our elected officials are doing and what issues are being presented to us as tax payers. It is imperative to be informed, be involved, and to be engaged in what your representatives are doing. Demand that they be accountable to We the People. Make your vote count by being well educated on the issues.

POT

From page 1

Types' come in wanting to buy parcels of land because they have well water available. They lie about what they want to do, which is put up warehouses for no other purpose than to grow 'Green Gold.' Clearly having the attention of the audience Richard continued, “I really like the idea of pushing the county to make sure properties are marked. If you want to build a garage or a chicken coop you have to have a permit ... for Gods' Sake for something like this you should have to have a Neon Sign out there. The Cartel does not care, they will shoot you guys on sight. I am sure you have already been threatened if not had a few whiz by your heads, what do you think they will do to us?” Richard concluded by saying, “If they want a Sagebrush Rebellion they've pulled the wrong donkey's tail.”

Mrs. Hildebrand may have given the best advice/information of the evening when she told the group, “Continue to agitate ... nothing is ever accomplished overnight.” Chayriese Marentette, related that, “The planning and zoning people don't listen to us we just get blown away.” Susan shot back with fire in her eyes borne of the passion in her heart, “Hey, I was at the Fremont County Commissioners

meeting last Tuesday and I didn't see any of you! You need to be there, get it documented. During the Penrose experience Debbie Bell (Fremont County Commissioner) actually called me and said ‘Susan, tell them to stop calling me.’” Reclaiming her composure she added, “You have got to raise a little “####! Don't just call - fax, e-mail, and write letters. Make these 75 voices be heard. You will get action.”

John Garrou was one of the vocal ones seeking answers. He was greatly concerned about the waste left behind by growers. He stressed that he has tried to get planning and zoning to do something for all abandoned land that was filled with garbage and tires, but so far nothing has been done “I called once a month for a whole year” Mr. Garrou said expressing his frustration. “Not only would such parcels full of garbage keep property value down for anyone who lives even remotely close, but it is also a health risk filled with rodents.”

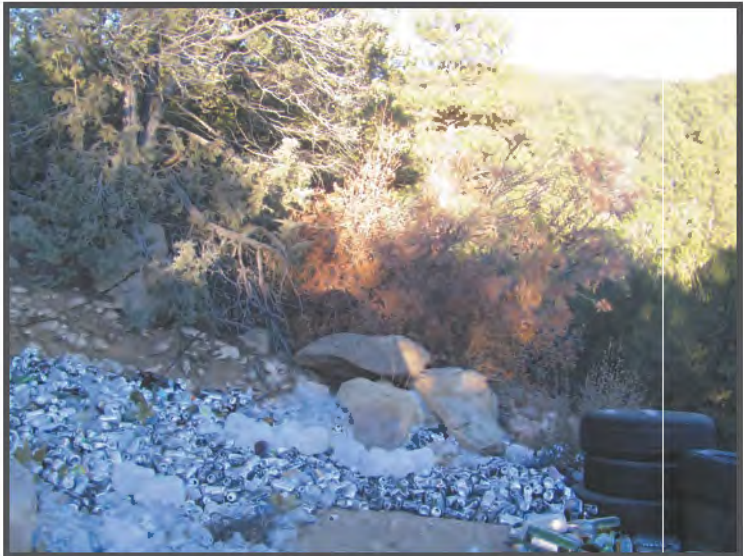
Local law enforcement was represented by Deputy Clint Wilson and an unidentified deputy, along with Detectives Mike Jolliffe and Mike Miller. While Detective Jolliffe expressed that they are overwhelmed being the only narcotics investigators for Fremont county,

they did urge citizens to contact them or the sheriff's office and report any illegal activity. Detective Jolliffe stated that law enforcement is very motivated to solve drug related crimes and violations; however, some in the crowd felt that not enough has been done. There was a general feeling of mistrust towards the spectrum of county officials, from zoning, code enforcement, commissioners and law enforcement.

With this pot growing season about over and little or no local law enforcement occurring during the summer grow season this year, next year will be even worse. With the pot growers getting away with growing millions of dollars of pot in the Deer Mountain area this year, it will embolden them and others to return and grow even more next year.

How long will it take before some high school kid tries to steal a plant from one of these criminals and gets killed? How long will it take before some pot robbers mistake an innocent civilian's house for a robbery and people get killed. How long before organized crime hit teams arrive to steal the illegal pot and a massacre ensues?

The citizens of Fremont County are standing up. Time for the Fremont County officials to do the same.



Trash left at an illegal pot grow in the Deer Mountain Area. These criminals camp out on vacant land all summer, grow their pot and leave this mess for their neighbors. County officials have been told repeatedly about these dozens of trash heaps with no response from them.

Photo taken by a local concerned citizen

(The *Sentinel* will be reporting on the upcoming Penrose Concerned Citizens next meeting on Oct 27th in Penrose which will be about the dozen legal grow operations in the Penrose area. We will also be reporting on the devastating effect that the county approved legal pot grows have on their unsuspecting rural neighbors.)

The Sentinel is now available at the following locations in Fremont County:

16th Street Cafe
302 N. 16th St. in Cañon City

Mr. Ed's
1201 Royal Gorge Blvd. (Hwy 50)
Cañon City

Coyote Den
Highway 115 & 6th Street in Penrose

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

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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.

Responsibility as Citizens in God's Kingdom

As we look at the news headlines and consider the condition of our nation, there is much debate over the conduct of our elected officials, our government, and our society. Over 12 years ago when I began writing The Daily Jot, the Lord gave me some verses from Ezekiel 3:18-19: "When I say unto the wicked, You shall surely die; and you give him not warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at your hand. Yet if you warn the wicked, and he turns not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul." These verses continue for the righteous.

Ezekiel 3:20-21: "Again, When a righteous man turns from his righteousness, and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die: because you have not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he does not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also you have delivered your soul." I see these verses as my calling and my role as a citizen in the kingdom of God. These verses give me purpose, compassion, love, honor, truth, justice, respect, joy, and they prevent me from being offended.

Every believer should know his or her purpose on earth. In the very least, it is to glorify God in all

that you do. We often fall short, but the only way to achieve excellence is to strive for perfection. Having said that, I believe we have responsibility as citizens in God's kingdom. I am looking at the 100-plus emails I get everyday and seeing a lot of harshness. Ebola, for example, is said to be, in many of these emails, a hoax, a government red flag, a bio weapon developed at Ft Detrick, and so on. They present headlines and claim fact even though it is based on extremely flimsy evidence that the sender will argue to the death that their "facts" prove something. You are something less than an idiot if you don't adopt their viewpoint. That's just one example.

Somewhere lost in all this blame and so-called "proof" is the compassion for those who are suffering. I wonder myself about the alleged "red flag" incidents and the control people in power gain from them. But overriding these suppositions is the human side of things. With Ebola, for example, I know there is death--horrible death. So, if it is a government conspiracy or some such red flag, are we to ignore the suffering because it is generated by evil intent? I, for one, cannot stand by and refuse compassion and life sustaining/death preventing resources to the innocent because of the unrighteous acts of another. There is responsibility and accountability as a citizen of God's kingdom. Just saying...

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!
Bill Wilson
www.dailyjot.com
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*The Lord is on my side;
I will not fear.
What can man do to me?*

Psalm 118:6, NKJV

Over 500,000 Colorado Health Policies to be Canceled!!

by Sarah Hurtubise,
DailyCaller.com

(Editor/GG: "You can keep your health plan" said the democrats when they unilaterally imposed obamacare (socialized medicine) on the American public. Well fellow Coloradans, a half a million of us are losing the policies we wanted and are being forced to buy high-priced policies, with few doctors and hospitals "In-plan", and obscenely high deductibles (e.g., up to 10,000!), which are essentially worthless for the average person. Welcome to the democrat's version of utopia.)

Over 22,000 Coloradoans have had their health insurance canceled by Obamacare in the past month — and 200,000 are slated to be shut down in 2015, the state insurance department announced Friday.

The Colorado Division of Insurance wrote to state Senate Republicans Friday, notifying them that five more insurance carriers have ended plans for 18,783 more Coloradoans in just the last month. By far, the most canceled plans will come from Humana Insurance Company and Humana Health Plan.

That brings the state's Obamacare total to almost 340,000 canceled plans, according to Republican Rep. Cory Gardner who's in a tight race for Senate with incumbent Democrat Sen. Mark Udall.

"Coloradoans continue to pay the price for Senator Udall's broken

promise," Gardner said in a statement Friday. "It's unfortunate that Senator Udall has been so eager to please President Obama that he has forgotten thousands of Coloradoans across our state."

Widespread Obamacare cancellations have been a political loser for Obamacare-supporters across the country, but the issue is especially fraught in Colorado.

Udall, who voted for Obamacare and made the same debunked promises as President Obama that Americans could keep their health insurance plans, took heat earlier this year when emails suggested that his office tried to interfere with a state analysis of the number of plans canceled by Obamacare. He was cleared of wrongdoing by a panel that refused to document its hearing.

But, while over 18,000 people will be losing their coverage this month, that's nothing compared to next year.

The Obama administration said it would allow states to extend health care plans that aren't compliant with Obamacare through the end of 2016 and pushed the political responsibility for deciding when the plans should be canceled onto state officials. Colorado decided to extend plans through December 31, 2015 — the remaining 192,942 Coloradoans that still purchase non-complaint health plans will have those canceled next November.

Far from being an unknown glitch in the health-care law, the Afford-

able Care Act provision that outlaws certain insurance plans was in part intended to help drive healthier, previously-insured customers to Obamacare exchanges so that insurers' pools of customers were less populated by people with a pent-up need for health care.

The Obama administration's several administrative fixes, which allowed states to decide whether they'd allow insurers to keep offering the plans for up to three years, make it more difficult for insurers to be profitable in Obamacare exchanges. The changes were likely part of the administration's reasoning in its decision to open the door to using taxpayer funding to bail out companies on the exchange who suffer losses on Obamacare exchanges.

Udall's campaign said that the Senator had pushed for Colorado to extend canceled plans for another year.

"There's nobody more upset about the bungled roll out of the health care law than Mark," Udall spokesman James Owens said. "That's why he pushed the governor to use the authority to allow folks to keep their plans."

Under the Obama administration's current policy, all noncompliant plans will be canceled by December 2016.

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North Carolina Magistrate Resigns Over Gay Marriage Mandate: It 'Would Desecrate a Holy Institution Established By God'

by Billy Hallowell,
TheBlaze.com

A Christian magistrate in North Carolina has resigned his post, citing his faith-based opposition to gay marriage.

John Kallam, Jr., who has served in Rockingham County, wrote in a resignation letter addressed to Chief District Court Judge Fred Wilkins that he believes marrying homosexuals "would desecrate a holy Institution established by God Himself."

Kallam, who will leave his position effective October 31, also said that it wasn't his understanding when he took the oath of office that he would be forced to marry gays and lesbians, as the Associated Press reported.

"When I took my oath of office, I understood I would be required to perform weddings and have done so throughout my tenure," he

wrote. "I did not, however, take that oath with any understanding that I would be required to marry same sex couples."

He added, "I can no longer fulfill my oath of office in good faith."

Kallam said that he will use his remaining administrative days through the end of the month.

Wilkins, who confirmed Kallam's impending departure in an interview with Rockingham's News-Record, described the magistrate as "a good, honorable man ... who stuck by his convictions."

Kallam's letter follows a memo sent by North Carolina's Administrative Office of the Courts mandating that magistrates marry same-sex couples or face potentially losing their jobs.

You can read the resignation letter here:

Dear Sir:

It is with deep regret that I must inform you of my intent to resign from my current position as Magistrate effective 31 October 2014. It is my intent to use my remaining administrative days for the remainder of this month. When I took my oath of office, I understood I would be required to perform weddings and have done so throughout my tenure. I did not however take that oath with any understanding that I would be required to marry same sex couples. It is my personal belief and a position of my Christian faith that doing so would desecrate a holy Institution established by God Himself. Since performing marriages is an integral part of being a Magistrate and in light of recent changes in North Carolina law. I can no longer fulfill my oath of office in good faith.

I will contact Mr Pegram's

office to insure all necessary paper work is completed and all items belonging to the State and/or county are completed and/or returned. I have enjoyed working with all the fine people at the Rockingham County Courthouse. I wish you all the best as you continue in your quest to administer justice in a fair and impartial manner. I am reminded of the last words of David who said, "He that rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God". Where there is no "fear of God" there can be no justice!

*Sincerely,
John G. Kallam, Jr.*

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Nurse Amber Vinson had a Personal Responsibility to Quarantine Herself

by Suzanne Hamner,
FreedomOutpost.com

As a former professional registered nurse with over 25 years experience, I have been monitoring the Ebola outbreak in the United States daily and have written several articles here at Freedom Outpost touching on it. Frankly, I have been appalled at the response of the medical community, including the CDC, regarding this deadly, contagious disease. Nothing brought more outrage than to find out a nurse, who had cared for Patient Zero Duncan, flew to Ohio to attend to wedding details, then flew back with a low grade fever and was diagnosed with Ebola the very next day.

Patient Zero Duncan’s family was placed in court-ordered quarantine because of their “violation” to follow instructions to quarantine.

While the CDC has been touting the 21-day incubation period of Ebola, the World Health Organization (WHO) has just reported that Ebola may have a 42-day incubation period, indicating that government health organizations and health ministries of many countries are practicing “quack medicine” when declaring an individual clear of Ebola after testing.

It is time for Americans to flood the CDC with letters, phone calls, faxes, and emails.

What has seemed to be left out in these reports about Amber Vinson is a few details of information. Why was this nurse not in an initial 21-day quarantine after caring for Duncan, as per the CDC’s guidelines? Why did she even board the first plane to Cleveland, Ohio, in the first place? And, if she was in quarantine, did she not violate that quarantine and put nu-

merous individuals at risk?

Why has not the CDC come out with a 42-day quarantine based on the report by WHO?

None of this has been covered in the news regarding Vinson. This “professional” had a responsibility to the community, her family, the profession, and others to make sure she did not have this deadly disease before leaving Dallas. In other words, she should have stayed at home for at least 21 days to determine whether any symptoms of Ebola developed. Apparently, this was not done as she developed a fever before departing Cleveland. Despite the fact that she called the CDC and was given the “green light” to travel, where is the personal responsibility this nurse carries according to the Florence Nightingale pledge?

Vinson knew she had been exposed to Ebola through Patient Zero Duncan. She knew the protocols and procedures for Ebola virus isolation at Texas Presbyterian Hospital was near zero. As a nurse, she knew about the initial CDC reported incubation period of Ebola, possible methods of transmission, symptoms of Ebola, and treatment measures to include quarantine after exposure. Yet, this “educated” professional did not self-quarantine for 21 days (much less 42), left Dallas to attend to her wedding details, and before returning had to call the CDC to determine if she could fly with a low-grade fever. Really?

While people would like to have sympathy for Vinson in getting the disease after caring compassionately for Duncan, it does not negate the personal responsibility Vinson had toward the public in keeping others safe by following a quarantine period to prevent spread of this disease. Clearly, she did not do this and is responsible for a breach that exposes additional individuals. Vinson knew better, but the arrogance and over-confidence exhibited by some members of the health care industry are affecting their good judgment. Why is this personal responsibility being ignored by the ‘lame stream enemedia’?

NBC medical correspondent Dr. Nan-

cy Schneiderman violated a self-imposed 21-day quarantine to visit a local eatery to get her favorite bowl of soup. Schneiderman had contact with an NBC cameraman who contracted Ebola while in Africa and is now receiving care in a bio-level 4 containment unit in Nebraska. Schneiderman waited in the car while her husband went inside the establishment to pick up the soup.

What is it with the arrogance and lack of personal responsibility among health care professionals regarding Ebola?

If the initial 21-day quarantine had been implemented and followed, once the 42-day incubation period was announced by WHO, these individuals would still be in quarantine for another 21 days and further exposure limited.

What is currently happening in the United States with the handling of the Ebola virus is worse than incompetence and negligence. It smells of a contrived event. In order to quell “hysteria and panic,” useful information that could help the public has been silenced. Common sense measures to protect the health of every American has been thrown in the trash in favor of political correctness, some inane foreign policy, and excuses regarding the economy of Africa and the United States. Every American should be outraged and demanding truth and action from the medical community along with the government.

It is time for Americans to flood the CDC with letters, phone calls, faxes, and emails. It is time for Americans to flood Congress with the same, demanding accountability and common sense measures to prevent further individuals from being exposed. It is time to hold local facilities responsible for medical care to the truth and not the rhetoric. It is time for every American to take personal responsibility in order to protect themselves from this deadly disease. Your life depends on it.

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Altitude Sickness: Hickenlooper Absent While Beauprez Engaged in Gazette Debate

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Maybe it was the extra 800 or so feet in elevation in Colorado Springs that caused so many unforced errors in last night’s debate against Bob Beauprez. Or maybe it was the shock that Colorado Springs actually does have roads, flying in the face of his mentor Mike Bloomberg’s commentary on the Springs. Either way, Hickenlooper had a tough night at the debate sponsored by the Colorado Springs Gazette.

At times Hick seemed confused like when he tried to recover after Beauprez called him out for not having an agenda. Other times, he seemed angry like when he was frustrated that Beauprez was kicking his @&\$. But, once again, Hick flip-flopped:

Obamacare: Before Hick threw Udall under the bus tonight by saying that no governor wanted Obamacare, there was this KDVR article from a previous debate: “Hickenlooper...defended the federal government’s management of some Col-

orado lands, his decision not to pressure the administration on the Keystone pipeline, and he offered a full-throated defense of Obamacare.”

Climate Change: Before Hick attacked Beauprez for his views on climate change, he said this in 2010:...I’m not someone who thinks the sky is falling, when I say that, I get attacked by my environmental friends, but I do know that science is an imperfect thing and it’s very hard to really prove that climate is changing as rapidly as so many top scientists think, or that it’s the result of mankind’s activities. I’m not going to get involved in that debate.

But, perhaps, the most devastating line of the night came from Beauprez, who jabbed Hickenlooper for reading his closing remarks: “John, you did really well reading that there. Now, let me speak from my heart.”

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Fast and Furious Rifle Used in 2013 Phoenix Gang-Style Assault

by Dean Weingarten,
GunWatch.BlogSpot.com

Washington, D.C.

Judicial Watch today announced that, based on information uncovered through a Judicial Watch public records lawsuit against the City of Phoenix, the U.S. Congress has confirmed that an AK 47 rifle used in a July 29, 2013,

gang-style assault on an apartment building that left two people wounded was part of the Obama Department of Justice (DOJ) Operation Fast and Furious gun running program.

An October 16 letter sent from Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Rep. Darryl Issa (R-CA) to Deputy Attorney General James Cole

discloses that “we have learned of another crime gun connected to Fast and Furious. The [Justice] Department did not provide any notice to the Congress or the public about this gun.” Grassley (Ranking Member on the Senate Judiciary Committee) and Issa (Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee) detail:

Based on the serial number [1977DX1654] from the police report obtained by Judicial Watch and documents obtained during our Fast and Furious investigation, we can confirm that the assault rifle recovered in the vehicle on July 30, 2013, was purchased by Sean Christopher Stewart. Stewart pled guilty to firearms trafficking charges resulting from

his involvement with Operation Fast and Furious ... Stewart purchased this particular firearm on December 8, 2009, one of 40 that he purchased that day while under ATF surveillance” (emphasis in original document).

Please see: gunwatch.blogspot.com/2014/10/documents-obtained-by-judicial-watch.html



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Christian Persecution in the U.S.: Openly Gay Houston Mayor Demands Pastors Turn Over Sermons

by Allen West,
AllenBWest.com

(Editor/GG: This anti-Christian crusade is now main stream Democrat Party dogma. You only have to look at our local leftwing democrats with their attempted suppression of our free speech, right to assemble, and 2nd Amendment rights to see the that our Constitution means nothing to them.)

My friends, the persecution of Christian pastors has begun in this country. We previously warned about the efforts of the Freedom from Religion Foundation and its secretive settlement with the IRS allowing them to demand sermons to scrutinize for “political activity.” Well, it has indeed happened in one of the reddest of red states in the reddest county in America: Houston, Harris County, Texas.

As reported by Fox News, “The city of Houston has issued subpoenas demanding a group of pastors turn over any sermons dealing with homosexuality, gender identity, or Annise Parker, the city’s first openly lesbian mayor. Those ministers who fail to comply could be held in contempt of court. “The city’s subpoena of sermons and other pastoral communications is both needless and unprecedented.” Alliance Defending Freedom attorney Christina Holcomb said in a statement. “The city council and its attorneys are engaging in an inquisition designed to stifle any critique of its actions.” ADF, a nationally-known law firm specializing in religious liberty cases, is representing five Houston pastors. They filed a motion in Harris County court to stop the subpoenas arguing they are “overboard, unduly burdensome, harassing, and vexatious.”

If there is anything that should unify Americans, it should be an assault on Christian ministers. It is absolutely amazing that the Obama administration sends a personal congratulatory note to the Islamic center in Oklahoma that spawned Alton Nolen who beheaded a 54-year-old American grandmother —

and we have this openly lesbian, progressive, socialist tyrant allowing a subpoena against Christian pastors.

This is the test case (and as it happens I was just in Houston last week and will be back next Monday) and this is unconscionable! However, if this case is successful, it will be replicated elsewhere — and where is the Left screaming out about First Amendment rights of these pastors: “Freedom of religion and the free exercise thereof?” Where is the ACLU? After all, they care so much about the rights of unlawful enemy combatants aka Islamic jihadists and terrorists.

“Political and social commentary is not a crime,” attorney Holcomb said. “It is protected by the First Amendment.” Fox says, “the subpoenas are just the latest twist in an ongoing saga over Houston’s new non-discrimination ordinance. The law, among other things, would allow men to use the ladies room and vice versa. The city council approved the law in June.”

This is just how upside down Mayor Parker is and it reflects her intent to establish a radical far left, gender-blind agenda and through coercion and intimidation, destroy any opposition — including church leaders. This is the tyranny of the Left and the radical gay agenda in full display. And I just have to ask, how does this bring anyone into alignment with the gay community if they are fully supportive of these initiatives?

Houston is home to Pastor Joel Osteen and I wonder if he’s going to make a stand and speak out — or is his ministry just for show? I can bet that just up the road in San Antonio, Pastor John Hagee won’t be taking this lying down. And what about Pastor T.D. Jakes up in Dallas — where does he stand?

Many people laughed when the progressive socialists came out with their “Turn Texas Blue” campaign — who’s laughing now? The state capitol of Texas, Austin, is well known as a bas-

tion of progressive socialists and now look at what’s happened in Houston — perhaps Gov. Rick Perry should stop going to Blue states and asking them to move to Texas. Leftist progressives are like locusts; wherever they migrate they bring along their destructive policies and agenda in order to infest their new host — just look at how the migration of leftist progressives from California has affected Colorado? And now it’s happening to Texas.

Here’s a clear example of the radical gay agenda and tyranny of Houston Mayor Parker. Per Fox, “the Houston Chronicle reported opponents of the ordinance launched a petition drive that generated more than 50,000 signatures — far more than the 17,269 needed to put a referendum on the ballot. However, the city threw out the petition in August over alleged irregularities.” As voter referendums supporting traditional marriage are being tossed aside by courts, judicial activism and legislating from the bench is alive and well.

“After opponents of the bathroom bill filed a lawsuit, the city’s attorneys responded by issuing the subpoenas against the pastors. The pastors were not part of the lawsuit. However, they were part of a coalition of some 400 Houston-area churches that opposed the ordinance. The churches represent a number of faith groups — from Southern Baptist to non-denominational.”

Mayor Parker won’t explain why she wants to inspect the sermons — and what makes her believe she has the power to do so anyway. Mayor Parker’s director of communications, Janice Evans, said “We don’t comment on litigation.”

Fox reports that “ADF attorney Stanley suspects the mayor wants to publicly shame the ministers. He said he anticipates they will hold up their sermons for public scrutiny. In other words — the city is rummaging for evidence to “out” the pastors as anti-gay big-

ots. Among those slapped with a subpoena is Steve Riggle, the senior pastor of Grace Community Church. He was ordered to produce all speeches and sermons related to Mayor Annise Parker, homosexuality, and gender identity. The mega-church pastor was also ordered to hand over “all communications with members of your congregation” regarding the non-discrimination law. “This is an attempt to chill pastors from speaking to the cultural issues of the day,” Riggle told me. “The mayor would like to silence our voice. She’s a bully.” Rev. Dave Welch, executive director of the Texas Pastor Council, also received a subpoena. He said he will not be intimidated by the mayor.

I’ve said before that America is under assault from the unholy alliance of progressive socialists, Islamofascists, and secular humanists. What is happening in Houston is wrong on so many levels, it defies logic and reason but it is to be expected from the tyranny of the Left.

If Mayor Parker is successful, it will happen in other major American cities under radical progressive socialist control. It is time for all — especially Christian Pastors — to stand up, “be strong and courageous,” and defy this illegal edict reminiscent of Henry the Eighth, who proclaimed himself head of state and head of church.

Mayor Annise Parker is out of control, and knowing the backbone of true Texans and Houstonians, she will be defeated. To the gay community, if this is what you support and believe in, you’re not positively advancing your case — but demonstrating you advocate coercion as a means.

Time to rally America, and let’s send a message to Mayor Annise Parker of Houston: Molon Labe!

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When you walk through the fire,
you shall not be burned,
Nor shall the flame scorch you.**

Isaiah 43:2, NKJV

Are Black People Carrying Guns Public Enemy Number One?

by Dean Weingarten,
GunWatch.Blogspot.com

(Editor/GG: Our 2nd Amendment rights apply to ALL law-abiding American citizens. Period. The democrat left has essentially disarmed black citizens in the major cities making them easy victims for criminals. Things are changing. The new black Chief of Police of Detroit is encouraging his citizens to get armed. Some of our black brothers are finally waking up to the fact that they have just been political pawns of the socialists. Also note the last picture in this article, a beautiful photo of our last July 4th parade right here in Westcliffe, including the banner of one our advertisers, F.A.C.T. Firearms!)

So claims Charles Gallagher, a sociologist at La Salle University. From CNN:

“Whites walking down Main Street with an AK-47 are defenders of American values; a black man doing the same thing is Public Enemy No. 1,” says Gallagher, a professor at La Salle University in Pennsylvania.

Fortunately, we know that Charles Gallagher is wrong. See the picture to the right? It was taken in August of this year. The article reports that members of the gun club went to a restaurant and ate while openly carrying their guns...next to a group of police

officers. Nothing happened.

Not exactly what you would expect if a group of public enemies number one sat down in a restaurant with a group of police officers.

To give CNN some credit, Gallagher does not say that white people buy guns because of overt racism. He says it is because of a cultural stereotype.

Gallagher says he's not accusing every white person who buys a gun of being a racist; he's accusing them of being human, of unconsciously absorbing stereotypical attitudes about black men and violence that are as old as America itself.

This, in spite of massive collusion in the old media to downplay black participation in crime, decades old pressure in the entertainment media *not* to portray black people as criminals, and the strong overportraying of white men in movies as the most common violent criminals. From the AP stylebook:



A black open carry march.

Courtesy photo

A few sensible rules should guide our decisions concerning references to race: (1) Racial identification should not be included in any story unless such reference is clearly relevant to the story or when part of a detailed description of a fugitive.

The downplay of black predominance in crime is so great, that most people in urban areas now assume that if the race of the perpetrator is not mentioned, they are black. It is an open joke. The AP attempt to prevent a stereotype, has become emblematic of the social engineering by the old media. It has had some effect, but reality overrides it.

Open carry groups in Texas are found all over the state. Open carry is virtually synonymous with strong, symbolic, protected political speech. Such is the case with black gun clubs in Texas or mostly white open carry parades in rural Colorado.

Open carry is becoming more and more accepted as a way of expressing First and Second Amendment rights.

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2nd Amendment march in Westcliffe, CO, July 4, 2013.

Courtesy photo

Michigan Concealed Carry Holder Helps Thwart, Capture Attempted Rapist

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

The mother of a woman who told police she was attacked inside an eastside home said she is thankful for neighbors who rushed to her daughter's aid, including a man who held the alleged attacker at gunpoint then chased him down and helped hold him until police arrived.

“She got lucky,” said the woman's mother, who is not being identified to

protect the identity of the woman. “If it wasn't for all these people who cared enough to help her, and not turn the other cheek like so many people would, my daughter would be dead right now.”

The victim was on her way home from a nearby store—the kind that Moms Demand Action would like to ban you from carrying guns in—and forced into a vacant home by a man who beat her severely, ripped off

her clothes, and attempted to rape her.

The victim escaped and screamed for help, at which point a concealed carry permit holder that lives nearby sprang into action, ordering the suspect out of the vacant home at gunpoint. The suspect, Jeffery McSwain, Jr., attempted to escape on foot but was chased down by the concealed carry permit holder and another man and was held until police arrived.

The suspect appears to have collected a few blows to the head either during the commission of his crime or during his capture. I somehow suspect that the authorities aren't deeply concerned about the specific nature of these relatively minor injuries.

You'll note that the concealed carry permit holder in this situation acted with restraint at all times.

The concealed carry permit holder did not shoot at the

alleged criminal as he encountered him at the vacant home.

He did not shoot at the alleged attempted rapist as the criminal attempted to flee the scene of the crime.

He did not shoot McSwain during the (successful) attempt to capture him after a short chase, and he did not shoot him before the police took McSwain into custody.

In short, the often-repeat-

ed claim from gun control cultists that concealed carriers are just looking for an excuse to shoot another human being proved to be false, yet again.

This good guy with a gun simply helped take yet another criminal off the streets.

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How Does Banning Citizen Carry of Guns in Kroeger's Stop Armed Robbery?

by Dean Weingarten,
GunWatch.Blogspot.com

On freerepublic.com, a discussion about the Moms Demand Action push for a gun ban following an armed robbery of a bank inside of a Kroeger's, brought this commonly expressed question. This one was from rktman:

"Uh, how would this have stopped the robbery again? Please 'splain that to us."

I will explain it. MDA is playing a very long game. In order to be effective, they have to reduce the number of guns in society by large, large, amounts. They have to avoid considering any benefits gained from gun ownership. Here is how I believe they think it will work:

1. Bully retail establishments into banning the carry of guns in their stores, as a step to make guns illegitimate in society, as the combination of trial lawyers, legislators, and the old media have done with cigarettes.

2. Keep incrementally banning guns everywhere possible to make guns more and more socially unacceptable, and legally difficult to own, in order to reduce the number of legal gun owners.

3. When the number of legal gun owners are reduced sufficiently, ban the legal ownership of guns, except in extremely restricted circumstances. Think Japan and the U.K.

4. Gradually, through incremental gun confiscation, "buy backs", increasingly draconian restrictions on ownership and use, perhaps over a couple of generations, reduce the number of guns legitimately owned by 99 percent.

5. This will start to reduce the number of guns used criminally by some amount, it does not matter how little. As soon as the

number of gun owners and/or guns start to drop, immediately claim credit for any crime reduction, even if the trends started long before your legislation and are not backed up by facts.

6. Keep up the pressure, and eventually, after several decades, we will have less crimes committed with guns. This is sure to happen, because even though crime has not been reduced elsewhere when guns were banned or restricted, we have a much larger number of crimes committed with guns than the U.K. or Japan. Brazil, South Africa, Mexico, and Jamaica do not count because they are not the U.K. or Japan.

7. An increase in crime by other means does not matter. The goal is to reduce the number of crimes with guns, so only statistics involving guns matter. It does not matter if overall homicides increase, if they are not committed with guns. We can always turn our efforts to banning knives, as they have in the U.K.

8. We know that governments will be beneficent all along the way, because no western democracy has ever been overthrown in the last 75 years. Argentina, Venezuela, Mexico and Ukraine or other examples do not count, because they were not really western Democracies. We know this because they were overthrown, invaded or became failed states, so they never were real Western democracies. Blame their problems on the Second Amendment or on western democracies.

9. The efforts to reduce gun violence will not be rendered useless by 3D printing, smuggling, home made guns, or other technologies. This is because we will define "gun violence" as violence with guns that were once in legal channels. If a gun was

produced illegitimately, we cannot be blamed. We will also do everything we can to reduce access to those technologies that can be used to produce guns by anyone outside of governments.

So you see, sometime in the far, far distant future, after the Constitution has been completely trashed, and the U.S. is a Utopian socialist state like the U.K., we will have reduced armed robberies committed with guns by some amount.

This general program seemed to be working until about 1994, except, of course, the crime rate kept increasing with more restrictions on guns. About 1994 "gun control" peaked, as did the levels of violent crime. The electorate rebelled against the Clinton gun ban. Second Amendment supporters made serious gains from 1994 through 2013. The rate of "gun violence" and overall violent crime fell in half.

I do not believe that the disarmers have sufficient media control to pull off the above program, as illustrated by the failure of the Obama push for more gun control. We are in the process of seeing if a combination of old media push and new "progressive" billionaire money can do the trick.

A serious challenge exists in the tens of millions of dollars that are being thrown into initiative processes such as the Washington state initiative I-594. If the disarmers fail there, after spending 10 times as much as Second Amendment supporters, they may fall back for another 20 years.

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Politics & The Bible

From Pastor Jim



Jim Modlish has been in the ministry 48 years, pastoring churches large and small from upstate New York to western Washington. He holds a doctorate in theology, but frequently states: “I have education, but I got over it.”

Southern Colorado natives, Jim and his wife, Linda, were happy to return to their home state in 2006. They started the Huerfano Community Bible Church in Walsenburg six years ago, and that work has experienced excellent growth and the blessings of God. Pastor Modlish believes the Bible is the greatest political science textbook on earth, and that all current events should be examined under the searchlight of Scripture.



Looking Out For Number 1

To continue last week’s story: Ahab, king of the northern tribes of Israel, and Jehoshaphat, king of the southern tribes, call on Micaiah the prophet for some divine direction concerning going to war with Syria. Ahab hates Micaiah because the preacher frequently exercises the power of negative thinking. The question is posed: “Shall we go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we forbear?” The Reverend’s answer is totally unexpected: “Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.” (I Kings 22:15) An infuriated Ahab responds: “How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD?”

Several assessments require our attention:

1. Ahab instantly knew the prophet was messing with his head.
2. Liberals have a very shallow sense of humor.
3. Even Truth rejecters know the difference between good and evil, but are willing to repudiate righteousness to achieve political advantage.
4. Truth cannot be compromised when it is the authentic WORD of the LORD.

After having some fun at the expense of the President, Harry, Nancy, and the entire democratic caucus, Micaiah gets serious and tells a story so politically incorrect it would blow the head gasket of every breathing left-winger...and maybe even some dead ones.

The narrative speaks for itself: “And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.” (I Kings 22:19-23) The observations are multiple:

1. Some people are bent on self-destruction even though they know better.
2. If you insist on being stupid, God will allow it and occasionally facilitate it.
3. The fact that the LORD would send a lying spirit is beyond the capability of the National Council of Churches to comprehend.
4. This entire scenario will be repeated...Paul speaks in a futuristic context: “And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (II

Thessalonians 2:11,12)

Because of his “hate speech,” the prophet is imprisoned, and the decision is made to ignore his warnings.

Ahab, the good, caring, sharing, coping, loving liberal offers this hair-ball suggestion to Jehoshaphat: “I will disguise myself, and enter into the battle; but put thou on thy robes. And the king of Israel disguised himself, and went into the battle.” (I Kings 22:30) Nothing like looking out for number one! Private Ahab (in appearance) has a plan to fly under the radar in spite of professing full transparency.

None of this should come as a great surprise to the student of Scripture for “the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. (Jeremiah 17:9) What does confound the reader is why Jehoshaphat would agree to the proposal of riding into battle with every possible insignia blowing in the breeze. In similar fashion a true conservative is often confused as to why some Republicans will lean to the left in an effort to go along to get along. Should not every Christian be intensely interested in electing people of genuine character and principle?

In the end, Ahab’s folly is concluded by an arrow that did not discriminate between king or peasant. Jehoshaphat (not always the brightest bulb in the pack) determined to do right and God rewarded that simple decision with an extended life.

A Sheepdog Barks!

Trust us, we got your back. HOWL! We are hearing that a lot from the Obama Administration. We know what’s best for you, they say. Relax, just trust us, and hey, we need more of your money to take better care of you. And then we see what they really do. 90% of big government is not just bad; it’s a disaster. It’s wildly out of control and completely contaminated with fraud, waste, and abuse. It is corrupt, arrogant and incompetent. It’s not only the federal government but state governments and sometimes even city or town governments. Here are some things we learned just these last few weeks.

The Secret Service can’t even protect the White House. Simply stated, the leaders are incompetent, complacent, or both. A man climbs the fence, then runs across a huge open lawn, then opens an unlocked and unsecured door to the White House, and then runs around inside for several minutes before finally being luckily apprehended by a single off-duty guard. Unbelievable! He did all this while armed with a knife. It could just as well have been a gun (gasp!) or worse, explosives. What are we supposed to think about our most elite government forces? What are the Rules of Engagement? Are there any? It seems to this sheepdog that the White House should be the absolute most secure “house” in America. It also seems that by the time anyone gets to the “Red Zone”, say about 100 yards from the Building, a sniper ends the threat. And by then the sniper should have to be careful not to shoot the two guard dogs already attacking the intruder. WOOF! Wow, what incompetence! The head “non-leader” resigned. Big Deal! What about the next 20 or so supervisory employees responsible for the training, management, and oversight of the force. They should ALL be gone. Oh, I have a suggestion for the occupants that sleep in the White House. The man, if he really cares about the safety of his family, should

get a D.C. concealed carry permit and quit trying to stop other citizens in America from protecting their families. WOOF! And what in Hades is going on in Houston? Five preachers have had their sermons subpoenaed by the “actively gay” lady Houston mayor. It seems that the liberal progressive Houston leaders decided to let grown men, who “think” they are females, to use the ladies bathrooms if they want. This upset many mothers with 6-year old daughters that would have to share time with these “men(?)” The citizens wanted to vote on this. The preachers spoke to their congregations about this insanity. The lesbian mayor wants to punish them. She wants to walk all over their 1st Amendment rights of free speech and religious beliefs. Crazy right? The LPSDs are out of control. They really believe they can control everything we do, think, eat, and say. Far-fetched? Not on your life. It’s even going on right here in good ole’ Custer County and Westcliffe. Here is what we are being told locally. “You can’t march in our liberal parade with guns or signs and you can’t assemble afterwards either.” Remind you of Nazi Germany? It should. Back to the preachers. Let’s call them the Houston Five. We must all watch this closely. First, we hope the good citizens of Texas put a stop to this outrageous action. No citizen should allow this sort of government tyranny. Are we a free people or not? Just like you can’t be a little bit pregnant, you can’t be a little bit free. I am confident the right kind of freedom-loving lawyers will help them and end this stupidity. Pray for them.

One more whack at our incompetent and corrupt federal government. The General Services Administration (GSA), which is sort of an internal government watchdog, released this information yesterday. About 57,000 government workers have been sent home, with pay, while waiting on disciplinary action. They have been paid over \$700 Million in the last



few years. WHAT? Where are the grownups in our government? Does anyone care about anything? Why hasn’t Congress stopped this foolish and costly practice? Who’s in charge? I have the answer for you: Obama and, therefore, no one is in charge. Obama’s spokesman commented on this by defending the practice. He said, “Well, 97% of these kinds of things are for good reasons.” What? Who cares? Let’s stop the \$700 Million – whaddaya say! These 57,000 include the “hot-tub-guy-with-wine-in-Vegas” man and Lois Lerner. Lois, you may recall, is the IRS leader that targeted and attacked conservative citizens and groups. She is at home getting full pay and allowances while the DOJ and Eric Holder do nothing about her. She will “fly” under the radar until we all forget about her and then she will be allowed to quietly retire with full pay and benefits. Happens all the time. The incompetent Obamacare Queen, Sebelius, resigned but quietly hung around, under the radar, for about 6 weeks longer until she hit the magic 5-year retire-with-pension date. Yes, that’s right; she will draw a small pension for life for her great service to the country on Obamacare. Does that not make you want to bite someone? WOOF! Right now Obama is responsible for all of this. He loves big government. So, can he manage the big government he wants even more of? Absolutely not! What we have in America is not a Crisis of “Confidence” in government; we have a Crisis of “Competence.” This hapless President and his Presidency is a colossal failure!

May God Have Mercy On America! JMH



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Former Leftist: The Left is "A Very Selfish Group of People"

by Ginni Thomas,
DailyCaller.com

(Editor/GG: Look no further than our local left-wing Democrats in Custer County to confirm the observations below.)

Georganne Burke, a former radical leftist who is now a conservative, has dual citizenship in Canada and the U.S. At 65, a grandmother of 11 and mother of 6, Burke has seen both sides of the ideological spectrum and has insights needing to be heard.

Burke, a 45 year veteran of grassroots campaigning, was in Washington, D.C., on September 3 to help train conservatives on effective efforts to expand the reach for their ideas. Her credentials include being part of the team that eventually brought about a conservative majority government in Canada by effective outreach to minorities, led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Her political worldview started shifting away from the far left in 1997 in what she calls a "eureka moment." When she was affiliated with the Students in a Democratic Society (SDS) in college, she married a Fabian Socialist who remained committed to revolutionary socialist ends that justified using harsh and deceptive means.

On President Obama's governance, she says she doesn't scare easily, but feels "we are approaching the horrors of World War II." She says the beheading of two American citizens used to be an considered an act of war — and there's no reason it still shouldn't be.

Burke's 26 minute, exclusive video interview (Editor/GG: Go to the web address at the bottom of the article to view) covers her perspective on America under President Obama, her honest assessment of the authoritarian leaders on the left she observed and tips to conservatives for uniting the country, rather than allowing the left to further divide us.

Burke used to think President Obama was "only weak." Today, she is worrying whether he might be carrying out a "contrived agenda" — a far more frightening prospect, in her opinion.

Looking back to her time spent on the left, she says, "I have discovered that it was a very selfish group of people who did not have the best interests at heart of the people we said we did."

Feeling idealists were duped and used, she continues by saying, "On another level, there were ideologues at the top whose whole goal was to have control. They were basically authoritarians. They were no different from Stalin or other dictators."

Unlike the right's honest disagreements with them, the left "truly hates us," she says, and refuses to concede any merit to conservative ideas.

Citing the hypocrisy evident when watching the elite left, Burke said, "They want everything to be equal, except maybe not for them." They also pursue divisive policies and programs to control people they claim to be helping, she says. This, she thinks, opens an opportunity for conservatives who can honestly foster a spirit of unity that is refreshing, distinct, and necessary for a nation.

She encourages leftists listening to her interview to "take an inventory of their lives" right now. She says, it is "important to assess if your views are realistic and if you are actually doing good," as opposed to if your efforts are, in fact, contrary to what brought you success in your own life experience.

Giving advice to conservatives, she admonishes them that they can't just propose policies and ideas and assume the crowds will gather. It is not, she tells conservatives, like "Field of Dreams."

Conservatives need to build relationships and overcome stereotypes while meeting, knowing, and welcoming new partners to the ideas that animate them. Credibility must be built through human relationships and good marketing she says. She warns it is "long term work" that has so far been neglected, but it is essential for success.

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Nashville Police Refuse Secret Service Illegal Search of Obama Critic

Tim Brown,
FreedomOutPost.com

Following the resignation of Secret Service Director Julia Pierson, Nashville Police Chief Steve Anderson sent a letter to the House Oversight Committee stating that Secret Service agents have asked Nashville police officers to falsify an illegal search warrant against an unnamed critic of Barack Obama, who allegedly posted "threatening" comments about the criminal-in-chief in January 2013.

News 5 reports:

The allegations regarding the January 2013 incident are contained in a letter that Anderson sent last week to several members of the House Committee on Oversight. That's the congressional committee that has spearheaded the on-going investigation into the Secret Service. Secret Service Director Julia Pierson was recently forced to resign as a result of that scandal.

"There's already a lot of fodder to attack the Secret Service with, and this will be more," said Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tennessee, who was among the committee members who received the letter.

In the Nashville case, a Secret Service agent made a frantic call for backup to Nashville police after he and another agent went to the home of a Nashville man, investigating threatening comments on Facebook about the President. The man who posted them had refused to let the agents into his house.

"He shoved the door in our face and went around the corner. Looks like, we're not sure if he ... possibly he had a gun in his hands," the agent told a 911 operator.

In a letter that he first sent to Secret Service headquarters,

the Nashville police chief recounted what happened.

"The resident refused to come outside and shouted back, 'Show me your warrant,'" Anderson wrote.

So "one of the agents then asked a [police] sergeant to 'wave a piece of paper' in an apparent effort to dupe the resident into thinking that they indeed had a warrant."

Congressman Cooper told News 5 that these tactics were basic violations of the Constitution, and they are. The Fourth Amendment states clearly:

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

According to Chief Steve Anderson, the police knew immediately that the Secret Service agents didn't have any legal basis to enter the man's home and the man, a law abiding gun owner, had never made a threat.

Anderson wrote to then Director Pierson and Assistant Director A.T. Smith stating, "I think you can see that had the MNPD officers complied with the directive from the Secret Service agents, there was likelihood for this event to have escalated into a serious and/or embarrassing situation for both of our agencies."

Anderson said that there was no acknowledgement of his letter, but that Smith did return his call with a "condescending and dismissive" tone. After that, Anderson demanded a meeting with the Secret Ser-

vice's Nashville office (can't believe we need a Nashville office for these guys). He questioned their ethics of waving around a piece of paper in an attempt to deceive citizens into thinking it was a warrant, to which the Secret Service allegedly answered, "I don't know. I'm not a lawyer."

On Monday afternoon, the Secret Service provided the following statement:

The Secret Service values our relationship with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department. The January 2013 incident described by Chief Anderson was addressed by supervisors in the Secret Service Nashville Field Office. In addition, Deputy Director A.T. Smith called Chief Anderson at the time of his letter to our agency to express his regret at the way this incident was handled by field office personnel.

We encourage Chief Anderson to continue to work with the Special Agent in Charge of the Nashville Secret Service field office, who is his appropriate contact on matters of mutual concern.

The obvious question should be, why? They have demonstrated that they have no regard for the law. We know of their prostitute scandal and former Secret Service Agent Dan Bongino has warned America that things are far worse behind the scenes than the American people know. Perhaps next time, Anderson should simply arrest the Secret Service agents for harassing citizens of his area and charge them. Maybe that would get somewhere with these guys.

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Bombshell: Hick Bails on Udall With Obamacare Canceling 550,000 Colorado Health Policies

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Eyebrows around the state were raised when Gov. John Hickenlooper made a very vocal declaration at the last gubernatorial debate that he never supported Obamacare. As he says in this video:

“Again, I’m no big fan of the ‘Affordable’ Care Act... WAIT WAIT WAIT WAIT, HOLD ON, HOLD ON. Every Governor I’ve talked to, every governor would rather have that done each state by state and not have a roll-out with that much detail...” [the Peak’s emphasis]

This is awkward Hick, apparently Politico didn’t get that memo, as they wrote just today:

“The sudden surge, however, comes at an inopportune time for democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper and democratic Sen. Mark Udall, both of whom are fighting for their political lives and **have been staunch defenders** of the health law.”

Be careful there Hick, if you show Colorado you really do have a temper, you’re going to damage the “Hick” Brand™.

Now, while everyone in Colorado could easily believe this is another case of Hick not voicing his displeasure with

Obamacare for the past four years because he didn’t want to tick off his overlords in Washington, D.C., we believe, this might be more a case of Hick being tipped early of the news that broke today.

In a letter that wouldn’t exist without the insistence of state Senator Bill Cadman and his fellow Republicans, Colorado’s Insurance Commissioner Marguerite Salazar informs us that nearly another 20,000 Coloradans had their health insurance canceled last month. While, around another 192,000 plans are not Obamacare compliant and will be canceled by the end of next year. This raises the total number of Coloradans who have had their health care plan canceled because of Obamacare to over 550,000.

This helps to explain Hickenlooper’s sudden about-face on Obamacare, especially since he hasn’t uttered a single peep of disagreement on it these past four years, which includes having no issue signing into law Colorado’s setup of it.

This also signals that Hick and his campaign view Sen. Mark Udall’s campaign as a lost cause now, having no problem jettisoning Udall to save himself. Then again, when it comes to tossing people under

the bus, few people in Colorado politics do it as well as Hickenlooper—“We must protect the BRAND!”

As for Udall, we can add another 192,000 Coloradans in the near future to the already 375,000 he’s lied to when he said, “if you like your plan, you can keep it.” And, by “keep your plan,” he meant, LOL, No you can’t. But, no biggie, it’s not like his race is razor-thin close, and that it could possibly be decided by a few hundred votes. Surely canceling the healthcare plan for another 200k Coloradans couldn’t possibly decide this race.

And, this is the part where we LOL all the way to Election Day.

Wonder if more than half a million Coloradans wish right now they had a Governor who wasn’t afraid to stand up to Obama and D.C., especially if he believes so strongly the laws they are passing will hurt Coloradans. We mean, if, like Hick claims, no governors like Obamacare, this is important information for everyone to know. Why has he not spoken up about this sooner?

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Victim’s Family Greaves Over Hickenlooper’s “Amnesty” for Mass Murderer

by Colorado Peak Politics

(Editor/GG: If you don’t have internet access, please come to our office and we will play it for you.)

Try to watch this new long-form ad from an independent expenditure committee, Better Future for Colorado, without being horrified. Dennis O’Connor, the father of Chuck E Cheese killer victim, Colleen O’Connor, starts the video by talking about how much he loved his daughter, a beautiful young woman who was just 17 years old when Nathan Dunlap executed her. He also conveyed that he never got to say goodbye to his daughter before they took her off life support. Dennis O’Connor said that he was thrilled when the district attorney decided to pursue the death penalty.

The video also, disturbingly, shows Dunlap’s callous attitudes towards his four teenage victims. In a jailhouse interview, Dunlap said: “I wanted them dead and they’re dead.”

Mr. O’Connor’s quest for justice for his little girl was undermined last

year when Gov. John Hickenlooper granted Nathan Dunlap a temporary reprieve from his death penalty sentence. The video is 13 minutes long, but well worth the time to watch. The link is provided below (Editor/GG: Go to ColoradoPeakPolitics.com to view). Grab some Kleenex.

Kelly Maher from the independent expenditure committee criticized the Governor’s actions:

“We all must take time out this election season to remember that it’s time for us to take public safety seriously. Governor Hickenlooper refused to allow families of victims of one of the most tragic crimes in the state’s history closure. He has broken the public trust of his leadership, and people are hurting as a result.”

There is no way you can watch this and walk away thinking that Hick’s decision was justified.

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Middle School Fall Sports



Cross Country From left Greg Teal, Coach Robert O'Callaghan, Dalton Wommack, Katie VonSteinman, Anna Berry, and Kayla Carter.

The football team was named League Champion with a 4 and 0 season defeating Cripple Creek three times and South Park once. The Bobcats met up with a challenge in a non-league game against Hoehne on Saturday, October 18. The team came up short, 44-30. Coach Navar Sayhouse said that "he could not be more proud of the boys." They were over-matched in size, but fought hard.

The volleyball teams played in a tournament in South Park on Friday, October 10 and this tournament decided the team standings for the season. The A-Team placed 4th, the B-Team placed 4th, and the C-Team won their matches for 1st place. Eight girls are 8th graders and will be ready to step up to play at the high school level with the skills they've been working on under Coaches Rebekah Cravens and Laura Kinsey.

On Friday, October 10, at the League Championship high school and middle school cross country meet in Sargent, Dalton Wommack placed 16th out of 66 boys and Kayla Carter placed 18th out of 74 girls on the 3200 meter course.

On Saturday, October 18, Kayla Carter competed in a Championship Girls Division race at Chatfield Reservoir near Denver as the only Custer County runner. She placed 88th out of 288 runners with a time of 15:10 for the 3.5K course. Coach Robert O'Callaghan anticipates that both of these runners will be stretched by older athletes to continue improving at the high school level next year.



Football Back row from left Assistant Coach Brady Hines, #66 Devon Morgan, #65 Johnny Feldman, #82 Memphis Zellhoefer, #81 Danny Moyer, #36 Patrick Post, #24 Billy Berry, #82 Michael Stanley, #60 Logan Kinsey, #22 Alex Gall, #10 Peyton Brady, #26 Josh Baturin, Student Assistant Coach CJ Virden, and Head Coach Navar Sayhouse. (Not shown: Volunteer Assistant Coach Jim Parkes) Front row from left #51 TJ Hurst, #14 Chad Lewenkamp, #44 Cash Rowley, #18 Ray Perez, #31 Wyatt Aldrich, #80 Sam Deathridge, #74 Cody Hopkins, and #71 Luke Comerford.



Volleyball A-Team Back row from left Manager Grant Cravens, Head Coach Rebekah Cravens, #27 Holly Wenger, #32 Katie Florom, #30 Alysha Lyons, #22 Brittney Brandon, #12 Lindsey Gilmore, Assistant Coach Laura Kinsey, and Manager Dillon Kinsey. Front row from left #1 Desiree Forte, #33 Katherine Mullett, #24 Emma Aldrich, #23 Kamri Garhart, #21 Kylinn Wisecup, #34 Kassidy Moore, and #9 Brittney Benoit. (Not shown: #36 Grace Flynn)



Volleyball B-Team Back row from left Manager Grant Cravens, Head Coach Rebekah Cravens, #28 Alaska Koester, #39 Dakota Schoch, #7 Barbara Sellers, #29 Hailee Hutterer, #25 Maddie Vittitow, #20 Jessie Henrich, #5 Devynne Schoch, Assistant Coach Laura Kinsey, and Manager Dillon Kinsey. Front row from left #38 Hannah Kennedy, #26 Kaylie Jones, #40 Tuesday Saint, #8 Savannah Langford, #15 Holly Young, #13 Lindsey Anaya, and #35 Sydney Cooper.



Volleyball C-Team Back row from left Manager Grant Cravens, Head Coach Rebekah Cravens, #26 Kaylie Jones, #11 Memphis Curry, #3 Melody Harson, Assistant Coach Laura Kinsey, and Manager Dillon Kinsey. Front row from left #2 Damien Forte, #10 Elizabethe Aguirre, and #37 Ashley Powell. (Not shown: #14 Nora Lewis and #31 Lira Eicher).



"We the People" Speak

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Local Author and Aviation Enthusiast Bill Scott
will be speaking and signing books

TODAY, Friday, Oct. 24 at 5 p.m. at the Library in Westcliffe

Bill has co-authored three books:
Space Wars: The First Six Hours of World War III;
Counterspace: The Next Hours of World War III,
and *Inside the Stealth Bomber: The B-2 Story.*
A solo-written novel, *The Permit*, is based on the
murder of his eldest son, Erik Scott.

Keep Cañon City Recreational Marijuana Free: Vote No on #2C

"#@!* you little kids" was roared out the window along with a waving finger this week at a group of kids alongside Highway 50. His derogatory howling wasn't aimed at a bunch of hoodlums, but rather boy scouts holding signs against referendum #2C recreational marijuana sales. The most enthusiastic sign holder was only six years old whose poster said, "Kids Say No". I felt a little sorry for the driver as the "mild good citizen" pothead image was once again compromised. I've been subject to vicious threats myself in the campaign against recreational pot and feel lucky they are few in comparison to the copious deeply concerned citizens over where our community is heading.

While marijuana proponents promote the thrills of "safe euphorias," the general population's acceptance is waning. Manitou Springs, which initially embraced recreational sales, now has a ballot issue to rescind the issue. Pueblo West is struggling with inadequate regulations and water rights issues while neighbors are increasingly disgruntled by strong skunk-like odors in the air. Overall, Democratic Governor Hickenlooper has told the nation that Colorado was "reckless" when it passed recreational marijuana. Cañon City doesn't need to be reckless. We can take the initiative to keep our town clean and free from recreational pot shops and production by voting NO on referendum #2C this coming election.

Many people get confused about referendum #2C. It has nothing to do with medical marijuana and it doesn't deny anyone their right to use it recreationally either. Like Penrose, Florence, and numerous other towns in Colorado, it simply keeps the sales and production out of our city limits. It's also important to note that both proponents and opponents agree that pot is dangerous to teen brain development and people diagnosed with mental illness. Recent research, in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, indicates that heavy pot smokers showed memory loss, concentration problems and general cognitive deficits. For adolescent-onset cannabis users, it shows significant IQ declines and mental functions.

Adolescent pot use in America is of concern with about 23% of teens using it. If our community embraces, promotes, and advertises pot, and has it more readily available than ever, our teens will receive conflicting messages about the permanent harm it can cause their cognitive development. Remember the recent Florence Middle School drug bust where kids brought marijuana from someone's backyard to sell? This is a harbinger of things to come. A police detective in Colorado Springs states she never thought she'd see the day when schools would send letters home asking parents to lock their pot up. At the same time, "child-proof" packages holding innocent looking but marijuana-laced candies, cookies, and sodas can be opened by young children with alarming ease. (Google "Dr. Oz, The Dark Side Of Legalized Marijuana: Edible Pot Threatening Your Kids")

Our young people are vulnerable, proper regulations aren't in place, and enforcement has been next to nil. Take a drive down Copper Gulch where several illegal pot farms have been reported. Just watch out for the armed guards with AR-15's and a drug cartel feel. The neighbors are terrified and authorities, although aware, aren't responding. Another local family was shocked when a stranger offered to "trade" marijuana for a Craigslist item in front of their five children. A professional was dumbfounded when multiple patients offered to trade their "personal stash" for dental services. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to see where all this is going.

Lesson learned from the pot couture? Let's stop experimenting with our citizens and keep Cañon City free from recreational pot sales and production. No amount of perceived tax money is worth putting our kids and community at risk. As the young folks holding signs on the street ask, let's do the right thing and Vote NO on referendum #2C.

For more information on studies and articles regarding recreational pot go to <https://www.facebook.com/CanonCityRecreationalPotFree>

by Ashley Smith,
Cañon City

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- *The Best EMS we can afford.*
- *Active sustainable economic development*
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District 3 U.S. Rep.	Scott Tipton
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Attorney General	Cynthia Coffman
D 3 State Bd. of Education	Marcia Neal
D 60 State Representative	Jim Wilson
D 1 County Commissioner	Bob Kattnig
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Local Mountain News & Notices

Hospital District Board Responds to Sinking EMS by Throwing the Life Rafts Overboard

by Paul Sage

Ellie Czarnota was appointed to the position of manager of the Custer County EMS by the board of the West Custer County Hospital District a year ago in the midst of the federal Department of Labor’s revelations that the district’s treatment of EMS employees as independent contractors was illegal.

She led the EMS service through the difficult months when they were paid nothing as a result of the illegal conduct of the district board. She fought for and received minimum wage for the crews following the investigation and later fought for and won pay for night crews for the EMS

She began to rebuild the crews to serve the needs of Custer County residents so damaged by the sudden change from paid to unpaid status, and the controversy swirling around the previously illegal employment arrangement. In her “spare time” she conducted a successful fund raiser this past summer to raise needed funds for the EMS and improve relations with the community. She revised billing practices to come in line with more current industry standards and improved collections by requiring more thorough and timely reporting by her staff.

In appreciation she was treated disrespectfully by the clinic administrator always and the district board frequently. This pattern of behavior culminated this week when board Vice Chairman Bob Tobin and RETAC director Brandon Chambers called a mandatory meeting for the EMS crew Tuesday night. Mr. Tobin brought along new clinic Dr. Rick Amesquita and attempted to push the new agenda that Dr. Rick

would be the “go-between to work out the failure to communicate between Ms. Czarnota and Clinic Director Delwin Lester. Ms. Czarnota saw this as an unworkable solution and offered her resignation if this was the only proposal they could come up with. Meanwhile, Brandon Chambers, the “independent” voice of RETAC attempted to pressure her to “get on board” with the mill levy increase to increase Hospital District funding.

After a hastily arranged board meeting held in secret, or perhaps by email, which has been a common practice of the district board in possible violation of the Colorado sunshine laws, the board and Clinic Director called all EMS personnel to another apparently illegal meeting at the ambulance barn whereupon they proceeded to name two replacements, both basic level EMTs, to replace her, thereby accepting her resignation and adding Ellie Czarnota to the list of dedicated, forward thinking professionals the board has forced out the door to keep their agenda intact.

With Ellie Czarnota no longer directing the EMS and the future of Thomas Englehart’s employment in question over a recent fender bender with an ambulance and his disagreement with the hospital board on issues related to management and the mill levy, (the only two ALS EMTs serving the district) Custer County is left with no real leadership in the EMS and they can no longer operate ALS ambulances, as licensed by the county. The over 100k the hospital district seeks for “administration” costs of the EMS will have to go to people like Clinic Director Delwin Lester who, despite his often quoted rantings about closing down EMS services all over the country, has never worked in

one, is not one, and never supervised one till this board hired him, according to his resume received by the Sentinel from an anonymous source involved in a previous job search.

It would seem that part of the reason for the district board’s displeasure with Ms. Czarnota was her support for building a strong EMS for the county while they sought its failure as an excuse to unload it, and her unwillingness to submit to the heavy handed authority of clinic administrator Lester, who led the fight to push EMS out of the district even if it meant shutting it down.

It is also noteworthy that one day prior to her dismissal, Ms. Czarnota and other members of the EMS crew raised objections to the district’s proposed administration costs being about half of the new mill levy request since she had offered to take care of most of the administration of the EMS at no additional cost. The offer was strongly opposed by the clinic management and board. Mr. Tobin responded to the offer of the highly skilled and experienced EMT with “I’d love to volunteer to be an accountant too, but I’m not an accountant, so you would be very unwise to accept my offer.” While it would be difficult to argue the point that Mr. Tobin is not an accountant, it is difficult to see why the person he and the rest of the board appointed to manage the EMS could not help administer it

In case anyone questions the ability of this district board and administration to manage the EMS into the future, their willingness to put the service at risk, to shut up any opposition to their plans, to take more of your tax money to pump up their coffers should provide clarity.

Laughing At The Library

They say laughter is the best medicine. That may be, but it is also excellent exercise. Locals can try it out for themselves when the West Custer County Library hosts a free Laughter Yoga session on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 3 p.m. in the Library Community Room.

Laughter Yoga leader Jacque Keller will guide the group through laughter exercises and yogic breathing.

“No yoga knowledge or

experience is necessary,” said Keller. “It releases stress and oxygenates the blood which produces numerous health benefits.”

The class is open to all ages and is limited to 30 people, so sign up soon at the library to ensure a spot. For more information, contact West Custer County Library Director Amy Moulton at 783-9138.



Jacque Keller will be leading the Laughter Yoga sessions. *courtesy photo*

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has or will be voting for me in this election.

I will proudly represent House District 60 as we continue to be a strong voice in Denver.

Representative Jim Wilson



Major Legislation Sponsored and Passed Into Law:

**HB13-1165: Creation Of A Manufacturing Career Pathway
(Makes training available to rural and small communities)**

**HB14-1204: Rural School Flexibility
(Cuts down on required reporting for rural schools)**

**SB14-146: State Highways Within Municipalities
(Assisted the City of Salida with Hwy. 50 speed issues)**

**SB14-004: Community College Four-Year Programs
(Allows Community Colleges to offer 4-year BAS degrees)**

**HB14-1118: Advanced Placement Pilot Program
(Makes AP Courses available to rural and small schools)**

**HB14-1382: K-12 On-Line
(Modernized K-12 On-Line Education for the 21st century)**

Accomplishments of note:

Named the Community Colleges of Colorado’s 2013 Legislator of the Year

Created “Takin’ It to The House” - a weekly column of legislative news

Paid for by the Committee To Elect Jim Wilson



Local Mountain News & Notices



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Rick Fortner

Bobcats Win at Kiowa

by Coach Bomgardner

The CCHS Bobcat football team recovered from a tough Simla loss last week and went to Kiowa on Friday night, October 17, and defeated the Indians 28-12. The Bobcats opened the game with a 65-yard touchdown drive. The drive included a completion from Jordan Rhodes to C.J. Virden for 18 yards and a 25-yard run by Conner Rowley. The drive was capped by an 8-yard touchdown by Rhodes. Rowley added the extra point to make it 8-0 for the Bobcats.

The Bobcats defense stopped the Indians on the next possession and drove down the field, only to fumble on the 2-yard line. However, the Bobcats came up with another stop, to give Custer County the ball again. This time, the Bobcats would not be denied. Rowley scored on a 55-yard run. The extra point was no good, and Custer County owned a 14-0 lead early in the 2nd quarter.

"This was probably our best opening to a game," noted head coach Troy Bomgardner. "We had a good week of practice and we were just ready to play.

I am proud of how our guys came out this week against a playoff -qualifier the last two seasons."

The Indians managed a score on the next possession due to a long pass completion, and the Bobcats went into half-time 14-6.

"We kind-of had to regroup at half-time," said Bomgardner. "We had somewhat dominated the 1st half, yet we only led by a touchdown. Our guys were kind of down. But our leaders rallied the team and we came out ready to play."

Kiowa received the 2nd half kickoff only to turn the ball over, and the Bobcats took advantage of it with a 74-yard touchdown pass from Rhodes to Rowley. A missed extra point left the score 20-6.

The Bobcat defense then came up big in the 3rd quarter with two 4th-down stops, with one of them on the Indians 15-yard line.

In the 4th quarter the Indians would score on a broken 4th down play, to bring the score to 20-12. But the Bobcats answered immediately with a 52-yard score by Rowley and 2-point conversion by Andy Feldmann,

which made the score 28-12 with just over 4 minutes left in the game.

The Bobcats would hold on with another 4th down stop, to finish off the Indians 28-12. Offensively, Rowley led the Bobcats with 299 yards rushing and 2 touchdowns and 1 touchdown receiving. Rhodes was 7 of 13 passing for 113 yards and 1 touchdown. "Jordan has steadily improved each game throwing the ball," said Bomgardner. "It is a new position for him but he is getting better each week." Defensively, Kody Aldrich had 18 tackles and Rhodes added 16, with Rowley and Virden adding 15 and 14 respectively. Randy Bailey had his first double-digit tackle game, with 10 tackles.

The Bobcats face the Hoehne Farmers Saturday at 1:00 p.m. in Westcliffe. It will be a big match-up, as the Bobcats have a shot at 2nd place in the Southern League and a chance for a playoff spot with a victory over the Farmers. "We've been talking about a championship culture all year long, and now we have a shot at the playoffs," said Bomgardner. "It should be an exciting day at Henrich

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Great Job Grace Watkins!

Grace's final results just came in from a competition in Omaha put on by the Knights of AkSarBen. Along with her paycheck, her final tally was 3 purple, 3 blue, and 2 red ribbons on her Market Goats. She also received a Top 25 Award by placing 7th in the Carcass Contest. Great job, Grace! And a thanks to all those who support of agriculture in our community.

Courtesy photo by Nancy Watkins

The Custer County Bobcat Band

is hosting it's annual

Chili Supper Fundraiser

5:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1st

in the MPR at Custer County School.

Chili, cornbread and all the fixins!

Come enjoy great food, support the band, and stay for the school's Halloween Carnival!

Cost is \$5 per plate, but donations of any amount will be accepted.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcats on the Hunt for a Play-off Spot!

by Jim Silver

Monday’s practice for the Bobcats football team began with watching film from the team’s 28-12 win against Kiowa, followed by a work-out in the weight room, and finally as darkness was soon approaching, time enough for some running drills on the practice field. Afterward, Head Coach Troy Bomgardner gathered the team together for a short “pep talk.” The team was already “pumped,” anyone there would say.

Team co-captain Kody Aldrich spoke his determination simply: “We want to beat them. We will work hard—harder than them—on and off the field.” Kody’s leadership should help set the course for his teammates for the 4 days of practice and then Saturday’s game against Hoehne.

Senior tight-end and defensive end CJ Virden says, “There’s nothing more fun than playing defensive end.” His pleasure on the football field is making tackles, getting sacks, and blocking punts. He has led

the team in tackles this season, and is obviously hungry for more of the same next Saturday.

Another senior, Taiyr Seilkhan, exchange student from Kazakhstan, is playing football for the first time in his life. He is busy thinking about the game and learning what he calls the “strategy” of playing. Taiyr likes the offensive side of the ball best and his position is tailback. He hasn’t scored yet, but hopes to be given more opportunities.

The way Coach Bomgardner puts it is, “All year long we’ve been trying to create a championship culture. Now, that’s what this week is about.” This is the first year the Bobcats have played 8-man football, and the team has adjusted well and played hard, said the Coach. He is especially pleased with the win over Kiowa. That game in particular “meant something to his players.” It has been a few years since a Custer County team has had a shot at the play-offs. This year’s team would like to change that statics.



Bobcat Varsity Football

Back row: Head Coach Troy Bomgardner, #7 Jordan Rhodes, #4 Conner Rowley, #51 Thomas Dryer, #66 Justin Walden, #56 CJ Virden, #75 Taner Deener, #45 Tylor Howdashell, Assistant Coach Navar Sayhouse (not shown: Assistant Coach Mark Pedigo)

Middle row: #80 Arlo Garner, #44 Edger Pedigo, #68 Kody Aldrich, #74 Cody Lyons, #22 Casey Brandon, #34 Andy Feldmann, #35 Daniel Brinkley, #70 Randy Bailey

Front row: #32 Taiyr Seilkhan, #55 Bryce Roscoe, #30 Mikey Neal, #50 Tait Parsons, #25 Dylan Schoch, #12 Devon Hockaday

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

Bobcats Cross Country

by Coach Swartz

The Custer County Cross Country teams competed at the Colorado State Regional Championship this past Thursday, October 16, in Pueblo. Up first were the Lady Bobcats, on what is traditionally a fast course both Kayli Short and Katlyn Freeburg toughed it out to place 13th and 14th respectfully. In championship racing, the top 15 individuals in the class advance to the Colorado State Championship in Colorado Springs next Saturday, October 25. Congratulations Kayli and Katlyn!

The boys ran later in the evening and their race took on a different look. Fielding a full team (3 or more runners) they were looking to place in the top 3 for the team stand-

ings for a chance to advance. As a team the boys would fall 6 points short of Lake City for 4th place. However, taking the individual regional championship for another year was Corey Lewenkamp. Corey ran a great race all alone, really pushing the pace to help the runners behind him. Benefiting from his teammates fast pace was Michael Franta who finished 11th overall after a fantastic finishing kick. Corey and Michael along with Kayli and Katlyn will be representing Custer County at the State Championship next weekend.

The girls will be running at 9:20 a.m. Saturday, while the boys are at 11:30 p.m.. The State Championships take place at the Norris Penrose Event Center.

Bobcats Sport Schedule

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL
Sunday, October 26
TBD: District

November 2
TBD: Regionals

VARSITY FOOTBALL
Saturday, October 25
1:00 p.m.: Hoehne at HOME

Friday, October 31
TBA: District Playoff

GO BOBCATS!

Bobcat Volleyball Wins Final Match of Regular Season

by Coach Cravens

The Custer County High School Volleyball team traveled to Crested Butte for their final regular season match on Saturday, October 18. The Bobcats had secured the second seed for Districts, so the team used this match as a tune up for the post season.

The Bobcats were all business and took care of the Titans in straight sets, 25-15, 25-18 & 25-19. The team was led by Hannah Schlabach with 8 kills and 6 aces. Hannah was playing a new position and took advantage of her oppor-

tunity. Madeleine Woods had 7 kills and a block. With the absence of Tish Schlabach, Serenity Ham stepped in as libero and had a great match with 15 digs. Kristian Curtis had 21 assists on the day.

AND THE WINNING CONTINUES!

Tuesday night, October 21, the Bobcats started their post-season run with a straight set victory over South Park, 25-23, 25-13 & 31-29. The Bobcats were led by Madeleine Woods with 10 kills. Tish Schlabach had an incredi-

ble night on the serves line with 5 aces. We have been waiting for Tish to have a break-through match on the serves line.

Custer County is off to Sargent on Friday, October 24, to play the second round of Districts. The Bobcats will have their hands full with a round robin tournament. The team will be playing three matches. If the team can finish in the top three they will advance to Regionals. The Bobcats are hoping for the best but knows it’s post-season and that every team is playing at its best.

Bobcat Menu • Oct. 27 - Oct. 30 2014			
 Monday breakfast Pancakes Sausage Links Juice, Milk lunch Soft Beef Taco Rice Choice of Veg. & Fruit Milk	 Tuesday breakfast Scrambled Eggs W.W. Toast Juice, Milk lunch Toasted Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Choice of Veg. & Fruit Milk	 Wednesday breakfast Cheese Quesadillas Fruit Milk lunch Meat Lasagna Garlic Roll Choice of Veg. & Fruit Milk	 Thursday breakfast Sausage Gravy Biscuits Fruit, Milk lunch BBQ Chicken Sandwich Choice of Veg. Choice of Fruit Milk
Elementary: Main dish, bread, milk, choice of 1 veg. & 1 fruit • Middle & High School: Salad Bar			

KIDS

Friday, October 24, 2014

First Transcontinental Telegraph Line Completed October 24, 1861

After California, the first Pacific Coast state, was admitted to the Union in 1850, there were major efforts to integrate California with eastern states. One of those areas was in communications. The eastern states had developed a telegraph line system as far west as Omaha, and California had a small system as far east as Carson City. But, there was a lot of barren land that laid in between.

Congress authorized a subsidy of \$40,000 to any company completing a telegraph line connecting the eastern and western networks. The federal contract was awarded to Hiram Sibley, president of the Western Union Company.

The obstacles to build the line over sparsely populated and isolated plains and mountains were great.

Wire and glass insulators had to be shipped to San Francisco by sea and then carried eastward by horse-drawn wagons over the mountains. Thousands of poles were needed and was a challenge in the largely treeless plains country. So poles also were shipped from the western mountains. And, then there were the Indians. Sioux warriors cut part of the line that had been completed and took the line to make bracelets. Coincidentally, some Indians wearing the wire bracelets became sick and believed the “talking wire” was getting revenge. Their thievery ceased.

Ahead of schedule, on October 24, 1861, workers of the Western Union Telegraph Company linked the eastern and western telegraph networks at Salt Lake City, completing the first transcontinental line. For the first time, instantaneous communication between the two coasts was possible. Stephen Field, Chief Justice of California, sent the first message to President Abraham Lincoln, predicting that this new means of communication would certainly help ensure the loyalty of the western states to the Union.

Source: History.com and Wikipedia.org

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

Corner

Local Mountain News & Notices

Obituary Kirk Eugene Charbonneau

Westcliffe, Colorado resident, Kirk Eugene Charbonneau, died October 11, 2014 in Pueblo, Colorado.

He was born March 2, 1944 in Belloit, Kansas to Dr. Eugene and Audra (Hoagland) Charbonneau of Osborne, Kansas.

After graduation from Osborne High School, Kirk attended McPherson College for two years and played football while in college. He later joined the Army National Guard and served for six years eventually becoming a Platoon Sergeant for E troop.

On April 2, 1967, Kirk married his high school sweetheart, Judy Elliott, also of Osborne.

Kirk worked for the Coleman Company in data processing in Wichita, Kansas for nearly eight years before training to become a Locomotive Engineer for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad in 1974. Within the AT&SF he served as a Locomotive Fireman, Engineer, Relief Road Foreman and Assistant Trainmaster. During his time with the Railroad he was a member of the United Transportation Union and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. He later became a life member of the Colorado Railroad Historical Foundation.

After serving 30 years with the railroad, he and his wife Judy retired to the Wet Mountain Valley near Westcliffe. Kirk was instrumental in bringing American Legion Post 170 back to active status where he served in many different capacities including Honor Guard. He served God and



country and was also a Lifetime Member of the National Rifle Association.

Kirk is survived by his wife, Judy; daughter Sheri Hill, husband Laurin, and grandchildren Graham and Claire; son Kelly Charbonneau, wife Audrey, and grandchildren Kaylee, Colton and Kate.

A memorial service celebrating Kirk's life was held October 22 at the Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club in Westcliffe. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to: American Legion Post 170, PO Box 424, Westcliffe, CO 81252.

Star Fire Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol

by Charlotte Burrous

As a young child, Garey Lillard was introduced to a world that captured his imagination.

So when he turned 13, he joined the Fremont Star Fire Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol working his way up to master sergeant.

"I've always wanted to fly since I was about 8-years-old," Garey said. "So Civil Air Patrol gave me the chance to fly. I've flown twice, (once in) a powered craft and (once in) a glider."

the Space Symposium and hanging out with cool guys, I've been hooked."

Garey said he enjoyed everything about CAP, especially the aerospace education, as well as learning leadership skills and working with the other members of the team.

"The big thing we do is leadership training," Garey said.

After he completes high school, he said he hopes to attend the Air Force Academy on a scholarship then serve in the Air Force as a

the jurisdiction of the Army Air Corps, the website said. The volunteers logged more than 500,000 flying hours and saved hundreds of crash victims during World War II.

After the war ended, "a thankful nation understood that the Civil Air Patrol could continue providing valuable services to both local and national agencies," the website said.

On July 1, 1946, President Harry Truman signed a law to incorporate CAP as a benevolent nonprofit organi-



Members of Fremont Star Fire Squadron of Civil Air Patrol go through inspection during a meeting at the Fremont County Airport.

Sentinel photo by Charlotte Burrous

He along with other members meet once a week at the Fremont County Airport, where they learn different things each week.

"We're training them on ground search and rescue," said Major Bryce Nelson. "We also have character development instruction."

CAP also offers a Science Technology Engineering and Math program for "area youth to become involved in aviation and aerospace, computer security, robotics, astronomy, RC aircraft, model rocketry and radio communications activities," a flyer said.

As an added bonus, CAP provides an opportunity for members to attend the Space Symposium in Colorado Springs.

"The first time I went, my father brought me along (because he was) a chap-erone," Garey said. "Ever since I've been going to

career. He said being a part of CAP is a good way to be able to achieve his goals.

In the meantime, Nelson became involved in the local squadron in 1988 when he moved here from Washington D.C.

"Being a (communications) guy, I immediately got steered into working with the cadets because of the radios," he said.

Back in the 1930s, the national Civil Air Patrol was organized by a group of volunteers, who wanted to use their airplanes and flying skills to defend their country.

"As a result, the Civil Air Patrol was born one week prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor," the website said.

During the war, thousands of volunteers accepted and performed critical wartime missions while assigned to the War Department under

zation. Then in 1948, Congress passed another law, which permanently established CAP as an auxiliary of the new U.S. Air Force.

On the local level, the Fremont Star Fire Squadron was chartered in 1981. Currently, there are nine senior members and 23 cadets, who are involved in emergency services, aerospace education and CAP cadet orientation flight program, a flyer said. Cadets fly a syllabus of five flights that present the process of achieving the FAA private pilot rating using Colorado Wing Cessna 182s.

The Fremont Star Fire Squadron is open to youth between the ages of 12 and 18 for cadets. Participants can become senior members at age 18 or stay a cadet until they're 21 years old. For more information, check the website at Go-CivilAirPatrol.com.

FFA Creed Speaking Results

the meaning of each part.

This year, the current FFA members welcomed Riley Smith, Nicole Henrich, Michael Evert, Ian Aldrich, Megan Frahm, Dayna Cosgrove, Elizabeth Mullett, Halie Lemons, McKensie Penkoff, and Scott Freeburg to the chapter. Judges Barb Jones, Eric Thompson, and Michelle Tillotson, had their work cut out for them as they judged each member's presentation of the creed and composure and preparation while answering 3 questions concerning the creed, "What is 'a faith born not of words but of deeds'?"

"How will American agriculture affect the future of the planet?" and "The industry of agriculture is constantly changing and the FFA Creed has been revised to reflect those changes. When we revisited the creed, why was the word farming changed to agriculture?"

After comparing scores and discussing each speaker, the winners were finally announced. Halie Lemons and McKensie Penkoff tied for 3rd, Riley Smith was runner-up, and Elizabeth Mullett was the champion. Mullett will compete at the district level next.



by Noah Tillotson,
FFA Recorder

On Thursday, October 16, FFA members, parents, and supporters of agriculture gathered in the Custer County School multi-purpose room to hear new members recite the FFA Creed beginning, "I believe in the future of agriculture." Inductees to the Custer County FFA must memorize the extensive, four paragraph creed and be able to interpret

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If necessary in an emergency if you do not have the option switch you can rewire the pump disconnect to power it with a generator. If you're not familiar with electrical wiring do not attempt this.

For those in need of help we can install option switches and power cords to run your generator and pump water safely.

Always remember when the power goes out the best way to protect your pump and other electronics/motors is to turn the power off and only turn it back on when electric company power is stable. Leave one breaker that controls a light circuit on, so you can tell that power has returned. Once power has been on for several minutes it should be safe to turn on the remaining breakers.

-David Nequette /Lic. 1043

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Local Mountain News & Notices

KASSI

From page 1

purchased a long yearling filly in 2012 to aim toward the 2014 young horse divisions at Reno. Unfortunately, the mare became injured and her training too delayed for any fall futurities. She's since made a full recovery and is on track for the derbies—but when it came time to send in entries for the Snaffle Bit this fall, riding Howard in the ancillary horse show classes was Ryff's only shot.

"I decided to go for it, and we began hauling to Oklahoma and Texas once a month to train with Don Murphy," Ryff says. "So many miles and hours away from home, and my husband and two little girls have been nothing but encouraging. I'm so blessed to have their support, and that of my parents, Darell and Twila Geroux; my grandparents, Jerry and Sharon Estis, and my aunt and uncle, Jerry and Toloa Pearl. None of this would be possible without their help." Kit and daughters Kendyl, 4, and Kache, 1, make the trip as often as they can, turning the training and horse showing into a family affair.

Growing up as a rancher's daughter has surely helped in an event that revolves around working cattle with both speed and finesse. Even so, Ryff admits she struggles with positioning Howard properly in the fence work, and with the tricky aspect of showmanship.

"It happened in Reno: I showed too cautiously in my originally entered class, the Non-Pro Bridle divisions, and came away empty-handed," Ryff



Kassi and Howard, competing in Reno.

Courtesy photo by Fletch Photography

says. "So I decided, last-minute, to enter the Limited Open class. I didn't want to leave Reno without another chance in the pen."

Her decision and more aggressive riding paid off; Ryff and Howard bested the field of entry-level young professionals, taking home a championship buckle, \$1,200, and the satisfaction of having their perseverance and hard work rewarded. Ryff's NRCHA earnings now exceed \$13,500, and she's got no intention of looking back. This win follows her Non-Pro Bridle Championship this past May

in Pueblo Colorado, at the Hackamore Classic. Ryff's next stop is the AQHA World Show, in November, followed by the NRCHA World Show in February.

"I've wanted to show stock horses since I was ten years old and tagging along with my Uncle, Larry Handy, as he announced at Colorado events. I'd watch those horses and riders and wish for the day I'd get my own chance to show," she says. "I still can't believe it's happening now, that I'm getting to live my dream. And I'm just as far in as I'll ever be out."

A Vote for 4A Is A Vote Against School, Library, Fire Department

by Paul Sage

One of the new facts that came to light at the recent "friends of EMS political action committee sales pitch at the bowling alley was the point made by former Hospital District Treasurer Chuck Ippolito, who commented that "a three mill levy will bring in about 35 thousand dollars of specific ownership tax... And all the taxing entities get a portion of that. There was no mention of that 35 thousand dollars and where it would go."

Everyone was confused about this issue, including Hospital Board Vice Chairman Bob Tobin, who was making the presentation. The new revenue generated for the hospital district was not in the proposed budget anywhere.

The picture soon became more clear when the County Treasurer informed the Commissioners, who were

in the process of hammering out the final details of the 2015 budget, that if the mill levy increase were to pass next month, the county would stand to lose a substantial portion of the specific ownership tax and the proposed budget could go tens of thousands of dollars into the red.

The money we are talking about here is called the 'Specific Ownership Tax', and you pay it any time you register anything with a license plate on it. That money is thrown into one pot – and it is a substantial pot – and a majority of it is disbursed to the 18 various taxing entities in the county according to a state mandated protocol, based on the mill levy each entity receives.

The biggest piece of this pie goes to the taxing entity with the highest mill levy and so on. In Custer County the C-1 School District

has the highest mill levy and therefore receives the largest portion of the Specific Ownership Tax sum. In the 2013/14 school year they received \$317,730.87.

If the Hospital District's mill levy were to increase from 4.908 to 7.908, as they propose, the amount of Specific Ownership Tax paid to the Hospital District would go up substantially and all of the other entities would receive less of this money, effectively making a property tax increase for the Hospital District a revenue cut to all the other taxing entities.

As the amount of this money available is ever changing and based on the current value of the licensed vehicles registered, a specific number is difficult to arrive at. The Custer County School would suffer a revenue cut of somewhere between \$15,000 and \$30,000.

While the school district and the county and many of the other taxing entities struggle to budget conservatively, the Hospital District recklessly wastes tax revenue on things not mandated by the people and threatens to shut down the EMS service if you don't capitulate and give them more money to recklessly spend on their current course.

Since the Hospital District has a proven track record of not being able to live within their means and returns to the voters on a regular basis for more tax money, this effectively makes a yes vote on 4-A a vote to penalize the school district, the fire districts, both town governments, the Library District, the county government, Round Mountain Water and the other districts, and the other taxing entities will suffer a revenue cut as a result

Penrose Concerned Citizens

Want to hear about the current status of legal medical marijuana facilities in Penrose? Ever wonder if fire is an issue at a greenhouse or a manufacturing facility?

Please plan to attend our next meeting on Monday, Oct. 27th, at 7:30 p.m.

Calvin Sundermann, Penrose Fire Chief, will be our speaker.

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