



More Clinic Turmoil:

Board Member Bruiser says Clinic is Broke and Quits - Meeting Ends in Shouting

by Paul Sage

A special meeting of the West Custer County Hospital District was held on December 5th to consider board candidates and approve the proposed 2015 budget for the district. There has once again been a mass exodus of District Board members, which began with Ken Lankford and Chuck Ippolito over disagreements with the mill levy increase, and has continued with Board Chairman Joe Arbuckle, mill levy cheerleader Bob Tobin, and effective December 31st, Brent Bruiser.

Mr. Bruiser explained that health issues with family members in Louisiana is precipitating his departure, but no explanation was given for the resignations of Mr. Arbuckle or Mr. Tobin. This continues the multi-year tradition of non-elected, self-appointed members running the District Board.

With regard to fulfilling the promises of new transparency in the hospital district, Mr. Bruiser, acting as the Board Chairman for the purposes of this meeting, explained that technical difficulties were pre-

venting doing so. “We are in arrears, as we’ve admitted,” according to Mr. Bruiser, explaining the lack of timely information on the web site. He continued that this could “probably be done in a matter of a day or two” now that appropriate technical help was obtained.

(The District) is seeking up to another \$215,000 line of credit to carry it through until tax revenues become available.

A followup four days after this meeting, shows that this problem has yet to be resolved. There are no board minutes posted since August, no new budget information, and the next board meeting was scheduled for November 25th.

New Board member candidates Peggi Collins and Steven Allen

were interviewed to replace Joe Arbuckle on the Board. Part of the way through the process Ms. Collins withdrew her name from consideration at this time and Steven Allen was appointed to Mr. Arbuckle’s position. Mr. Allen is another retired banker, a long-time friend of recent board appointee and banker Roy Gillmore who joins the other retired banker, Brent Bruiser and Ivan Grauman on the District Board.

To explain the financial condition of the hospital district in banking terms, Mr. Bruiser offered “We have a huge timing difference between now and when the tax revenues come in in March/April, and we’re going to need to fund that delta.” This was the explanation of the fact that there is no money to fund the operation, and borrowed money will have to carry it through. The District is currently \$20,000 in debt to the bank on the existing \$80,000 line of credit, and is seeking up to another \$215,000 line of credit to carry it through until tax revenues become available. This means that most, if not all, of the new mill levy revenue can potentially be spent before the first

quarter of the new year is completed.

The other creative financing tool utilized by the District, as explained by Mr. Bruiser, is “riding our trade.” He offered, “Last year we were having to ride our trade pretty aggressively to make sure we’d have enough money in the bank to write checks for running the enterprise.” To the average person, this means postponing paying bills, making late payments or, for example, paying your Visa with your Master Card.

During the public comment part of the meeting, former Board Treasurer Chuck Ippolito challenged the fact that the \$63,000 proposed in the public forum information as needed to pay benefits for the EMS staff does not appear in the 2015 budget. It was explained that the EMS staff is part-time and don’t qualify for benefits. It was not explained as to why these figures were presented in the informational sessions as a needed sum if this

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Wild Bill Issues a Challenge to Help the Sharing Center

Dear Veterans and Custer County Community,

I am humbly asking all of the veterans and the generous community of Custer County to reach a little deeper in your hearts and pockets to make a donation to the Custer County Community Sharing Center. As you may recall, the Sangre de Cristo Sentinel had an article in the Friday, November 14, issue regarding the Custer County Community Sharing Center, Inc., telling its modest beginnings and how it serves our community.

Ruth Mitchell who is the director for the Sharing Center has to relocate the facility from Hope Lutheran Church to the storage facility across the street from the Spotted Pig on Highway 96 in Silver Cliff by December 31. The need to assist our neighbors is growing. No one expects to be in a position of need or go hungry from time to time. However, it happens. The Sharing Center currently provides food for over 600 people whether they are unemployed, underemployed, disabled, elderly, or a child. Know that there isn’t any government funding for the Sharing Center

and the community’s needs are growing because of a declining economy.

Due to the expanding needs of the Sharing Center, a new corporation was recently formed with an all-volunteer board of directors. Your generous donation, no matter the amount, is greatly appreciated! Remember, the new location will allow the Sharing Center to continue to assist our brothers and sisters with the distribution of food, clothes, and household goods.

The Sharing Center has tax exempt status which qualifies it for participation in the Spirit Fund Campaign of the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (matching funds). Or, checks can be deposited into an account for the Sharing Center at First State Bank on Adams Boulevard in Westcliffe.

Thank you, one and all, for your continued support of each other. As veterans know, Christmas is especially tough. I am trying to pay it forward and I need your help!

Love,
Wild Bill

Festival of Trees

by Carol Clemenson

The Festival of Trees gala held at Cliff Lanes December 5th and 6th was a resound-

place and the 5th Grade class took 3rd place. \$200 will be given to the school library for the outstanding decorated trees.



Some of the beautiful trees on display at the Festival of Trees last weekend.

Sentinel photo by Paul Sage

ing success. The decorative skill of our valley children was displayed at its best. Attendees voted for the tree awards. The Kindergarten class took first place, the 1st Grade took 2nd

Rosemary Moose’s Cowboy Corner V took the highest sold tree price of \$200 to Ann Robey who has waited 3 years to get

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PATRIOT ALERT! Democrats Want Your TABOR Refund

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Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Psalm 27:14, NIV



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*A different view from
the same mountains!*


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

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

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

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Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

18,000,000,000,000 (That's Trillion)

EIGHTEEN can be a good number. It's pretty much the coming of age in America as in 18 year old. Citizens can vote, serve their country, and make their own decisions in life. It's when you start paying full price for all tickets. Most believe it's the age of adulthood. Unless you are a liberal progressive that believes in Obamacare and then you are still a child until you are 26 years old. EIGHTEEN can be a good number. An American invented baseball and it takes EIGHTEEN players to play baseball, if you don't count the "designated hitter" which the American league started many years ago to keep aging players on the roster. It ruined baseball in my opinion. Now a player can get paid a lot of money for going up to the plate 3-4 times a game and striking out. But we digress. EIGHTEEN can be a good number. It's the number of holes on a golf course. An old myth tells us that the Scottish arrived at that odd number because that is exactly how many "slugs" of whiskey are in a pint. Pint is empty, the game is over. Only a very small percentage of golfers really master the game. It's a simple game of distance and direction. However, if you have ever tried it, you know better. We once heard golf described as a nice walk gone bad. Golf clubs at the bottom of the pond prove that theory. However, we've also heard it described like this: The worst day on the golf course beats the best day in

the office. So the number EIGHTEEN is a strange one. It can be good sometimes and bad, very bad at other times. Take for instance America's national debt. It's now EIGHTEEN trillion dollars and accumulating rapidly every day. With respect to the debt EIGHTEEN is a very bad number. Our elected representatives have put our country into an economic death spiral and they just keep adding to it. A Trillion is a very large number. More than most of us can really understand. A Bil-

lion is also a large number and most can't even really comprehend that. Let's start with a Million. Most can probably fathom what a Million dollars is and looks like. A Million dollars is one thousand \$100 bills. A Billion dollars is 1,000 Millions. A Trillion dollars is 1,000 Billions or

And EIGHTEEN Trillion dollars is how much money our politicians (the president and all the members of congress) have "borrowed" to pay for all the nice goodies they so graciously give to us.

stand, the debt is the total amount of money we have put on America's credit card. The deficit is how much we borrow and put on it every year to pay our out of control programs. The politicians now brag that the deficit is ONLY \$500 Billion a year – that's half a Trillion dollars. And

they gleefully go back into session and vote to borrow some more to pay for some more things we don't need with money we don't have. And this \$18 Trillion of debt doesn't even count what they have stolen from the social security account and replaced with IOUs. And there is no end in sight because Congress and the president won't agree on a balanced budget plan or amendment. Senator Obama, when campaigning in 2008, said that the debt President Bush was running up was irresponsible and unpatriotic. Yes, he actually said that with a straight face and for once was right. As president he has doubled the debt from about \$9M to \$18T and he now says that the debt is not a problem. He has insisted that Congress keep raising the debt ceiling so "America" can pay its bills. Yes, that's right, the bills that he and the Congress keep authorizing even though we don't have the money. Here are some rough numbers. The first 43 presidents of the United States "rang up" a total of about \$9T of total debt. Bush was responsible for \$4-5T of that. Now Obama has taken the \$9T to \$18T in six years. It's projected to be over \$20T when Obama is forced to leave office. Once politicians decided to start giving "free" things to the citizens, and the citizens gleefully started accepting them, the death spiral was started. Like most debt, this credit card demands a lot of interest. We heard a projection that once we reach

\$20T the interest alone on that "debt" will be equal to one-half of our annual \$3T federal budget. Can you even imagine that? Probably not. Let's not quibble over exact numbers. Maybe that projection isn't correct. What is correct is that America has to go on a diet. We have to eliminate borrowing. It's unhealthy and will destroy our country, if it hasn't already. Last week the International Monetary Fund (IMF) declare China the largest economy in the world. America is now number two. Here is what we are looking for from a Republican Congress starting in 2015 and hopefully a Republican president in 2016. BALANCE THE BUDGET every year. REDUCE THE DEBT by reforming and modifying every nanny state program we have. These things can be done. They need to be done. If not we all need to start learning a new number. What comes after a Trillion? A Trillion is a number that has 12 zeros behind it. The next step is 15 zeros. Not possible right? I bet Americans in the 1800s and early 1900s never thought they would ever hear the word Billions. Now we toss the number Trillion around like it's pocket change. We urge the 104th Congress, under told Republican control, to begin the healing process. We need tough love. And oh, by the way, if they don't start fixing this problem the next number is QUADRILLION. May we never hear that word from our politicians.

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Your Opinions... "We the People" Speak



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Licensing Contractors? Enough is Enough

My name is Kelly Carroll with CLH Construction. I build in Fremont and Custer Counties. I live in Fremont County.

It has come to my attention that Fremont County now wants to license contractors. As of now, we have a building department with very capable and good inspectors who know and do their job very well. We have building codes which are more than adequate for our climate, elevation, and geology.

Now that we have established that the public is protected with the quality of building which is required and the insurance of the building department doing their job. What is to be gained by licensing contractors?

1. Will a licensed contractor be able to override the code book?
2. Will we be able to override the inspector?
3. Will we be able to override the engineers?

4. Will we be exempt from the permit fees and prepaid taxes that we now pay?

5. Will it guarantee that the customer will be dealing with a contractor who does good quality work and practices good ethics, and will treat his/her customer well?

6. Will it make the County and inspectors accountable for something that could go wrong?

7. Will it hold the engineers accountable?

8. Will the fees offset future costs of the program?

The answer to all these questions is "NO."

Then:

1. Will it create another tax payer bureaucracy?
2. Will it ensure we have more tax payer funded employees?
3. Will it cause more people to do their own projects that should be permitted without their permits?

4. Will the lack of the taxes and funds by permitting be lost to the County?

The answer to these questions is "YES"

Maybe the other questions which need to be asked are:

1. Why does Fremont County, Colorado, with one of the best climates in the United States, have one of the slowest growth rates?

2. Why won't businesses move to our County?

3. Why won't retirees move to our County?

4. Why, with such fantastic natural resources, ex: climate, beauty, outdoor recreation and proximity to fantastic airports (Denver and Colorado Springs), would we be dying as a community if it weren't for the prison system?

Instead, what we get is: Let's take more from the small businesses which eke out a living. Let's add more paperwork and bureaucracy to the small businesses.

I'll bet a million bucks every time a fee, a tax, another piece of paperwork, or another regulation that was added to a business, that if it would apply equally to the politicians and bureaucrats, we would not be as over taxed and over regulated as we are.

In my opinion, we need rules to a point. We need government and regulations to a point. But, we have reached a point in our society when we are now slaves to the monster of the government. The more we go down this road, the quicker we destroy our future and our ancestor's futures. I believe, as a free man and the free people I deal with, I have the right to do business without the permission of someone else and so does everybody else. You have set enough rules and are collecting enough taxes. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

Kelly Carroll,
CLH Construction

TURMOIL From page 1

is the case. The discussion rapidly deteriorated into a shouting match and Mr. Bruiser adjourned the meeting on his own and refused to answer any further questions.

(Editor/GG: To recap: The three clinic board members, Joe Arbuckle, Brent Bruiser, and Bob Tobin, who pushed the \$275,000 clinic tax hike through, have now all quit within weeks of its passing leaving the difficult task of trying to "save" a broke clinic and deal with the clinic's

controversial Director Delwin Lester, to the three brand new board members, who apparently have NO health care management experience. These three resignations couldn't have come at a worse time. The clinic's woes were never about money, it was about leadership and management. It would have been more than appropriate for the prior board members to remain for an extended period to provide a solid transition for the new board members. Not a good legacy. We wish the new board members good luck.)



Masses for the Christmas Season 2014

Our Lady of the Assumption, Westcliffe

Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Mass 4 p.m.

Thursday, December 25th
Christmas Day Mass 11 a.m.

Sunday, December 28th
Feast of the Holy Family Mass 11 a.m.

Tuesday, December 30th
Week Day Mass 10 a.m.

Thursday, January 1st
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God Mass 11 a.m.

Sunday, January 4th
Solemnity Epiphany of the Lord Mass 11 a.m.

St. Benedict's Church, Florence

Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Mass 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 25th
Christmas Day Mass 8 a.m.

Saturday, December 27th
Feast of the Holy Family Mass 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 28th
Feast of the Holy Family Mass 8 a.m.

Wednesday, December 31st
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God Vigil
Mass 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 1st
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God Mass 8 a.m.

Saturday, January 3rd
Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Mass 4 p.m.

Sunday, January 4th
Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Mass 8 a.m.

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What the Rotary Club Offers

Dear Sentinel Readers:

I'm writing to thank the wonderful people of our community and beyond who have supported the work of the Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Club and Foundation since its inception in 1968. Here is a brief description of what our club has been able to do over the years as we attempt to live out the Rotary International motto of "Service Above Self".

Our Rotary van service operates under the Wet Mountain Valley Community Services, Inc. title. With 25 plus drivers, we transport anyone with a variety of needs to locations within a 100-mile radius. Many clients have no other viable means of transportation.

Our Lending Medical Aids program provides crutches, walkers, hospital beds, canes, and scooters. It is self-sustaining through donations from both clients and local residents.

We also give free dictionaries to third grade students, provide visits by Santa to students at school and to elderly citizens. We help with ticket sales at school athletic events and parking at the Bluegrass Festival.

The main focus of the Foundation is our Scholarship program which helps launch post high school academic and vocational training programs. In the past two years, scholarships have also been awarded to two incoming international students participating in the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Three local students have enjoyed being sent overseas in exchange. Numerous local high school students have attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy near Glenwood Springs each summer. Since 1987, the Rotary Club Foundation has awarded nearly \$440,000 in scholarships to over 210 graduating area high school students. The funds come through

tax exempt donations from individuals, organizations, and from Rotary fundraisers. Some donations are bequests or memorials which endow annually awarded grants, while others fund current year scholarships. Our annual fundraisers include the Rotary Scholarship Golf Tournament and the Rotary Pancake Breakfast.

I'm very proud of the thousands of volunteer hours donated by our club members and volunteer drivers who support our efforts to serve this fabulous place we call home.

On behalf of the Rotary Club & Foundation, thank you. I hope we can continue our efforts in the months and years to come through the continued financial support of the 2014 Community Spirit Campaign.

*Very respectfully submitted,
Patrick Lynch,
Rotary Club President*

Ouija Board – Harmless Game? I think Not!

In case you missed it like I did, this October 24th, they released the movie, "Ouija". The official description of the movie reads: "A group of friends must confront their most terrifying fears when they awaken the dark powers of an ancient spirit board". Since the release of this movie the sales and online searches for this board are up three hundred percent according to google in its commerce blog.

What is a Ouija board, you ask? According to Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, it is a trade mark used for a board with the alphabet and other signs on it that is used with a planchette to seek spiritualistic or telepathic messages.

The Ouija board has been around for a long time. According to smithsonian.com, "it came straight out of the American 19th century obsession with spiritual-

ism, the belief the dead are able to communicate with the living. In 1890 Charles Kennard of Baltimore and a group of four other investors started the Kennard Novelty Company to make and market these boards.

Right now Ouija boards are available at walmart.com and amazon.com. The recommended age is 8 years and up. Yes, 8-year-old children can play communicating with the dead. It is listed as "can be your gateway to other worldly realms". There is even a Ouija board app available FREE instantly on your connected Android device. It is also available in stores in the TOY department.

So, should you be alarmed? Is there any true danger with a Ouija board? Yes! There are many ways to invite demons into your lives and this is one of the most popular. You say you

don't believe in demons? You don't have to, in fact satan is thrilled if you don't believe in him. That makes his job so much easier. It is very dangerous to dabble in the mysterious other worlds. I know from personal experience that this "TOY" is dangerous.

I pray you don't fall for satan's ploy and buy this for your children. It is not a good way to celebrate the birth of our Lord by inviting satan to Christmas Dinner.

Do your own research on this topic. Should you decide this is not appropriate for your children, that is wonderful! However, remember your children have friends. You might want to share this information with other parents.

*Audrey Slater,
Oak Creek Grade*

Correction on Hospital District Letter

Dear Editor,

In my letter to the editor last week I stated that clinic staff would receive a pay raise in 2015. This is incorrect. For some reason the hospital district took employees retirement plan benefits (also known as deferred compensation) and lumped it into their salary figures. This overstated the salaries which made them appear larger than their 2014 salary figures. There is a specific line item in their budget for retirement benefits but they chose not to use that line item to separate retirement benefits from their base salaries. It was a completely inadvertent mistake on my part.

*Chuck Ippolito,
Silver Cliff*

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV

Ask a Pro: How to find your wells *reported* production.

There are many places that show GPM (gallons per minute) on the various reports and website data available for wells.

‘The main website of the Colorado Division of Water Resources (CDWR) should be used only as a reference’ the folks at the CDWR have advised us such because the data is only somewhat complete and full of errors.

Pump installation reports also show GPM but currently the CDWR only wants us to report the maximum flow “the pump” is capable of producing. A lot of well meaning folks wrongly use this figure especially when selling a home.

The only place to find the “drillers account” of production is on the Well Construction and Test Report (Drillers Log) form number GWS-31. The older form was more professional and easier to read. On the “new improved version” it is much harder to find; it is near the bottom-right of the page, item 12.

A prospective buyer should always have a Well Test performed before purchasing property with a well as things may have changed or have been overstated.

-David Nequette/Lic. 1043

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Brian Cline Appointed to School Board

by Larry Luikart

The Custer County C-1 School Board meeting opened with three members in attendance.

Mr. Monty Lee, Mr. Bob Jolley, and Dr. Terre Davis. This constituted a quorum. Ms. Gaide was absent due to a family illness. Mr. Lee as Vice-Chairman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and made two minor adjustments to the agenda.

The Board began their work by interviewing two candidates for the open position on the Board. Brian Cline and Gary Frickle were present with a third possible candidate (not present) who was disqualified for not residing in former Board member Jill Rowland's district.



Brian Cline was appointed to the school board.

Sentinel photo by Larry Luikart

Mr. Cline and Mr. Frickle were asked a series of questions by the Board regarding their reasons for wanting to be on the Board, strengths and weaknesses in the District, leadership responsibilities as a Board member, their feelings regarding support of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) initiative in the District, relationships with other Board members and the District administration. Each candidate had an opportunity to ask the Board any questions they might have regarding the position.

Public questioning resulted in two concerns. Mr. Frickle has served as a member of the School Board for two previous terms. State statutes limit an individual to two terms in a lifetime. Mr. Selle explained no case law exists challenging an individual to serving out a term until the next election cycle as an appointed member. Although one person is currently serving on another board under similar conditions, no legal challenge had been raised in that situation. Mr. Selle made a declarative statement that Mr. Frickle, if appointed, cannot run in an election to fill the position. The

second question regarded the Board's feeling regarding maintaining continuity on the Board since Mr. Frickle cannot run as a candidate. Mr. Lee answered that the Board would deal with that eventuality as they have in the past when new members are elected or appointed.

After a twenty minute recess the Board reconvened and Dr. Terre Davis nominated Brian Cline for the Board position. Mr. Jolley seconded his nomination and by a unanimous vote Mr. Cline was appointed to the Board. Mr. Lee emphasized his appointment is only until the next election cycle in November 2015. Mr. Cline, if he desires, may then run as a candidate for a two year term on the Board. Mr. Lee read the Oath of Office and Mr. Cline was seated at the Board table.

Mr. Troy Baumgartner, School Counselor, presented a diploma to Robert Lee Weidinger. Mr. Weidinger, recognizing the importance of completing his high school education, returned to school this year. Mr. Lee in his remarks after the presentation indicated he believed there is nothing more important than completing your high school education and he complimented the staff regarding their dedication and professionalism in helping Mr. Weidinger achieve his goal.

Two personnel positions were approved: Gerald Hoel as a school bus driver and Lisa Guarnera as the Technology Director pending a background check. The check vouchers and financial reports were approved. Policy CBI-R (Evaluation of Superintendent - Regulation) was considered along with the Superintendent Evaluation Form. Both of these documents were approved.

Three bids were obtained for Information Technology Services by Mr. Selle. The Board after hearing the various plans approved HMC Networks, Inc. to provide IT services for the District. The new IT provider contract should save the District considerable money while providing necessary service.



Robert Lee Weidinger completed his high school education and received his diploma. Congratulations, Robert! Job well done!

Sentinel photo by Larry Luikart

The draft audit for the District was reviewed along with approval of Property, Liability, and Automobile Insurance.

Holly Anderson, Elementary Principal, was absent but she did submit a written report. It mostly centered on the new report card and its evaluation by the parents. The responses from parents seemed to be mixed regarding their likes and dislikes for the new format.

Barb Jones, Secondary Principal, reported that Diane Bohach is doing an excellent job as the district assessment coordinator. She thanked Mr. Jack Swartz for sponsoring the high school pep club - "Custer's Calvary." She recognized three students, Corey Lewenkamp, who has signed an athletic letter to attend Alabama / Huntsville; Erin McCarthy, who is confirmed to attend Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas; and Madeline Woods, as a Boettcher semi-finalist.

Mr. Selle reported the Governor's budget includes increases for K-12 grades in the state. He continued a point of emphasis that the negative factor in the state school formula continues at the \$495,000 for the District. Superintendents across the state are petitioning the legislature and governor to revise the budgeting upward since more funding at the state level is now available. The District will need to address in the near future the purchase of additional / new hardware in the technology area. There is a vacancy for a board member on the technology committee. The new bus should arrive sometime after the first of the year.

The Board closed the public portion of their meeting for an Executive Session to consider the ongoing complaint raised by Troy Bomgardner. The session was necessary due to the possible involvement of students and staff in the complaint.



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Samuel Adams - Founding Father

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Phil 4:7, NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcats Girls Basketball Team Gets First Win

by Jim Silver

From Thursday, December 4th, through Saturday the 6th the Girls Basketball Team travelled to Trinidad State Junior College and back to Westcliffe for a basketball game each of those days—3 games in 3 days, the hard way! The Bobcats posted a win and two losses as the girls got their season under way. On Thursday, the Bobcats more than met their match against the Hoehne Farmers, who outscored them 55 to 9.

Our Custer County team bounced back from that loss as they met the John Mall Panthers for Friday's game. The Bobcats came out on top of the Panthers 40-37. The final match-up was the next day against a New Mexico team, the Springer Red Devils. The Bobcats held their own except for being outscored 18-11 in the third quarter ending the game with a 45-39 loss. More complete game stats and tournament

standings were unavailable at Sentinel press-time.

We'll have the opportunity see the Bobcats play some basketball on the Custer County court twice in the next 2 weekends. The first home game is on Friday, December 12th when La Veta comes to town. Girls will play at 5:00 and the boys at 6:30. The teams will travel to Simla on Saturday, the 13th: JV at 1:00, Girls Varsity at 2:30, and Boys Varsity at 4:00.

The following weekend again shows two games scheduled. The teams play away games against Sierra Grande on Friday, December 19, girls at 5:00 and boys at 6:00 p.m. ECA (Evangelical Christian Academy) will play on the Bobcats home court on Saturday the 20th with the schedule showing a JV (girls) game at 2:00 pm, Girls Varsity at 3:00, and Boys Varsity at 4:00. GO BOBCATS!

Start-up of Boys Basketball Season

by Jim Silver

The Custer County Bobcats boys basketball team will have about three weeks of practice under their belts when they face La Veta at home in their season opener on Friday, December 12th. The team was not able to play in the Trinidad State Junior College tournament December 4-6 as scheduled due to a roster shortage at the time of tournament entry sign-up. The Bobcats are still few in number, but are not short in enthusiasm as they come together as a team. The players showed up well in a scrimmage against Cotapaxi on Tuesday, December 2nd. Some younger players are getting the opportunity to compete at the varsity level sooner than they might have anticipated a year ago, but they're looking like they are up to the challenge. The 7-man roster consists of 3 freshmen, 2 sophomores, 1 junior, and 1 senior. New Head Coach Jim Bistodeau sees this as a team with a lot of potential to be com-

petitive as the 2014-15 season gets underway.

Coach Bistodeau is no stranger to the students he's coaching. He came to the Custer County schools in 2001 to teach History, though his career as an educator began 10 years earlier at Englewood High School in 1991. Nine years at Cheyenne Wells preceded his coming to Westcliffe, and throughout all these years Mr. Bistodeau has coached football, basketball, baseball, and track at both high school and middle school levels. Currently, he teaches juniors and seniors a class in Government and teaches Psychology as an elective. He has a history degree from Metro State and a Masters in Education from Adams State, and was in business management prior to entering the teaching profession.

Assistant Coach Navar Sayhouse has a special knack for coaching high school athletes and the younger middle school boys, teaching the game

and mentoring them, as well. He successfully coached middle school football in the season just ended and served also as an Assistant Coach for Coach Bomgardner's high school team. Coach Sayhouse graduated from Custer County High School just a couple years ago in 2012. In fact, he was coached in middle school basketball by the man he now works with, Head Coach Jim Bistodeau.

We have two opportunities to see the Bobcats play basketball on their home court before the Christmas break. The home game against La Veta on Friday, December 12th is followed by two away games: Simla on December 13th and Sierra Grande on December 19th. On Saturday, December 20th, the Bobcats will play Evangelical Christian Academy at home with games starting at 2:00, 3:00, and 4:00-- JV, Varsity Girls, and Varsity Boys. So come out to watch some good basketball and support the Bobcats!

Bobcats Sport Schedule

VARSITY BASKETBALL

Friday, December 12
5 p.m.: La Veta at HOME

Saturday, December 13
2:30 p.m.: Simla AWAY

Friday, December 19
5 p.m.: Sierra Grande AWAY

WRESTLING

Friday, December 12
4 p.m.: Limon Scrimmage at Limon

Saturday, December 13
9 a.m.: Limon Tournament at Limon

Saturday, December 20
9 a.m.: John Mall Tournament, Walsenburg



Mon. thru Wed.
4PM-8PM
Thurs. thru Sat.
11AM-8PM
Sunday.
11AM-7PM

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Local Mountain News & Notices

CCHS Students Make Plans for Life After High School

CCHS students have begun the journey to post-secondary education. Seniors Corey Lewenkamp and Erin McCarthy have made their decisions on where they will be attending in the fall of 2015. Lewenkamp has signed a cross country letter of intent with the University of Alabama-Huntsville and Erin McCarthy has decided on attending Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas.

Each student has researched their chosen universities and discovered they are a great fit for them. Each student had different routes to finding their choice college. Lewenkamp has

merous internship and job opportunities for engineering majors paired with a spectacular running program.”

Lewenkamp visited a number of campuses before deciding on Alabama-Huntsville including UCCS, Colorado School of Mines, Missouri Science and Technology, West Texas A&M, University of Texas-Tyler, and South Dakota School of Mines. Of those, he narrowed his choices to UT-Tyler, UCCS, Missouri S & T, and Alabama-Huntsville. Lewenkamp will major in civil engineering and has a goal to build something of purpose in his lifetime. “On one of my visits I watched a video about the

so the ability to compete at the next level was important for Lewenkamp. “The cross country program at Alabama-Huntsville is a great program for Division 2,” noted Lewenkamp. “They compete very strongly at the national level and attend mostly Division 1 meets all year. I see it as the Adams State of the South. Coach Cain has a great training philosophy and I feel that the stability his program offers will greatly help me in my progression.”

Lewenkamp is excited about the adventure that awaits him. “I wanted to go out of state for one primary reason, a fresh start,” said Lewenkamp. “I wanted a clean slate and to just try my luck in a new place. That’s what life is all about anyway.”

to Custer County. “Moving here is one of the best decisions our family has made,” said McCarthy. “I was able to get involved quickly with FFA again and be able to work with my horses. Mrs. McGee has definitely helped me with the decision to major in Ag education. I like the chance to see how students grow and develop over 4 years in FFA, it’s just so much more than the regular classroom.”

McCarthy is also involved in student council and hopes to help initiate a Spirit Club. She enjoys the ability to get fully involved in school activities at CCHS. She has also been honored by the faculty Student of the Month in December.



Erin McCarthy, teacher assistant in 7th grade agricultural program.

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

“Corey and Erin are just two examples of our seniors who are making great decisions about their future,” noted CCHS counselor Troy Bomgardner. “They have done their homework and feel confident in their decisions!”



Corey “in traffic.” 2nd place in State this year.
Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

researched a number of universities in the process and feels strongly about his choice to attend Alabama-Huntsville.

“I decided to sign with Alabama-Huntsville due to the fact that it is a great engineering school,” said Lewenkamp. “It has nu-

civil engineer that designed Yankee Stadium and I was hooked. I’d love to contribute something like that to a city or town,” exclaimed Lewenkamp.

Lewenkamp had a great finish to his CCHS cross country career by taking 2nd in the 2A state meet

McCarthy found out from neighbors about Tarleton State and began the process of researching the university and it seemed to be a good fit. “I had strong feelings even before I visited the campus that it is where I wanted to go,” said McCarthy. “The visit just confirmed this. I liked the smaller campus and I got the feeling the community is highly involved with the college. On top of that, their agricultural program is one of the largest and best programs in the country!” McCarthy will major in agricultural education with a double minor in horticulture and agricultural business. She hopes to become an Ag teacher and eventually own a stock contracting business.

McCarthy is a new student to CCHS this year and speaks highly of moving

Bobcat Menu • Dec. 15 - Dec. 18, 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
breakfast Pancakes Sausage Links Fruit, Milk	breakfast Scrambled Eggs W. W. Toast Fruit, Milk	breakfast Sausage Gravy W.W. Biscuits Fruit, Milk	breakfast Blueberry or Banana Mini Muffin Loaves Fruit, Milk
lunch Nachos Choice of Veg. Choice of Fruit Milk	lunch Sloppy Jo Birthday Cake Choice of Veg. & Fruit Milk	lunch Chicken Nuggets W.W. Roll Choice of Veg. & Fruit Milk	lunch Chili w/ Crackers Choice of Veg. Choice of Fruit Milk

Elementary: Main dish, bread, milk, choice of 1 veg. & 1 fruit •
Middle & High School: Salad Bar Mon & Tues Only

KIDS Friday, December 12, 2014

Jimmy Doolittle American Aviation Pioneer: Born December 14, 1896

James Harold “Jimmy” Doolittle was born in Alameda California. As a 14-year-old schoolboy, he first saw an airplane at the Los Angeles International Air Meet in 1910. In March, 1918 he received his Reserve Military Aviator rating and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant. Lt. Doolittle stayed state-side during WW I as a flight instructor, but in the inter-war period he began to make a name for himself.

In September 1922, Jimmy made the first cross-country flight, Florida to California, in 21 hours and 19 minutes in a de Havilland DH-4. Most significant was the fact that the plane was equipped with early navigational instruments. Doolittle’s most notable contribution to aeronautical technology is said to be the development of instrument flying. He was one of the first to recognize the limitations of human senses, saying that a pilot must learn to “trust his instruments.”

In January, 1942 Doolittle was promoted to Lt. Colonel and volunteered to lead a top-secret attack by sixteen B-25 medium bombers from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet, targeting 5 key cities in Japan. The “Doolittle Raid” was the first retaliatory strike on Japan and was carried out successfully. There’s more to this story worth checking out, but one of its outcomes was Doolittle’s being awarded the Medal of Honor by Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt and his being promoted to Brigadier General.

The story of this American hero requires much “fast-forwarding” concluding here by saying that Doolittle commanded the 12th, 15th, and 8th Air Forces before retiring from active duty in February, 1959. His military career thus spanned 42 years. President Ronald Reagan promoted him to full General (retired) in April, 1985. Jimmy Doolittle died at the age of 96 in Pebble Beach, CA on September 27, 1993 and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



B-25, like the ones flown by the Doolittle Raiders.
courtesy photo

Source: Wikipedia

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Opening Wrestling Tournament Sets the Pace

by Michelle Pedigo

With returners excited and first-timers jittery, eight Bobcat grapplers hit the mats with full speed. When the lights went out after the last match, team Bobcats finished ninth out of 18 teams.

Over half of the Bobcats found themselves matched against former state qualifiers, making for some seasoned, tough competition. Dylan Schoch, 120-pound freshman, started the team off as the lowest weight team member for the day. A newcomer to the mats, Schoch pocketed some useful experience in his 0-2 record for the day. At 126 pounds, senior Titus Crawford was a defending champion from last year’s Grizzly tournament. Crawford jumped out of the gates quickly, but his third match found him up against the 2014 State champ from Monte Vista, and when the dust settled, Crawford came up short. Crawford ended his day in fifth place. Third wrestler up for the Bobcats, 132-pounder senior Dillon

Wommack, also found himself coming up short against a 2014 State champ. Wommack won his second match but then fell in the third to end his day. Exchange student Taiyr Seiilkhan is brand new to the sport of wrestling. At 132 pounds, he, too, found himself facing a 2014 State qualifier and coming up short on the win but long on experience. After banking a pin in his first match, 152-pounder junior Cody Koble came face to face with Rye’s Jake Shaffer, yet another 2014 State qualifier. Although unable to stay in for the win against Schaffer, Koble ultimately landed in 4th place. At the top end of the weights for the team, senior Kody Aldrich, 170-pounder, had no problem pinning his first two opponents. But an untimely mistake cost Aldrich his third match, putting him on course to be the final Bobcat of the day to face 2014 State qualifying competition. Determina-

See WRESTLING on page 8

Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

For Sale

Ruger New Model Super Blackhawk .44 Mag. SS, 5 1/2" Bbl., Wooden Grips, with box, \$600 cash, 783-0444

361+ acres. Year-round access in the town of Silver Cliff. Mountain and valley views. Underground power. \$499,000. United Country Wapiti Realty, 783-9052

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

3 BR Mobile Home: New pellet stove & fridge. Includes washer/dryer, stove, 250 gal. propane, 6 bags pellets. Needs new carpet in LV Room and hall; 3 small window panes. \$7,000. (702) 321-0501

2 BR Mobile Home needs to be finished remodeling. Have all materials there to complete. \$2,700. (702) 321-0501

Log cabin in the pines. Open floor plan. Plenty of windows, three BD, shed and garage on one+ acre.

Rosita. \$224,900. United Country Wapiti Realty, 783-9052

The Old Griffin Ranch headquarters. Remodeled 4 BD ranch house originally built in 1908. 36+ acres. Outbuildings. On Oak Creek Grade. Forest Access. \$399,000. United Country Wapiti Realty, 783-9052

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Custer County Community Band Christmas Concert



Saturday, December 13th

7:00 p.m.

East Gym of the High School



TREES

From page 1

this special tree.

The Festival of Trees brought in \$4,500 this year, with all the proceeds (100%) going to youth scholarships and activities and the maintenance of the Olde Westcliffe Schoolhouse. Valley Park Recreation and the Youth Center (VPR&YC) would like to thank: Decorated Christmas Trees – Salty Pines, Hair Experts; Debby Reed, Rosemary Moose; Patti Collins of Nacho Mama's Mexican Cantina; Custer County Grade School, and the Boy Scouts. Flower Arrangements: Barbara Mull-

ins, Rosemary Moose, and Amy Glass. VPR&YC Christmas Staff: Larry Simmons, Rosemary Moose, Patti Collins, Amy Glass, and Marci Gregg.

Also, they would like to thank the Santa Club Sponsors: Valley Ace Hardware, Ludvik Propane, Mitchell Auction Company, A Painted View Ranch, Mattie Burr Realty, High Altitude Garden Club, Barnes Family Heritage, Nacho Mama's, Stanwood Motor Sports, Sangre Distilleries, WCPA/Jones Theater, Lone Ranger, Wildwest Properties, The Village Shop, and Hough Electric. And also all the crafters and quilters that made items for sell. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!

The deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is Monday at 5 p.m. for that week's edition. Call (719) 783-3360 to place your ad!

WRESTLING

From page 7

tion won out, and Aldrich captured third place. Last but not least, also gaining experience over wins were new team members Ian Aldrich and Edgar Pedigo, 145 pounds and 152 pounds respectively.

Fowler's level of competition was a great view of things to come for the Bobcats, and Friday they travel to Limon. The team will scrimmage Friday night to warm up for the Badger Invitational on Saturday. With 31 teams already expected to participate, it will no doubt provide the level competition

exhibited in the past. You can follow all the action online at www.trackwrestling.com.

The 1st Annual Grappler Run is still open for participants. Anyone can play, and just \$25 keeps you in the game. The earlier you enter the better chance you have to win. Each week a wrestler is assigned by random drawing to each participant and a card is dealt to the participant for each match their wrestler wins. The winner is the one with the best five card hand and will receive twenty-five percent of the total entry fees. For game details and to enter, stop by the school office or newspaper office, or contact Michelle at (719) 783-2806 or email: givetolivemt@hotmail.com.



Inspecting Carol

On December 4th, 5th, and 6th, our historic Jones Theater offered a rare opportunity to enjoy a Custer County High School Drama production "Inspecting Carol" by Daniel J. Sullivan. This was the first production for the new drama coach of Custer County High School Drama, Elanor Straight. This production is about, coincidentally, a small town theater company that's trying to raise funds by staging their annual production of "A Christmas Carol" with only four days of rehearsal. Our young but very talented actresses and actors made sure no-one left the theater disappointed, but with fairly sore muscles from laughing. If not known that the play was acted by students, as young as 13 years old, you would have easily thought that you were watching professionals. But do not be fooled by their age, many of them have years of acting experience. One can only wonder if we can one day enjoy their talent on Broadway.

Sentinel photo by Tira "Tee" Doran

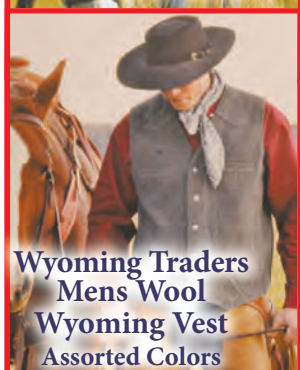
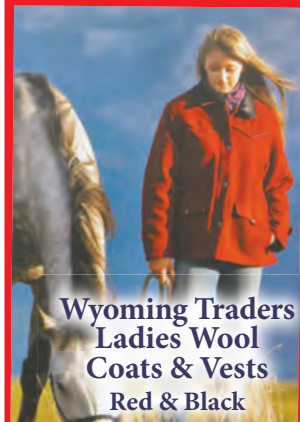
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SUNDAY 12:30-4:30

Local Mountain News & Notices

Events Calendar

Saturday, December 13 7 p.m.: Custer County Community Band Concert in the East Gym of High School	Tuesday, December 16 7:30 p.m.: Jones Theater: FREE movie, "Holiday Inn" (Donations accepted at door)
Sunday, December 14 4 - 6:30 p.m.: Benefit Spaghetti Dinner for Eva Caldwell at Saddle Club building, rodeo grounds; Donations accepted. Bill passed away Nov. 17	Wednesday, December 17 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.: CCSD: Elementary School Christmas Program in West gym; contact Sarah Thompson
6 p.m.: High Country Mennonite Church: Hosting a Christmas program followed by candlelight caroling at Neil Martin Shop, 2288 C.R. 243	Friday, December 19 CCSD: CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS

Recurring Events and Business Hours

Monday 6 p.m.: Closed step study Alcoholics Anonymous at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Westcliffe. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172 or Lisa at (719) 783-0809	6:45 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary monthly meeting (March-October) at the Saddle Club.
Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.: Custer County public transit service available to everyone through Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343	Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.: Library open in downtown Westcliffe; 783-9138
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	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
Monday and Thursday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.: Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources in Silver Cliff open to assist young mothers and families in need. Free pregnancy tests and counseling to pregnant women and more. Call 783-4357	Thursday Second Thursday of the Month: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m., "Ask a Nurse" at the library
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	Friday 6 p.m.: Open discussion Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172 or Lisa (719) 783-0809
First Tuesday of the Month: 6:30 p.m. at Cliff Lanes - American Legion Post 170 monthly meeting	Friday and Saturday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.: Share Center at 308 S. Third Street adjacent to Hope Lutheran Church in Westcliffe
	Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.: Library open in Westcliffe

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ADA MAE RUSHER

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Brian, Alan, Ben, Autumn,
Kathlyn, and Weldon*



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Sheriff's Report...

As of Tuesday, December 9, there were two men in jail. OFFENSES December 1 At 9:05 a.m., the sheriff's department responded to a report at Campstyle Cookin' at 108 South Second Street in Westcliffe. David Stanley was cited for harassment, disorderly conduct, and threatening a staff member. ACCIDENTS December 6 At 2002 hours, the sheriff's department responded to a call that Ellen Fatuk-Haight, age 58, of Cotopaxi was driving a 2000 Subaru Outback on Highway 69 when she hit a deer near mile marker 60. December 6 At 1814 hours, a call was received that Thelma Boss of rural Silver Cliff was driving a 2005 GMC utility passenger vehicle when she struck an elk. There was damage to both the car and the elk. No citations were issued. AMBULANCE CALLS December 9 At 12:56	a.m., an ambulance was dispatched to 507 Main Street for a 44-year-old female who had fallen. She was transported to Parkview Hospital in Pueblo for a head injury. December 8 At 12:52 a.m., an ambulance was dispatched to 560 Horn Road for a 61-year-old male with a partial intestinal blockage who was transported to Parkview Hospital. December 7 At 11:30 a.m., an ambulance was dispatched to 2380 Marcy Road for a male of unknown age with tingling in his hands and feet and felt like passing out. No transport. December 7 At 7:09 a.m., an ambulance was dispatched to 107 South Fourth Street in Silver Cliff for a 64-year-old female with uncontrolled vomiting. She was transported to Parkview Hospital. December 6 At 2123 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the Westcliffe Inn for a 54-year-old male with an asthma attack. He was transported by Flight for Life.	December 4 At 1352 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the clinic for a 75-year-old female with shortness of breath, pain in her shoulder, and weakness in her arms. She was transported to Parkview Hospital. December 2 At 1351 hours, an ambulance responded to 14 Lea Lane for a male in his mid-twenties having a psychotic breakdown with injuries. He was transported to Parkview Hospital. November 28 At 2203 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to 129 Cherokee Trails for a 75-year-old female with a severe bloody nose. She was transported to St. Mary Corwin Hospital in Pueblo. FIRE CALLS December 6 At 2123 hours, a fire truck was dispatched to the Westcliffe Inn for a Flight For Life landing. December 7 At 1812 hours, a fire truck was dispatched to VALI at 30 Main Street for an oven fire.
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Court Report...

Jeremah D. Patton – Charge: Driving while ability impaired – Guilty. Deferred sentence. Charge: Failure to display proof of insurance – Dismissed by DA. Charge: Improper Mountain driving – Dismissed by DA. Charge: Driving under the influence –Guilty. Fine- \$1827.00.	Jail stay until 12/26/14. Timothy Gerald Martinez – Charge: Controlled substance, unlawful use – Plead Guilty, four months jail time. Charge: Driving under restraint – Plead – Guilty. Assessed \$616.50.
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Help Rotary Help the Community



The Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation is a service organization, providing scholarships to our graduating high school seniors. We also offer community services for those who need assistance with transportation, small construction projects, and medical equipment loans.

Our Rotary Van Service operates under the title of Wet Mountain Valley Community Services, Inc. We transport anyone (at no charge) with a variety of needs to locations within a 100 mile radius. Many clients have no other viable means of transportation. Over 25 drivers are Rotarians and non-Rotarian volunteers.

Our Lending Medical Aids program provides crutches, walkers, hospital beds, canes, and scooters. It is self sustaining through donations from both clients and local residents.

We also distribute free dictionaries to third graders, help park cars at the Bluegrass festival, sell tickets at sporting events, and distribute Christmas goodies to school children and senior citizens.

The main focus of the Foundation is our Scholarship program which is intended to help launch post high school academic and vocational training programs. We have also have three international students participating in the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Three local students have enjoyed being sent overseas in exchange. Numerous high school students have attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy near Glenwood Springs each summer. Since 1987, the WMV Rotary Club Foundation has awarded nearly \$440,000 in scholarships to over 210 graduating area high school students. Our annual fundraisers include the Rotary Scholarship Golf Tournament and the Rotary Pancake Breakfast. Please consider supporting the Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation for scholarships and the Rotary Van Service through this year's Community Spirit Campaign.

Make Check Payable to: WMVCF		Make Check Payable to: WMVCF	
Please Distribute My Donation to the Following Custer County Nonprofit Organizations in the Amounts Shown (Use Separate Sheet if Necessary)			
Matching funds will not be applied to contributions postmarked after 12/31/14			
Nonprofit Org	Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Foundation	Amount	\$
Nonprofit Org	Rotary Van Service	Amount	\$
Nonprofit Org		Amount	\$
Nonprofit Org		Amount	\$
Total nonprofit			\$
Donations to the Matching Fund Benefit All Qualified Nonprofit Orgs			
Here's My Total Donation to the Matching fund		\$	
(Please Print)			
My Name:			
Mailing Address:			
City, State Zip:			
Telephone Number:			
Make Check Payable to: WMVCF		Make Check Payable to: WMVCF	
Mail copy of this form to:			
Wet Mountain Valley, Community Foundation, P.O. Box 718, Westcliffe, CO 81252			
Make one check payable to: The WMV Community Foundation			

Make Check Payable to: WMVCF

COMMUNITY SPIRIT 2014

Make Check Payable to: WMVCF

Custer County Boys Varsity Basketball

Scrimmage with Cotopaxi - December 2



Boys Basketball Roster/Picture 2014-2015

Pictured above from left:

Devon Hockaday, Sophomore

David Kinsey, Freshman

Cody Lyons, Sophomore

Kobe Lewsader, Freshman

Connor Rowley, Senior

Jordan Rhodes, Junior

Michael Batson, Freshman (not shown)

2014-2015 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Dec. 12	La Veta	Home	6:30
Dec. 13	Simla	Away	4:00
Dec. 19	Sierra Grande	Away	6:00
Dec. 20	ECA	Home	4:00
Jan. 10	Cripple Creek	Away	5:30
Jan. 16	Del Norte	Away	5:30
Jan. 23	South Park	Away	5:30
Jan. 24	Sargent	Home	5:30
Jan. 29	Center	Away	5:30
Feb. 6	Crested Butte	Home	5:30
Feb. 12	Cotopaxi	Away	5:30
Feb. 13	Sanford	Away	5:30
Feb. 20	South Park	Home	5:30
Feb. 21	Antonito	Away	5:30

Coaches: Head Coach Jim Bistodeau and Assistant Coach Navar Sayhouse



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

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

Please let us know
about an upcoming
event or meeting you
would like to see
printed here, or
covered in an
upcoming issue.
Submittals@
sdcsentinel.com



Cañon City Events

by Barbara Penezic

The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season has definitely began in Cañon City. The Historic Downtown District has been decorated with banners, lights, and even miniature Christmas trees decked out in splendid fashion. Even as we polish off the turkey delight left overs our minds are turning to images of sleigh bells and mistletoe. Our little ones are displaying their very best behavior, and parents everywhere are sighing a well-deserved, “AHH!”

The Bistreaux at 523 Main Street is now open for business. Just in time to welcome weary holiday shoppers with a change of pace menu. The new eatery also known as, ‘Lazy Cajun,’ offers dinners, steak, seafood, and all your favorite Cajun food with a spicy new twist. Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks are available with your meal. The Bistreaux, opened for business Friday and according to owners Ty and Audrey Dick, “everything has been great!” Originally from Baton Rouge, La. the Dick’s have been Cañon City residents for four years, and they have more than 25 years of experience. If you are in the mood for a new dining experience stop by the ‘Lazy Cajun,’ at 523 Main Street in Cañon City.

Small Business Saturday, a national day of local shopping was recently enjoyed by some downtown store owners. A few Cañon City business owners (who say they placed addition-



Cañon City Library, from where the time capsule was retrieved.

al advertising) reported an increase in traffic. Cats Double Take owner, Cathi Armstrong, reports seeing two people who said they turned out for Small Business Saturday. “One spent \$2.00 the other one didn’t buy anything,” she said.

“We just don’t have enough foot traffic on Main Street...ever,” says Celeste Pellman, owner of Chrysalis Consignments, “Cañon City is dead; just having people in the store anymore is a big deal.” A shout out to all Fremont County and surrounding area shopper’s, don’t make Wal Mart your only stop in Cañon City. Check out Main Street for wonderful shopping and dining experiences.

A 112-year-old time capsule was opened near the cornerstone of the Carnegie section of the Cañon City Library. A crew from Mountain Masonry carefully removed the stone as nearly 200 hundred anxious residents watched. A copper-plated metal box containing newspaper ar-

Photo by John Penezic, Jr.

ticles, letters, and a photo of Andrew Carnegie was retrieved. Lisa Studts of the Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center and most of the onlookers were left with a great deal of curiosity about the letter that was in the top with some dried flowers. Studts said the items will be taken to the history center where they will be humidified so they can be opened without causing damage. Deputy Library Director Suzanne Lasha reports this may be the oldest time capsule ever opened. The items from the capsule will be on display during a grand opening of the newly renovated interior of the Carnegie building in February. When the restoration is complete, Cañon City will have one of the finest Carnegie libraries in the country, according to Bob Leck of Leck Construction Company. A new time capsule will be re-inserted into the corner stone. The library staff invites residents to share their ideas. What would you like to see encapsulated for the future?

While we are happy to welcome our newest enterprise, the “Lazy Cajun”, and wish them ever success we must keep in mind we will be saying “Goodbye” to a long-time establishment. Alco will be closing their doors at the end of the year. Sixteen full-time employees will be looking for a new way to earn a living for themselves and their families. Remember to keep our City and County leaders in your prayers, they need your support and more importantly, guidance from above.

Be Informed,
Get Involved



A new Cajun restaurnat, The Bistreaux, opened recently at 523 Main Street in Cañon City.

Photo by John Penezic, Jr.

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

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

Coyote Den
Highway 115 & 6th Street
in Penrose

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

Here 4 You
2975 CR 27A (Copper Gulch Rd)
in Cotopaxi

Joyous Time of Year

by Edward Whitcraft,
Royal Gorge Tea Party

This is the time of year that brings the best out of most people. The singing of Christmas carols and all the shoppers out and about just kind of makes a natural joy for this time of year. Add to that all the different Christmas plays, special cantatas at many of the churches, Christmas music at the shopping centers and of course Santa at every mall. Many of you will go to at least one party or gathering that is related to this time of year either at your place of employment or with friends and neighbors. It is the season for joy—no doubt about it. It’s time to concentrate on the good things in life and gathering together with family for some holiday cheer and memory making.

We just came through a mid-term election where mixed results were obtained. Some may think great victories were achieved while others still may be crying in their beer. Whichever way you are leaning right now you need to stop for a few weeks and enjoy this time of year.

All this turmoil that’s happening in our cities all across America needs to stop and folks need to take a hard look at their individual life and realize that we here in America have a pretty darn good life compared to the rest of the world. Granted not everything is perfect—but we need to remember this is the time of the year that we are celebrating the birth of the only perfect man ever born in this world. As they say the reason for the season. All

of us have something in our life we can complain about or worry about or even think that it may be the worst thing in the world. But just for the next few weeks can you put it on the back burner and think about how special the Christmas season really is.

Right here in Fremont County we have so much to be thankful for. It’s full of an abundance of recreational opportunities. We have beautiful scenery with both mountain and plain terrain. We have one of the most popular rivers in the U.S. running the full length of the county. And several wonderful towns to live, shop, and play in. We are blessed to have some wonderful schools with dedicated teachers in our different communities. We also have some very active churches that meet whatever spiritual requirement you might be looking for. Yes we should feel very proud of our Fremont County and this time of year all the different communities try to make the season enjoyable for all residences by having special events and activities.

There will be plenty of time after the first of the year for all of us to get back into the arena of life and get involved with the issues and politics of the towns, county, state and federal activities. But for the next few weeks let’s just concentrate on the real reason for the season. Let’s think about the birth of our Savior and why He came in the form of a man to save us from the sinful nature in all of us. Let’s reflect on the “Christ” in Christmas. God Bless us all. Merry Christmas.

Mr. Ed’s Family Restaurant



1201 Royal Gorge Blvd., Cañon City
719-275-5833



302A N. 16th St.
Cañon City

719-275-5211

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

The Daily Jot

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

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

It's How We Stand

Ephesians 6:13 is one of my favorite verses in the Bible. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." This is what we do. Every day we stand. The Daily Jot is there for you to hold up your arms, to gird you with truth, to encourage and exhort you to glorify God with your prayer and action. We tackle the tough issues, say the tough words, try not to sugarcoat what is going on in the world so that you know the score and how to respond. We also reach out through our ministry work in West Africa, which has been involved this year in very effective Ebola education and prevention in the most impoverished areas. It's how we stand.

The months ahead are going to be fraught with deception and difficulty. We as a people need to know who we are and who we are following. Otherwise, at the first sign of problems, our faith could falter. The Daily Jot is dedicated to writing about daily events with prophetic clarity that your faith may be strengthened, that you will be equipped and encouraged to share your faith with others. While often the news is not positive, many find comfort and motivation through The Daily Jot. Here are just a few comments:

"What a blessing your words are to my heart and spirit."--AB

"It is easy to become overwhelmed with fear. We all need STOUT HEARTS for the days ahead. Love your daily Jots. Never hear any of this stuff from the pulpit. Grrr!"--SV

"Your site has not only kept me informed but is changing my life. Your letter today was/is quite a challenge. I need that."--JB

"You are providing a great service in spreading the gospel, in tying bible prophecy to current events and explaining what in fact is transpiring in the world."--NC

You see, we are having an impact. Many are sharing the Jot with their lists. Many websites are posting it. The Daily Jot ministry is doing more than commentary. We are practicing what we are preaching. There are many hurting people out there who are receiving some small help from the Jot. There are hundreds in Africa who are being touched with the truth of the Gospel through our mission work--especially to the Muslims. We are getting outside the four walls of the church and putting our faith into action.

That's where you come in. This ministry operates on very limited funds. There are no subscriptions to the Jot. It is free. We are totally dependent on God's blessing through His people. The past two months, we have been running about \$1,200 under budget. It is not much, but it is a lot to those we help. If you agree with those who have commented, and Adonai (my LORD) so moves you, would you consider helping us?

Our small ministry is very accustomed to depending on God's provision through His people. And your obedience in whatever gift you can make goes a long way--we are good stewards. I hope you will join us in keeping the Jot alive and its ministry outreach active. If you are so moved, you can send your tax exempt gift to:

The Daily Jot
5257 Buckeystown Pike
#314
Frederick, MD 21704

Or you can donate online securely by going to:

<https://www.egsnetwork.com/gift/gift.php?giftid=4F1D6389-DCBE-4AA5-8C0E-E049D237F908>

We appreciate you and your devotion to the Lord. Thank you for standing with us because together, it's how we stand.

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!
Bill Wilson
www.dailyjot.com
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Colorado Model Bust? Democrats Reach New Lows in State Legislatures

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

It wasn't long ago Colorado Democrats were touting how they had effectively found a model that they could export across the country that would threaten to turn even the reddest of red states into a blue haven. Yet, a new article by Amy Walters at The Cook Political Report reveals how not only is that not true, but that nation-wide, Democrats haven't had this few state legislators since the 1920s. As Walters writes:

As one Democratic strategist conceded to me last week, his party is "in a deep hole" at the state level. From 1948-2010, according to our friends at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), Democrats had a distinct advantage at the state legislative level. During that 62-year period, but for a couple years when they were tied, Democrats had more members in state legislative office than Republicans. Since 2010, however, Republicans have taken the lead. Today, about 55 percent of all state legislative seats in the country are held by Republicans. That's the largest share of GOP state legislators since the 1920s. [the Peak's emphasis]

It's so bad for Democrats right now.

Walters writes that some Democratic strategists are already worried about being shut out of the redistricting process, a process that won't take place for another three election cycles.

But, how did it all go wrong so quickly when the Colorado Democrat architects of the "Colorado model" were just the toast of their party only a few years ago? The oversimplified answer: governing. As much as Democrats long after the center-left parties that dominate European parliaments, they are mistaken in believing that is America's destined future. Do they not realize while America may be a younger nation than most of our European brethren, we almost, without exception, are an older democracy? And, that Europe has given us little evidence over the last 200 years that there is much in their way of governing that we would be right to import?

When Republicans live up to our conservative ideals, and govern in a prudent, thoughtful manner, we are inherently much closer to the center-right leaning heart of this nation than Democrats. The ingrained false premise of Democrats everywhere—that a large, robust, activist government leads to the greatest freedom and prosperity for people—will al-

ways hang as a millstone around their electoral necks.

As one Democratic strategist conceded to me last week, his party is "in a deep hole"

If Republicans continue to govern well at the state level, expect that to translate into federal gains, as the depth of Republican elected official benches grow. And, expect Democrats to be shutout until they have the wisdom to leave the Elizabeth Fauxcahontas Warrens of their party behind, and once again find those who believe "the era of big government is over."

Reprinted with Permission.- See more at: <http://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2014/12/05/colorado-model-bust-democrats-reach-now-lows-state-legislatures/#sthash.1fG0Tat2.dpuf>

Give Me All Your Money: Democrat Leader Desires to Defy Tabor

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

(Editor/GG: What a surprise! Democrats want to steal our state TABOR refunds! For the "children", of course.)

We love Democrats who live in such insulated liberal enclaves, they have no problem forgetting that Democrats lose when they show their true colors. Luckily for us, Colorado House Democrats decided to make just such a Democrat their #1. Yesterday in a *Denver Post* article, new Majority Leader, Rep. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, says, "I've never met a tax dollar I haven't wanted to spend." Now, we might be taking some liberties in that paraphrase right there, but the sentiment is dead on as Hullinghorst proposes stiffing Coloradan tax-payers \$130 million in tax refunds just because she wants to spend the money. As *The Denver Post* reports:

...incoming House Speaker Dickey Lee Hullinghorst made the most direct suggestion that Democrats may support a ballot measure in 2015 to ask voters

to keep the money for state spending instead of issuing a refund.

"I've never met a tax dollar I haven't wanted to spend."

... the Boulder Democrat said, "The people would be far better off if we invested that in infrastructure, education — something that really benefited them rather than (them) getting their 50 bucks to spend on a tank of gas or something."

We agree wholeheartedly with Hullinghorst, Colorado would probably be better off if that money went to roads and educating Colorado kids. But, there's no way in heck we're giving Hullinghorst that money because that money wouldn't be going to roads and kids. Instead, it'd be going to public education unions already engorged on tax-payer dollars. Or, maybe an-

other pet project of Gov. John Hickenlooper where he spends \$100 million to throw a parade for his BFF Michael Bloomberg (never Bloomberg mind that we don't have roads here to have that parade on).

It doesn't really help Hullinghorst's putting the people of Colorado first plea, when one realizes it is the poorest who will benefit the most directly from a TABOR refund. Sure, what may be just one more tank of gas for Hullinghorst could be the difference between making this month's rent for those who can't afford to live in Boulder.

...it is the poorest who will benefit the most directly from a TABOR refund.

TABOR was put into place to control just such tendencies, recognizing the reality that Democrats always

feel like there's another tax-payer dollar out there for them to spend. And TABOR is doing its job right now; if Colorado Democrats are going to follow their playbook of taxing and spending us to death, they'll have to do it in full public view for everyone to see. Unlike other states, where convoluted budget processes and a lack of a requirement to stay within a specific budget allows state legislatures to stuff all sorts of pork into budgets, if Hullinghorst wants to defy TABOR, she'll have to do so with a whole host of attention on her. While this may not threaten her own seat in the People's Republic of Boulder, such a gospel of tax and spend will certainly threaten her majority in the rest of the state.

TABOR once again is the emergency brake from Colorado Democrats driving us off any fiscal cliffs.

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Atheists Force City to Drop ‘Keep Christ in Christmas’ Parade Theme — but Hundreds of Residents Hit Back With Creative Alternative

by Billy Hallowell,
TheBlaze.com

(Editor/GG: Sounds very like our few local Democrats trying to stop our very successful and patriotic Independence Day Parade. And I do recall a local democrat attorney protesting an opening prayer at a private organization’s meeting last year (he was shouted down by the attendees). Yup, liberals are just full of “let’s just get along”.)

Officials in Piedmont, Alabama, thought it would be no big deal when they decided to adopt “Keep Christ in Christmas” as this year’s holiday parade theme, but an atheist activist group’s intervention forced the city to drop the faith-based sentiment.

Mayor Bill Baker told Fox News’ Todd Starnes that the town selected the theme to commemorate the true reason for Christmas, but after a sole individual reportedly complained to the Freedom From Religion Foundation, a church-state separatist group, Piedmont was forced to change its plans.

The group fired off a letter to the city late last month, calling the Christian motto unconstitutional.

“It was a great theme. I was totally shocked when I received the letter,” Baker told Starnes. “It’s a small town. It’s a small Christmas parade. We didn’t think there would be any problems at all.”



Christians fight back against Atheists.
Courtesy photo from TheBlaze

The letter asked the city to select a “more appropriate, more inclusive, and constitutional theme,” charging that the theme “alienates non-Christians and others in Piedmont who do not in fact have a ‘strong belief in prayers’ by turning them into political outsiders in their own community.”

Piedmont’s city attorney told the mayor that the theme does, in fact, violate the law and so it was dropped, but, as Starnes reported, that didn’t dissuade residents from commemorating the true reason for the Christmas season.

“Nothing has really changed. We still have the same religious floats. We still have the churches. We still have the beauty queens,” Baker said before the parade unfolded Thursday night. “We’re still going to have this wonderful Christian parade regardless of if we have a theme or not.”

Hundreds of residents found ways around the Freedom From Religion

Foundation’s complaint, with many holding signs that read “Let’s Keep Christ in Christmas,” among other religious messages, while they marched — a legal alternative that put the messages in citizens’ hands.

One man even dressed up like Jesus and looked as though he was hanging on a cross.

Despite the strong religious messages in the parade and the work-around, Baker said he isn’t the happiest with atheists’ intervention in the celebration.

“It annoys me that a small group of people can do what they do and get away with it and the majority has to suffer,” he said. “They are infringing on my beliefs.”

Reprinted with Permission. Please see: www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/12/05/atheists-force-city-to-drop-keep-christ-in-christmas-parade-theme-but-hundreds-of-residents-hit-back-with-creative-alternative/

Krauthammer: Gruber Obamacare Comments Are “True Voice of Liberal Arrogance”

by Alex Griswold,
DailyCaller.com

Conservative commentator Charles Krauthammer slammed the recently uncovered video of Obamacare architect Jonathan Gruber saying the “stupidity of the American voter” required them to deceive the public about what was in the Affordable Care Act, saying the comment represented the “true voice of liberal arrogance.”

This is exactly what conservatives have been saying for four years, what we’re hearing now is the true voice of liberal arrogance. They believe this. They believe that the voters are stupid, as he said, and they believe that they know the right way, they have to lead the masses to the Promised Land, and they can only do it by deception. And that’s what he said openly: ‘We wanted to get the bill, we didn’t

care about how we did it, so we lied about everything. We lied about if you can keep the plan, knowing that you can’t keep your plan. We lied about the fact this would be a transfer of wealth, a massive transfer of wealth.’ Because, as Gruber said, had they known that, it would never have passed. They lied about every aspect of this, and I think that is what has been charged all along.

And it is a scandal of the media that this has to be discovered in the sixth year of the presidency rather than talked about at the time, when it was obvious they were lying about all this. The idea of it being a transfer of wealth was known from the beginning. But they got away with it.

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Republicans File Complaint Alleging Vote-Counting Abuse in Colorado

by Patrick Howley, DailyCaller.com

(Editor/GG: Voter fraud is rampant across much of America. The democrats revel in it. We have to fix the system here in Colorado soon. When it gets to the point where the actual county clerks are involved, as noted below, it is time for some serious reform. And libs please note, every single case of voter fraud exposed in the last few years have been democrat driven. Every one.)

Republicans and third-party representatives filed a formal complaint Monday with the Colorado Secretary of State demanding the release of all election records after “partisan” election judges allegedly infringed on the ability of election watchers to monitor vote-counting.

“Watchers’ effectiveness has been marginalized, and watchers’ rights to challenge voters and judges’ decisions have been infringed,” according to the complaint, which was obtained by The Daily Caller.

The complaint involves all 2014 races in Colorado, including the U.S. Senate race won by Republican Cory Gard-

ner, but the Senate and gubernatorial races in the state will not be swung at this point by the release of new information. Colorado State House races, in which Democrats won a majority, are liable to be disputed.

Election watchers and county party officials from the Republican, Libertarian, and American Constitution Parties want information to be released about vote-counting procedures in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Jefferson, and Pueblo counties.

Republicans allege that some Democrats changed their party affiliation to sign up as Republican election judges in key counties. At least one example of this practice was confirmed in Boulder county. Election judges allegedly marginalized Republican election watchers with unilaterally imposed rules, according to the complaint.

“In some counties where we have attempted to watch election processes underway, clerks are not allowing watchers to review any of the records being used or generated in the conduct of the election,” according to

the complaint. Additionally, parties’ requests for documents are being treated as public records requests, which are taking two or more weeks to fulfill.

“Additionally, numerous partisan election judges were recruited and appointed by the clerks without the required request made to the party chairs prior to the election, and without the approval by the party chairs,” according to the complaint.

The signature verification process for mail-in ballots is being disputed.

“In numerous counties, if not the majority of counties where signature verification watching was attempted, watchers were unable to appropriately and responsibly review signatures and the signature acceptance/rejection decisions. This prevented responsible challenges to questionable signatures except in very rare cases,” according to the complaint.

Reprinted with Permission. Please see: dailycaller.com/2014/11/17/republicans-file-complaint-alleging-vote-counting-abuse-in-colorado/

Hope Christian Schools Continue to Grow

by Paul Brennen, Watchdog.org

(Editor/GG: Note this astounding success story in a poor, minority dominated section of Milwaukee. 90% of the students qualify for reduced priced lunches (i.e., they are poor) yet 100% of the graduates over the last two years have been accepted into college! It can be done. It takes leadership, innovation, and hard work. If the private sector can do it, there is no excuse for the public sector.)

MILWAUKEE, Wis.

The joyful voices of a student choir filled the new gymnasium of HOPE Christian School Prima’s campus at the beginning of Wednesday’s dedication ceremony for the school’s new expansion.

The song emphasized that the students could go far if they just kept striving.

It was an appropriate selection for the occasion because the school’s 10,000-square-foot expansion — providing space for a gymnasium, a library, a science classroom, and offices for administrators — showed just how far HOPE Christian School Prima had come since it opened in 2002 in a converted warehouse located in a strip mall.

When Prima opened it had only 47 students in first through fourth grade.

Now it has a student body of 580, from the 4 year olds attending the K4 early kindergarten classes through the students in the eighth grade.

Following eighth grade, students can go on to HOPE Christian High School because starting from Prima — Latin for “first” — HOPE Christian has grown into a network of five schools in Milwaukee with 1,600 students.

Even with such impressive growth, Prima has not left behind its humble beginnings.

It’s still in its original location. And while it has expanded to fill almost the entire strip mall, it still has a very plain exterior, unlikely to catch the eye of anyone driving past.

“It was a little odd when I drove up to it the first time. It’s not like a normal



SINGING ABOUT HOPE: A student choir sang at the dedication ceremony for HOPE Christian School Prima’s new expansion.

necessary.

Previously a single multi-purpose room served as a combination gym, library, and recess space.

The school’s basketball team frequently had to practice in the hallway when the room was being used for other purposes.

And it wasn’t easy to maintain the normal atmosphere of a library when gym classes were going on or students enjoying indoor recess during inclement weather.

“It was crowded, but it had been working,” Greenman said. “We’d made it work for years.”

A reputation for making it work helped HOPE Christian Schools raise the \$2.4 million needed for the Prima expansion.

HOPE Christian High School has received national attention for its success in sending students to college. For the past two years, 100 percent of HOPE’s seniors have received college acceptance letters.

This is despite the fact that more than 90 percent of HOPE students qualify for free or reduced-price

Photo courtesy Watchdog

lunches in a city whose public schools have a poor reputation when it comes to educating such students.

An emphasis on hard work, achievement, and the importance of a college education starts as soon as a student arrives at HOPE. Even if the student is one of Prima’s youngest students in K4.

“All our classrooms are named for colleges,” Greenman said.

Outside and inside the classrooms hang pennants and banners for colleges and universities from the University of Wisconsin to Boise State.

“There’s a lot of research that says most kids who go to college go because their families or schools have been talking about it since those students were at a very young age,” Greenman said.

“We have a lot of students who would be the first in their families to go to college. We want to create an atmosphere where it seems like a normal next step for them.”

See HOPE on page 20

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2014



Girl Hunter Shoots Mountain Lion in Self Defense Near Colorado Border, Lion Was Stalking Her

by Dean Weingarten,
GunWatch.BlogSpot.com

Alyssa Caldwell and her father had been hunting all day. The weather had been nasty; cloudy skies with snow and rain alternating. They had seen a few elk, much too far away to take a shot. They left their makeshift blind to see if they could spot another elk before the end of the day. It was the middle of the afternoon.

At 12, Alyssa was already an experienced huntress. She had started shooting at 5, and had a new rifle, a stainless Howa 1500, as her elk gun. They had only gone a few hundred yards when her father remembered that he had left the shooting sticks back at the blind. He told Alyssa to wait while he went back to retrieve them. It sounds like the start of a horror movie.



Alyssa and her lion.

Courtesy photo by Valerie Caldwell

A young blonde girl, left alone in the wilderness by circumstance, the weather cloudy and rainy and cold, darkness only a couple of hours away.

Less than a minute later, she saw it. A cat. A big cat, stalking her, only a car length away. The cat crouched, ready to spring. Alyssa shouldered the rifle and fired point blank. It was too close to use the scope. She worked the bolt, ready to fire again. But one shot from the 30-06 was enough. The 165 grain Accubond Nosler projectile had skinned the cheek, hitting the lion facing her at the junction of neck and shoulder, traveling the length of its body, killing it instantly. From Alyssa:

"I saw him first," Alyssa said. "I didn't hear him or see him until he was really

close. I didn't know exactly what it was but I knew it wasn't a bobcat. I raised my gun when he crouched down.

Mountain lion attacks have been on the rise in recent decades, as lion populations have grown and hunting has been curtailed. There is only one documented case of a 12-year-old girl shooting a lion in self defense, and that is Alyssa. It happened on October 19th of this year, 2014.

The lion appears to have been in classic predatory mode, stalking the smaller prey in the opportune moment that the larger animal had left the young unprotected. The big cat did not know how deadly an armed human girl could be.

Joshua Caldwell returned to Alyssa at the shot, thinking his daughter had downed an elk. The mountain lion demanded immediate action, so they returned to their family to report it. The shooting sticks remained behind.

It took a day for the New Mexico officials to reach the remote hunting spot on San Antonio Mountain. It is a rugged area north of Albuquerque near the Colorado border. Once there, the officials investigated and ruled the shooting a case



Alyssa and her first trophy bull.

Courtesy photo by Valerie Caldwell

of self defense. They took the cat and left the family to continue their hunt.

Twenty-four hours were enough for Alyssa to recover from her close call with the lion and continue her elk hunt. Two days later, Alyssa shot a trophy bull elk at 375 yards, using the bipod on her rifle to steady her aim.

The whole Caldwell family, Alyssa, her mother Valerie, her father Joshua, and her younger brother Padon were all on the hunt with her. It took all of them another 24 hours to pack out the elk to the closest point that could be reached with their jeep. Valerie shot her own elk a couple of years ago on her anniversary, but Alyssa is the first to take a trophy bull.

A number of young hunters have shot elk, even tro-

phy bulls. But only one is known to have had to shoot a mountain lion on the way to harvesting their elk. Alyssa has earned her place in hunting history.

Valerie Caldwell said that she has learned from the incident. Before this, they would explore the mountain in the summer, unarmed, looking for antlers. Now she will pack her personal defensive sidearm with her, a Springfield XD compact .45.



Alyssa's rifle. The bipod is a Caldwell, no relation.

Courtesy photo by Valerie Caldwell

Guess What Twice as Many Americans Are Saying About Guns Now as Compared to 10 Years Ago

by Zach Noble, *TheBlaze.com*

"Having a gun in the house — safer or more dangerous?"

If you asked Americans that question 10 years ago, the majority would have answered, "More danger-

ous," but in 2014, the tables have turned.

According to a Gallup poll released Friday, nearly two-thirds of Americans say that having a gun makes a home safer — almost twice the percentage that said guns made homes safer in the year 2000.

Having a Gun in the House -- Safer or More Dangerous?

Do you think having a gun in the house makes it a safer place to be or a more dangerous place to be?

	% Safer	% More Dangerous	% Depends
Oct 12-15, 2014	63	30	6
Oct 9-12, 2006	47	43	7
Oct 11-14, 2004	42	46	10
Aug 29-Sep 5, 2000	35	51	11

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Having a Gun in the House -- Safer or More Dangerous?

Do you think having a gun in the house makes it a safer place to be or a more dangerous place to be?

	% Safer	% More Dangerous
Men	67	26
Women	58	34
Whites	65	28
Nonwhites	56	37

East	59	34
Midwest	62	30
South	68	26
West	59	33
Republicans	81	15
Independents	64	26
Democrats	41	53

Oct 12-15, 2014
GALLUP

In 2000, a mere 35 percent of Gallup respondents said guns made a home safer, but in the newest poll, 63 percent of respondents said guns boosted home safety.

Republicans were more likely to say guns improved home safety than independents or Democrats

— though Democrats were the only political group to have a majority say guns made a home less safe — and people in the Midwest and South were more pro-gun than those living on the coasts.

White men were among the most gun-positive

Percentage of Americans Who Have a Gun in Their Home, by Demographic Group

Do you have a gun in your home?

	% Yes	% No
Men	47	48
Women	38	59
Whites	49	46
Nonwhites	28	70

East	31	66
Midwest	44	49
South	51	45
West	39	57
Republicans	55	38
Independents	43	53
Democrats	27	72

Oct 12-15, 2014
GALLUP

groups, though the majority of women and non-white groups also claimed guns kept a home safe.

Who actually owns guns? Slightly less than half of the country, with white men again topping the charts and women and non-whites reporting lower rates of

gun ownership.

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Retail Disaster: Holiday Sales Crater by 11%, Online Spending Declines

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

Last year was bad. This year is an outright disaster.

As we reported earlier using ShopperTrak data, the first two days of the holiday shopping season were already showing a -0.5% decline across bricks-and-mortar stores, following a “cash-for-clunkers” like jump in early promotions which pulled demand forward with little follow through in the remaining shopping days. However, not even we predicted the shocker just released from the National Retail Federation, the traditionally cheery industry organization, which just reported absolutely abysmal numbers: **sales during the four-day Thanksgiving holiday period crashed by a whopping 11% from \$57.4 billion to \$50.9 billion**, confirming what everyone but the Fed knows by now: the US middle class is being obliterated, and that key driver of 70%

of US economic growth is in the worst shape it has been since the Lehman collapse, courtesy of 6 years of Fed’s ruinous central planning.

NRF is perpetually cheery and always desperate to put a metric ton of lipstick on a pig? Well, hold on to your hats folks:

Odd how that metaphor is never used when the (seasonally-adjusted) sprint beats the marathoners.

So there you have it: an 11% collapse in retail spending has just been spun as super bullish for the US economy, whereby US consumers aren’t spending because the economy is simply too strong, and the only reason they don’t spend is because they will spend much more later. Or something.

Apparently, the plunge in Americans who even care about bargains is also an indication of an economic resurgence:

The retail trade group said the number of people who went shopping over the four-day weekend declined by 5.2% to 134 million, from 141 million last year.

Finally, what we said earlier about a surge in online sales, well forget it - it was a lie based on the now traditional skewed perspectives from a few self-serving industry organizations:

Despite many retailers offering the same discounts on the web as they offered in stores, **the internet didn’t attract more shoppers or more spending than last year. Online sales accounted for 42% of sales racked up over the four-day period, the same percentage as last year, though up from 26% in 2006, the trade group said.**

In fact, it was worse: **“Shoppers spent an average \$159.55 online, down 10.2% from \$177.67 last year.”**

But the propaganda piece de resistance is without doubt the following:

“A highly competitive environment, early promotions and the ability to

shop 24/7 online all contributed to the shift witnessed this weekend,” Mr. Shay said.

So to summarize: holiday sales plunged, and Americans refused to shop because the economy is “stronger than ever”, and because Americans have the option of shopping whenever, which is why they didn’t shop in the first place. That, and, of course, plunging gasoline prices leading to... plunging retail sales, just as all the economists “correctly” predicted.

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sales during the four-day Thanksgiving holiday period crashed by a whopping 11%

Demonstrating the sad state of America’s “economic dynamo”, **shoppers spent on average only \$380.95, down 6.4% from \$407.02 a year earlier.** As the *WSJ* reports, NRF’s CEO Matt Shay attributed the drop to a combination of factors, including the fact that retailers moved promotions earlier this year in attempt to get people out sooner and avoid what happened last year when people didn’t finish their shopping because of bad weather.

He also attributed the declines to better online offerings and an improving economy where “people don’t feel the same psychological need to rush out and get the great deal that weekend, particularly if they expected there to be more deals,” he said.

And of course the sprint vs marathon comparisons, such as this one: **“The holiday season and the weekend are a marathon not a sprint,”** NRF Chief Executive Officer Matthew Shay said on a conference call.

Also, did we mention the

Americans Bought Guns at a Record-Setting Clip on Black Friday

by Zach Noble, TheBlaze.com

(Editor/GG: The U.S. broke last year’s record of 144,758 guns sold on Black Friday. Colorado also broke last year’s record. Sweet!)

Forget the Xboxes, iPhones, and Tickle Me Elmos — Americans were really going crazy for guns this Black Friday in record-setting numbers.

The typical Black Friday boom in gun sales doubles the number of background checks handled by the FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), from one per second on an average day to two per second.

By Friday afternoon, that figure had

reached three checks per second, CNN reported, putting 2014 on track to blow past the prior Black Friday record of 144,758 FBI-processed gun transactions in a single day.

“We are averaging three checks per second,” FBI spokesman Stephen Fischer said on Friday afternoon.

Noting that the FBI typically brings in 100 extra employees to help handle the Black Friday load, Fischer said, “The challenge is to have staff keep up with this volume. We do that by limiting personal leave, asking employees to work extra shifts, and reutilizing former...employees to serve in NICS during this busy period.”

Fischer said FBI employees would work through the weekend to process the backlog generated by booming sales in the more than 48,000 U.S. gun retailers.

Officials told CNN that roughly 2 percent of Black Friday background checks will likely not be completed due to insufficient information; in 2013, the FBI completed 21 million background checks and officials said that 1.1 percent of those checks resulted in a denied gun purchase.

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Total U.S. Debt Rises Over \$18 Trillion; Up Over 70% Under Barack Obama

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

Last week, total U.S. debt was a meager \$17,963,753,617,957.26. Two days later, as updated today, on Black Friday, total outstanding U.S. public debt just hit a new historic level which probably would be better associated with a red color: as of the last work day of November, total U.S. public debt just surpassed \$18 trillion for the first time, or \$18,005,549,328,561.45 to be precise, of which debt held by the public rose to \$12,922,681,725,432.94, an **increase of \$32 billion in one day.**

It also means that total U.S. debt to nominal GDP as of September 30, which was \$17.555 trillion, is now 103%.

Keep in mind this GDP number was artificially increased by about half a trillion dollars a year ago thanks to the “benefit” of R&D and intangibles. Without said definitional change, debt/GDP would now be about 106%.

It also means that total U.S. debt has increased by 70% under Obama from \$10.625 trillion on January 21, 2009 to \$18.005 trillion most recently.

And now we wait for the U.S. to become Spain, and add the estimated “contribution” from hookers and blow to GDP, once again pushing the total debt/GDP ratio below the psychological 100% level.

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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.



Not All Quacks Are Ducks

My wife and I recently attended the 3A football state championship game; our alma mater high school was playing for that coveted crown. The stadium was full with cheering, well-behaved fans who were enjoying this brief opportunity to escape the usual rigors of life. A visual survey of the crowd revealed the expected demographics of the student population of our school for the fifty-two years of its existence. At least one-half of the gathering were Hispanics while the majority of the remainder were white. The team itself was a reflection of the same. The amazing part of the story is that everyone seemed to be enjoying each other’s company. As I tripped down memory lane I reflected on those student days of yester year and wondered how those diverse cultures managed to get along as well as we did. Could part of the reason be that no outside agitators were imported to convince anyone of their “victim” status? We were all given equal opportunity to learn or to take a trip to the principal’s office if necessary. The general rule of the Happy Days society went this way: if you were in trouble in school, it was multiplied at home.

The Reverends Al Charlatan and Jesse Hijack have made a handsome living by convincing the black community that they are the targets of perpetual racial discrimination. There appears to be some missing links in the rhetoric of these alleged “Christian ministers.” The only source of authority for a credible per-

son who claims this title is the Bible. The question is simple...do the activities of these quacks conform to the Scriptures?

The career of the apostle Peter would be a good one to follow since he is the first one to do any preaching after the ascension of Christ. His message was habitually the same, majoring on the death, burial, and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because so many responded favorably to this testimony, trouble was sure to follow. The religious heavyweights had Peter and the apostles arrested and thrown in the brig. (Acts 5:17, 18) The angel of the LORD was standing by and initiated a grand jail break with these instructions: “Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.” The same singular theme was continued which was followed by another arrest. The apostles were once again brought before the big shots who charged: “Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? And, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” (Acts 5:28) Peter’s answer is classic...“We ought to obey God rather than men.” The apostles’ civil disobedience hinged on one thing only—the preaching of the cross. I have yet to hear either of the esteemed Reverends even mention the subject. Why not? Every single time I listen to an interview with Franklin Graham, he always drives the same nail home that Peter did. Could it be that these political activists care more

about money, power, and media recognition than they do about the souls of their own people?

Peter, although suffering beatings and incarceration, was unwavering in his willingness to suffer for righteousness’ sake. His own epistle says, “But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;” (I Peter 3:14). The conclusion is obvious; if suffering is introduced because an individual is living a righteous life (which wouldn’t include stealing cigars from a convenience store), then be happy. If, on the other hand, someone is getting kicked in the teeth as a result of their own bad behavior, it’s time for some self-evaluation. Peter once again hits a homerun over left field when he writes: “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye.” (I Peter 4:12-14)

The riots of Ferguson displayed no happiness but only hatred and anger. The ministry of the apostles of anguish produced an unscriptural result. How legitimate are they?

By the way, our team won! Diversity can work if the government keeps its nose out of it, and the wolves in sheep’s clothing stay home!

A Sheepdog Barks!

I don’t know how things in America could get any worse under this reckless and feckless man we are suffering with as the president. He mishandles every situation that presents itself. WOOF! He and Senator Feinstein have now decided to trash the CIA and the good people that helped stop additional attacks after the twin towers were brought down, killing over 3,000 innocent lives there, in Pennsylvania and in the Pentagon. On Tuesday this week the LPSDs released a report on CIA Torture in America. The last enhanced interrogation was done in 2007. So 7 years and \$40 Million later they decide to release this totally partisan (just like Obamacare) and inaccurate report before they lose power in the Senate in January 2015. Here is a quote from the president. Obama said “Harsh interrogations were not only inconsistent with our values as a nation; they did not serve our broader counterterrorism efforts or our national security interests.” HOWL! Senator Feinstein said “this report is bigger than the CIA’s use of torture; it’s about Ameri-

to be killed in the womb for any reason. HOWL! The report is nothing more than a shameful bash of the Bush administration which, in my book, did the right and necessary things to protect America from the evil Islamic fanatics that want to kill us. They need nothing else to provoke them. They hate us, always will, and will kill us every chance they get. If a little waterboarding prevents additional attacks and provides actionable intelligence to those with the guts to protect us then so be it. WOOF! They didn’t even interview all the CIA leaders involved. Only Democrats wrote the report and voted to release it. VP Biden says it’s necessary to provide transparency to the American people. BULL STUFF! Funny they don’t believe in transparencies except when it attacks Bush or conservatives. There was no and has been no transparency with Obamacare as we now learn while it crumbles piece by piece. Many experts believe all this report will do is expose and put at risk many of our operatives and throw our allies under the bus. Obama and Feinstein along with the other LPSDs don’t give a hoot about that. Remember this: Senator Feinstein knew all about these enhanced interrogations as she was briefed on them many times. She now needs to cover her posterior and her conscience. Many CIA leaders have said these actions provided us great intelligence and help stop many attacks on Americans. It also led us to the whereabouts of Osama Bin Laden so he could be killed. Khalid Sheik Mohammed was waterboarded and provided us tons of good information. In my book you do what you have to do against this particular kind of evil. It was done very selectively and with good results. Polling tells us that 63% of Americans support enhanced interrogation when it’s needed, only 30% oppose. The report has caused the United Nations to demand we punish those responsible, especially the leaders. I don’t give a hoot what the UN wants. Let’s hope that Obama won’t direct the DOJ and Eric Holder to go after the good Americans who were told what to do and did it to protect us all. Stop with all this phony and hypocritical morality. And what else is the president up to these days. His approval rating is now in the 30s. It will get worse. So to fire up the LPSD



base and protect his legacy with black Americans he is leading the charge on a new race relation crisis in America. Remember his mentor Saul Alinsky taught him to never let a good crisis go to waste. Instead of calming Americans he is fanning the flames of discontent, violence, and destruction. He goes everywhere he can like Black Entertainment TV (BET) and stokes the unrest. His words are trashing our law enforcement operations all over America. The mayor and police commissioner (PC) of New York, both LPSDs, are stoking the flames in their own city. It is a well-established fact these protests are not spontaneous Americans showing their discontent, but professionals intent on destruction and chaos. It reminds me of the Occupy Wall Street demonstrations a few years ago. Check out the white-faced masks. They are intent on destruction, mayhem, and anarchy. We’ve said before that our legal system is not perfect by a long shot. But when it goes wrong should we destroy the small businesses and loot all the shops along the way. This is insane. Two black Americans recently spoke out on all this trouble. The president of the NAACP, Cornell Brooks, said that “it’s all the police department’s fault. Racism is alive and well”. HOWL! That really helps doesn’t it? ALL the police’s fault. REALLY? Sheriff David Clarke of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin says, “The White House’s divisive politics are fanning the flames of racial discord”. Both are black men. The only words I hear from the liberal progressive side of this argument is all one sided. It’s all the fault of our racist police forces and racist courts and juries. Nothing is ever said about the other root cause. Let’s get on with this debate. Let’s not be cowards as Eric Holder suggested. But let’s put all the facts on the table. The truth is out there. But like Jack Nicholas said (sort of), “Many Americans can’t handle the truth.”

May God have Mercy on America! JMH



Five Complete Lies About America's New \$18 Trillion Debt Level

by Simon Black, Sovereign Man Blog, via Tyler Durd-ed, ZeroHedge.com

On October 22, 1981, the government of the United States of America accumulated an astounding \$1 TRILLION in debt.

At that point, it had taken the country 74,984 days (more than 205 years) to accumulate its first trillion in debt.

It would take less than five years to accumulate its second trillion.

And as the U.S. government just hit \$18 trillion in debt on Friday afternoon, it has taken a measly 403 days to accumulate its most recent trillion.

There's so much misinformation and propaganda about this; let's examine some of the biggest lies out there about the U.S. debt:

1) "They can get it under control."

What a massive lie. Politicians have been saying for decades that they're going to cut spending and get the debt under control.

FACT: The last time the U.S. debt actually decreased from one fiscal year to the next was back in 1957 during the EISENHOWER administration.

FACT: For the last several years, the U.S. government has been spending roughly 90% of its ENTIRE tax revenue just to pay for mandatory entitlement programs and interest on the debt.

This leaves almost nothing for practically everything else we think of as government.

2) "The debt doesn't matter because we owe it to ourselves."

This is probably the biggest

lie of all. Two of the Social Security trust funds alone (OASI and DI) own \$2.72 trillion of US debt.

The federal government owes this money to current and future beneficiaries of those trust funds, i.e. EVERY SINGLE U.S. CITIZEN ALIVE.

I fail to see the silver lining here. How is it somehow 'better' if the government defaults on its citizens as opposed to, say, banks?

3) "They can always 'selectively default' on the debt"

Another lie. People think that the U.S. government can pick and choose who it pays.

They could make a big stink about China, for example, and then choose to default on the \$2 trillion in debt that's owed to the Chinese.

Nice try. But this would rock global financial markets and destroy whatever tiny shred of credibility the US still has.

Others have suggested that the government could selectively default on the Federal Reserve (which owns \$2.46 trillion of U.S. debt).

Again, possible. But given that the Fed (the issuer of the U.S. dollar) would become immediately insolvent, the resulting currency crisis would be completely disastrous.

4) "It's the NET debt that's important"

Analysts often pay attention to a country's "net debt" instead of its gross debt. If you have a million bucks in debt, and a million bucks in cash, then your 'net debt' is zero. It washes out.

Problem is, the U.S. gov-

ernment doesn't have any cash. The Treasury Department opened its business day on Friday morning with just \$71.9 billion in cash, or just 0.39% of its total debt level.

Apple has more money than that.

5) "They can fix it by raising taxes"

No they can't. Just look at the numbers. Since the end of World War II, U.S. government tax revenue has consistently been roughly 17% of GDP.

They can raise tax rates, but it doesn't move the needle in terms of revenue as a percentage of GDP.

In other words, the government's 'slice of the pie' is pretty consistent.

You'd think with this obvious data that, rather than try to increase tax rates (ineffective), they'd do everything they can to help make a bigger pie.

Or better yet, just leave everyone alone so we're free to make as much as we can.

But no. They have to regulate every aspect of people's existence: How you are allowed to educate your children. What you can/cannot put in your body. How much interest you are entitled to receive on your savings.

All of this costs time, money, and efficiency. So do never-ending wars. The bombs. The drones. The airstrikes.

This isn't about any single person or president. The problem is with the system itself.

History shows that every

See LIES
on page 20

Colorado Schools, Cities Have \$10 Billion in Hidden Pension Liability

by Arthur Kane | Watchdog.org

Colorado's schools and governments have about \$10 billion in hidden pension and health-care benefit liability, a "sinkhole" that could cost many individual taxpayers \$10,000 or more to fill, a report from the Chicago-based nonprofit Truth in Accounting found.

Sheila A. Weinberg, TIA founder and CEO, said the Colorado Public Employees Retirement Association hasn't collected enough from school districts and local governments to cover retirement costs for all the local employees.

"It is pushed off year after year until these plans don't have enough money to pay for retirees," she said. "They're either going to have to raise taxes or cut benefits."

PERA, in a written statement, said governments have always paid PERA the amount set by the General Assembly, but the association hasn't yet "quantified" how much pension liability individuals governments and school districts may have.

"PERA is sustainable and is able to meet the obligations to members, retirees, and taxpayers," the statement said.

TIA surveyed 63 local governments in Colorado with a property tax assessed value exceeding \$1 billion and found that 20 — including all 13 school districts — have significant unreported retirement liabilities.

"While most of these local governments appear to have positive financial

positions, 20 have financial holes," the report said. "The financial holes represent bills the local governments have accumulated beyond available assets."

The district with the largest per-taxpayer liability is the Platte Valley RE-7 School District, with each taxpayer on the hook for \$12,159 to pay for all accrued employee retirement expenses. Adams-Arapahoe 28J is second with \$9,866, according to the report.

An individual taxpayer will likely bear the burden of several taxing districts depending on where he or she lives and owns property.

For example, a Denver taxpayer's burden includes \$2,389 for city employees, \$7,467 for Denver Public Schools, \$174 for the Regional Transportation District, and \$3,500 for state employees.

Weinberg said much of this hidden liability will come to the forefront after next year because the Governmental Accounting Standards Board has put in rules that unfunded pension liabilities be noted on government books. But a lot of that debt has already accrued.

The PERA statement said the organization is working to implement the rule, but staff has been unable to duplicate TIA's figures.

"The publication notes that the information was taken from PERA's actuarial reports, but we are unable to duplicate the calculation," the statement said.

Weinberg said TIA took the proportion of a municipality's or school district's overall contributions to

determine liability.

Platte Valley superintendent Glenn McClain issued a statement saying the district will not know the exact state of their pension funding until the new accounting requirements are implemented.

"The Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA) has not provided the numbers and calculations for the school district to use at this time," the statement said. "Platte Valley School District finances are sound and financial statements are compliant with all current GASB statements and Colorado State Statutes as they apply to local governments."

Adams-Arapahoe school officials issued a statement disputing there is a problem and said the district isn't hiding any liability as it's following current accounting rules.

"APS has met all GASB standards that were in effect," the statement said. "The new standards became effective this fiscal year, and we will meet them."

Weinberg said the hidden pension liability has allowed local politicians to increase their popularity by spending money on high-profile projects while ignoring the retirement burden.

"A lot of times politicians want to spend money on other things, like putting money into the schools, instead of contributing to PERA," she said.

Please see: watchdog.org/185302/report-colorado-schools-cities-10-billion-hidden-pension-liability/

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Sheriff Deputy and Posse Member Awards

At this year’s Sheriff’s Office/Posse Christmas party, Deputy H.A. Buck Wenzell was recognized as the Employee of the Year, and Vernon Roth was recognized as the Posse Member of the Year. *Congratulations, guys! Thank you for all you do!*

Sentinel photos by Barbara Napolitan

Friends of the West Custer County Library Craft Fair

by Carol Clemenson

The recent holiday craft fair put on by the Friends of the West Custer County Library was a rousing success, raising about \$4000 for the library. Many thanks, as always, go to Hope Lutheran Church for the use of Lange Hall. They

would also like to thank the Rotary organization for the use of their tables and their help with set-up and take-down. Judy Elington’s generous donation of a lovely quilt sold 302 tickets for a raffle. The winner was Inge Cosby. Over 60 crafters participated in this fair, the most ever. There

were several new crafters that joined the ranks of sellers, and the quality of the wares offered for sale was very high. Many of the attendees at the event did their holiday shopping there which keeps the money within the local community.

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There will be no next step when it comes to further expanding Prima.

“We’d love to have more room for more students, but we’ve maxed out our space unless the Family Dollar Store moves,” Greenman said, referring to the only other tenant of the strip mall.

Although Prima is faced with space lim-

itations, Greenman points out the HOPE Christian School Network is continuing to grow.

“Our other campuses have room for expansion. And next year we’re opening a school in Racine,” Greenman said.

“It’s exciting to be part of a network that can reach so many kids.”

Please see: watchdog.org/185905/hope-prima-dedication/

LIES From page 19

leading superpower from the past almost invariably fell to the same fate.

Great powers often feel that their wealth and success entitles them to spend recklessly and wage endless, arrogant wars. The Romans. The Ottoman Empire. The British.

History may not repeat but it certainly rhymes. And the

lesson here is very clear: debt weakens a nation. It weakens a society.

Generations that will not even be born for decades will inherit these debts by complete accident of birth.

And the people in charge of the system have backed themselves into a corner where there is no way out other than to default—either on their creditors (creating a global financial crisis), the central bank (creating a currency crisis), or on the

citizens themselves (creating an epic social crisis).

Bottom line: this is not a consequence-free environment. And while you can’t fix the debt problem, you can certainly reduce your own exposure to what happens next.

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