



"Go Tell It ON The Mountain: That Jesus Christ Is Born"*

December 25th, The Birth of Our Lord The Gift of Peace

by Larry Smith, preacher
for the Wild West Cowboy
Church of Westcliffe

The last few days had been very tiring for the young couple (Joseph & Mary) who were traveling from Galilee to Bethlehem to register for a census decreed by the Governor.

To make matters worse, Mary was due to give birth to her first born at any time. The town was packed full of people doing the same thing Joseph and Mary were there to do. Every inn, hotel and house was full and if there were signs

ly, out of total desperation, Joseph found a man who owned a barn that would let them stay there for the night. And it came about that while they were there, Mary gave birth to her first born son. She wrapped God's greatest gift (to Us) in a towel not wrapping paper and laid him in a feed trough.

Heaven opened herself up and placed her most precious one in a human womb. The one who made the universe is now dependent upon the nourishment of a young girl.



in the windows they would all say, "No Vacancy, No Room". Joseph like many of us, had failed to plan ahead and make reservations for the nighttime accommodations, But little did he know, God had already made reservations in advance for them. Joseph is starting to get desperate to find a place for them to stay. Everywhere he went people told him there was no room for them. Final-

Mary and Joseph were anything but royal. Yet heaven entrusted its greatest treasure to those who heard the first cries of "God With Us" to a peasant girl and a sleepy carpenter. It all began in a barn, Majesty in the midst of the mundane. He looked anything but a King. His face, red. His cry, still the helpless, piercing cry of a dependent baby. Holiness in the filth of sheep manure and sweat. How fitting that

the Lamb of God would be born in a barn.

Out in the same region there were some shepherds (cowboys) staying out in the pastures keeping watch over their cattle by night. When an angel of the Lord came to them and said, "I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all the people; today in the city of David there has been born for you, the Savior, who is the Christ the Lord!" And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped, and lying in a feed trough in a barn. When the angel left, the shepherds (cowboys) said to one another, let's saddle up and go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has made known to us. They started out on that long trot and found the baby in the barn just as they were told. After they saw the Savior baby, they rode back home praising God for all that they saw.

Why did God choose to tell the cowboys first? I think because they are the overlooked, disregarded, and counted out ones. They are the last, least, and the lost ones. Maybe God's telling us that anyone no matter who you are, no matter what you have done, you can feel free to be with Jesus. Everyone qualifies to go to a barn and see what's waiting for you. I believe that God also knows that those cowboys won't give up because being a cow-

boy is hard work. They are willing to stay out all night in the freezing rain and snow trying to save a calf that will more than likely die anyway. And he knows they are loyal to the brand. God's asking you to come to the barn and see what He's got waiting for you to see. God wants us to cowboy up!

Man on his own couldn't go to Heaven to be with God, so God came to Earth to be with man. God abandoned His golden throne room in favor of a dirty sheep pen. Jesus traded the singing of Angels for the sounds of cows munching, hooves crunching, a mother humming, a babe nursing.

So the very words of God come to pass, "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God With Us" (Matt. 1:23).

It's interesting to note that the first chapter of Matthew states that, "God Is (With Us)" and the last chapter of Matthew 28: 20 states that, "I will be (With You) always to the end of the age."

Wouldn't you agree that the Word tells us that God is With Us and that He will never leave us?

The precious gift that God wants you to receive and everyone else is his Son, Jesus Christ who is the

Prince Of Peace. It is also noted that he was wrapped and placed not under a tree like we do our Christmas presents but on a tree (the Cross) so that you and I can have the "Gift Of Peace". But the story doesn't end with just a baby being born. God became man and came into our world--- to live as we do and to know laughter and tears, pain and joy, hurt and compassion. His life tells us of his desire to be with us, and His great love for us in that Jesus would rather die than live without you and that's just what he did! Jesus was born in a barn, Jesus lived life on earth as a man. Jesus was killed on the cross for our sins, Jesus rose from the dead, and Jesus lives forever in those who believe.

In all this Jesus didn't come to bring us Religion, He came so that we could have a Relationship with Him.

I'd like to believe that Jesus was a Cowboy, He was born in a barn, He rode a colt that had never been ridden, He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, He always talked in (Pair a Bulls) and He's coming back on a white horse - sounds like a cowboy to me. But that's just me.

May you all have a Merry Christmas and enjoy the Gift Of Peace that God gives!

Happy Trails to You With JESUS!

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More Gunfire in Copper Gulch!
New Anti-Pot Group Formed
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Doctors Not Accepting Medicaid
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"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:14
NIV

The Christmas Truce of WWI

by Pastor Jim Modlish

Let Gitz Rice was a member of a famous Canadian regiment that deployed to France during World War I. The regiment fought in Flanders Fields, across the desolate "No Man's Land" under cover of a fearsome barrage. Rice's company carried a strange implement of war---a piano. On that piano in France, Rice com-

posed one of the famous songs of the soldiers: "Mademoiselle from Armentieres."

The afternoon before Christmas Eve it was decided that the piano should be taken up to the frontline trenches; it was hoisted onto an army truck and finally deposited at its destination. Peace had settled over "No Man's Land" that night, but the barbed wire remained and

a morning attack threatened each side. The hostile troops were so close that one could hear them conversing.

Shortly before midnight, Rice began playing Christmas carols in the British trench. First he played "Silent Night, Holy Night." This was followed by "Hark, the Herald

See CHRISTMAS on page 5

* "Go Tell It On The Mountain" is an old, old, black gospel song dating back to at least 1865. It was first published in John Wesley Work Jr.'s song book, "New Jubilee Songs and Folk Songs of the American Negro", published in 1907. An excellent version can be heard on the audio CD, "Legendary Groups of Gospel," by the famous gospel group, The Mighty Clouds of Joy, available at Amazon.com. Editor/GG.

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*A different view from
the same mountains!*


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

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

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Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

THE SEASON OF GIVING



America is often described as the richest nation in the world. That's not exactly accurate. America is the nation with the richest citizens. The nation, nor the government, cannot be rich as it produces nothing, sells nothing, or earns nothing. It only takes. Its "riches" are based on how much it decides to take from the citizens. And in our view it takes far too much. The American people are not only the richest people in the world, but also the most compassionate and giving. When there is a need anywhere in the world Americans come through. America is the most giving of all the nations because of its citizens. We give for every catastrophe in the world and far more than most other nations.

It's the season of giving and the season to celebrate our Savior's birth.

Our government also gives even though it's the money they have taken from "We the People". They even give money they haven't taken from us. They "give" money

they have to "borrow" to give. Of course, the American citizens are eventually stuck with the interest and the principal. It's really easy to give away someone else's money. Our government is a master of that little trick. However, it's the season of giving and the season to celebrate our Savior's birth. The three wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus and to this day we exchange gifts as a sign of our love for one another. We also give gifts to those less fortunate, those living in hard times, and those needing a lift. Christmas time is the most giving time of all. In Custer County some caring and compassionate people come together and created the "Spirit Fund". We believe it is conducted at this time of year, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, to provide a way for us all to be thoughtful and share what we can with others that are less fortunate. It's a great organization and gives us all a chance to help those in our own community.

Ten years ago, around Thanksgiving of November 2004, several local citizens banded together to form a foundation to help the very organizations which help provide for the needs of others in our community. This is how it should be. Citizens helping citizens. The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (WMVCF) is exactly what we believe God had in mind. It's about Christians helping the less fortunate. It's not always about more government tax or grant money. It's about personal and volunteer donations "of the people, by the people, for the people." We all need to help these non-profit organizations that are able to serve

the community only because of the thousands of hours of dedicated and mostly volunteer efforts of other citizens. Most Americans

It's about personal and volunteer donations "of the people, by the people, for the people."

give generously according to their abilities. Remember the widow's mite. No other country in the world gives like America. This is just one of the reasons America is so great. Citizens helping others because they want to and not because of government force. The government should provide the framework for opportunity, not force the redistribution of wealth. It is the right thing to do to help others and when it is our free and voluntary choice, it is good. The Board of Directors (past and present) of the WMVCF have done great things for this community. They, along with the many participating citizens each year, have helped almost 70 non-profit organizations

by distributing about \$2.1 million over the last 10 years. Much of that amount comes from the smart management of the Foundation's piggy bank in matching payments. We realize that many communities and organizations would be blessed with a private foundation like this and we know there are many similar large foundations serving large cities and large projects. Some of that money has made its way here also. Many a small rural community would be blessed to have their own WMVCF.

There are many fine and deserving organizations that you can choose from to share with. The Custer County Community Sharing Center, Inc., is one of them and it has a particular need this year. The Sharing Center provides food, clothing, and some furniture and household goods to our friends and neighbors right here in the valley every month of the year. Their mission has outgrown their current location at the Lutheran Church and they are negotiating with our local bank to buy a larger place in Silver Cliff. They need \$200,000 to acquire and renovate the new location. We encourage you to consider their extraordinary fundraising needs at this time. The important matching funds they would receive during the Spirit Fund would help them even more. Regardless of which organization you choose to support, we encourage all of you to share with these local groups as you are able to during this Season of Giving. Merry Christmas from all of us at the *Sentinel* and we wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2015. May God bless America and may God bless us all.



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Goodbye Dark Skies, Fresh Mountain Air, Tourists!

Town Trustees have a big responsibility, the most important one is to uphold the job that is entrusted to them. It is no easy task to make the best decisions; to not be blinded by the hook of possible monetary gain at the expense of the harmful consequences for their townsfolk, surrounding community, and those outside the area as well. It is vision and foresight that is needed to protect the citizens of their community with decisions that won't devalue property, further already serious water issues, and send an opposite message to the students in the community from what they are being taught. This is about marijuana and the psychoactive THC drug it contains.

When a pot grower is brought in to a zoning commission meeting as a consultant and speaks plainly saying, “It’s all about the money,” really translates to “d*** the consequences” and would make one think that being “all about the money” makes it a right thing to do, or that pot growing and recreational

use being legal makes it a right thing to do. Aren’t we trying to teach our youth what is harmful for their minds and bodies and that there are consequences to their actions and decisions?

This consultant who admitted to the stench being offensive as well, also spoke of the need for a high volume of water and electricity needed for not only the high wattage needed to run the facility lights during the growing season, but also for pumping the water. What happened to the ‘Dark Skies’ Silver Cliff just supported by spending money on new street lights? Goodbye Dark Skies during the marijuana “growing season”. Goodbye to our fresh Colorado mountain air. Our neighbors ‘down the hill’ in Penrose where many who are asked now say, “If we only knew what this would do to our community ahead of time (smell, lights, culture) we would not have allowed it!” In addition, one law official asking not to be identified said that not one improvement has been made from the influx of income ‘reportedly promised’

from the grow facilities nor the retail stores.

Just ask folks in Penrose or other areas. Ask the people, not the growers as they are not in it for the sake of the general population, but for a specific population, and of course, their own monetary gain.

What about the tourist industry? Not only did Sheriff Jobe mention in prior meetings that bringing marijuana into the community will also bring in a specific character and culture that changes an area, he mentioned other factors as well. It is no secret what happens and who comes to marijuana influenced community. Just ask many inside and outside of the governments of the various communities embracing this drug. This “consultant” did not know of all the crime Denver and even Cañon City has experienced as a result of bringing marijuana facilities and retail stores into the community has wrought as he attested to crime not being a problem with marijuana. He did not do his homework in this area and hasn’t kept up on all the effects

and issues.

Sheriff Jobe has told both town boards of trustees that bringing marijuana into the community will result in an increase of cost for law enforcement. This would be due to the increased ambulance calls ranging from infants to adults who have adverse effects from using marijuana in the various forms to car accidents to crime related calls, not to mention turf wars.

This “consultant” did not have any knowledge of any deaths attributed to marijuana use and obviously hasn’t been paying attention to the news or studies compiled about deaths due to the unpredictable amounts of THC per plant that have varying effects on individuals. He obviously didn’t speak to the parents of the college student in Denver who used marijuana for the first time and experienced extreme hallucinations that caused him to jump off a balcony to his death. Autopsy report showed the only substance in his blood was marijuana THC. He obviously hadn’t heard of the young wom-

an who was a mother of young children in England who died from the use of marijuana which caused a known effect of increased heart palpitations, proving too much for her heart. Autopsy report showed the only substance in her blood was marijuana THC.

This “consultant” did not have any knowledge of any traffic deaths related to marijuana use either, which are a known fact had he done his research. He didn’t mention the increase in health risks suffered by infants, youths, minors and adults due to the increase of hospital visits due to the effects of the unpredictable THC levels have on individual’s brains and bodies. Those important details are obviously beside the point of this action being “all about the money”. What about the health and security of a community and county through reputable means that don’t have a harmful residual effect on anyone?

Admittedly, there are people with health issues that use marijuana for medical purposes which while beneficial for some under specific doctor prescribed conditions, is not the case for all who elect to use marijuana.

Let’s be real. Who is being closed-minded when all the factors are not considered? A grow facility does what Sheriff Fred Jobe said. It pushes drug use. In this case, a harmful and insidiously legal drug. It

is not the same as the marijuana of the 1960’s or 70’s, but is 4-5 times more THC and more potent.

Yet the people entrusted to making decisions about the future of a town and ensuing community even the county are now pondering bringing a marijuana grow facility into the Wet Mountain Valley. The negative consequences will affect everyone in the community AND COUNTY, not just the tiny town of Silver Cliff. The studies are all over the internet, if only those entrusted would do their own research into all the facts and factors of all the consequences their decisions will bring. The effects of a grow facility are by far more harmful to our entire community than a taxed business that may “block the views of Round Mountain”!

It is a closed mind that only thinks of the monetary value (which may trickle down since wholesale cannot be taxed and agriculture is minimally taxed). By not saying a resounding NO to opening the door of uncertainty and destruction to our beautiful valley and county, the Silver Cliff Trustees will now take it to the voters, not to ALL those who would be effected by this grow facility, but only to the tiny town of Silver Cliff.....

One of many concerned citizens,
Candi Sage,
Rural Custer County

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in green pastures, He leads
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He guides me in
paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.

Psalm 23:2-3, NIV

Letters to the Editor



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On the Proposed Pot Grow in Silver Cliff

Editor: *This letter is printed as received, with no edits or modifications by Sentinel staff.*

Well folks as the holiday season is upon us and the super exciting opening of the counties own distillery is about to take place. I find myself short on time more than ever. I also find myself writing my first ever letter to the editor. Now if in fact you do know me you know that sticks and stones may break my bones but your words mean nothing to me. My friends I hold dear, there is few, and this is why I even am taking the time for this response. I've faced ridicule my whole life from people that have nothing better to do than construe allegations that have no merit and the allegations put forth in the November 28 edition of the sentinel are in that category. Here are the facts.

Number 1
I'm not a wanna be anything. My folks and I have run the biggest ranching outfits in this county for over 20 years. I am in an super elite category of ownership of one of the nations 632 distilleries. There is only a hand full of single owner distilleries in the entire nation and I am one of them.

Number 2
I'm not a yes man to anyone. If you honestly think that then you don't know me very well. I deal with the ttb on daily basis. If you don't know that is Alcohol Tobacco Tax Trade Bureau. When something goes wrong they call the enforcement division. The ATF. So when it comes right down to it the only people that I answer yes to is the ttb.

Number 3
I am not pursuing pot growing interest. I stated first and foremost that I represented a group of undisclosed investors. This is true. What is also true is that I represent a group of local wealthy and influential people that are interested in the cannibus explosion. I personally have nothing to do with it at this point because of my association with the distillery and the legal ramifications that come with that. How do I fit in? I just have enough personal

where with all to take the criticism that is dealt by such a controversial topic.

Number 4
I am not or would not ride the backs of the people of Silver Cliff. Honestly what a load of commentary by Paul Sage. Seems Mr.Sage forgot about the slander articles wrote earlier in the year. First of all the model set forth at the presentation states that no product of any kind will be sold in Custer County so how could I ride on the backs of the people of Silver Cliff when they couldn't access the products produced. I did say they could gain monetarily like they need to gain and was interrupted before I could finish my statement about like they need to gain to do the things that most towns take for granted like pavement streetlights and such.

Number 5
The small bone as Mr. Sage put it would amount to 280,000 dollars a year for the town of Silver Cliff off of a 4 million dollar facility. Almost a 300% increase of of there approximately 100,000 dollar income.

Number 6
While I didn't totally agree with the presentations take on property values I will say this. The instances put forth by the presentation said that the values increased is true. Circumstances dictate everything in life and those instances property values did rise. Once again I don't feel that that is entirely true. I do feel that Mr. Sage is stating feelings rather than fact. There is no way that any property value goes to zero. Although it may devalued the property value, the value doesn't go to zero. That just isn't the realty that exists.

So ultimately this decision is at the vote of the people of Silver Cliff and that is all there is to it.

*Sincerely,
Steven Rorick*

Just One Question about the Proposed Dog Breeding Facility

Based on a several sources in a quick online search, there are between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 dogs - that's 3-4 MILLION dogs - killed every year in the U.S. because they have no home. Overpopulation is out of control. There are all sorts of dogs, even purebreds, who desperately need a forever home.

Now someone is proposing intentionally breeding dogs to increase the numbers even more.

How is that possibly being a good steward of God's creations?

*Katherine Camper,
Rural Custer County*

Puppies, Pot and Planning...

This letter is not about proposed new businesses, but rather about recommendations that were collaboratively developed and thoughtfully outlined in the 2010 Custer County Master Plan.

Most landowners purchase property based on intended land use and trust that their interests will be protected when they are in alignment with legal zoning designations - agricultural, residential, commercial and industrial. Special Use Permit (SUP) requirements offer county officials flexibility to regard broader interests of its citizens when considering "exceptions" to established zoning districts.

What metrics are used to evaluate whether such approval is granted and how are they prioritized?

- Benefits and costs to the community
- Rights of the landowner
- Impacts on neighbors (noise, traffic, views)
- Environmental impacts (water, waste, wildlife)
- Regulatory enforcement and responsibility
- Long-term impacts on the county (precedents for future ventures)

Our community is wrestling with two commercial proposals - one for dog breeding and one for marijuana production. Both are legal in our state, but both are seen by many citizens as out-of-sync with our local ranching identity. Both issues bring up important questions about regulatory oversight and responsibility for enforcement. With limited state resources to ensure compliance in a remote area

like ours, this is a time to plan for "local control."

Both of these proposals require a serious cost/benefit discussion among the citizens, the landowners, and elected and appointed officials. If we allow these new business to take root, it should be with eyes wide open and with safeguards in place to ensure these commercial endeavors don't disrupt our vision of the future - the peace of the valley, the breadth of the vistas, the draw of tourism, and the health, happiness and prosperity of the citizens.

If individual interests supersede the broader interests of the community, we should brace ourselves for a very different future than the one envisioned in 2010.

*Terri Rowenhorst,
Rural Custer County*

All Life is Precious

"All life matters" said Smith College President, something conservatives have been saying all along. But for that she is "red faced and apologetic". Protesters have been saying "Black Lives Matter". Now which statement is racist and divisive? Which statement is universally true and inclusive of all life? University is supposed to mean united in diversity (unless you are Christian, conservative). For a few the race pendulum has swung the other way from the 60's. Thankfully for the majority we are still in the middle. I am amazed how Al Sharpton is allowed to speak in any forum at all. He is racist, divisive, glory seeking, hate-filled, and arrogant. Many people today are "walking on egg shells" when it comes to race relations. They call them "African-Americans". I bet most blacks in America today have never been to Africa. In congress there is a Congressional "Black" Caucus. They are inclusive of all liberals, but not very supportive of Allen West, Mia Love or Tim Scott. Then you have

the NAACP which I guess thinks they should be called "colored people". Then there are names they call each other which I won't even mention, I think you know what I mean. So what do we call people of color? Is it ok to call them "Black"? Or should we call them "colored people"? It seems like African-American is special treatment, unless we all are to be called with a hyphenated title, Italian-American, English-American. Maybe I can be called Christian-American and enjoy minority status, a special exception. We need to stop all this nonsense about special labels and just treat people like people, neighbors, friends, etc.

So what race are they? They are not a special race! We are all part of the human race and we call "them" whatever is appropriate and acceptable to that person. The Bible is clear that we all came from the same two parents, Adam and Eve, and it never speaks of "race". No one has "evolved" more than another. The Bible

speaks of nations, kindred, people, and tongues and all are sinners and Jesus came to save all.

Man still wants to divide people into groups which he can then control for his own benefit. As soon as the protesting black population comes out from under the yoke of Al Sharpton types and the yoke of plantation mentality, they will all be truly free. I don't believe Rev. M.L. King ever burned down a building or looted a store, so how is that justified today? Is it to make up for the shooting of an unarmed teen? Understand who Michael Brown was. He was a thief, bully, drug user, thug, combative, and resisted arrest. He did not have his hands up as demonstrated in all the riots. I could continue writing about all the black on black crime, the Bosnian who was killed, the innocent girl killed in a drive-by shooting but that goes into another page or two. Wake up, Ferguson, and smell the smoke of your anger.

*Bill Bailey,
Westcliffe*



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Local Mountain News & Notices



Santa Comes to VALI

On Saturday, December 13, Valley Assisted Living residents received a visit from Santa Claus and the Westcliffe Post 170 American Legion Family, who assisted with handing out gifts to our vets and family members. A good time was had by all!

Top photo, Front Row: Anna Orgeron, Carol Kennedy, Santa, Brinder Bradberry, Nancy Brooks, Lyndee Montgomery, Back Row: Brad Bradberry, Earl Fox

To the right: Westcliffe American Legion Post 170 Commander Brad Bradberry, WWII Vet Jack Nichols, and Santa.

Courtesy photo



CCHS Student Accepted to Harvard and a Boettcher Semi-Finalist

by Troy Bomgardner

Madeleine Woods, a senior at Custer County High School learned last Thursday that she was accepted to Harvard University. "It was surreal. I couldn't believe it was happening. One minute I was leaving choir and the next, I was crying with happiness on the ground in the hallway," exclaimed Woods.

The journey for acceptance into one of the most prestigious universities in the world started years ago for Woods, the daughter of Randy and Sarah Woods. "I loved the idea of Harvard," said Woods. It was that magical, unobtainable, dream school where anything was possible. I couldn't help but look into it more and more as I grew up."

Harvard has one of the lowest acceptance rates of any university at just under 6% acceptance. With an endowment of \$35 billion, Harvard has world-class facilities and faculty. Woods visited Harvard in the fall and feel in love with the university and Cambridge. She found the city to be beautiful, old, and friendly. The university met all her expectations. "The students I met were so well-rounded, funny, and kind. The classes were interesting, challenging, and welcoming. I fell in love with the university!" exclaimed Woods.

Woods has been an outstanding student at CCHS and spent a year with the Rotary Foreign Exchange program. Her resume is also filled with school club involvement, communi-

ty service projects, and strong ACT score. She felt that Harvard was looking for students with interesting profiles. "They have so many applications from top students involved in multiple extra-curricular activities," Woods noted. "What they want, however, are those strange odd-ball students with varied backgrounds, amazing stories, and unbelievable experiences."

Woods plans to major in psychology and pursue a doctorate. Following college, she would like to continue her education at Harvard or Cambridge in England. She hopes to travel extensively, discover new things, and help others.

In addition to Harvard, Woods will apply to Stanford, Columbia, and Colorado College to consider other opportunities.

Woods has also been named a semi-finalist for the Boettcher Scholarship. The Boettcher Scholarship is merit-based and offers a full-ride scholarship to any 4-year institution in Colorado. Woods was quick to praise the community for her chances at a Boettcher Scholarship. "This community had a lot to do with it (becoming a semi-finalist)," commented Woods. "I was truly raised in part by several people in this valley and in the school. Without their influence, large or small, I'd never be where I am now."

"We are extremely proud of Madeleine," commented Troy Bomgardner, CCHS counselor. "She has worked



Madeleine Woods, accepted to Harvard and Boettcher Semi-Finalist.

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver very hard to get to this point and she has some fabulous opportunities to choose from!"

Finalist for the Boettcher Scholarship will be announced by February 6, 2015, and finalist interviews will be held the first 2 weeks of March. Recipients will be notified by March 20th.

The spring looks to be an exciting time for the involved Woods. When asked what she'd tell young students who want to shoot for a Boettcher Scholarship, she exclaimed, "Take advantage of every opportunity, always push your limits, and never stop pursuing your dreams!"

CHRISTMAS From page 1

Angels Sing" and other beloved carols familiar to the entire Christian world. The Canadian soldiers sang lustily; then they paused. From across the shallow field they heard the German troops singing with them. It was Christmas Eve!

Rice then played an excerpt from Wagner's "Tannhauser." As he be-

gan the opening chords, a Canadian soldier mounted the rim of the parapet and sang the words.

"More! More!" shouted the Germans.

Then one of their own singers, a rich baritone, repeated the song to Rice's accompaniment, standing as a target for British rifles.

Such incidents bring to light the seeds of good will that are hidden in the

hard soil of our embittered world. Interestingly, these seeds seem to find their root in the message of Christianity and Christmas. Mortal enemies did not lay down their weapons to join in mutual melody over the subjects of evolution, socialism, better government or higher education. These things do not inspire such behavior. But the story of a babe in a manger transcends uncommon boundaries. Every indication suggest

there was a supernatural involvement in this historical event. There are more than 500 songs in my hymnal all about the same Savior. This number represents but a small fraction of the compositions that have been written in His honor. Me thinks (Shakespeare) there is not another religion, philosophy or theology that could boast the inspiration that produces thousands of musical lyrics.



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Thank You!

I would like to thank all the wonderful people in this beautiful valley for all their support during my recent hospital stay for surgery on my broken hip. I was very touched and want to express my gratitude for all the prayers, cards, flowers, phone calls, visits and well wishes. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

I am so thankful to be home and am blessed to be part of such a wonderful and caring community.

Thank you,

Anita Henrich
Silver Cliff, Colorado

Local Mountain News & Notices

1st Annual Family Christmas Dance

Saturday, December 20

6 p.m. - 10 p.m. at the Saddle Club



**Hosted by Wild
"Toys for Kids" Bill**

Admission: FREE

Bring the kids and enjoy some festive fun and singing.

Refreshments and Karaoke will be provided.

Please, no alcohol.

If you have any questions, you can call Bill at 783-9774.

The Ring of Freedom

by Fred Hernandez

Two weeks ago in Pueblo, Colorado, freedom's bell rang at the Liberty Action Groups meeting which featured Sheriff Richard Mack (Ret) as the main event. The well attended meeting officially started at 6:15 pm and came to a boisterous close at 8:30 pm with Sheriff Mack signing numerous copies of his books: *ARE YOU A DAVID* and *THE COUNTRY SHERIFF: AMERICA'S LAST HOPE*.

Liberty Action Group founder Mara Roberts introduced the featured speaker, Sheriff Mack, who in 1994 filed suit against the federal government (Clinton Administration). The obsession at that time to implement restrictive gun control laws embodied in the Brady Bill, which amended the Gun Control Act of 1968, required the CLEOs (Chief Law Enforcement Officers) to conduct background checks on citizens purchasing firearms at local shops. The issue boiled down to placing law enforcement between the proverbial rock and hard place. On the one hand they took an oath to defend the Constitution and, on the other, they were being required to act against it.

Sheriff Mack was serving as Sheriff of Graham, Arizona when members of the BTAF (Bureau of Tobacco, Alcohol and Firearms) called a meeting of the Arizona sheriffs to instruct them to implement the order. The meeting ended amidst much grumbling by the sheriffs but by the time they were leaving the parking lot, they had all but acquiesced to the order with a mentality of "you can't fight City Hall". Not Sheriff Mack.

During his long drive home he seethed and meditated and by the time he drove up his driveway, he had made up his mind. He was going to sue Uncle Sam.

The suit filed February 28, 1994, by Sheriff Mack alone was followed a few weeks later by a second Sheriff, Jay Printz, of Ravoli County, Montana. In time five other Sheriffs from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Vermont, and Wyoming joined the action. Seven sheriffs out of the 3,080 nationwide. Only a magnificent seven stood up against the United States Goliath Clinton Administration in defense of the Constitution.

Both Sheriffs Mack and Printz appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court in December of 1996 and, on June 27, 1997, the Brady Bill was ruled unconstitutional. This bill was a five-part attack on parts of the Constitution and would have effectively disarmed Americans and left the Constitution in tatters. A victory of epic proportions was achieved in the most "powerful and definitive Tenth Amendment decision throughout American history," quoting from Sheriff Mack. This ruling proves that ALL States are sovereign, that the States must keep the federal government in check and that the

federal government is NOT OUR BOSS!

Sheriff Mack went on to organize a group called Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA), a non-profit entity that seeks to inform and educate not only the sheriffs, chiefs of police, and other law enforcement personnel of the country but the general public as well. Every citizen has to know they have rights and these rights have to be respected at all times. There is a procedure in the implementation of our laws and unless it is followed the effect is lawlessness.

Sheriff Mack presents us, the American people, a tool for taking on big government. However, it is a tool that can only be used effectively under the watchful eye of the county sheriff and other law enforcement personnel who are oath bound to defend and protect the Constitution. We need to get fully informed of our rights, our options, and our responsibilities. Everyone is invited to join the CSPOA and get involved in keeping our government in check. Please visit the website of Sheriff Mack at www.sheriffmack.com

The *Sentinel* will continue to follow up on this all important story and bring additional information in future issues.



Sheriff Richard Mack with Mara Roberts, founder of Liberty Action Group.

Sentinel photo by Fred Hernandez

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Local Mountain News & Notices



Caldwell Fundraiser Well Attended

A fundraiser for longtime Silver Cliff resident Eva Caldwell was held Sunday evening at the Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club. Put on by Doug and Jennifer Myers from the Trails West Trading Post and with the help of many area residents, the spaghetti dinner fundraiser brought in over \$800 for Mrs. Caldwell despite competing with cold, snowy weather and a Broncos game.

If you would still like to make a donation, there is an account set up at First State Bank of Colorado, and checks should be written to: "For the benefit of Eva Caldwell".

Sentinel photo by Paul Sage

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Luke 2:10, NIV

Spotlight on Business

D&W Services, LLC 113 CR 241 in Westcliffe

For those of you who have thought the best and most reliable car repair and service is "down the hill", maybe there is a way to save time and money, along with receiving quality work completed with assured customer satisfaction from the folks at D & W Services. Located on County Road 241 adjacent to the Fairgrounds in Westcliffe, Wayne and Dina Sockriter and their team offer personal and expert service for your vehicle versus a sometimes frustrating car service experience at national chain operations an hour or more from Westcliffe.

In addition to an extensive 25-point vehicle inspection, and constantly updated computer diagnostics, D & W Services is a NAPA Car Care Center and a Jasper drive train dealer. They offer everything from oil changes, batteries, tires, to complete engine replacements. They also offer extended warranty repair. D & W Services provides quality and dependable work for larger jobs such as light welding and fabrication, Jasper engine re-

placement with a nationwide warranty, custom exhaust and repair, and exhaust pipe bending using a new state of the art pipe bender just added to the D & W Services shop. Dina and Wayne believe you will find that their local Westcliffe service will be superior in quality and competitive in price on all the above services!!

Along with a new pipe bender, D & W Services has just added a new building enlargement featuring a brand new heavy duty lift to serve you better. D & W Services also offers towing for repairs done at their shop.

Dina, Wayne, Ellen, an experienced technician, and a couple of cats in the office waiting to be petted and



Dwayne with their new pipe bender.

Sentinel photo by Mark Gage

spoiled, look forward to earning and keeping up with your auto and light truck business. Why head down the hill when quality repair and service is right here in Westcliffe?? Dina and Wayne can be reached at 719-783-0633, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday - Friday, and would very much appreciate your business.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

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Bobcat's Marine Corps Student of the Month

Marine Corps League, Detachment 1318 of Cañon City with invited local guest Maj. Gen.(Retired) Bob Hollingsworth honored Custer County High School senior Michael Franta with the award, "Student of the Month," on Monday morning, December 15th. Pictured with Michael, left to right: Marine Corps veterans Sgt. Jim Woodard, Gen. Bob Hollingsworth, Maj. Phil Bukerich, and Cpl. Jim Inskeep. Michael's sights are on college after graduation, and he is considering the Colorado School of Mines in Golden. **CONGRATULATIONS, MICHAEL!**

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver



Cotopaxi's Marine Corps Student of the Month

Cotopaxi High School senior Lauren Buss was recently awarded with the Marine Corps Student of the Month by Royal Gorge Marine Corps League members Jim Woodard, Jim Inskeep, and Phil Beckerich.

Courtesy photo by Brittany Tezak

Looking for Ways to Support your Bobcats???

The winter sports teams have been practicing for a few weeks and they have begun to show off their skills. As in the fall, we are looking to support these great kids with some help running the events. We are looking for volunteers that are interested in keeping books at the high school and middle school basketball games and also anyone interested in announcing the starting line-up at the beginning of each game. We also need volunteers to run the clock at the high school games and/or middle school games. Also, the wrestling team hosts a tournament on Saturday, January 10th. We will need help with the clock, score, and runners. It is always a fun day and it is the only time our wrestlers can show off their talents at home. This is a great opportunity to experience the excitement of the school's sporting events and to get to know our students better. Anyone interested in helping out should contact me at carol.franta@ccbobcats.net or 783-4958 to set up a meeting with the coaches.

*Sincerely,
Carol Franta
Custer County Schools VOICE Coordinator*

Local Mountain News & Notices

A Good Start for Bobcats Boys Basketball Team

by Jim Silver

The Boys team knew it was time to play some basketball since their season opener was a week later than the girls team which got to play at the Trinidad tournament the previous weekend. The Bobcats Boys showed up ready to play Friday evening, December 12th, when the La Veta Redskins came to town for a non-conference game. At the end of the 32 minutes, the scoreboard read “Bobcats—35” and “Guest—29.” Starting line-up for the Bobcats was freshman Kobe Lewsader, sophomores Devon Hockaday and Cody Lyons, junior Jordan Rhodes, and returning starter Conner Rowley, the team’s only senior.

The Bobcats came out on top with some consistent shooting on offense. Hockaday scored 7 points, making 3 points from the free-throw line and 2 field-goals. Rowley led the team with 18 points, connecting on 7 of 10 attempted field-goals, including two 3-pointers, and adding 2 more points with foul shots. Defensively, Custer County came out strong also, shown especially with their posting 16 defensive rebounds and 11 steals. Only one Bob-



Cody Lyons at Friday’s home game against La Veta Redskins.

cat got into foul trouble; Rhodes was called with his fifth in the closing minutes of the game.

It’s always a morale-builder to come away with a season-opening win, and next up the Bobcats boarded the bus early Saturday morning to travel to Simla for another non-conference game. Head Coach Jim Bistodeau described this opponent as “a top-4 team loaded with talent.” The Bobcats came out on the short end—32-59. Rowley led in points scored with 15, and Rhodes added 6. As Coach Bistodeau puts it, “We went into the weekend with the goal of splitting the games. That goal was achieved.” He commends his team’s attitude and effort in both games, saying also that “we were able to determine

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

our most pressing needs to improve and now can put a plan in action during the week to increase our chances next weekend.” “Attitude and effort” can be echoed by anyone who watched the home game!

The Bobcats face two more non-conference opponents, an away game against Sierra Grande on Friday, December 19th, and a game on the Custer County court on Saturday, December 20th against ECA. The boys game starts at 4 p.m. following the girls game, and the girls are scheduled to start at 3 p.m. This Saturday is our last chance to see the Bobcats at home until January 24th—more than a month from now. So, come out and watch the Bobcats play some good basketball!



Congratulations Bobcat 6th Grade Winners!

Presenting winners of the Custer County Conservation District’s Annual Conservation Poster Contest. Every year the 6th graders create a poster to represent the conservation theme of the year. This year it was soil. The posters are judged by the attendees of the District’s Annual Dinner. The winners this year were 1st place, Bo Van Duys; 2nd place, Anastasia Berry; 3rd place, Kaydin Riley Moore. Bo’s first place poster was sent to the state competition in Loveland.

Courtesy photo by Carol Kuisle-Franta



Bobcat Menu • Dec. 22 - Dec. 25, 2014

Christmas Break
No School

Merry Christmas, everyone!



Little Cheer Camp

Custer County Cheer invited 1st - 6th grade girls to come on Friday, December 5th, to a mini camp to learn chants, jumps, and a Christmas dance to be performed at the first home basketball game. The cheerleaders taught the 12 girls that came the cheer material, played games with them and provided snacks. It was fun and the girls learned so fast. The campers performed with the Custer County Cheerleaders on Friday, December 12th, to "All I Want For Christmas is You" at the Girls' and Boys' Basketball Halftime. They received a t-shirt and a Bobcats bell. The girls loved the crowd's response and could not "wait to do it again!"

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

Bobcats Sport Schedule

VARSITY BASKETBALL

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

Saturday, December 20
3 p.m.: ECA at Home

WRESTLING

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

KIDS Friday, December 19, 2014

“GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY”

The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying, and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Source: Gospel of Luke 2:1-20 (NIV)

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Local Mountain News & Notices

Short-handed Lady Bobcats Had a Tough Weekend

by Jim Silver

Hampered by the absence of players due mostly to illness or injury, the Lady Bobcats were outscored by the La Veta Redskins 29-37 on the home court on Friday, December 12th. Starters for the Bobcats were Taylor Staton, Athena Wisecup, Lati-sha Schlabach, M c K e n s i e Penkoff, and Brittany Carter. The team fought back in the second half, nearly matching points with La Veta, but lower scoring of the first 2 quarters gave the Redskins a 10-point edge that the Bobcats couldn't overcome.

On Saturday, the team trav-



The Lady Bobcats played with great intensity in games against La Veta and Simla last weekend.

Sentinel photos by Jim Silver

eled to Simla for the second basketball game of the weekend. Simla came out strongest in all 4 quarters to win 58-24. Again, the Bobcats upped their production in the second half, but their opponents did the same.

The team boards the bus for Blanca and Sierra Grande High Schools on Friday,

December 19th, and will play at home the next afternoon against ECA, Evangelical Christian Academy, of Colorado Springs. JV is scheduled for 2 p.m. The varsity girls will take the floor at 3 p.m., the last home game until the end of January. So, come on out and support the Bobcats!

Grapplers Badgered at Invitational

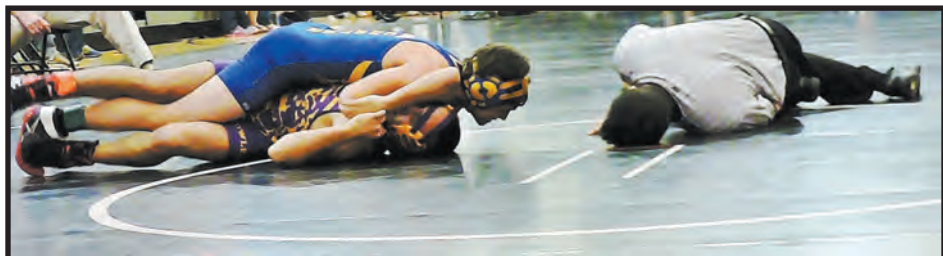
by Michelle Pedigo

Last week's Limon Badger Invitational provided all the expected competition and more, as the Bobcats walked away without placing individually or as a team. With half the team being unable to compete, the remaining grapplers laid out all they had in a field of 28 teams.

Taiyr Seiilkhan was first on the mats at 132 pounds. After a quick fall in his first round match, Seiilkhan came back in the second round to earn his very first wrestling win, landing an impressive pin against Eli Gonzales of Fowler. Seiilkhan finished the day 1-2, but not before his exciting win set the pace for first-year grappler Ian Adrich at 145 pounds. Aldrich posted his first high

found Pedigo posting a 1-2 record on the day. At 170 pounds, Kody Aldrich fell in his first match, shifting him to the backside of the bracket. Aldrich pinned his next two opponents but then couldn't hold on in the fourth match, disappointingly taking him out of the running for third place.

Although hoping for better results, Coach Ham was proud of the team for their efforts. They will spend time during practice this week correcting mistakes and improving positive moves as they prepare for the next competition. On tap this Saturday is the Pete and Ina Gomez Invitational tournament at John Mall High School in Walsenburg. The team will then have a couple weeks off from competition over



Taiyr Seiilkhan, exchange student from Kazakhstan, posts his first wrestling win.

Courtesy photo by Cody Young

school win by pinning Erick Ijams of Hanover in just 39 seconds. Following a short second match, Aldrich again felt victory in the third, again taking his opponent by fall shortly into the second period. Aldrich's day ended 2-2. Andy Feldmann, also at 145 pounds, made quick work of his first two opponents ending the matches with pins less than a minute into first rounds. Feldmann, in the varsity spot, dropped in his next two matches to finish the day 2-2. One hundred sixty pounder Edgar Pedigo met up unsuccessfully against two formidable opponents during the day. His third opponent had an injury default, which

Christmas break but will still be meeting for practice in preparation for January 10th's home tournament.

There's still plenty of time to earn a great hand while helping the team replenish its funds in the 1st Annual Grappler Run. A small \$25 investment is a big investment in the team! Entries already received already guarantee the winner over twice your initial investment, and it's fun keeping abreast with the team firsthand each week. For game details and to enter, contact Michelle at (719) 783-2806 or email: givetolivemt@hotmail.com.

Classifieds

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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!



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Sun., Dec. 21 - 5 p.m.
Caroling and Chile Supper
Wed., Dec. 24 - 6 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Thursday, Dec. 25 - Noon
Christmas Potluck Dinner

Community United
Methodist Church
202 S. 6th Street
Westcliffe
(719) 783-2511
Wednesday, Dec. 24 - 7 p.m.
Special Music
Scripture & Carol Singing

First Baptist
Church of Westcliffe
410 S. 6th Street
Westcliffe
(719) 783-2498
Wednesday, Dec. 24 - 5 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
and Communion

Huerfano Community Bible
Church
603 Leon Street
Walsenburg, Colorado
(719) 251-9053
10:30 Sunday Worship
7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study

Hope Lutheran Church
3rd & Powell Streets
Westcliffe
(719) 783-9773
Wed., Dec. 24 - 6:00 p.m. Worship
Wednesday, Dec. 31 - 7 p.m.

Our Lady of the Assumption
Roman Catholic Church
109 S. 5th Street
Westcliffe
(719) 83-3507
Wed., Dec. 24 - Mass 4 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 25 - Mass 11 a.m.
Sunday, Dec. 28 - Mass 11 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 30 - Mass 10 a.m.
Thurs., Jan 1 - Mass 11 a.m.
Sunday, Jan. 4 - Mass 11 a.m.

Our Lady of Mt. Zion
Catholic Church
210 S. 2nd Street
Westcliffe
(719) 783-2491 11 a.m. Mass
3rd Sunday of each month
Tuesday, Dec. 24 - No service
Wednesday, Dec. 25 - No service

St. Benedict's Church
Roman Catholic Church
619 W. 2nd Street
Florence
(719) 784-4879
Wed., Dec. 24 - Mass 7 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 25 - Mass 8 a.m.
Sat., Dec. 27 - Mass 4 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 28 - Mass 8 a.m.
Wed., Dec. 31 - Mass 5:30 p.m.
Thurs., Jan. 1 - Mass 8 a.m.
Sat., Jan. 3 - Mass 4 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 4 - Mass 8 a.m.

St. Patrick's Anglican Church
401 2nd Street
Westcliffe
(719) 783-2500
Sunday, Dec. 21 - 11 a.m.
Holy Communion
Wed., Dec. 24 - 9:30 p.m.
Lessons and Carols
Followed by 1st Mass of Christmas
Followed by Refreshments
(Child Friendly)

Sangre de Cristo Fellowship
120 Jerry Drive
Westcliffe
(719) 783-0903
Wed., Dec. 24 - 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service

Sangre de Cristo
Seminary Chapel
6160 Cty. Rd. 130
Westcliffe
(719) 783-2447
Wednesday, Dec. 24 - 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve

Westcliffe Community Church
103 N. Adams St.
Westcliffe
(719) 429-4256
Wed., Dec. 24, 6 - 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service followed by Refreshments

Wild West Cowboy Church
60260 Hwy. 69 North
Westcliffe
(719) 783-2676
Sunday, Dec. 21 - 4 p.m. Children's Program followed by Potluck
Wed., Dec. 24 - 6 p.m. Candlelight Service followed by refreshments

Local Mountain News & Notices

Events Calendar

Friday, December 19
CC School District: CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS

Saturday, December 20
6 - 10 p.m.: 1st Annual Family Christmas Dance at Saddle Club

Wednesday, December 24
Noon: Courthouse Closes

See list of Christmas Worship Services on page 10

Thursday, December 25
Our Lord's Birth Day: Offices Closed

Friday, December 26
Courthouse Closed

Wednesday, December 31
9 a.m.: BOCC Meeting at Courthouse
Noon: Courthouse Closes

Thursday and Friday, January 1 - 2
New Year's Day: Offices Closed
Courthouse Closed

Recurring Events and Business Hours

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sheriff's Report...

As of Tuesday, December 16, there were two men in jail.

December 7 Ashley Moore of Kansas reported that her vehicle was broken into at Bishop's Castle. Items missing included her purse, a diaper bag, and medications.

December 9 James Bowman of Silver Cliff was arrested for violating a protection order. The protection order states that he abstain from alcohol. Bowman is currently in jail.

December 9 At 11:15 a.m., the sheriff's office responded to the landfill on County Road 328. Fred Lozen was driving a 2007 Chevy Silverado pickup truck when he backed into a parked vehicle at the recycle bins. The vehicle sustained minimal damage. Lozen was issued a citation for unsafe backing.

December 15 At 11:30 a.m. the sheriff's office responded to a one-car, rollover accident on Wykagyl Road at the intersection of Wykagyl and Airport Road. Dennis Kelley of Silver Cliff was driving a 1994 Ford Ranger pickup truck. The accident was caused by icy road conditions.

AMBULANCE CALLS

December 9 At 1900 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to 507 Main Street for a 44-year-old female with pain and "weirdness" in her face. She refused transport.

December 9 At 2013 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to County Road 255 at the intersection of C.R. 255 and Highway 96 for a 79-year-old male. He had a gash on his head sustained from a fall and transported to Parkview Hospital in Pueblo.

December 10 At 1:04 a.m., an ambulance was dispatched to Valley Assisted Living at Third and Main Streets in Silver Cliff to attend to a 93-year-old female who had injured her back from a fall. Transport was refused.

December 10 At 1505 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the clinic for a stable transport of a thirty-one-year-old female with abdominal pain and anxiety. She was transported to the Heart of the Rockies in Salida.

December 12 At 1714 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the clinic for a 12-year-old female with tachycardia hypoxia. She was transported to Parkview Hospital.

December 13 At 6:57 a.m., an ambulance was dispatched to 213 Cedar Road for a male in his sixties with severe back pain. He was transported to Parkview Hospital.

December 15 At 9:04 a.m., an ambulance was dispatched to the scene of the motor vehicle accident on Copper Gulch Road by the Cody Park Church. Deer Mountain transported.

December 15 At 1124 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the clinic for a 44-year-old female with asthma-related problems. She was transported to Parkview Hospital.

December 15 At 1130 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to Airport Road and Wykagyl Road for a male of unknown age involved in a motor vehicle accident. He was transported to Parkview Hospital.

December 16 At 3:32 a.m., an ambulance was dispatched to 101 First Street, Silver Cliff, for an 81-year-old female with difficulty breathing. She was transported to St. Mary Corwin Hospital in Pueblo.

FIRE CALLS

December 15 At 11:30 a.m., the fire department responded to a rollover accident at the intersection of Airport Road and Wykagyl Road.

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Virginia Lindley-Brunn Tel: 719-372-1016
Michael Brunn mvh876@gmail.com

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FLORENCE, CO 81226

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brierleybarry@yahoo.com

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JEWELRY, COFFEE

BARRY BRIERLEY
ARTIST, AUTHOR, SCREENWRITER

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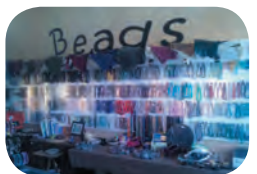
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Tuesday - Thursday 8 AM - 4 PM
Friday - Saturday 8 AM - 5 PM

113 Main Street, Florence, CO 81226
Phone: (719) 784-3834

Silent Night, Holy Night

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6 NIV*



Valley Bible Fellowship, Westcliffe



First Baptist Church of Westcliffe



Westcliffe Community Church



Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church, Westcliffe



St. Patrick's Anglican Church, Westcliffe



Community United Methodist Church, Westcliffe



United Presbyterian Church, Cañon City
Photo by John Penezic Jr.



St. John's Lutheran Church, Cañon City
Photo by John Penezic Jr.



Hope Lutheran Church, Westcliffe

Photo Feature by Barbara Napolitan

*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you:
You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.*

Luke 2:11-12 NIV



360 Main, Silver Cliff



Display from 1930's. Private residence.



1417 Sherman Avenue, Cañon City



3312 Skyline Loop, Cañon City



80 Hermit Lane, Westcliffe



Handmade ceramic figurenes from 1959.
Private residence.



80 Hermit Lane, Westcliffe



444 Franklin Avenue, Cañon City

Photos Courtesy of the Sentinel staff and John Penezic Jr.

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



West Fremont Citizens Committee Formed to Fight Illegal Pot Grows and Illegally Operated Legal Pot Grows, Gun Fire Erupts Again!

by George Gramlich

Rich Bandlow, of the Deer Mountain area of West Fremont County, has formed an e-mail newsletter group for citizens interested in combating the pandemic of illegal pot grows in western Fremont County and those legal grows that are operating outside of their license. This is an email newsletter group only. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter simply email Rich at wfccnews@earthlink.net. All email addresses will be kept confidential.

Rich is a former commercial and military pilot. He is all too familiar with the pot cultivation issue as there is an indoor, large-scale pot grow only about 150 feet from his house. As noted in his latest newsletter:

The Latest Incident

On Friday, December 12, 2014, two ladies of my neighborhood were walking to their homes from the mailbox on Copper Gulch Road. Before the turn to Harmon Drive they heard three rapid gunshots, a pause and three more. The last bullet passed close enough for them to hear it go by.

The Sheriff's Department was called. Before they arrived two men left the property in a truck and returned, obviously to move the firearm to another location. The deputies arrived and entered the property. Only a shotgun was found which was clearly not the firearm used. The deputies entered the metal building on the property and estimated a grow of 70 plants. One of the men produced a medical marijuana grow license which satisfied the deputy. The deputy noted a violation in that there were no surveillance cameras as required.

The deputy asked if I wanted him to refer the operation to the Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED). I, of course, said yes and will take action myself on Monday. While they may have a license I question its validity in several areas. That will be discussed below. Reports were ostensibly filed but no other action taken. (I will request copies of the reports.)

Rich also notes in his latest newsletter that the Fremont County Commissioners are having a legal, pot grow licensing meeting for the four current applicants to grow pot in Fremont County (including the problem riddled "Kit Carson" grow that the Sentinel reported on recently).

They are NOT allowing public comments at the meeting. Comments can only be sent

Before the turn to Harmon Drive they heard three rapid gunshots, a pause and three more. The last bullet passed close enough for them to hear it go by.

We have a situation where people, who are - at best - violating growing regulations, carelessly using firearms and posing a risk to innocent citizens. Was it really carelessness or are they trying to intimidate people in the neighborhood? There have been multiple incidents of this type on the same property. Now there are two residents who are afraid to walk in their own neighborhood. These supposedly licensed growers are brazen, smug, defiant, and glib liars. They know they can move evidence before the deputies arrive so it's all a game to them. They are laughing at the residents. They are laughing at the Sheriff and his Deputies. They are laughing at the county and state governments. They are laughing at you. It's all fun and games until someone takes a bullet.

via U.S. mail (Fremont County Planning & Zoning Department, 615 Macon Ave., Room 210, Cañon City, CO 81212) or via email at planning@fremontco.com. Rich recommends sending them in at least a week ahead of the meeting. Even though public comments are not allowed, Rich strongly suggests showing up and making your presence known. The problem will only get worse if the citizens of Fremont County allow their commissioners and law enforcement to ignore or downplay it. The people running these illegal grows are criminals who will not hesitate to resort to gun play to protect their pot. There have been dozens of incidents of nighttime gunfire in the area this summer, and the latest noted above could have been lethal. Time to stand up folks. Subscribe to Rich's newsletter to get the ball rolling.

Cañon City: Two Shootings in One Week

by Barbara Penezic

What is happening to our once peaceful and relatively safe Fremont County/Cañon City area? That is the question of the hour. The residents of the Deer Mountain area continue to see illegal grows and hovels being erected without building permits. Meanwhile, the Cañon City Police Department has had two officer involved shootings in the course of one week, resulting in one death.

December 6th around 2 p.m. law enforcement was informed by the family of Hudson Taylor Clark that they were worried about his behavior. They said Clark was mentally disturbed and left home saying he would not be returning. Clark, allegedly stole a gun holster from Victory Defense, a police supply store, around 3.30 p.m. that same day. He threatened a store clerk with a knife before leaving the store. Clark was confronted by CCPD Cpl. Andrew Sanders, a short time later at the intersection of Ute and Reynolds. The suspect did not respond to the officer's command to stop. When Cpl. Sanders attempted to stop the suspect he was stabbed under the left arm. Clark was shot five times at close range, once in the right arm, twice in the left arm, in the abdomen, and a shot grazed his chest. The suspect then dropped to the ground, making "Islamic type statements" and during the first-aid process asked for his Qur'an which had fallen to the ground beside him. Clark is now being held at the Fremont County Jail on \$100,000 dollar cash bond.

The second shooting occurred on December 11th and resulted in the death of the alleged assailant, 28 year old, Brandon Atencio. Atencio's family had contacted the CCPD after Atencio had threatened to hurt himself and family members earlier that morning. Officers encountered Atencio at the intersection of Orchard Avenue and Cherry Street. Cpl. Charles Stage and Officer Thomas Gautreaux attempted to engage Atencio in conversation but he pulled out an 8-inch box cutter and turned running about 70 feet to 537 N. Orchard Avenue. Atencio, then cut his own throat with the box cutter. Cpl. Stage again asked Atencio to drop the cutter and relax. Atencio began cursing and charged the officer. Atencio was shot twice in the chest and died a short time later at St. Thomas More Hospital. The question of why not use a taser? was posed by the victim's family, the answer was, the officer on scene did not have time to use a taser, so Stage pulled the trigger in self-defense. The officers involved are on routine administrative leave while the cases are being investigated. CCPD Captain Allen Cooper said the department normally sees one officer involved shooting in a 12-year period. This year we already have 3, and 2 of those occurred in one week. Not the sort of thing our community likes to see happening. As the year 2014 prepares to become part of our recent history, Cañon City has faced many trials: the struggle over marijuana in our city and county, increased violence, the addition of some new businesses, and the loss of some long established businesses. I have endeavored to speak with a large range of residents and ask how they see our future. Do they think we will see positive growth, new jobs, a stronger economy? The majority of the people I spoke with had a negative response. They fear our town and county are on a downhill slide and that we need new leadership and God's Blessing if we are to prosper.

Be Involved, Get informed

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

Attention Fremont County Residents Crucial County Commissioners Meeting

by Barbara Penezic

Recent Fremont County Commissioners meetings have been standing room only as rural Fremont County residents have brought their need for law enforcement in the Deer Mountain area before the commission. January 5th may well prove to be the most crucial meeting of all. The outcome of this meeting will have an impact on every single person in Fremont County. This means Cañon City, Florence, Penrose, etc., as well as Deer Mountain and other rural county residents need to mark their calendars. This is a meeting that requires and deserves our attention.

Also be reminded that all citizen comments for the January 5th licensing hearing must be submitted beforehand by U.S. Mail to: Fremont County Planning and Zoning Department 615 Macon Avenue Room 210 Cañon City, CO 81212

Or by e-mail to:

planning@fremontco.com

This would presumably allow the Commissioners to pick what they choose to respond to and have some heads up time to consider their answers. You may wish to read:

<http://www.fremontco.com/planningandzoning/marijaunaresolution.pdf>

before formulating your questions. Your presence at the meeting is important even if you do not wish to speak. There will be petitions to sign to let our elected officials know the time for talking is past; we require action! The special meeting scheduled for January 5th at 9.30 a.m. is for consideration of issuance of Fremont County Medical Marijuana Licenses for the following existing State Licenses:

- (a) Fremont County Cannabis at 1505 Elm Street (State Highway 115) Cañon City,
- (b) Today's Health Care/ Today's Health Care II at 1934 C Street in the Beaver Park area, Penrose,

- (c) Levity Wellness at 3000 County Road 103 B, South Florence, and
- (d) The Organic Seed/ Cannasseur at 1785 Kit Carson Trail Glen Vista/ Colorado Acres area.

The 13th of January, 2015 there will be yet another public hearing at 10 a.m. to address a request for approval and issuance of an Optional Premises Cultivation License-Indoor grow (Greenhouse, Commercial) by Thessor, LLC (Chris Haight), for property formerly known as The Apple Shed, at 1508 Fremont Street, Penrose.

The residents of rural Fremont County paint a rather vivid picture of why we as concerned citizens should stand up and protest the invasion of marijuana industries in our communities. The legal authorities have stated more than once at public meetings that they are not able to provide much protection against the influx of illegal activities that go along with the marijuana grows. Until the State of Colorado and Fre-

mont County can provide its citizens with laws that can be enforced and the manpower to enforce said laws, most residents feel that we should limit marijuana in any form. Over \$200,000 dollars has been collected from the marijuana industry this past year, which has not made a difference for the people of Deer Mountain and other rural areas of Fremont County.

The situation on Deer Mountain is tense, as we have been reporting in recent issues. Rich Bandlow, spoke at the December 9th meeting, "I have lost confidence in law enforcement." Rich said later that he had the opportunity to scan the faces of the Commissioners as he spoke. I saw a curious mixture of boredom, day-dreaming, and thinly veiled hostility. They are tired of hearing about it. I can understand that but it goes with the job. I'm tired of talking about it. Gloria Decker, a Cañon City resident also asked some very pointed questions and was told the answers would be



Rich Bandlow spoke at the meeting regarding the situation in Deer Mountain.

Courtesy photo by John Penezic, Jr.

given at the hearing. The residents of Deer Mountain are currently dealing with numerous problems from illegal grows, including cartel type thugs who patrol the area with automatic weapons. Recently, a ricochet bullet came very close to a lady out for her evening walk. Firearms were being discharged in an area where they are not permitted, true the lady was not intentionally fired upon, but had the bullet struck her just right that would not have made much difference. Dead is Dead. The Fremont Coun-

ty Sheriff was dispatched and a SWAT team responded. No arrests were made even though I have it from a very reliable source there were several violations of the law. I contacted the Sheriff's Department the next day and was told by an unidentified female receptionist that she had no record of any such disturbance. This is just one of many incidents Glen Vista, Cotopaxi, residents have had to deal with in recent months. They have asked the Fremont County Commissioners for assistance repeatedly but with little result. Now they are asking every concerned citizen of Fremont County to attend the Fremont County Commissioners Special Hearing, January 5th, 2015. The hearing will start at 9:30 a.m. at 615 Macon Avenue, Room 210, in Cañon City. Come and support our neighbors, let the Commissioners know that we expect them to act in the best interest of the constituents.

Be Informed, Get Involved

The Coca-Cola Christmas Village

by Charlotte Burrous

Florence -- She's been collecting Coca Cola memorabilia for 40 years. Along the way, she began to collect other Coca Cola merchandise. As the collection grew, Roberta Miller decided to show it to the public. This year, the Coca Cola Christmas Village Town Square will be on display from 1 to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, in a bus parked at the corner of Petroleum Avenue and Main Street in downtown Florence.

"I have about 110 lighted buildings and about 220 accessories, which include trees (and) little figurines," she said. "I also have a drive-in movie playing Christmas movies." New this year is the ice rink she purchased during the last Junktique event last September. She said she enjoys adding names of businesses to the structures in Florence for her village. For instance, she plans to name one of her buildings Mac's Pub and Grill this year. Her interest in collecting the buildings began in 1993 when Cavanaugh sent a flyer to her in the mail. "Cavanaugh started (offering the Coca Cola buildings) in 1992," Miller said. "Each year they came out with six new buildings."

At that point, she began to collect as many of them as she could to catch up. Then Cavanaugh discontinued making them in 2006. In conjunction, she also purchased five of the Department 56 Coca Cola buildings and other structures in various department stores. The first year, she set the village up in her house and took pictures of it. She even in-



Roberta Miller's Coca-Cola Christmas Village, on display in Florence.

Courtesy photo by Charlotte Burrous

vited the neighbors to come in, but it wasn't enough so the next year, she set it up in a storefront in the Mall of the Bluffs in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

When she moved to Florence in 2007, she set the village up on the lower level of her house, but quickly outgrew the space. At that point, she looked for alternatives, displaying it in various storefronts in Florence every couple years. But she said she grew tired of packing it up and unpacking it every year so she decided to find a permanent place to display it. When she found a former church bus, she made arrangements to buy it and then had it renovated to display the village on both sides of the aisle of the bus. "It's to share with the community," Miller said. "There's no charge." However she will accept donations to offset the expenses. The Coca Cola Christmas Village Town Square will be on display through January 2nd.



Christmas at McCandless

(Top): Department of Colorado American Legion Past State Commander Tim Garbin, left performs with Betty and Charlie King during a Christmas Party at the Bruce McCandless Colorado Veterans Community Living Center.

(Lower): Department of Colorado American Legion Past State Commander Tim Garbin, left and John Lorincz, second from right, stand by while David McCartney shakes hands with Auxiliary Unit 13 President Theresa Brandt

Courtesy photo by Charlotte Burrous

The Liberty Tree

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

Congress Revokes Your Constitutional Right to Privacy

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives has passed legislation that allows government spying on you, and is, as Congressman Justin Amash (R-Mi) says, "...one of the most egregious sections of law I've encountered during my time as a representative." Passing the House on a voice vote (over the objections of Amash), Section 309 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 2015 provides "the first statutory authority for the acquisition, retention, and dissemination of U.S. persons' private communications obtained without legal process such as a court order or a subpoena." This means that every electronic conversation you have will be recorded by the government. The bill, HR 4681, says, "The procedures required by paragraph (1) shall apply to any intelligence collection activity not otherwise authorized by court order..., subpoena, or similar legal process that is reasonably anticipated to result in the acquisition of a covered communication to or from a United States person and shall permit the acquisition, retention, and dissemination of covered communications subject to the limitation in subparagraph (B)." A covered communication is defined as "any nonpublic telephone or electronic communication acquired without the consent of a person who is a party to the communication, including communications in electronic storage."

The bill, HR 4681, says, "The procedures required by paragraph (1) shall apply to any intelligence collection activity not otherwise authorized by court order..., subpoena, or similar legal process that is reasonably anticipated to result in the acquisition of a covered communication to or from a United States person and shall permit the acquisition, retention, and dissemination of covered communications subject to the limitation in subparagraph (B)." A covered communication is defined as "any nonpublic telephone or electronic communication acquired without the consent of a person who is a party to the communication, including communications in electronic storage."

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!
Bill Wilson

www.dailyjot.com
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**Peace I leave with you,
My peace I give to you;
not as the world gives
do I give to you.**

John 14:27, NKJV

Illegal Alien Pedophiles: 4,317 Charges Filed Against Illegals In ONE YEAR... In ONE STATE

by Dean Garrison,
FreedomOutPost.com

(Editor/GG: Obama, every democrat in this country and every RINO republican is directly responsible for this atrocity. It is only starting....)

I can only imagine what the numbers might be like in California, Texas, and New York. 4,317 charges of sexual assault on minors were recently recorded in a 12 month period in America's 10th largest state — North Carolina.

Universal Free Press reports:

Between November 1, 2013 and October 31, 2014, there have been 4,317 charges of child sexual assault filed against illegal aliens in North Carolina, according to the citizens' advocacy group known as NCFIRE.

Are you kidding me?

As if we don't already have enough reasons to question Obama's illegal amnesty agenda...

NCFIRE is an acronym for North Carolinians For Immigration Reform and Enforcement. The organi-

zational website was updated on December 1st and some of the newest data is beyond appalling.

For example, in August of 2014 there were 5,955 illegal aliens charged with DUI — just in North Carolina. I find it offensive that there are even 5,955 illegal aliens in North Carolina, let alone that many who are dumb enough to drink and get behind the wheel.

Unbelievable! That is just in one month and only one state.

We have heard of a few cases recently in which illegal aliens took the innocent lives of law abiding citizens as well as those in law enforcement. One might think that these cases are somewhat isolated. Not so.

In the preceding two years (2012, 2013), illegal aliens took the lives of 22 people; and, again, this was in North Carolina alone. Multiply that number by 50 and you will get a rough estimate of what the number may have been nationwide.

Keep that in mind the next time your government tries to vilify gun owners over a

few unfortunate deaths in a random mass shooting.

Illegal aliens are not the only individuals that rape and murder, but the point is that America certainly does not need any help in these departments. We certainly don't need Obama opening the doors and sending personal invitations to 3 of the top 5 murderous countries on the planet (Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala). These places make Chicago look tame.

"Of course, this abomination will only worsen with Obama's recent executive order giving amnesty to millions of illegal aliens."

We don't need the red carpet rolled out for Islamists who think that having sex with 9-year old girls is perfectly normal.

We don't need any outside help to add to our dark versions in this country.

Enforce the law and protect the borders. Period.

There are 49 other states that share a concern similar to that of North Carolina.

Dave Gibson sums it up very well by saying, "Of course, this abomination will only worsen with Obama's recent executive order giving amnesty to millions of illegal aliens. It would appear that both parties view the stolen innocence of North Carolina's children as a completely acceptable aspect to the continued influx of cheap labor from south of the border."

Cheap labor?

How about amnesty for all and jobs for none?

America has been sold out and Dave is absolutely correct.

They only pretend to care about our kids.

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Democrat Obstruction: Election Year Politics Sidelines 1,000 Colorado VA Contractors, Media Silent

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

This election season in Colorado was...busy, so maybe Mark Mathews just forgot about a decision made in October that is now impacting 1,000 construction workers right before Christmas. In mid-October, the Democratic Brass in Washington, D.C. decided to scrap a bill authored by Republican Rep. Mike Coffman that would have reinvigorated construction of the VA hospital. Why? Democrats were afraid the passage of the bill would help Coffman win his election. Here's what The Denver Post said back in October:

"When Congressman Mike Coffman last month pitched an idea to reform how the government builds veterans hospitals, the U.S. House barely noticed — approving his proposal after just 20 minutes of debate. Indeed, the chamber did away with the usual re-

corded vote and instead passed it with a chorus of "ayes." ...But underneath, this fight is pure politics, with each side accusing the other of using the issue to gain an advantage. At stake is a potential edge in the Coffman-Romanoff contest, as well as the health of thousands of Colorado veterans who have waited for years for the VA to build a new clinic in Aurora."

Now 60-days on, confronted by a mass layoff of 1,000 workers over the Christmas Holidays, and within the election in the rear view mirror, Senate Democrats are all of a sudden motivated to help Coffman. From today's article:

"Let's hug it out. That's the message that members of Colorado's congressional delegation sent Thursday to warring factions at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Kiewit-Turner, the contractor hired by the

VA to build a new hospital in Aurora."

But strangely, Mathews didn't say a peep about the hatchet job he did on Coffman's VA push just before the election. White-washed is the fact that Democrats, in an obvious election year stunt, killed the bill that months ago that would have alleviated this VA mess to begin with. As we pointed out yesterday, this mess was bought and paid for Colorado Democrats. Democratic U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter, then the Congressman for Aurora, carried the bill, then watched idly while President Obama's corrupt VA bungled its construction.

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Pot-Positive Traffic Fatalities Up 100% in Colorado

by Cully Stimson, CNSNews.com

At first blush, it may appear that the fight to thwart marijuana legalization is a lost cause. Pot pushers want you to believe that legalization is inevitable. They point to legalization successes this November in Alaska, Oregon, and the District of Columbia.

But Big Pot lost in Florida, and five cities in pot-crazy Colorado outlawed the sale of marijuana, including Lakewood, Cañon City, Palisade, Palmer Lake, and Ramah. And now comes the latest Gallup poll from November 6th, which shows that support for marijuana legalization is down seven points from last year, from 58 percent to 51 percent. Even liberal support for legalization dropped four points from last year.

So why did the pot pushers lose a large state like Florida, and why is support for legalization falling?

That’s a tough question. But perhaps the public is starting to pay attention to scientific data and the actual dangers of marijuana, and the negative stories coming out of Colorado and Washington State since those states legalized marijuana.

The science is clear and unambiguous – pot is a dangerous substance. It is not like alcohol at all. There is a reason it is classified as a Schedule I controlled dangerous substance, right along with heroin, LSD, and ecstasy. The American Medical Association, the American Lung Association, and other reputable doctors and scientists all reject legalization.

As Dr. Kevin Sabet, former senior advisor to President Obama’s drug policy office, states in his book “Reefer Sanity ‘Seven Great Myths About Marijuana,” the average strength of today’s marijuana is five to six times

what it was in the 1960s and 1970s, and upwards of 10 to 20 times stronger than in the past.

Even the liberal editorial pages of The Washington Post urged voters not to legalize pot in the ballot initiative this past Nov. 4. The Post noted that “the rush to legalize marijuana gives us – and we hope voters – serious pause.”

The data coming out of Colorado is exhibit A on why voters should reject legalization efforts. Even the Democratic governor of Colorado, John Hickenlooper, said that legalizing marijuana in Colorado was “reckless.” As I have written at Heritage, pot-positive traffic fatalities have gone up 100 percent since voters legalized pot in Colorado. This is true despite the fact that overall traffic fatalities in Colorado have gone down since 2007.

Marijuana-related hospitalizations have increased 82 percent since 2008.

A report by a federal grant-funded agency in Colorado found seven specific negative side effects that pot legalization has caused in Colorado:

- 1) the majority of DUI drug arrests involve marijuana;
- 2) youth consumption of marijuana has increased;
- 3) drug-related suspensions/expulsions increased 32 percent over a 5-year period and a majority was for marijuana;

4) an increase in college users;

5) almost 50 percent of Denver arrestees tested positive for marijuana;

6) marijuana-related emergency room visits increased 57 percent from 2011-2013; and

7) marijuana-related hospitalizations have increased 82 percent since 2008.

Perhaps people are also aware of new scientific studies pointing to the inherent dangers of marijuana. For example, the British health research journal The Lancet Psychiatry recently concluded that teens who smoke marijuana are “also 60 percent less likely to graduate college and seven times more likely to attempt suicide.”

Others have picked up on the recent findings by the Journal of Addiction from Kings College London that found that marijuana is highly addictive, causes mental health problems, and is a gateway drug to other illegal and dangerous drugs. That report found that regular adolescent marijuana users have lower educational attainment than non-using peers, that they were more likely to use other illegal drugs, the use produced intellectual impairment, that use doubled the risk of being diagnosed with schizophrenia, and increased the risk of heart attacks in middle-aged adults.

Add to that the recent study where 9.7 percent of respondents reported that they had smoked marijuana before coming to work, and you can see why responsible citizens, including employers and parents, are starting to question the pro-pot canard that smoking marijuana is no big deal and actually good for you.

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Million Dollar Heist: Audit of Connect For Colorado Health Shows Major Mismanagement of Funds

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

(Editor/GG: Here is ColoradoPeakPolitics’ take on the audit. Note the democrats blocked a full audit last year.)

UPDATE: Rep. Dan Nordberg, the author of last year’s audit bill, had this to say in a statement:

“With only a limited performance audit, the state auditor found Connect for Health Colorado committed numerous federal law violations, and nearly 40 percent of sampled contracts had problems totaling more than \$32 million dollars.

“Sadly, I am not surprised. I have had ongoing concerns about how Connect for Health Colorado was managing tax payers’ funds, which is why I pushed so hard last year to expand the auditor’s oversight of this organization. I hope Democrats will see the light and support my efforts this year to give the state auditor’s office the authority it needs to expose this kind of government waste and help us better protect tax payer funds.”

While the ability to conduct a full audit on Connect for Health Colorado was shot down by Colorado state Senate Democrats last year (despite the bill passing the House by a 60-1 margin), a limited audit was still conducted. The results of that will have Coloradans everywhere up in arms. As The Denver Post reports:

A state audit released Monday found that Colorado’s health insurance exchange lacks adequate financial controls and failed to ensure it spent public funds in accordance with federal laws...

Findings of the audit include:

- *Connect for Health didn’t properly track fund sources or payments or **take steps to contain personnel costs...***
- *The exchange **does not have adequate financial controls over purchases from vendors...***

*Auditors identified **over \$32 million in problems with 35 of the 92 payments and reimbursements they***

sampled, and contracts they reviewed...

*The OSA also found high-dollar payments to some vendors without executed contracts or without board approval, and found that **Connect for Health did not consistently take steps to contain its administrative costs.*** [the Peak’s emphasis]

The fact that many prominent liberal vendors in Colorado have grown fat off contracts with C4HCO should make every Coloradan wonder if their close relationships with state Senate Democrats (who often have these same people run their campaigns) influenced Democrats in voting against an audit.

Seriously, if you couldn’t see this coming, well, no wonder you voted for President Obama. C4HCO had so many red flags waving around it, one would think it was a Soviet rally: C4HCO was vastly over budget despite claiming not to be; C4HCO spent \$45,000 on promotional sunscreen and lip-balm alone; C4HCO’s claims of already being federally audited were vastly overblown. Despite all this, Colorado state Senate Democrats went full ostrich and insisted there was nothing to see here. Instead, state Senate Democrats killed the audit and sat on their hands as the former CEO of C4HCO, Patty Fontneau, got a ridiculous bonus and raise, and C4HCO claimed poverty and demanded a bigger budget.

Things get even more absurd when one dives directly into the report. Page 30 alone makes it sound like the consultants and vendors who were mooching off C4HCO, turned to each other at one point and said:

“Dude, you just got Hooter’s wing sauce on your \$3,000 white fur fox coat.”

“That’s okay, I expensed it and three others just like it to C4HCO. Feel free to use it as a napkin. Plus, I’m beginning to think it’s too hot to wear in July.”

This is the exact reason why the government can’t have nice things.

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\$15 Minimum Wage? Nope, It’s Zero!

by Karl Denninger, Market-Ticker.org

Oops...

According to the National Review Hotline, Kathrina Tugadi owner of Seattle’s El Norte Lounge, no longer hires musicians for her restaurant, she said she can’t justify expenses that don’t directly “add to the bottom line.” And, she says, hours will have to be cut: El Norte Lounge plans to stop serving lunch and only serve dinner.

Here it comes Seattle.

You deserve this if you live there and did not immediately

*remove those who voted for this change -- and let’s remember that the vote was **unanimous.***

This is **your** government. And let us remember that **The Department of Labor**, that means **OBAMA** and the **Federal Government**, is trying to do the same thing.

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But you will not get a \$15 minimum wage if you’re currently making under \$10. **You are very likely, in fact more than half-likely, to get zero instead because the company you work for will either fire you, replace you with a computer if it can, or cut back your hours dramatically.**

Welcome to this thing called *arithmetic* folks, and for those of you who thought you could cram this down employer’s throats, no, you can’t, for the simple reason that for *most* employers labor is one of, if not the largest cost of their operation. *Adding 30% or more to that operating cost will turn a profit into a loss at which point the company ultimately goes out of business and then you no longer have a job.*

Stupidity has a price -- in this case the price is that you get to live under a freeway overpass.

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Leadership and Character Help D.C. Charter School Jump to Highest Ranking

by Moriah Costa, WatchDog.org
(Editor/GG: Another inner city school that excels. Why? Leadership.)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At Center City Public Charter School Congress Heights, a group of about 25 first graders sit crossed-legged in front of Linda Kim as she reads to them about Ancient Egypt. Upstairs, Tamika Fernandez helps her fourth and fifth graders solve decimal problems on the whiteboard, while across the hall, Wendy Oftedahl's class of seventh graders listen to author Karen Harrington talk about the writing process.

It's teachers like Kim, Fernandez and Oftedahl who, under the the leadership of Congress Heights Principal Niya White, helped the charter rank among the city's top tier schools by the D.C. Public Charter School Board last month.

The charter school, located in Ward 8, is the first to go from the lowest rank to the highest since the board began ranking schools four years ago.

The rankings, called the Performance Management Framework, are released each year and measure how well schools prepare students for college and improve math and reading skills, from Tier 1 to Tier 3. The board also measures attendance and re-enrollment.

This year more than 12,000 students attend the city's

22 highest performing schools, a 9 percent increase from 2013.

White credits the higher rating with the school's commitment to building student character, providing constant feedback to teachers, and engaging parents.

"We needed to change our shift so that students understood that being a student with good character would actually take you far and improve you as a person in general," she said.

[The principal] is rarely in her office and spends her days co-teaching, observing classrooms, or going over test results with students.

White became the principal three years ago and under her leadership the school has retained 86 percent of its staff year after year, a huge feat in an industry rife with teacher dissatisfaction and turnover.

She is rarely in her office and spends her days co-teaching, observing classrooms, or going over test results with students. White makes an average of 16 informal and three formal visits to each classroom a year, not counting the times she co-teaches.

"It's not the teachers who

are walking on this journey by themselves, but definitely with us every step of the way and having conversations about it," White said.

The school's commitment to building character is seen throughout the hallways and classrooms, which are lined with the students' work and reminders about the school's mission to building character, excellence and service.

Anita Haynes enrolled her daughter, Aliya, in Congress Heights as a preschooler and has stayed in D.C. for the past four years so she can continue attending the school.

Haynes said she is very happy with how family-oriented the school is and never has any concerns about safety or bullying.

"(White) runs it really tight over there," she said.

Aliya, who is now in second grade, is learning sign language and reads books that fourth graders are just starting to read at other schools, Haynes said. She said Aliya's school work is difficult at times, but the teachers are always willing to provide extra help.

"They talk about a lot of stuff that elementary kids aren't even exposed to until high school," she said.

Congress Heights is one of six Center City schools across the district that serve mostly low-income students. The charters were originally Catholic schools and transitioned to public charter schools in 2008.

The charter's Shaw and Brightwood campuses ranked as Tier 1 while its Petworth and Capitol Hill schools ranked as Tier 2. One of the schools, Center City Trinidad, ranked as Tier 3.

Russ Williams, president and CEO of Center City schools, said he is working to improve the quality of the other schools to Tier 1, but has had difficulty finding high-quality leaders.

"There aren't six Niya Whites. What I need are six Niya Whites," he said. "And that's a problem city-wide. There's not a strong enough cadre or pool of people that really get what an effective principal is."

Williams said he put new leaders in lagging schools. Internal data indicates Trinidad has improved from last year. Williams has high hopes the school will rank as Tier 2 next year.

Both White and Williams are happy with the ranking, but think more needs to be done to give students a quality education.

"This is good, but it's not good enough and we can do better," Williams said.

But for Haynes, Center City is good enough.

"I plan for (Aliya) to stay there until she gets to eighth grade," she said. "I have no interest in other schools."

Please see: watchdog.org/185900/character-leadership-help-d-c-charter-school-jump-highest-ranking/

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Half of Medicaid Doctors Listed Aren't Accepting Patients

by Sarah Hurtbise, DailyCaller.com

(Editor/GG: This is only the beginning.)

Turns out finding a doctor who accepts Medicaid is almost twice as difficult as many people expected.

Half the doctors listed by federal investigators are not providing appointments to Medicaid enrollees, an investigation by the inspector general for the Department of Health and Human Services has found.

States with Medicaid-managed care providers offer listings of the dwindling number of health care providers that accept patients with Medicaid coverage, which has the lowest provider reimbursement rate of any federal program, let alone private insurance.

"Slightly more than half of providers could not offer appointments to enrollees," the report concludes. "Notably, 35 percent could not be found at the location listed by the plan, and another 8 percent were at the location but said that they were not participat-

ing in the plan." Another eight percent of the providers wouldn't accept new patients.

But finding a doctor is just one step in seeking health care as a Medicaid patient. First, people must be deemed eligible for Medicaid and accepted into the program by their state. Along with Obamacare's large expansion of Medicaid - in some states came Medicaid backlogs reaching into the hundreds of thousands - some people have been forced to wait six months or more to find out if they're eligible for the program. Several states are facing lawsuits from residents who have been forced to wait for months.

Then there's actually finding a doctor — made doubly difficult by a falling number of providers who accept Medicaid and by apparently inaccurate physician lists, according to the IG report. The number of physicians who accept Medicaid patients may be even lower than expected: some of the physicians named by Medicaid managed care plans just weren't accepting Medicaid patients at all, even though they'd been counted.

After that, there's the wait time for appointments. According to the report, the median wait time for providers that were accepting patients was just two weeks. But it's significantly more for many patients.

"Over a quarter [of providers] had wait times of more than 1 month, and 10 percent had wait times longer than 2 months," the investigation found. Primary care providers were less likely to have appointments available, but specialists had longer wait times — neither particularly heartening results.

Medicaid programs have grown drastically in the past several years. The Medicaid expansion, courtesy of Obamacare, added just under 9 million people to the rolls nationwide, according to HHS. The administration is presenting this as a triumph — but the quality of care in the program is apparently lacking as well.

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1776

The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand

2014



GUARDIANS: When Police Failed In Ferguson, Two Very Different Militias Kept the Peace

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

The looting and arson in Ferguson, Missouri, was horrific, but it might have been far worse if it weren't for two very different groups of armed citizens that sought to protect area lives and businesses, even if it meant putting their own lives at risk.

One is an organized group of more than 35,000 law enforcement officers, military veterans, and first responders who have pledged to uphold the Constitution. A number of them answered the call to protect life, liberty, and property in Ferguson.

They call themselves Oath-keepers.

Yale Law School graduate and libertarian Stewart Rhodes said by telephone from Montana that he founded the group in 2009 to protect constitutional rights, including those of protesters confronted by what he described as overly militarized police.

But Rhodes, who said he is Mexican-American, was quick to assure that Oath Keepers is not anti-government. He said those pulling rooftop security in Ferguson are current or former government employees and first responders, many who have intense military, police, and EMS training.

"We thought they were going to do it right this time," Rhodes said of government response to the grand jury decision released Monday night in the Darren Wil-

son case. "But when Monday rolled around and they didn't park the National Guard at these businesses, that's when we said we have got to do something.

"Historically, the government almost always fails to protect people," he added.

**When there is
a failure of
civility and law
enforcement is
overwhelmed,
it is
We, the People
who must rise
up and provide
security for our
communities.**

They won't say how many people are part of the effort or exactly where they are placed. But they seem to be mainly focused on a strip of South Florissant Road two blocks north of the police station that includes a Chinese restaurant, dentist office, bakery and the apartments.

"We were sick in our gut we couldn't be here sooner," said John Karriman of Joplin, Missouri a state leader of Oath Keepers who teaches police tactics.

"We are here to volunteer our time and make sure everybody stays safe."

Another leader, who would only give his first name, Sam, described himself as a weapons engineer from the St. Louis area who has done security contracting for the U.S. government. He said he was motivated to help after seeing a CNN story featuring extensive damage to Natalie's Cakes & More, which also helped generate thousands of dollars in donations for the small business.

Sam said he contacted owner Natalie Dubose and told her he was going to secure her store and others.

"She started crying," Sam said.

Oath Keepers boarded up a bunch of the storefronts and started night rotations on several rooftops. Sam said he vetted volunteers to ensure there weren't any "racists" or "people with an ax to grind." He said he picked volunteers who "have seen the elephant and are calm under fire."

Fearing more arsonists, Oath Keeper volunteers have buckets of water, fire extinguishers, and other nonlethal weapons on the rooftops. Some are also armed with rifles that aren't available at Walmart and Cabela's.

The other group of guardians in Ferguson didn't have as far to go, and had even more reason to show resolve.

A small group of Ferguson residents from the neighborhood formed an irregular militia to

keep looters and rioters away from one of the few businesses that refused to board up their windows and close up shop. They felt the shop-owner had always treated them with respect, and they intended to make sure that his business would stand.

They also triumphed.

On Tuesday night, as police and soldiers took up positions in the parking lots of virtually every strip mall and big box store around it, the forecourt of the brightly lit gas station was busy with customers.

One, a 6-foot-8-inches man named Derrick Jordan — "Stretch," as friends call him — whisked an AR-15 assault rifle out from a pickup truck parked near the entrance.

Jordan, 37, was one of four black Ferguson residents who spent Tuesday night planted in front of the store, pistols tucked into their waistbands, waiting to ward off looters or catch shoplifters.

Jordan and the others guarding the gas station are all black. The station's owner is white.

Ferguson has seen a stark demographic shift in recent decades, going from all white to mostly black. About two-thirds of the town's 21,000-strong population are black. By some accounts, the Brown shooting has heightened racial tensions in the city. But not at the gas station.

"We would have been burned to the ground many times over if it weren't for them," said gas sta-

tion owner Doug Merello, whose father first bought it in 1984.

Merello said he feels deep ties to Ferguson, and if the loyalty of some of his regular customers is any indication, the feeling is mutual.

Agitators, anarchists, race-baiters, and criminals (and we're just talking about the staff of MSN-BC) attempted to make Ferguson about race. Among certain circles, they have sadly been successful, to a certain degree.

But an untold story of Ferguson is how good people of every background came together and exercised their Second Amendment rights to protect as many of the good and decent people as they could.

These two different groups of unorganized militia—one formally trained but loosely organized, the other tightly knit if untrained—came together to defend this community when government once again failed under crisis.

When there is a failure of civility and law enforcement is overwhelmed, it is We, the People who must rise up and provide security for our communities.

These two very different groups, with very different backgrounds, must have made our Founding Fathers very proud.

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Please see: bearingarms.com/guardians-police-failed-ferguson-two-different-militias-kept-peace/

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*Sangre Shooting Sports Club
Annual Meeting*

The annual meeting of the membership of the Sangre Shooting Sports Club will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at Cliff Lanes, 1-4 P.M.

2015 Membership applications for Renewal and New Members can be found at sangreshooting.com, Nacho Mama's Mexican Cantina, Loan A Ranger, the Wet Mountain Tribune and the Sangre de Cristo Sentinel.

More Americans Favor Gun Owner Rights than Government Tyranny

by Tim Brown,
FreedomOutPost.com

A new Pew Research Poll released on Wednesday shows there is stronger support for the rights of gun owners than more government tyranny to restrict gun ownership. This is the first time in over two decades that polls have shown this dramatic change despite the fact that Americans have a protected right to keep and bear arms.

“Currently, 52% say it is more important to protect the right of Americans to own guns, while 46% say it is more important to control gun ownership,” the Pew Research Center writes.

With the Sandy Hook shooting coming up on its second anniversary this Sunday, the support has gained steadily for gun owner’s rights since shortly after the incident.

“a majority of Democrats say that it is more important to control gun ownership (69%) than to protect the right of Americans to own guns (28%)”

The national survey, which was conducted by PRC from December 3-7 among 1,507 adults found that a majority (57%) of them saw guns as tools that do more to protect people than put people at risk.

Black Americans showed the biggest change in their opinion of whether or not guns protect people from being crime victims. In December 2012, following Sandy Hook, only 29% of blacks surveyed agreed that guns protect people from being crime victims. However, in this year’s survey, that number nearly doubles to 54%!

Virtually every demographic surveyed increased in the belief that guns help to protect people from criminals, except liberal Democrats. Their numbers went from 65% in 2012 that believe guns put people at risk to 76% in 2014.

According to the report, “a majority of Democrats say that it is more important to control gun ownership

(69%) than to protect the right of Americans to own guns (28%). Liberal Democrats, in particular, prioritize controlling gun ownership (81% say this, while just 14% say protecting gun rights is more important).”

Those people are the dangerous people when it comes to guns and the rights of the individual.

Republicans increased by 17 points from 2012 at 63% believing that guns protect people from crime to 80% in 2014.

Then there are those numbers that continue to tell the story of liberal indoctrination.

“Among those who have not attended college, 53% say it is more important to protect gun rights,” the report reads. “Those with graduate degrees continue to support controlling gun ownership at higher levels than those in other groups.”

Pew was not the only gun owner rights survey taken recently. Gallup also found similar results. The thing I found disturbing in the Gallop polls were questions along the lines of asking if people would support “laws” that were clearly unlawful, but then again, we shouldn’t be surprised that people think we can make up our own laws as we go along, should we?

All in all, the change in perspective with regard to gun owner’s rights is good news. In fact, there is much that the gun industry has done to reshape the thinking of Americans with regard to gun ownership. Safety, training, marketing, and all around responsibility with firearms have helped more Americans to see the value of gun ownership and the responsibility to protect themselves and their loved ones.

The only thing to do now is to start repealing and nullifying the unconstitutional federal gun laws and put government in its proper perspective under God’s law for the protection of the people’s rights and the punishment of evil doers. After all, when it comes to self-defense and the defense of our country, more liberty is in order, not more laws.

Reprinted with Permission. Read more at <http://freedomoutpost.com/2014/12/first-time-2-decades-americans-favor-gun-owner-rights-government-tyranny/#0bi8xqg2fUbK2DeR.99>

Just Walk Away, America

by Karl Denninger,
Market-Ticker.Org

(Editor/GG: Sadly, Karl’s analysis on the American Dream is all too true. As he notes at the end, you HAVE to make a choice. Soon, folks, the money is running out....)

There are multiple ways to fight back against the communism, which some are polite enough to call “redistribution”, that is being shoved down our throats.

One reading of the midterm election wave is that voters have concluded that President Obama’s answer to falling incomes and slow growth — higher taxes on the rich and more redistribution—is tapped out. These policies have been up and running for six long years but the middle class is no better off as a result.

On taxes, Mr. Obama often claims that the rich don’t pay their “fair share,” yet the most affluent one-fifth of taxpayers on average supplied 68.7% of federal revenue for 2011. That’s according to the Congressional Budget Office, which last week updated its statistics on the U.S. distribution of income and taxes for 2011 and preliminary calculations for last year.

Many years ago I turned down a “promotion and raise” because I was on the cusp of an income bracket and would be forced into the next one by the change, along with losing deductions due to a threshold change. The result was that I would actually take home less pay on-balance, despite having more responsibility (and presumably, being expected to work harder and longer -- it was an exempt position.)

There have always been “small” impacts like this in the tax code, but they’re pretty rare -- and what’s worse, you need to understand quite well what you pay and why -- and what you take home. Most people don’t track it closely enough to recognize where the thresholds are, even though you usually have a year or more to get it figured out in a given position before such a promotion and raise might be offered.

In other words, you can (and should) always know where you are in this regard -- and how much of a raise or change in income with a job shift you need to make it worth it. That’s the only way you can act logically, and turn down uneconomic “opportunities.”

Today **huge percentages of the working people in this country can actually raise their standard of living by**

working less.

How?

Obamacare.

If you make less than 400% of the Federal Poverty Level you qualify for subsidies. If you make less than 250% of the poverty level you also qualify for deductible, out-of-pocket and copayment subsidies!

Here’s the bottom line: For a **single** person of middle age these adjustments for a sin-

Clapper, etc.)

• *Enabling and furthering both the college loan and cost bubble (screwing young people by the millions) and the medical and pharmaceutical monopolists (screwing everyone else.)*

• *Intentional destruction of middle-class jobs to transfer them to illegal invaders by forcing businesses to either provide health care or pay a \$3,000 fine -- but exempting the illegal invaders Obama*

Today huge percentages of the working people in this country can actually raise their standard of living by working less.

gle person can easily add up to \$6,000 a year or more! For a married couple or family it is typically double that or more!

How much **harder** do you have to work as a single person to make \$30,000 than \$20,000? How much harder do you have to work as a family to make \$50,000 rather than \$30,000? **This is the question because you will get to keep little or nothing of the additional income when you count the subsidy phase-outs -- and you have to -- plus the increased FICA, Medicare and income tax exposure.**

In short **it’s not worth** it in my opinion if you only keep a quarter (or even less) of that next marginal dollar. You work for the entire dollar but get little of the benefit; the rest is **stolen** and given to the medical and pharmaceutical monopolists and their minions.

But more to the point you have three choices when you look at all of the injustices and outrages being served up *with your tax money* on a daily basis:

• Gunwalking (Fast-n-Furious) to *Mexican Drug gangs that have murdered over 300 Mexicans* and at least one American.

• *Blatant and outrageous* forgeries (“Robosigning”) used to steal **thousands** of homes from Americans.

• *Refusal to prosecute* frauds spanning *hundreds of billions of dollars* across the financial industry, all of which were charged to **you** via QE and deficit spending.

• *Refusal to prosecute* blatant perjury on multiple occasions (IRS LernerGate, NSAGate/

just shielded from deportation, and employers from fines and jail for employing them, from said mandate.

... and more.

As citizens you have three choices, really, when you get down to it.

• *Do something illegal in an attempt to reduce or stop it.* There are a whole host of possible actions you could take but of course you are effectively sacrificing at least your freedom (and quite possibly your life) when undertaking such an action.

• *Do something (or many somethings) that are legal to make these acts less sustainable and/or stop them.* There **are** things you can do in that vein; one of them is to **intentionally** reduce your income to a level where you qualify for Obamacare subsidies and pay few federal taxes. You may sacrifice your monetary standard of living by doing this but you gain non-monetary standard of living; you work less and thus have more time to devote to things you enjoy.

• **CONSENT.** Don’t kid yourself -- if you make a maximum effort (or indeed **any** effort beyond the minimum required to sustain yourself and your family) and thus **fund** these acts **you have not only consented, you are advocating the acts that your money is buying!**

So America, on this day you have to choose just as you do each and every day. You choose every time you awake. You choose to *voluntarily* produce economic surplus that

See WALK AWAY on page 23

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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.



Peace with God Brings the Peace of God

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men’.” (Luke 2:13, 14) As much as most of us enjoy the fuzzy, warm feelings of Christmas and the thought of world peace that should accompany the angelic message, the reality of history is far more sobering.

On the basis of the computation in the Moscow Gazette, Gustave Valbert in his day could report that from the year 1496 BC to AD 1861 (3358 years), there were 227 years of peace and 3,130 years of war, or 13 years of war to every year of peace. With the last three centuries, there have been 286 wars in Europe, and he added that from the year 1500 BC to AD 1860 more than 8000 treaties of peace, meant to remain in force forever, were concluded. The average time they remained in force was two years.

“The problem with you Americans is that you don’t believe in evil...”

Lacking precise statistics for the past 150 years, it remains obvious that mankind has not improved these numbers when one considers the wars in which America alone has been involved. It is small wonder that some have become cynical concerning the Nativity story. A backward look demands an answer to “where is peace?” Either the heavenly host conveyed a total misrepresentation of the truth

or the general public is operating under a misunderstanding of the delivered communique. As we continue to grope for the elusive phantom of peace, it may be advisable to give God the benefit of the doubt (there’s a new concept) and search for a deeper theological context.

The Lord, without apology to anyone, has promised a time of unqualified tranquility. “For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” (Isaiah 9:6, 7) The pressing question is when? Could it be that the first advent of Christ necessitated a conditioned promise predicated upon the willingness of the human race to receive the Prince of Peace? The populous was more than happy to embrace him if it meant political emancipation (as illustrated on Palm Sunday), but when the primary purpose of his birth was emphasized (“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21), Christ was firmly rejected. Consequently, the pledge of peace was not eradicated but only delayed. In the meantime we have to deal with “wars and rumors of wars” that Jesus Himself prophesied.

Wherever the Christmas story is told there is a natural tendency for human optimism to navigate the ship, all the while failing to calculate the presence of insidious icebergs below the

surface. Joel Rosenberg has captured the thought well in his book, “The Last Days,” a sequel to “The Last Jihad”.

Like Tom Clancy, he writes novels based upon actual events and circumstances. Dr. Mordechai, the fictitious former head of Mossad, states, “The problem with you Americans is that you don’t believe in evil—you guys at the CIA and the FBI, and definitely the guys at the State, don’t properly anticipate horrible, catastrophic events because you don’t really believe in the presence of evil, the presence of a dark and wicked and nefarious spiritual dimension that drives some men to do the unthinkable.” This unmistakable truth flies in the face of everything that Americans want desperately to cling to—peace on Earth! Failure to acknowledge the need of forgiveness never produces friendship with God.

Lest we succumb to the misery of abject pessimism, it should be noted that the Bible speaks of an internal peace that is being offered during this dispensation of confusion. The apostle Paul observed, “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your heart and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7) This wonderful peace mentioned must be preceded by “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1) Peace with God brings the peace of God.

This glorious doctrine is well-illustrated in the famous painting showing the robin building her nest behind but ever so close to the raging waterfall. During these very uncertain times, my family and I wish all of our readers a personal, enduring peace that comes from above.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A Sheepdog Barks!

I, for one, am sick of hearing the president say “this is not who we are.” Who he thinks we (Americans) are is not who I think we are. I am NOTHING like him. He doesn’t speak for me. WOOF! He thinks we are a bad nation, full of inequality. He thinks we need to apologize to the world for what we are. He thinks we should bow to other world leaders and monarchs. He thinks we are not exceptional. He thinks it is okay to murder innocent unborn humans but it is not okay to make bad, evil guys tell us what they are going to do next. He thinks big government should take care of our every need and want. He thinks rich people are bad. He believes everyone should be equally poor. So he keeps going around saying “that’s not who we are.” He doesn’t speak for me or many of those I know. He speaks only for himself and the other liberal progressives who support him. Professor Gruber said they passed Obamacare because the American people are stupid. He was right; at least about the majority that voted to elect this nitwit twice. They must be stupid. Okay, maybe a few of them are just ignorant. But twice? No, they are stupid. BAAA! Last week Rolling Stone (it’s a magazine for you non-liberals) was criticized for faking a rape story at the University of Virginia. You know how that goes: they wanted a story about rape, then they gathered up all the information they could to support their story, then enhanced it a little, then printed it as truth. Reminds me of another similar paper recently printed. Reminds me of the “report” released by the Senate Intelligence Committee on CIA torture using a similar technique. Find a subject you don’t like, make up the facts, don’t interview the key people, enhance (pun intended) and sensationalize, cherry pick what you need to support your findings, take sentences out of context, disregard your fellow committee persons that don’t agree with you and then publish a one-sided worthless “report” that does nothing but harm those that kept us safe and protected America and embarrasses our allies. That’s what Senator Dianne Feinstein and her fel-

low LPSDs did last week. And the main stream media loves it. She is a heroine, they say. She’s so brave, they say. She did what is right, they say. NOT in my book. She’s a weak, cowardly, unpatriotic, and dishonest American. The kind we don’t need. But face it; she’s an LPSD from San Francisco, the former mayor, you know. She, and fellow San Franciscan, Nancy Pelosi, are like two peas in a pod. America would be so much better off without those types. They have mostly harmed America with their “progressive” thinking. They were briefed on the CIA techniques and programs right after 9-11 and remained silent. Now, they are full of hypocritical “values” and false “moral” outrage. HOWL! This “report”, like Obamacare, is forever tainted and illegitimate. It’s the distorted opinions of about 6-8 people. It’s not a Senate report like the press and media keeps calling it. It’s a one-sided, partisan hack job intended to bash the Bush Administration and the CIA. No Republican signed on to it. It never came out of committee to the full Senate. It is Feinstein’s personal little attack as she loses all her power in the first week of January. This “report” isn’t worth the paper it’s printed on much less the \$40m it cost to do what amounts to another Rolling Stone article. Yes, that’s right. The U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee is just like the magazine Rolling Stone. Shame on them both. And let’s talk a little about this so called torture. I am thankful we had a president and administration that had the guts to do what was needed to be done after 9-11. I would hope we get another administration that will overturn Obama’s overreaction to how we treat terrorists, and once again, when necessary do what we have to do to keep our 300 million citizens safe and protected. The president of the United States ought to have the power to authorize the Enhanced Interrogation Techniques (EITs) and Program any time we need them and let’s stop with all this moral equivalency. We don’t create terrorists. Terrorists create themselves based on their hate for Christians



and the freedoms we have in the western world. Islamic terrorists have been around since our country was formed. All the former CIA and DOJ people said the EITs were not tortured, were reasonable, and legal, and produced actionable intelligence that saved many more lives and thwarted many more acts of terrorism. Now 13 years after 9-11 the LPSDs want to clear their consciences. Too bad. All the sheep in America need to stop their bleating. BAAAA! They don’t have the guts to do what is necessary to protect even their own lives. They would run around in big flocks and let the wolves eat them without even fighting back. BAA! Thankfully, there are sheepdogs willing to protect the sheep. The sheep need to let the sheepdogs do what has to be done. The LPSDs and the main street media love to point out that John McCain believes like they do and that he was a POW that was tortured so he must be right. SO WHAT? John McCain is wrong once again. The two things have nothing in common. Other POWs that were tortured say that in the right situations, in context and under control, the EITs are necessary and can provide the intelligence we need. The majority of Americans also support the use of EITs to protect us. John Brennan, the CIA Director said, “The report is full of exaggeration and misrepresentations of the facts and is pursuing an agenda.” You think? George Orwell wrote, “Those that abjure (to renounce publicly; to recant) violence can only do so because others are committing violence on their behalf.” Thanks for the sheepdogs. Stop the “bleating” and let the sheepdogs do what needs to be done. WOOF!

May God Have Mercy on America! JMH



Moor Then Haff of Wood-Be NYC Teechers Flunk Literassy Test

by Victor Skinner, EAGNews.Org

(Editor/GG: A lot of press and research coming out lately about the poor quality of our nation's teacher colleges/programs. Unusual for the self-regulating (i.e., "non-regulating") education establishment. Is someone finally waking up?)

NEW YORK –

The first year of mandatory tests for New York's would-be teachers shows a majority in New York City don't have the requisite Academic Literacy Skills to teach youngsters, and the statewide average pass rate isn't much better.

Of the 11,371 potential New York teachers who took the Academic Literacy Skills test this year, only a paltry 68 percent passed with the minimum of at least 520 points out of 600, or an 80 percent, the *Huffington Post* reports.

The results were especially bad in New York City.

According to the *New York Post*, not a single one of the 13 students who took the test, which analyzes potential teachers' ability to read and write competently, made the grade. Less than half of the students from York College of Queens, Concordia College, Medgar Evers College, Mercy College's Bronx campus, and CUNY's College of Technology managed to pass, the paper reports.

State Education Commissioner John King said the results show the state's teacher training programs need to get their acts together or turn off the lights.

"It's better to have fewer programs that better prepare teachers than having many schools that have teachers who are unprepared for the classroom," he said, according to the *Post*.

The *Huffington Post* contends the data raises some other issues, as well.

"Since this is only the first year the test was required, we can only wonder how many hundreds of previous teachers graduated without the basic literacy skills necessary to effectively teach students. And of those who might have passed if the test had been administered in previous years, how many of those teachers truly mastered the necessary material?" according to the site.

"... (W)e might have a choice in the neighborhoods we live in and therefore, the overall quality of the school our children attend, but we have absolutely no say in, and certainly no knowledge of, the qualifications of the individual teachers."

That's an important point because leading education research shows teachers and school principals have the biggest impact on students' ability to learn, and a bad or mediocre teacher can do more damage than good.

As the *Huffington Post* notes, "with a New York high school graduation rate of 75 percent and a national remediation rate ranging anywhere from 20 to 40 percent, our students need all the help they can get.

"And that help – both the expectation and the delivery of higher standards – must begin before teachers enter the classroom, while they are still students themselves."

CUNY Chancellor James Milliken told the *New York Post* "we are not satisfied with these results, and we are working closely with our college presidents, education deans and others to ensure we do all we can to produce the quality teachers the city requires and deserves."

That will likely entail creating corrective-action plans, tightened admissions policies, or more academic support. New York sent it's teacher training colleges \$11.5 million to prepare for the new teaching standards. Potential educators must also pass teaching skills and content knowledge tests, according to the *New York Post*.

Students who failed the Academic Literacy Skills test this year can retake the exam for \$131, the Albany Times Union reports.

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Atheist Group's Complaint Backfires, Lands Nativity In Full Public View

by Brittany M. Hughes, CNSNews.com

When the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) went after a city council in Jay, Florida, for displaying a nativity set on public property, the atheist group might have won a battle, but seems to have lost the war.

The FFRF, known for protesting any and all religious displays in public places, sent a complaint letter recently to local officials in the 526-person city of Jay, arguing against the life-sized nativity that had been set up on the site every Christmas for nearly 40 years, the group said in a press release.

In a letter sent to the city's mayor, FFRF attorney Andrew Seidel alleged, "It is unlawful for the town to maintain, erect, or host a holiday display that consists solely of a nativity scene, thus singling out, showing preference for, and endorsing one religion." He added there are "ample private and church grounds where religious displays may be freely placed."

In response to the group's complaints, the city council declared the nativity set surplus property and sold it to the Santa Rosa County Ministerial Association, thus removing it from public property.

The FFRF's co-president, Dan Barker, praised the city council's decision as "divesting the town of a divisive display."

But the town has not been deprived of the nativity, reports the American Pastors Network. In fact, after the ministerial association purchased the nativity, they then placed the huge Christian display on private property near one of the busiest parts of the small town, reports the American Pastors Network.

"It now stands at a busy corner at the town's main stop light—ironic, say nativity supporters, because many more people will see it there," the APN said in a news release, adding that the more prominent display shows the citizens of Jay "have no intention of removing the real meaning of Christmas from public display."

The APN said the complaint was just the latest in a continued attack on religious freedom by groups like the FFRF.

"Anyone who actually takes time to study our nation's history and read the writings of our founders—not the interpretations of those writings written two hundred years later—knows that religious liberty and the acknowledgement of Almighty God as the source of that liberty are the bulwark of our nation," said APN President Sam Rohrer in the release. "Threats like these against towns that want to display nativities are a blatant attack on our God-given and constitutionally protected freedoms."

"The truth remains that public displays of the nativity scene on government property in no way violate the Constitution. FFRF's attempts to stifle religious liberty, however, do," he added.

According to the APN, a similar nativity placed by a local government in the nearby town of Century, Fla., also came under attack from the FFRF. That nativity was also bought by a church and placed on private property.

A third nativity display in Brookville, Indiana, is still standing despite the FFRF's attempts to force the local government to remove it, the group added.

"Brookville is going a step further and ignoring FFRF's letters and instead rallying around its nativity," APN reported in the press release, adding the town held a candlelight walk last weekend to show support for the nativity scene.

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WALK AWAY From page 21

you *donate* to the government.

I know you'll make excuses today -- but that's exactly what they are: excuses.

Let's cut that crud out. If you're going to choose to *fund, consent and approve* of the acts of your government **then do it proudly, loudly and with your head held high.**

And if not?

Then choose one of the other options -- hopefully selected from the *legal* options available to you -- of which there are *many*.

But before you try to say that you're not going to choose and this doesn't count as approval of the acts of our government let me point out that **Rush** (the band, not the radio host) said many years ago: **If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice!**

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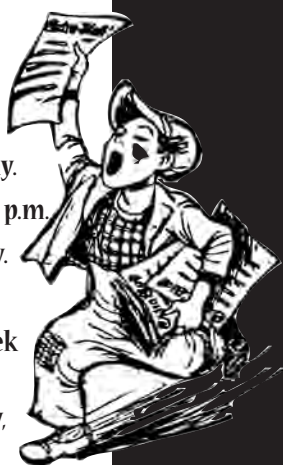
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Local Mountain News & Notices



Custer County School's Fine Arts Christmas Concert a Great Success

Last Wednesday's Custer County Schools Fine Arts Christmas Concert featured a large number of musical selections ranging from "Joy to the World" to "Baby, It's Cold Outside". School participants included the Middle School Choir, High School Choir, the 6th Grade Band, the Middle School Band, the High School Band, and the Cotopaxi High School Band. Specials thanks to Sarah Thompson, Choir Director; Andrew Straight, Band Director; and Jennifer Fritz, Cotopaxi Band Director.

Sentinel photos by Paul Sage

*To our Brothers and Sisters in the United States military, past and present:
Thank you for your sacrifices and service in order to protect our homeland;
you deserve the best!
Merry Christmas and a year full of hope for peace.*

*With love and God's blessings,
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PoBlano*

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