



Westcliffe’s Biggest Christmas Parade in Years

This year’s Christmas parade, organized by the First Baptist Church of Westcliffe, had over 20 entries! The above photo is the First Baptist Church’s Live Nativity float, proclaiming: “Go Tell It On The Mountain”. A big THANK YOU goes out to Candace McDaniel of First Baptist, who organized this year’s parade. Be sure to check out page 9 for more photos.

Sentinel photo by Paul Sage

RINOS??? TIPTON AND GARDNER VOTE FOR 1.1 TRILLION DOLLAR BUDGET *Both Vote to Fund Obamacare*

by Larry “Lockdown” Luikart
Analysis and Commentary

On Friday December 12, 2014, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a 1.1 Trillion dollar budget that funds most of the government through September 2015. The budget funds Obamacare which Republicans have voted to repeal many times and it funds the President’s illegal immigration plan through February 27, 2015. Mr. Tipton in support of the bill said, “While not perfect, it reduces spending.....cuts funding to the IRS and EPA.....addresses several issues of critical importance to the Third District of Colorado.” His critical issues included preventing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from adding the Greater Sage Grouse and Gunnison Sage Grouse to the endangered species list. He also stated the leadership of the new Congress has assured him the Secure Rural Schools funding will continue to address the needs of schools, emergency services, and local infrastructure. This is legislative speech for more federal government control. He also stated this 1605-page bill does not

add any funding for Obamacare. However, another provision in the bill permits the President to withdraw taxed and borrowed money to continue the implementation of Obamacare. The perfect example of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing.

Mr. Gardner, Colorado’s newly elected U.S. Senator, who campaigned heavily on repealing Obamacare by his vote has double talked his way into the United States Senate while continuing to fleece your wallet. He used the publics disdain for Obamacare as a tool to get elected and at the first opportunity to actually support his campaign ballyhoo he wimps out.

The privilege of your vote has now cost you another 1.1 trillion dollars added to an already absolutely crushing 18 Trillion dollar federal debt. Granted this number is so large it is nearly impossible to come up with a way to describe it. The Congressional Budget Office reports every man, woman and child in the United States now carries a \$200,000.00 obligation of Federal debt on their shoulders. That is an

increase from \$66,000.00 in 2000 and \$100,000.00 in 2007. This rise is not a straight line but an upward curve, which indicates the interest on the debt will shortly pass the annual revenue of the entire United States government.

It is interesting that our elected officials, Republican and Democrat, ignore with impunity the mathematical reality of this eventuality. Most troubling is that almost all the citizens ignore this same reality. America can and will if it continues with this fiscally irresponsible behavior go bankrupt. China holds one-sixth of our national debt. If they were to call our notes, America would not be able to pay. That reality alone should make every congressman and senator and every citizen lay awake at night in fear.

Mr. Tipton and Mr. Gardner continue with the same tired but proven techniques of duping their constituencies with the benefits of more and more federal goodies while ignoring the astronomical costs associated with providing these programs. Sadly, each man had an

opportunity to reject this continued journey to America’s economic ruin by defeating this outlandish funding bill. Instead, they demonstrated their RINO (Republican in Name Only) attitudes by voting for another spending bill that in the end will far exceed the revenue collected by the Federal Government.

Yet, Americans continue to be more interested in reading tripe on Facebook, running their thumbs in one hundred and forty characters on Twitter, or just plain being lazy in front of the idiot box, or here in Colorado just smoking whacky weed into stupefied numbness. We cannot survive as a federal republic under these circumstances. While it is easy to blame politicians, the issues do not reside in Washington. The real problem is the lack of engagement by the American people. The Founding Fathers feared giving too much responsibility to a benumbed, indifferent, or unengaged populace. It is not too late to save America but without a major change in attitude by her people she will not continue as the beacon of freedom to the rest of the world.

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**PATRIOT
ALERT!**
“We Will not
Comply”

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Vanderboegh
page 16



*Be strong and
of good courage;
do not be afraid or
dismayed, for the
Lord Your God
is with you
wherever you go.*

Joshua 1:9
NKJV

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*A different view from
the same mountains!*

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

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

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

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Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

HOW WAS 2014?



Yesterday was Christmas Day. Hope yours was merry. 2014! It was such a long year. It was such a short year. It was a great and happy year. It was a sad and tragic year. It was a warm and sunny year. It was a cold and windy year. How did you see it? There are so many ways to look at that glass. Is it half full? Or half empty? How did you find 2014? There's an old story about a couple on a journey to a new city. Outside the city gates they came across an old man sitting on the side of the road. They asked him if he knew the city well and he told them he had lived there his whole life. "How will we find the people that live here?", they asked him. "How did you find them where you came from?", he replied. "They were mean, dishonest, and heathen", they replied. "That's how you will find them here also", he answered. A short while later another couple arriving at this new city came upon the old man. "We are moving here to this new city. How are the people that live here?", they asked the old man. "How did you find them where you came from?", he responded. "Oh, they were kind, wonderful, friendly, and God-fearing", they gushed. "That's how you will find them here, also", he answered. The moral of the story, we believe, is that we will all look and find what we want in this world. Some of us think America is in good shape, others of us don't. We remain a much divided country. Our beliefs and expectations vary greatly. Liberals want big government, lots of taxes, and "big

brother" to pretty much control our entire lives. Conservatives want small government, less taxes, more personal responsibilities, and a "little brother" to control only a few things in our lives. Is it any wonder these two groups would look at 2014 so differently? The leader of the liberals, President Obama, had the following to say about 2014 in a press conference just before he jetted off in Air Force One to Hawaii for a 17-day vacation. We are paraphrasing here but these are the points he made before he took some questions. He said America is better off now than when he took office. He said jobs are up, unemployment is down, wages are on the rise, America is number 1 in production of oil and natural gas, his administration has repaid every dime of the automobile manufacturing loans, Obamacare allowed 10 million Americans to gain health care insurance and the price of health care is down. He further stated he has reduced the deficit by two-thirds since he took office, that Ukraine is okay, Ebola is under control, climate change has been helped because he got China to agree to some volunteer measures and Cuba is the next great democracy. He continued on with that our combat mission in Afghanistan is over and he is so proud of how the economy has grown over the last six years. He even repeated one of his favorite lines that by every economic metric one can look at, America is better off since he took office. He declared 2014 a "break out" year for America. Well, that's

one way to look at last year.

The other way is to look at 2014 in a more realistic manner. It was not a "break out" year for America. There were some good things, some so-so things, and some not-so good things. Lower unemployment is a product of misleading statistics. Most new jobs are part-time, low-paying, and are going to immigrants. The labor participation rate in America is at the lowest level since WWII. Many have just quit looking and gone on to the many welfare programs we have. So, good paying jobs are not increasing. The wage gap between middle and upper level Americans is the largest it has been in Obama's six years. Obamacare has put millions on Medicaid and high-subsidy, tax-supported plans. It is still filled with errors, distortions, and law suits. Every day another Obamacare problem crops up. The false statistics were finally admitted to by the HHS. Many people never paid their first premiums, dental and health plans were double counted, the annual premiums have soared, many were erroneously given high subsidies and many, many more lost their plans and doctors. The majority of Americans still don't support Obamacare. It will always be illegitimate because of the fraudulent way it was passed and signed into law. The world is a mess because America is no longer respected or feared in the world. Iran is continuing to develop a nuclear weapon. ISIS is not destroyed. Combat in Afghanistan is not over. And

we now have lots of "boots on the ground" in Iraq with more to go. And the President continues to use his pen to go around congress and the constitution. He says that he has issued less executive orders than the last five or six presidents. This is a perfect example of how he distorts reality with a little bit of the truth. It seems he has issued a great deal of presidential memoranda instead of executive orders. Apparently, they are the same thing. For example, he issued a memorandum to impose illegal immigration amnesty. When you combine the two types of "Executive Actions" he has issued the highest number since President Truman. He continues to distort the truth and mislead Americans every day. This is just the reality that we must face. The bright spot for the conservative way of looking at the "State of America" is the November elections. The conservative gains made nationwide at the local, state, and federal level was astounding and gives us hope for a truly better America in 2015. It will depend on whether or not the Republicans, in control of both houses of the U.S. Congress, will do the right things. We need real positive things to happen next year. We can only hope that the 114th Congress will now function properly and send over bills that actually help our economy and jobs and that the president will sign them. At least as we come to the end of 2014 there is hope that 2015 will be better for us all. May God Bless America and Us All!

Happy New Year from the staff at the Sentinel.

Thank you for your tremendous support during our second year in bringing you news that matters.

Thanks and God Bless.

You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip with abundance.

Psalm 65:11, NKJV

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EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS A Movie Review

by Candy Thompson

The only thing that kept me from bolting to the exit and not seeing this movie to it's pathetic end was some hope that I might see something with some semblance of truth, justifying the \$20 we spent on a movie that left me angry and determined to write this review.

I went knowing that Hollywood probably wouldn't get it all right but had no idea that I would be seeing a production that wasn't just ignorant of scriptures and the nature of God, but was blasphemous in its representation of God and faith-killing in its denial of the miraculous with an intentional agenda to discredit the scriptures.

This is no Ten Commandments type of epic. Not surprisingly, this movie with its doubting, rebellious, confused Moses played by Christian Bales (who sounds like the Godfather) has no semblance to the true patriarch who stood at the Red Sea and with great faith in God said, "Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord..." Instead, Moses rides out into the Red Sea to meet Ramesses to convince him to turn back, showing some kind of misplaced compassion for an enemy bent on destroying God's people, ending up

being swept away by the returning waters with the Egyptians and barely making it to shore alive.

Moses' call to deliver his people is even more disturbing as he encounters the burning bush as he is being buried alive by a mudslide. With only his face above the slush, Moses sees a creepy little boy beside the bush saying he was the "I Am" and gives him his mission. There was no mention of holy ground here as Moses sinks out of sight. Rather than leaving the burning bush with inspiration and confidence in God to fulfill this awesome task, he later trembles with fear and confusion in the arms of his wise wife, Zipporah, (whose face is artfully tattooed). He leaves dejected after she berates him for choosing to free his people rather than staying with her.

Moses prepares himself with weapons to fight Pharaoh with no clear instructions from God, failing miserably, with God now taking over and bringing on the plagues. Rather than turning the Nile to blood by a miracle, the makers chose to use alligators in a shark-like frenzy attacking people to somehow turn the whole Nile red, thereby producing all the ensuing plagues. Moses argues with God not to kill the first born and even sympathizes with

the Egyptians, trying to warn Pharaoh of the coming deaths rather than boldly being God's mouthpiece and righteous leader.

The Israelites finally leave with the Egyptians lining the streets casting insults and spitting at them, not in fear and trembling after the deaths of their firstborn when they actually gave them all their wealth urging them to leave. At the Red Sea, Moses hopes a low tide will come, forget the rod and the parting of anything. He then leads them through the lowering water, not on "dry ground", as they slosh through the receding tide.

Every remnant of the miraculous is disputed by this movie with secular, "scientific", new age utterly ridiculous explanations for the mighty works of God leaving it uninspired and I predict a financial bomb for its makers. At least Cecil B. DeMille tried to get it right and was wise enough to know that truth is far more entertaining than lies and that the public isn't as stupid as the makers of "Exodus: Gods and Kings" think they are. Don't waste your money to have your faith tested by pagans who don't know God and are willing to spend over \$200 million to discredit the Word of God, the truth of God and His scriptures and your Christian faith.

Steve Rorick Denies Involvement in Pot Grow He Proposes to Silver cliff

by Paul Sage

After possibly realizing that involvement in violation of federal drug trafficking laws would jeopardize his entrance into and continued participation in the heavily regulated hard liquor production industry, Mr. Rorick fired off a letter to the editor of both local papers basically denying his involvement in the venture. This letter came a short time after Mr. Rorick's presentation to the Silver Cliff Planning Commission where he claimed to "represent a group of undisclosed investors that are looking to possibly cash in on the cannabis trade." When challenged by Sheriff Fred Jobe about his selfless desire to help others through this venture, he admitted, "that's true, Fred, without a doubt. If I wasn't going to benefit, why would I work so hard at it."

This would appear to be an admission of his intent to profit from activities in violation of the federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970, despite his new denials of any personal interest in the proposed venture, putting responsibility on his financial backers who did not float the proposal to the planning commission.

It seems clear that, contrary to Mr. Rorick's more recent claims, he has an interest in benefiting from the drug trade which, while authorized in the state of Colorado, is a felony violation of federal law in the United States. Engaging in such federal criminal activity

could jeopardize Mr. Rorick's participation in the heavily federally regulated liquor distillery business he has been pursuing for some time. Mr. Rorick's recent statement that "I am not pursuing pot growing interest" is not supported by the fact that the Silver Cliff Planning Commission meeting convened to hear his proposal to do so.

Mr. Rorick may also be confirming his intention to engage in (conspiracy to commit according to federal law) interstate commerce in products produced in the facility he proposes (on the behalf of investors) when he reaffirms that "no product of any kind will be sold in Custer County."

While the "undisclosed investors" and "local wealthy and influential people" clearly don't have the "where with all (sic) to take the criticism that is dealt by such a controversial topic," as Mr. Rorick proposes in his letter, and don't have the backbone to stand up to public criticism like he has grown accustomed to, they also are clearly more business savvy than Mr. Rorick. Drug trafficking remains a federal criminal offense, and those engaged in the industry can have their assets seized.

While the current administration of the federal government has basically chosen to not interfere with the illegal drug trade in states that authorize it, "the federal government has stockpiled more than 1,100 'suspicious activity reports' that could possibly

be used to shut down state sanctioned marijuana companies across the country," according to a December 8th story in the *Marijuana Business Daily*. In the same story a U.S. Treasury Department Financial Crimes Enforcement Network spokesman is quoted as saying that "Banks are required by law to report when they think that a business is making money from something illegal, and marijuana is still federally illegal." It was further reported in this publication that "between February and August banks filed over 475 'marijuana termination reports' essentially telling the feds that they shut down accounts because of potential criminal activity." All of this activity is taking place even with the liberalized banking rules put in place by the current administration and renegade activist attorney general.

Mr. Rorick somehow attributes a thought about property values going to zero to this writer, though I did not make any comment to this effect in the article he complains about or anywhere else. I don't believe this to be true. Properties may come to have no value to residents who bought them for the scenic rural lifestyles they sought or for a safe place to raise their kids, but I believe that, as drug manufacturer Shawn Honacker pointed out at the planning commission meeting, once one grow or retail facility is autho-

See POT GROW
on page 6

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Letters to the Editor



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Thank you for Supporting Eva Caldwell

I just wanted to say ‘Thank you’ to all of the wonderful people who helped with the fundraiser dinner for Eva Caldwell!

A huge thank you goes out to Janel McGuire, Rosalinda Renskoski and Allie Neas, without them things would not have went as smoothly as they did! Also to the ladies who did a wonderful job on the desserts and garlic sticks (which they donated), Karen Yoder, Norma Yoder, Irene Hostetler and Ruthie Raber.

Thank you’s also go out to Bob Hannah & Sally Nicholson, Paul & Candi Sage, Phil Neas, Karen Smith, Martha Klingeli, Willie and Cheryl (Silver Cliff Mtn. Inn), Verne Deller, Tiffany Rodgers and the Wet Mtn. Valley Saddle club (who donated the building). Also a huge thank you to the 2 Mormon Elders who were

great helpers and the saddle club royalty, Brooke and Sarah Flynn and Brittane Bohannan..

Thank you to Mike and Sharon Wathen and the Frost family for providing the great music!

I appreciate the Newspapers for advertising for us, and everyone that let us put up flyers. The weather was not so great that day, so if you wanted to come but didn’t get a chance, donations can still be dropped off at Trails West at 11 S. 2nd in Westcliffe or at First State Bank for the Eva Caldwell Benefit.

If I have forgotten anyone, I apologize. We live in a community full of great people!

Thank you everyone!!
Jennifer & Doug Myers

The Facts on Commercial Dog Breeding

Editor,

The application for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for a commercial dog breeding operation in Custer County has been withdrawn. This is not the end of the story, however.

Custer County’s 2014 Zoning Resolution does not mention commercial dog kennels. Colorado’s Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act (PACFA) offers high-volume dog breeding licenses as follows: Article 80, §6.7, permits the sale of up to 99 puppies per year; with breeding adults, the operation could run as high as 140 or more animals. Article 80, §6.6, allows for transfers of “at least [emphasis added] one hundred dogs per year,” with no upper limit specified. By any definition, such high-volume commercial breeding operations are potential puppy mills.

The practices and conditions associated with commercial breeding operations in the Midwest and East are well documented. With operators driven solely by profit, puppy mill dogs are usually inbred, have serious genetic defects, carry diseases, and require intensive desensitization. As a result, buyers of these dogs often find themselves with unmanageable vet bills and serious behavior/temperament and other issues. Unfortunately, in the absence of seller

or professional support, they often turn their problem dogs over to shelters or rescue organizations. Thus, others pay the costs, not the breeders themselves.

Commercially bred dogs often live out their “productive” lives on wire in crowded stacked cages; if they escape death, many senior dogs end up in rescue facilities, cannot walk, and are difficult to place. Puppies are sold over the internet, through pet stores and other outlets, and without veterinary certificates listing shots and health checks. To constrain substandard commercial breeding practices, more than 100 U.S. cities have enacted ordinances banning pet store puppy sales, and efforts are underway in some states to ban dog auctions and raffles. Some pet store chains (e.g., PetSmart) do not sell puppies and actively support local rescue organizations.

As jurisdictions across the country belatedly recognize the serious negative economic, social, health, and environmental impacts of commercial dog breeding, they are enacting stringent laws, regulations, and rigorous enforcement to protect their communities from the toxic effects of such operations. Ohio is one example. The Commercial Dog Breeders Act, signed by Governor Kasich, went into effect 13 March 2013. Un-

der the Act, rules set strict standards for housing, socialization, food and water, health, sanitation, transportation, record keeping, and enforcement/penalties.

Fortunately, the Custer County SUP process discouraged the establishment of the first commercial dog breeding operation attempted here under the 2014 Zoning Resolution. However, given increasing regulatory pressures on commercial breeders in other states, rural areas in the west where regulation is minimal and enforcement difficult can expect to attract increasing numbers of commercial dog breeding operations. Pennsylvania, particularly Lancaster County, is known as the “puppy mill capital of the east.” I would hate to see a similar sobriquet applied years from now to Colorado.

Custer County is not staffed to enforce even minimum standards for commercial breeding kennels. Nor, for that matter, is the Colorado Agricultural Department or the USDA. To clarify the County’s position over the long term, an amendment to the 2014 Zoning Resolution should be considered that expressly bans commercial dog breeding in Custer County.

*Sincerely,
Bonnie Simrell,
Rural Westcliffe*

Freedom Is Not Free

Dear Sentinel Staff,

It is genuinely interesting and FUN reading the *Sentinel*, even though “sometimes” you might be a little “off” in opinions or facts, it far surpasses the “other paper” in putting issues that truly need to be alerted to we citizens.

One writer who is sincerely missed is Jeremy Carr; his column on herbs and plants with his down-to-earth presentation, intelligence, and at home with Mountain Folks style of writing is really appreciated by myself and many others in the valley. Where is he? Can he be encouraged to write his information at least EVERY MONTH?

The situation at our valley clinic is totally unacceptable, and needs to be resolved – closed – and entirely NEW leaders who are hopefully familiar with the medical field, and medical care. Our valley is filled with many successful corporate business person, most honest. If there was a toss-up between having the clinic or having EMS, we citizens MORE definitely NEED the EMS folks who ARE STRONG HEROES and effectively trained for emergency and appropriate response, without ANY lagging – rather than the foolishness, laxness, and nonsense going on at the clinic. I’ve worked in the medical field over 20 years and have experienced the good, the bad, and the ugly from being a biller, then a patient account rep, then a Medicaid/Medicare auditor, then a coder for two major hospitals in southwest Florida, and finally hands-on nursing here in Colorado. In this, I have witnessed, and also met nurses and patients with horror stories on the mis-handling of bills and business in their health needs and/or caregiving. It doesn’t have to be that way, and with our small community and two law-abiding/honorable doctors affiliated to our clinic, what IS the problem – besides the board robbing the coffers, twisting the bookkeeping, slamming EMS who are the REAL HANDS-ON LIFE SAVERS who need our support and thanks above and

beyond the call of duty? Perhaps we citizens need to put the entire hospital board “on leave” for at least FOUR MONTHS starting immediately, without salary, and PUT THAT EXPENSE of their salaries toward the back bills and nonsense they have “allowed.” I am on a fixed income now and, frankly, cannot afford my HONESTLY EARNED CASH being pilfered through higher and higher taxes to support our Hospital Board’s continued, pitiful whining for MORE. Their expansion, expenses, and BAD MANAGEMENT at the clinic has become ridiculous. The untimely web reports regarding budgets and meetings now, after bloated promising, is dysfunctional and not acceptable.

I’ve owned my property here in the valley for 25 years, am a full-time resident, retired in my 70s – and moving to Canada is looking better and better. I’m ashamed at the dirty politics in this valley, mis-use of MONEY, and disrespectfulness to we taxpayers. Also, I’m looking forward to marching with my rifle in the 4th of July parade – in honor to my father’s World War II service with the United States Navy; my two brothers with their many years United States Navy service (my younger brother served for 21 years); my niece with her 23 years in the United States Air Force and rank of lieutenant colonel, and my son’s four years served in the United States Navy in the first Persian-Gulf War. For years, I played trumpet “taps” at many services in graveyards and always participated in the Independence Day marching bands while fathers and grandfathers, mothers and grandmothers carried flags and guns in the parades in northern Minnesota to set an example to ALL generations that FREEDOM is not free; this nonsense of a few trouble-making, mischievous Democrat politicians in our valley trashing OUR RIGHTS has elevated my warrior-hero ethic.

*Nitehawk64@gmail.com,
Rural Custer County
(Name with-held by request.)*

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Ask a Pro: How much water do I need? A loaded Q.

National figures for water consumption estimate the average person uses 50 to 100 gallons per day for all in house uses. It is interesting that the higher a person’s income the more water they are likely to use. Fancy shower units with multiple messaging shower heads can easily consume more than one hundred gallons per use. At the opposite end of the spectrum people who use solar or other nonstandard power use far less water. These folks have or develop a sense for all things they use and most use minimal amounts of all consumables. To answer the question of “how much water do I need for my home?” I need-

their life style; without this personal data we revert to ‘the average’. Point in fact: recently I stated a well was almost dry and had little if any value; this without knowing the size of house or type of use/power it had. I needed to do a little back-pedaling because I had used ‘common or average’ figures. For this tiny house off the grid/power, a marginal well will suffice.

-David Nequette /Lic.1043

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Attention Veterans: Veterans Invited To Learn About New VA Choice Card

For VA eligible Veterans in Custer County the introduction of the new VA Choice Card is a BIG DEAL. This new program makes life a lot easier for Veterans eligible for VA medical care. The mileage requirement has been reduced from 60 miles to 40 miles, difficulty of travel is now considered, and Veterans are now eligible to be seen at local civilian medical facilities by local providers.

Veterans and their families are invited to attend the monthly meeting of The American Legion on Tuesday, 6 January, at Cliff

Lanes at 6:30 pm. Delwin Lester, Executive Director of the Custer County Medical Center will present information about the Choice Card program. Lester, a Veteran of both the US Army and US Air Force, has been tracking the roll-out of this program and is prepared to explain how it works and answer your questions.

Mark your calendars and bring your questions. See you on Tuesday, 6 January, 6:30 pm at Cliff Lanes.

*Bob Dreher, Public Affairs Officer
Post 170 The American Legion*

A New Year Resolution For Custer County

*by Larry Luikart,
Commentary*

During the last several months, I have covered for the *Sentinel*, the monthly meetings of the Silver Cliff and Westcliffe Town Boards. The assignment has given me the opportunity to see how small, local government is conducted. The members of these boards, for the most part, are reasonable, well meaning, concerned individuals who for no pay agree to set policy and watch over the operations of their communities. In all fairness, I do not agree with every one of the board's decisions and I think from time to time they stray off into the weeds getting bogged down with things that are essentially meaningless. Yet, they mean well and they work hard for the people they represent.

Recently, there has been cooperation between the two town governments on issues that are mutually beneficial. The unified code for parking regulations, the agreement to create essentially the same regulations for the Dark Skies initiative, (one of my personal kind of off-in-the-weed ideas), the cooperative spirit with the Westcliffe Main Street Manager and the mutual sharing of code enforcement are encouraging. This thaw in the relationship between the two towns may not be Détente but at least it's movement in the correct direction. Hopefully, my next thoughts won't bring on a new period of cold war in the County.

Broaching the unspeakable, it has occurred to me that Silver Cliff and Westcliffe should consider the idea it may be time to create a unified government operation. Actually, in thinking through the concept, it seems to me a county of approximately thirty five hundred people should probably have only one governing body in the form

of an independent, unified county government. Please, do not shoot the messenger. This is only a discussion topic. However, the reasons behind the riff, appear to vacillate somewhere between the sublime and the ridiculous. The railroad is gone and the mines are closed.

The concept however, has some real merits. Currently, the two towns and the county are constantly bumping together, in mostly negative ways, in regard to tax differences, zoning regulations, funding for law enforcement, street and road maintenance, and most recently monetary grant proposals. I have heard discussions in all three county governing bodies where Colorado state and federal officials have questioned the viability of a grant for one community where the external agencies raise concerns the other community or the county at large will oppose the grant. They suggest a consolidation would reduce the redundancy in paperwork creating a more smooth application process and a better use of tax dollars all around. My! What a refreshing idea! Someone, at the state and federal level wanting to make government work.

Most Americans feel there is too much government. We complain there is too much bureaucracy and there is too much needless redundancy. Combining the government operations in this county would eliminate two current governing bodies, reduce the number of regulations, create a unified government and most importantly reduce the squabbling between the current entities. We actually have a member of the *Sentinel* staff who's backyard is in Silver Cliff and his front yard is in Westcliffe. He is, literally, a man with a borderline identity crisis. A man who has no town. Quite sad actually!

If you are a liberal, progressive, socialist then this entire concept of less government and less control, raises hackles on your neck and you react with horror. After all, your idea of better government is more government until the government controls every aspect of your life. It's always a curiosity for me to understand what a progressive, liberal, socialist thinks will take place once the government is in absolute control. Actually, I don't think they really think that far unfortunately. Of course, there are plenty of examples through history that point exactly to the expected result, but those thick, rose colored glasses are really blinding providing a delusory escape from reality.

If you're a conservative, you spend your days trying to make the government smaller, less controlling, and less obnoxious. This is not an attempt to demean those who serve in government. Instead, we should look to self-control and self-government rather than government by bureaucracy or more chilling by edict. Think about the Westcliffe prairie dog issue as an example. The government decided on its own there was a problem and then ruled; but the land-owner was required to pay for the eradication effort with the threat of non-compliance resulting in fines attached to property taxes. Is this not the very core concept that pushed the colonists to throw the tea in Boston Bay? Smaller government, more compact and less obtrusive, results in less of this kind of bullying attitude.

The idea of making government smaller drives progressives insane. So, my New Year resolution is that the good people of Custer County will at least, before throwing out the baby with the bath water, consider the unified government idea. Happy New Year!



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Local Mountain News & Notices

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Congratulations, Graduate!

Carrie Howard, daughter of Cindy Howard, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology. Carrie is a 2010 graduate of CCHS.

Fall Commencement from the Warner College of Natural Resources was Friday December 19th, 2014.

Carrie will be working this winter in the Dominican Republic with plans to do field work in the U.S. this spring and summer.

Courtesy photo

*I'm a great believer in luck,
and I find the harder I work
the more I have of it.*

~ Thomas Jefferson

POT GROW

From page 3

alized, the floodgates will open and all the surrounding property will be bought up for similar ventures or by the type of people who have an interest in this kind of trade. This was also the case in the 1800's when Silver Cliff was booming and in the running to become the state capital, silver was being harvested at an astounding rate and hardly a piece of property could be found for sale. As the big boom came, all the supporting industries came. The Saloons and brothels spilled off the silver filled hills and down Cliff Street to support the new booming economy. All booms have some things in common. When they end, you are left with something that resembles a dump filled with the remnants of whatever the boom was.

In this case it may be the remnants of dilapidated greenhouses and depleted soils and water, and whatever may be determined by the next, then better educated generation to be the new toxic superfund cleanup site not fit for human habitation. Meanwhile the spineless "undisclosed investors" and "local wealthy influential people" who have to use a mouthpiece like Mr. Rorick to do their bidding remain in their untainted part of the valley reaping the real profits at the expense of the rest of the residents of the area.

In his original presentation to Silver Cliff Mr. Rorick described his personal conflict in going into the hard liquor production business in this way: "Do I want to help support what I know is a bad thing – people gettin' drunk and killin' people? They're gonna' do it. They're doin' it right now, and it's not my fault." He continued "I'm gonna' make the stuff, but I don't force them to buy it. They buy it on their own free will, and they consume it on their own free will, and what they do is their free will, not mine. So for me, of course it's money and that's what it is – its money."

Switching gears to the production and trafficking of marijuana, he continued with "I don't disagree at all that it's a bad thing, but it's still going on. People are going to smoke and drink regardless of what we do in this meeting, and I don't see any reason why if they're going to do it why the town of Silver Cliff and myself and whoever is

involved shouldn't capitalize."

It is not Mr. Rorick's problem that "More than two dozen people had reported poisonings from marijuana edibles to the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center as of April, citing dizziness, nausea, and hallucinations. At least six children who swallowed innocent-looking edibles, the poison center said," according to a June 9th CBS.com story. It's not his problem that "Parents and doctors have said some children are eating the potent gummy bears, cookies, brownies, and other items by mistake, sending them to hospitals in increasing numbers," according to the same CBS.com story.

The federally funded Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area team says "It has documented a 13,000% increase in marijuana seizures in its four state operating area from 2005 to 2012," according to a USA Today story from December 18th of this year. To be sure, none of that is Mr. Rorick's fault. His efforts to help his "undisclosed investors" make these drugs more readily available has nothing to do with people – including young children – exercising their free will to consume them.

Now that the Attorneys General of neighboring states Nebraska and Oklahoma have sued Colorado over the hole their decriminalization of pot has made on the national drug enforcement network of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, even more concerns over interstate trafficking have been brought to light. According to Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning, "While Colorado reaps millions from the sale of pot, Nebraska taxpayers have to bear the cost." At a press conference in Lincoln, covered in the Colorado Springs Gazette, he continued by explaining that Colorado's legalization "has strained Nebraska and Oklahoma's finances and legal systems. Police are spending more time and money making arrests, housing inmates, impounding vehicles, seizing drugs, and handling other problem's related to Colorado pot." No doubt none of these issues are the problem of Mr. Rorick or his "undisclosed investors" either.

The simple fact that none of this is a problem for the drug entrepreneurs should be enough to raise the flag to make it a problem for the people of Silver Cliff and Custer County



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Practice Continues While Competition Gets a Break

The Bobcat grapplers started their Christmas break without breaking their routine, as they joined twenty other teams who took to the mats at the Pete and Ina Gomez Invitational in Walsenburg last Saturday. The day started right on time and moved at a great pace, ending with three of the eight Bobcats placing, while the team finished close to the middle of the group in twelfth place.

Two weight classes saw Bobcats more than once throughout the day. Titus Crawford and Dylan Schoch entered the 120-pound bracket, while Cody Koble, Edgar Pedigo, and Kyle Rose all weighed in to the 152-pound bracket. Brackets with single Bobcats held 132-pound Taiyr Seiilkhan, 145-pounder Andy Feldmann, and 170-pounder Kody Aldrich.

In a see-saw day, Crawford had two wins by pin countered by two losses to end his day with a 2-2 record, but it was good enough for 5th place. After battling through to a major decision in his second match, Koble found himself facing his first opponent again in his fourth match and then continued on to earn 5th place with a 3-2 record on the day. This week Aldrich again found himself lined up for 3rd place, but it was not to be, and he ended 2-2, giving him 4th place when Jake Jolly of Del Norte handed him a bitter loss at the end of the day. Rose sandwiched a win by pin between two losses to finish his day 1-2, while Schoch, Seiilkhan, Feldmann, and Pedigo each posted 0-2 records on the day.

Although over half the team is new to high



Crawford works to get free.

Courtesy photo by Michelle Pedigo

school wrestling, the potential they bring is building bigger opportunities each week. Coach Ham is working hard to develop the younger members' skills and knowledge while pushing the veterans to reach for their best. For all of his team, Ham encourages them to always wrestle to win, and leave it all on the mat in every match.

The next tournament will not be until the New Year, but the Bobcat grapplers won't be wasting time. Practices will be held throughout the break, as the team looks forward to hosting their next competition at home, January 10th. This is your one chance of the season to support the team without leaving town, and there's nothing like a hometown crowd in your corner to make you work even harder to win. So plan now to come watch all the action and support the team. Watch your weekly paper and community announcements for start time.



**Know that the Lord, He is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.**

Psalm 100:3, NKJV



Bobcat Menu • Dec. 29 - Jan. 1, 2015

**Christmas Break
No School**

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Bobcats Basketball: Teams Each Drop a Couple

by Jim Silver

The CC Bobcats travelled south to Blanca, home of Sierra Grande High School, on Friday, December 19th, for another non-league basketball game. The boys team came up on the short end, losing by the score of 63-32. Turnovers were costly, and shooting percentages were down both from the free-throw line and shots attempted.

A day later ECA—Evangelical Christian Academy in Colorado Springs—came to Custer County High School to take on the Bobcats. Head Coach Jim Bistodeau said before the game that he anticipated another team which would employ the full-court press, just as the Bobcats had encountered the day before with Sierra Grande. His expectation was accurate, and for most of 3 quarters our team often found its players trapped at the wrong end of the court and turning over the ball. ECA came away with the win 88-43.

Going into the Christmas break, the boys team posts a 1 and 3 record for



Jordan Rhodes getting off a shot from 3-point range.

the past 2 weeks of play. These games have all been against non-league schools. With a roster of just seven players, the boys team has a difficult problem with working an effective full-court practice scrimmage. Coach Bistodeau has come up with a creative solution to hone the skills of his players. He has drafted a team of faculty members and some Custer County alumni who are able to give the Bobcats some high-end competition. Thomas Mullett and Lane Byerly have been joined by Brian O'Conner more recently. We remember well these guys of a year or two ago, and the faculty show that they can still play the game.

Game stats for the Lady

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

Bobcats were not available at the *Sentinel* press time, but losses were tallied for both games. The girls are still short-handed, with injuries, illness, and absence for other reasons. The girls put up a good fight on their home court on Saturday, December 20 but lost the game 21-37 against ECA.

The Bobcats will play 3 away games before again being on the home court on Saturday, January 24th, when Sargent comes to town. On Saturday, January 10th, Custer County faces its first league opponent—Cripple Creek-Victor. Two Friday games follow: Del Norte on the 16th and South Park, another league game, on the 23rd. GO BOBCATS!

KIDS Friday, December 26, 2014

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING!

*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*

*Christ by highest heaven adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail, the incarnate deity,
Pleased as Man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.*



*Hail, the heaven-born
Prince of peace!
Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn king.*

Songwriters Stipech, Jim / Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Felix J. L. / Wesley, Charles
Published by Lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

Corner

Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

For Sale

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

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

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

Help Wanted

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Seifert Enterprises is seeking a **Receptionist / Administrative Assistant** with experience managing multiple calendars within a fast-paced environment. This position requires an organized, detail-oriented individual with the ability and desire to multi-task and problem solve within a team environment. Résumés are being accepted by mail only: Attn: HR; PO BOX 210; Westcliffe,

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Events Calendar

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

Monday, January 5, 2015
Back to School!
4:15 p.m.: CCSD Accountability Committee Mtg. in school library
Tuesday, January 6
6:15 p.m.: Ag Advisory Comm. Mtg/ Ag classroom
6:30 p.m.: American Legion meeting at Cliff Lanes; Program on VA Choice Card
Friday, January 9
CCSD Snowcats at Monarch Mountain

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 23, there were two men and one woman in jail.

TRAFFIC

December 17 At 6:45 a.m., the sheriff's office responded to an accident on Highway 69 about mile marker 60. Karen Wisecup of rural Westcliffe was driving a 2009 Ford F150 pickup truck when she hit a deer. Her vehicle sustained moderate damage.

AMBULANCE CALLS

December 23 At 3:30 a.m., a 54-year-old fe-

male walked into the ambulance barn needing assistance for an asthma panic attack. She was transported to Parkview Hospital in Pueblo.

December 22 At 7:48 a.m., an ambulance was dispatched to 1770 Black Cloud Circle in Bull Domingo Ranch for a 67-year-old male with back pain. He was transported to St. Mary Corwin's Medical Center in Pueblo.

December 21 At 2003 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to 1182 Wyka-

gyl for a 65-year-old female with flu symptoms. She was transported to Parkview.

December 20 At 7:28 a.m., an ambulance was dispatched to 213 Cedar Road for a male in his 60s with complications from cancer. He was transported to Parkview.

FIRE CALLS

December 22 At 1553 hours, the fire department responded to a two-car accident on Highway 96 near mile marker 15. No injuries. Traffic report pending.



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*God is our refuge and our strength,
a very present help in trouble*

Psalm 46:1, NKJV



Westcliffe's Christmas Parade



Elementary Students Shine Bright in Christmas Program



The 2014 Custer County Elementary School Christmas Program was an opportunity for the students and staff at the Custer County School to shine for parents and the community this holiday season. Singing, choreographed moves, instrumental accompaniment, and even a sign language presentation of Silent Night, as well as public presentations of some of the students' favorite family holiday traditions were shown off on the stage of the gym at the school.

The standing room only crowd joined in sing-a-longs of Deck the Halls and Go Tell It on the Mountain.

It was evident that music teacher Sarah Thompson and the students worked long and hard to put together the inspiring concert presentation. From the beginning of the school year when parents were asked to help select the songs used in the program, to the performance on Wednesday night, it was clear that skill, pride, and excellence were the goals.

The music program at the Custer County School under the direction of Miss Sarah Thompson and Mr. Andrew Straight is a great asset to this community and contributes to a well-rounded learning experience for our Custer County students.

Congratulations and thanks not only to all the students for the excellent performance to celebrate the heart of this Christmas season, but also to Mrs. Beth Krus for her piano accompaniment, Superintendent Chris Selle; both school principals, Mrs. Holly Anderson and Mrs. Barb Jones; and to all the staff in the school who contributed to the musical program. One long-time resident and regular attendee of the Christmas programs described it as "the best in a long time."



Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

IMPORTANT DATES IN FREMONT

School Board Meetings:

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

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

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

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

**Royal Gorge
Tea Party
2nd & 4th Thursday
of each month
6:30 p.m.
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www.royalgorgetea-party.com
or find them on
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Survivors
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Mugs
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Cañon City
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Farewell to 2014

The Beginning of Unity and Change for Fremont County

by Barbara Penezic

The year 2014 has been a somewhat tumultuous year for residents of Fremont County. We have seen our friends and neighbors leaving the comfort of their easy chairs and remote controls to attend meetings and have a say in how local government governs. We have seen standing room only crowds at recent City Council and County Commissioners meeting. Residents are not only filling a chair at these functions, they are speaking out, making it clear to our elected officials that we expect them to do more than “just fill a seat.” Case in point, they are asking their leaders to get out of their chairs, move from behind their desks and take action. This is a cause for all Fremont County citizens to feel hopeful for the coming of the New Year. We are eager to welcome 2015: THE YEAR OF UNITY AND CHANGE.

The astute reader will have noticed there was no mention of our local school board meetings in the opening paragraph.

are now taking our concerns to the state level) board members vying for re-election this year may receive a rather tepid ‘thanks but no thanks,’ from the 2015 voters who are looking for Unity and Change.

On the positive side, Cañon City has seen some improvements in our roads. Especially those within the boundaries of what some are calling the Tourist Trail. Unfortunately, North 5th and other area streets could still be likened to a roller coaster ride with the many dips and pot holes that continue to take a costly toll on frequent users who have more than usual tire and realignment problems. We are going to see a newly configured intersection at Highway 50 and Dozier even though it is not desired by a majority of the people we have spoken with. The Royal Gorge Park and Bridge has re-opened for business but many of the former loyal employees still have not been called back to work. An employee of the park (who will not be named because he/she would like to remain an

of reasons for this decision was given by our District Attorney, but it is obvious to most that the decision was based primarily on funding, “MONEY.” This same lack of funding is the reason we are being given for the rampant violations of our County Codes in rural Western Fremont County. Marijuana growers and others take the law into their own hands, they erect poorly built hovels, most without sanitation facilities, they grow illegal pot, and they use our precious water resources in violation of our laws, and laugh in the faces of those who protest. When they cultivate their illegal grow they take the 4 to 5 million illegal dollars and return to their home states leaving honest, taxpaying Fremont County citizens to clean up the sewage and other rubbish they leave behind. The growers who have greenhouses will not even leave for the winter, they will remain and re-plant a winter grow. Meanwhile, shots have been fired in the Deer Mountain area that have come perilously close to residents. Not one single County Commissioner has made the trip to Cotopaxi and the surrounding areas to investigate the happenings. Mayhap, inaction is as much to blame for the rampant illegal activities in the Deer Mountain area as is lack of funding.

Residents of Cañon City have seen an increase of violent activity in 2014. The Phay St. killings, a house blown completely off its foundation in a failed suicide attempt. Two officer involved shootings in the past month, one resulting in the death of the attacker. Shots were fired by unknown thugs on Copper Gulch Rd. this week. Shots that came dangerously close to two women walking home from their mail box. Fremont County citizens rose up and defeated the sale of recreational marijuana at the polls last month. This one issue more than any other has unified the residents and proven there is power in numbers. The struggles of the Deer Mountain residents should make clear, Now is the time to Stand up and Speak out. We must not stop now, there is much work to be done. Let’s all stand together and make 2015: THE YEAR of UNITY AND CHANGE in FREMONT COUNTY.

Be Informed,

Get Involved

Deadline December 31 to Fill Vacant Council Seat

by Candy Thompson

As of December 19, no letters applying for Gerald Meloni’s District 1 seat on the Cañon City Council had been received by the City Council. Even though Meloni resigned in October, there is no mention of his absence on the official website and he is still listed as the councilman representing District 1.

Notifications have been put in the *Daily Record*, we were told at the city office. According to City Attorney John Havens, the qualifications are simple: one must have been a resident of Cañon City for at least one year, a resident of District 1 (a map is on the website) for any length of time, and at least 18 years of age.

**...a conservative
City Council
member who really
cares about the
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refreshing addition**

The City Council will call a special open meeting most likely in January to interview each person who submits a letter for consideration. If no letters are submitted, they will repeat the process. If only one or two are submitted, they are not required to automatically choose one. At the meeting each person will be given time to introduce themselves and then will be questioned by the members of the council who will then vote. A tie would be determined by the mayor.

I suggested that some information about this on the website would be helpful to anyone who missed the other notices and seems to be the most logical place to which Attorney Havens agreed. Also in the wake of the public’s recent marijuana concerns involving the council, it seems that the council would want to be as open as possible with information involving the replacement of a member whose term is only half over.

Since our Council would have overwhelmingly voted for retail marijuana within the city limits going against the wishes of the people they represent, a conservative City Council member who really cares about the people of Cañon City would be a refreshing addition. Anyone out there willing to take this on and serve for the remaining 2 years? Take your letter to the City offices at 128 Main Street and give to Cathy Rabe before the end of the year. Any questions call her at 269-9011.

Be Informed,

Get Involved

**Let’s all stand together
and make 2015:
THE YEAR of
UNITY AND CHANGE in
FREMONT COUNTY.**

No, this was not an oversight. Parents and concerned citizens (myself included in both categories) have attended the meetings. We have sat patiently as members patted each other’s backs for all their hard work and some schools were given accolades for whatever various reasons. However, if you have been paying attention to test scores you will know that very little progress has actually been achieved at our area schools. When the public attends to express their concern, they are given a few minutes to give a statement, board members sit quietly while their minds are clearly busy with other thoughts, when the speaker has thanked them for the opportunity to talk, they will receive a polite, ‘thank you.’ Most interested persons (myself included

employee of the park) tells me, “We have entire crews working out here that need to have an interpreter because not one of them can speak English!” This while many of us have sons and daughters, husbands and wives, who are seeking employment. The majority of the road crews working in Cañon City are reportedly Pueblo residents. The reminders to “buy local” must not encompass a hire locals theme.

The Phay Street killings, a mother and two of her three children brutally slashed to death in their own home while the third child is left to struggle with the memories of that horrific night for the rest of her days. The killer, Mr. Van Winkle, did not even have to face the death penalty. A plethora

A Traditional Christmas Celebration

by Edward Whitcraft,
Royal Gorge Tea Party

If you were in the vicinity of Mountain View Core Knowledge School Wednesday evening 17 December 2014 you would have heard a very joyful noise coming from the gymnasium in the form of Christmas Caroling. Yes, it was the second annual Community Comes Together for a Traditional Christmas Celebration. Over 100 folks indulged themselves in this gala celebration ranging from young school age children to some senior, senior citizens. But you could feel the spirit of the season in the attitude of

ty of sweets in all shapes and sizes to satisfy even the sourest pallet. With hot chocolate or coffee and a plate of goodies everyone found a chair and the festivities began.

The Cañon City High School ROTC Honor Guard started the evening event by presenting the Colors and Richard Hollabaugh, our Masters of Ceremony, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. While those in attendance were still standing Pastor Randy Plaff from the Cowboy Church opened in a very moving prayer setting the tone that this event was

mas and how the world was just not prepared for the birth as it happened. Pastor Benny alluded to the fact that even though the birth was foretold throughout scripture no one expected the King of Kings and Lord of Lords to be born in a smelly old stable. Some believed like the magi and the shepherds but for the most part the birth went unnoticed. The summary of the message was if Jesus would come in the form of a babe to be born in such a place and to be nothing but a humble servant, "where would he go to save me"? That was Pastor Benny's closing statement.

Richard lead the group in more Christmas hymns and then we all listened to a beautiful rendition of Oh Holy Night by Sheryl Loggins with Lobo accompanying on the guitar. Lobo Loggins then played and sang How Great Thou Art with Sheryl and the audience singing back up. Sheryl and Lobo Loggins are local entertainers and if you have never had the pleasure of hearing them sing, you are certainly missing a real treat. They are excellent entertainers. By the way, they received a standing ovation after their two songs. Both were very powerful renditions.

As the caroling continued in between sets we heard the poem, The Spirit of Christmas by Katie Barr, Fremont County Clerk and Recorder. Katie did a tremendous rendition of the poem and



Cañon City High School's ROTC Honor Guard and John Emmerling of the RGTP, dressed appropriately for an evening of caroling.

Courtesy photo by John Penezic, Jr.



A surprise visit from Santa, just before the events of the evening were brought to a close.

Courtesy photo by John Penezic, Jr.

all who entered through the doors—they just wanted to share in this magical community get together with friends and neighbors. No community event would be complete without food and everyone seemed to have brought their favorite dessert as there were plen-

also about Christ in Christmas. Richard wasted no time in getting the group into the mood of singing as we immediately sang four wonderful Christmas hymns. Pastor Benny Soto gave a message relating to Jesus being born in Bethlehem that very first Christ-

left us all understanding that you "can't buy and sell the spirit of Christmas." On the spur of the moment Kerry Jacobs, KRLN 1400 AM announcer, was volunteered to do the reading of "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus." Kerry did such a wonderful job that even we old folks started believing in Santa all over again. Richard managed to round up five young ladies who were willing to be bell ringers that accompanied the caroling throughout the evening.

We had a surprise visit from Santa right before the evening, activities were about to close and you need to know that Santa had a few of the folks in attendance on his bad list as he hand-

ed out a few rocks with a promise that the recipients only had one week to shape up or the rocks would turn to coal. The young folks seemed to really enjoy the visit from Santa and each received a candy cane.

To close out the evening Richard read the poem of "The Night Before Christmas." The community came together singing "Silent Night" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". The entire celebration was very refreshing as young and old seemed to meld together in the real spirit of the season. Just enjoying what this time of the year is supposed to be. This event brought the traditional religious aspect and magical part together where ev-

everyone could partake and enjoy. We want to thank Richard and Roxanna Hollabaugh for bringing this to our community along with the following sponsors: KRLN 1400AM, Star Country 104.5 FM, Master Printers, and Mountain View Core Knowledge School. A special thank you to Colorado District 60 Representative Jim Wilson who somehow has an in with Santa Claus. We appreciate all of you for your participation and support.

Hopefully, this will become a yearly event in the community and it is our prayer that it will just get bigger with more citizens coming out and participating. You really did miss a great Christmas Celebration.



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*Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
You will revive me;
You will stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
And Your right hand will save me.*

Psalm 138:7, NKJV

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.

The Brutal Law of the New Caliphate

The new caliphate, the Islamic State (IS) has released its revised penal code for ruling the world. Herein evidence once again that Islam is neither of God, nor is it peaceful. Those who say that allah is the same as YHVH are in the very least ignorant, and in being so, deny the foundational premise of Christianity found in John 14:6 when Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” There is no connection between the God of the Bible and allah, which is the antithesis of the God of the Bible. Many could use the Koran itself, and its sharia law, to prove that if allah and YHVH were the same, then God would be against himself.

The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) translated a document detailing the (IS) penal code was released on the Jihadi Media Platform forum (alplatformmedia.com) on December 15. “Clarification [regarding] the Hudud [Koranic punishments]” included a list of crimes and their respective punishment according to the shari’a. According to MEMRI, IS “published the document as a warning and a reminder to the people living under its rule. It also reaffirmed its commitment to enforce it vigilantly. The document begins with various Koranic verses emphasizing the need for Muslims to adhere to the shari’a, while noting that those who do not follow it are considered unbelievers.”

Crimes with death sentences are: Blasphemy against Allah; Blasphemy against the Prophet Muhammad (even if the

accuser repents); Blasphemy against Islam; Adultery: (Stoning until death in cases where adulterer was married and 100 lashes and exile if he or she were unmarried); Sodomy (homosexuality) (Death for both the person committing the act, and the one receiving it); Spying for the unbelievers; Apostasy; Murder; Murder and stealing (both death and crucifixion). Some lesser crimes include 80 lashes for drinking alcohol or slandering. Stealing as part of banditry will result in cutting off the right hand and the left leg. The crime with the least amount of punishment is terrorizing people, for which one will be exiled.

Islam is a death culture incompatible with freedom and representative government. This is clear by the way it administers government and law. This is what Christians are faced with in Syria, Iraq, and other places in the Middle East where this satanic cult is allowed to prosper. No matter what anyone says, this is the face of Islam. It is what is being taught in mosques across America, and in Palestinian schools in Israel. It is what lays deep inside true Muslim believers. There is no way to be part of Islam and not escape what Islam is. It is in black and white in the Koran, and it is as evil and brutal as anything on earth. Allah is not the same as YHVH. The Koran is the antithesis of the Bible.

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!
Bill Wilson
www.dailyjot.com
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*As for God, His way is perfect;
the word of the Lord is proven;
He is a shield to
all who trust in Him.*

Psalm 18:30, NKJV

Pipe Dream Versus Reality: Vermont Giving Up On Single-Payer Health Care Over Ballooning Costs

by Sarah Hurtubise,
DailyCaller.com

(Editor/GG: Listen to this taxpayers. When liberal Vermont found out that they themselves would have to ACTUALLY PAY for their OWN health care, they canned it. Read every word of the article, folks. Single payer does not slow health care cost increases. When you eliminate competition you eliminate the only economic process that contains costs.

Now, apply the facts below to every state and federal program out there. They are all over budget, out-of-control, monsters devouring our country with debt and sloth. You can only borrow so much money without repayment. London bridge is falling down....)

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin is canceling his dream plan to create a single-payer health system in the state, he announced Wednesday.

“I am not going to undermine the hope of achieving critically important health care reforms for this state by pushing prematurely for single payer when it is not the right time for Vermont,” Shumlin said in a statement Wednesday. “In my judgment, now is not the right time to ask our legislature to take the step of passing a financing plan for Green Mountain Care.”

The problem is, of course, how to pay for it. Even while plans were moving forward for a 2017 launch of the single-payer system, to be called Green Mountain Care, Shumlin had held off on releasing a plan for how to pay for the system, waiting until his an-

nouncement Wednesday.

Tax hikes required to pay for the system would include a 11.5 percent payroll tax as well as an additional income tax ranging all the way up to 9.5 percent. Shumlin admitted that in the current climate, such a precipitous hike would be disastrous for Vermont’s economy.

“Pushing for single-payer health care when the time isn’t right and it might hurt our economy would not be good for Vermont and it would not be good for true health care reform,” Shumlin said. “It could set back for years all of our hard work toward the important goal of universal, publicly-financed health care for all.”

Shumlin’s office released a slideshow with more details about financing for the plan which fell through. The state had been anticipating \$267 million in federal funding to revamp its system, courtesy of a 2013 Obamacare waiver — but the current estimate has fallen to \$106 million. Vermont also overestimated by \$150 million in federal Medicaid funding.

But beyond federal funding, the report also admits that the single-payer system won’t save money as Vermont officials had planned. While both previous reports on Green Mountain Care had assumed “hundreds of millions of dollars” in savings in the very first year of operation, Shumlin’s office is now admitting that’s “not practical to achieve.”

“State government and providers need to partner to bend cost curve over time,” the report concluded. And the state admitted that while it would

need to “ease the transition” for Vermont’s businesses, it would be “extremely expensive” to do so.

Shumlin also cited slow economic recovery in Vermont as reason to delay, and hopes to try again in the future. But its failure, especially on economic grounds, is a resounding defeat for single-payer advocates.

Many opponents of Obamacare continue to maintain that national health reform didn’t go far enough. Retiring Senator Tom Harkin, who helped author Obamacare, recently expressed his regret that the health care law passed at all because it didn’t create single-payer.

Shumlin’s admission that the shift to single-payer won’t alleviate rising health care costs — and that it’ll add a bundle of tax hikes — buttresses single-payer’s political opposition.

Vermont Lt. Gov. Phil Scott, a Republican, applauded the decision to back off the plans.

“As I’ve said continually over the last two years, if the Governor’s single-payer plan places another burden on already overtaxed Vermonters, we simply cannot afford it,” Scott said in a statement Wednesday. “Our state cannot afford a \$2.6 billion bill, and Vermont cannot afford to continue down this path of uncertainty. We’ve already spent far too much money exploring this idea, and the discussion has paralyzed our business community.”

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Coffman Saves the Day: Fixes The New Colorado VA Hospital Construction Disaster

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman is busy cleaning up the Aurora VA hospital mess – a bureaucratic quagmire of epic proportions resulting from lax oversight and incompetent administration from Obama’s now-infamous Department of Veteran’s Affairs and Congressman Ed Perlmutter, who carried the bill that set the debacle in motion when the Democrat represented Aurora.

The mess got messier yesterday when a federal appeals judge ruled Kiewit-Turner could walk away from the project due to breach of contract on the part of the VA. Apparently, the VA only budgeted \$600

million for a facility scheduled to cost \$1 billion to build, and the construction company has been sounding the alarm for years. As for Kiewit-Turner, the company says it has not been paid and has even floated the project \$100 million to keep it moving forward.

But, never you fear, Coffman is here. Coffman passed a bill in the House that would give management of the construction project to the Army Corps of Engineers. But after Colorado Senators Michael Bennet and Mark Udall couldn’t move the bill through the Democratic chamber, Coffman brokered a deal directly with VA and the Army Corps of Engineers. Yesterday, the VA stood down, tails

between legs, and relinquished control of the project to the more competent USACE.

There is still more work to do – namely, what is this administration going to do to get the 1,000 laid off workers back on the job? And, even worse, get these workers back to work before the holidays. Here’s what one worker told ABC7:

“It’s like a Scrooge. The VA Scrooge,” said Kirk, a welder on the project who didn’t want to give his last name.

Kirk waited outside the meeting Kiewit-Turner held with sub-contractors because he’s been unable to retrieve his personal tools from the job site. He said

he needs them to take another job.

“I’m starving,” Kirk said. “I’ve been two years unemployed, and I’m trying to get back on my feet. I’ve only been eight months on the job. So I’m trying to stay employed.”

And notice Perlmutter, the man who made this mess, is pretty much invisible. Thankfully, Coffman is there to clean-up Perlmutter’s mess. Hosting folksy “Government in the Grocery” events is pretty ineffective if Perlmutter’s constituents cannot even afford to buy groceries.

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Vicar of Baghdad: ISIS Beheaded Four Christian Children: They Said, "We Love Yeshua (Jesus)"

by Michael W. Chapman,
CNS.News.com

Reverend Canon Andrew White, head of the only Anglican church in Iraq, described in a recent interview some of the atrocities committed against Iraqi Christians by the Islamic State, including the beheading of four children who refused to convert to Islam and told their killers, "We love Yeshua [Jesus], we have always loved Yeshua."

Canon White, known as the "Vicar of Baghdad" because of his church there, St. George's, talked about the murders during an interview in Israel earlier this month with the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN). White, who was being hunted by Islamic State jihadis in Iraq, was ordered to go to Israel several weeks ago by his religious superior, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Canon White, who has multiple sclerosis that slightly affects his speech and movement, told CBN, "Things have gotten so bad in Iraq. They came to one of our people the other day, one of the Christians – two days, two stories. They said

to one man, an adult, 'Either you say the words of converting to Islam or we kill all your children.'"

"He was desperate, he said the words," related Canon White. "And then he phoned me and said, 'Abouna, Abouna [Father], I said the words, does that mean that Yeshua [Jesus] doesn't love me any more? I said those words because I couldn't see my children being killed. I said, 'Elias, no, Jesus still loves you, he will always love you.'"

Canon White continued, "A few days later, another story of some of our young people. ISIS turned up and they said to the children, 'You say the words that you will follow Mohammed.'"

"The children, all under 15, four of them," he recounted, "they said, 'No, we love Yeshua, we have always loved Yeshua, we have always followed Yesua. Yeshua has always been with us.' They said, 'Say the words!' They said, 'No, we can't.'"

"They chopped all their heads off," said Canon White. "How do you respond to that? You just cry."

"They're my children, spir-

itually," said Canon White. "That's what we have been going through. That's what we are going through."

asked, "What is it like? Is it even possible for Christians to live under ISIS right now?"

They said to one man, an adult, 'Either you say the words of converting to Islam or we kill all your children.'

He then talked about how most of his church staff is in northern Iraq, helping the Christians, and that the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, had ordered him to leave Iraq.

"They [ISIS] were threatening to kill me, they were after me," said Canon White. "They wanted that Abouna [priest] from England. So, the Archbishop of Canterbury said, 'You've got to leave now.' I can't argue with the archbishop of Canterbury, especially as he used to be my colleague. We used to work together. So, I'm in Israel now. He wanted me to get out of Baghdad."

The CBN reporter then

Canon White said, "No. Impossible. All of them have had to flee."

In addition to his work as the vicar at St. George's Church in Baghdad, Canon white is founder and president of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East, a charity that provides spiritual, medical, and humanitarian care and also seeks reconciliation among the different religious groups in the region.

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Judge Declares Obama Immigration Action Unconstitutional

by Neil Munro,
DailyCaller.com

President Barack Obama's unilateral amnesty is unconstitutional, a federal court in Pennsylvania declared December 16.

The judge, Arthur Schwab, declared that "inaction by Congress does not make unconstitutional executive action constitutional... [and Obama's] executive action goes beyond prosecutorial discretions — it is legislation."

The president can only use his claim of prosecutorial discretion to let deputies make case-by-case decisions, not to grant work permits en-masse to 5 million illegals, the court said.

"The court holds that [Obama's Nov. 20] Executive Action is unconstitutional because it violates the separation of powers and the Take Care Clause of the Constitution," concluded the decision, which was decided in the U.S. Court of the Western District of Pennsylvania.

The next step is unclear because the judge was deciding how to treat an illegal immigrant arrested for drunk driving, and was not asked to rule on the constitutionality of Obama's action.

Three other lawsuits have been filed against Obama's amnesty. One was

filed by 24 states, and the other was filed by Sheriff Joe Arpaio in Arizona.

The legal disputes will be settled in the Supreme Court, which has recently handed down decisions that have both helped and hurt Obama's claims. The Supreme Court has blocked some of Obama's decisions for presidential overreach, but it has also centralized more power over immigration to him than it provided to prior presidents.

The Supreme Court acts slowly, but lower-court judges may block Obama's plan until the Supreme Court decides the issue.

[T]he administration tried to evade the issue by saying the amnesty isn't relevant to the Honduran's criminal conviction.

The 2015 budget funds Obama's unpopular amnesty because GOP leaders in the House and Senate did not try to bar funding.

In April, the Spanish-speaking,

42-year-old Honduran national was caught driving while drunk in Pennsylvania. At the time, he was working for his brother's landscaping business. The illegal immigrant pled guilty, forcing the judge to apply the usual penalty, which includes the transfer of the criminal to the immigration agencies for subsequent repatriation.

But if Obama's amnesty allows the drunk driver to remain in the United States, the judge would have to consider a different penalty that likely includes one year of supervised release from jail. That sentencing problem prompted the judge to examine the constitutionality of the Obama amnesty.

When quizzed by the judge, the administration tried to evade the issue by saying the amnesty isn't relevant to the Honduran's criminal conviction.

The judge decided to delay imposing a penalty until after another hearing in January, and directed the government to provide more information about whether the man would benefit from the amnesty. The judge didn't push his point further, and he didn't try to block Obama from implementing his amnesty.

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The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand

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We Will NOT Comply



by Mike Vanderboegh

(Editor/GG: If you remember, Mike Vanderboegh, founder of the Three Percent movement and hard core 2nd Amendment supporter, came to our Independence Day Parade last year. He marched with the Southern Colorado Patriots section and gave a great speech on the 2nd Amendment at the rally at the end of the parade. This year, in Washington state, with millions of dollars of anti-gun-Bloomberg's money, the people of that state passed an unconstitutional anti-2nd Amendment law requiring various forms of gun checks and registration. The patriots in that state had had enough and staged a rally in the capital against the law.

Almost two thousand, mostly armed, patriots showed up. Mike flew up from his home in Alabama and gave one of his most rousing speeches ever. You can see here on Youtube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxFFo-vYZ3t0. Mike sums up where we are as a nation and what we have to do to save it. Read every word. His blog site is: sipseystreetirregulars.blogspot.com/

Well, I'd like to introduce myself for some of you don't know

me. My name is Mike Vanderboegh. I'm from the great free state of Alabama, and I must say it's a trifle colder than I'm used to, this season at any rate. If you've got to pigeonhole my politics, I'm a Christian libertarian. I believe in God, free men, free markets, the rule of law under the Founders' Republic and that the Constitution extends to everyone regardless of race, creed, color or religion. I also believe that the Second Amendment is the guarantor of liberty in this country -- the right to keep and bear arms which is not created by the Constitution but which is merely codified by it.

I bring you greetings from your fellow resistance fighters in CT, NY, MD, and CO.

Now, I am the founder of the Three Percent movement. I've been a Second Amendment activist for 20 years and I gotta to tell

you something. I've seen a lot of history in those 20 years but today -- this day -- this is history in the making. Look around, this is history in the making and you are making it.

So I want to tell you, welcome to the resistance behind enemy lines. I bring you greetings from your fellow resistance fighters in CT, NY, MD, and CO. Look around you. What you see are fellow soldiers of the army of the American Republic in mobilization against a tyranny that the Founders themselves warned us about -- a tyranny that their diligent study of history told them would one day come. Despite their best efforts and plans THAT DAY IS HERE.

But so, as they expected, YOU ARE HERE AS WELL in answer to their ghostly call across the centuries. You are here.

As I said, you are by no means the first to join this resistance. In CT, NY, MD, and CO this fight to defy tyrannical state laws has been quietly raging for over a year and a half now. I know this because I have been behind enemy lines in those states. I have personally broken their laws by smuggling forbidden items. So have my friends. I have met the brave men and women who have faced down their own state governments -- who have refused to kowtow to unconstitutional diktats -- and who maintain their defiance even when threatened with the coercive powers of their local regimes. They have defied those governments and the tyrant wannabes don't know whether to defecate or go blind.

You know the Founders were as suspicious of unrestrained democracy as they were of absolute monarchy. Both can be tyrannical. Both can be deadly. Both are threats to life and liberty and property. This is why they crafted a constitutional republic. The Founders knew that the mob could be manipulated by cynical elites to rob other citizens of their liberty, their property, and their lives -- cynical elites, wealthy men, powerful men, with unceasing appetites for

more and more power.

Tyranny, as you have now experienced with I-594, can be voted into existence by a majority. This does not make it right. This does not make it legitimate. Indeed it is a violation of natural law and natural rights derived from God. And I refer you to the Declaration of Independence for the finest expression of that truth.

For as a people we have been here before. The faces change. The soothing lies told to mask the tyranny shift, but the conflict is the same -- the question is the same and has been since the time of the Founders -- DO THE PEOPLE SERVE THE GOVERNMENT? OR DOES THE GOVERNMENT SERVE THE PEOPLE?

This is the question that Bill Gates, Paul Allen, and Michael Bloomberg answer one way and we answer the other -- there is no negotiating or finessing the answer. It is not possible. It is one or the other. It cannot be both. One side or the other will win the argument AND I SWEAR BY THE FOUNDERS' REPUBLIC AND THE GREAT GOD JEHOVAH THAT WE WILL WIN THIS FIGHT! WE WILL WIN IT, OR DIE TRYING!

For as the Founders knew, it does not matter if a common criminal breaks into your home to rob, rape, and pillage or if a majority of your neighbors vote to have the same thing done to you -- the inalienable right to self defense of liberty, property, and life remains the same. And let me tell you a home truth that we know down in Alabama -- and I say it to you and I say it to all the Bill Gates, Paul Allens and Michael Bloomborgs of the world -- WHEN DEMOCRACY TURNS TO TYRANNY, THE ARMED CITIZENRY STILL GETS TO VOTE! So be careful what you wish for, you may get it.

And I am not joking when I say that you are now behind enemy lines. If we are going to tell the truth, let us first tell the truth to ourselves. Let us have no illusions. Let us not try to sugarcoat what is obvious

to anyone who has eyes to see. The people who crafted I-594 knew exactly what they were doing. Tyrants develop appetites for other people's liberty and property and lives -- and they will manipulate the mob in order that they

secure our liberties from just the sort of threat that I-594 represented. If we are going to tell the truth to the domestic enemies of the Constitution, let us also tell the truth to ourselves and to our allies in this fight.

[W]e are here today to remind them and to remind the enemies of liberty in this state THAT IF THEY FAIL THERE ARE ALWAYS SECOND AMENDMENT REMEDIES.

might eat. Such people are the very definition of what the Founders called "domestic enemies of the Constitution." So let us be plain. If they are enemies of liberty and they have temporarily succeeded in stealing ours, then they are enemies of the Founders' Republic and you here in Washington are now indeed behind enemy lines. This is no joke. This is as serious as it gets.

Claiming legitimacy of a single election, they will send armed men to your door to work their will upon you -- to feed their appetites. This is the iron fist of tyranny that they

For years gun rights groups have fought on the same battlefields using the same tactics and consistently, incrementally, sometimes almost invisibly, we've LOST. We've lost because we let the enemies of liberty define the battlefield. Yet having been pushed back, again and again, the people that we entrusted to defend our liberties politically are now insisting that WE ALL DO THE SAME THING AGAIN AND AGAIN because. . . well, because that is what they do. And if you don't like it, if you don't like the fact that they are losing your



wrap their velvet lies around. DO IT -- THEY COMMAND -- OR ELSE. To which I would reply, or else WHAT? For the truth is that the rule of law as crafted by the Founders protects THEM from US far more than it protects US from THEM! And if they destroy that rule of law they will be taught that lesson by the very people that they seek to victimize. They will be taught that lesson by YOU.

But we did not have to be here, at this place, with our backs to the wall, our firearms on our shoulders -- forced into these awful choices. We are here because of failures -- failures of our own and failures of those entrusted to wage the political fight to

rights for you, you simply need to send them more money SO THEY CAN LOSE SOME MORE.

But we are here today to remind them and to remind the enemies of liberty in this state THAT IF THEY FAIL THERE ARE ALWAYS SECOND AMENDMENT REMEDIES. And if that scares them, if they are made uncomfortable by that, if they continue to bicker like children and play the "pragmatic game" trying to be liked by the press and "understood" by their enemies -- they should understand there is always US -- eternally US -- the resistance army of the

See III PERCENT on page 17

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.

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III PERCENT

From page 16

Founders' Republic. And like that determined minority of colonists – that original Three Percent who fought the forces of



the greatest empire on the planet to a standstill – WE WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED, WE WILL NOT COMPROMISE, WE WILL NOT BACK DOWN, AND WE WILL

BE HEARD – ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

So I say to the deal makers who claim to be on our side, if you want to make a deal, you had bloody well make it based on THAT reality. To the NRA and the SAF, to Wayne LaPi-

and Gates – I say, take a good look around you at the reality that one side's failures and the other side's successes have produced. Take a look around at the reality. That reality is you. Yeah.

And when they have done

erre and Alan Gottlieb, to all the leaders of every so-called mainstream gun rights group – and yes, even to the domestic enemies of the Constitution like Bloomberg and Allen

so, when they looked around and seen which way the wind is now blowing, I would quote these lines from that most under-appreciated American philosopher Frank

“Trust in the Lord, boys, but keep your powder dry.”

Zappa who wrote:

Do you love it?

Do you hate it?

There it is,

The way YOU made it.

For we are the Three Percent. We will not fire the first shot, but if needs be we WILL fire the last. We will not target innocents like the militarized

police units that will be dispatched to the doors of our homes in furtherance of I-594. BUT WE WILL ANSWER THE GUILTY.

We are here. We are NOT going away. If that scares you then deal with it. But leave us alone. Ease up out of our faces. Take your hands off our liberty and property and keep them to yourselves as the Founders intended.

Leave us alone! That's all we ask. That's all we DEMAND.

Like the flag says, “Don't tread on me.” DON'T TREAD ON US!

And to all of you resistance fighters here today, I say emulate your fellow soldiers of liberty in CT and elsewhere who are also behind enemy lines – Be watchful. Be patient. Fight the political fight. Think and act outside the box. Work to prevent violence. But always be prepared, as the Founders were. And remember Blackerby's advice:

“Trust in the Lord, boys, but keep your powder dry.” Thank you very much.

Nashville Police Refuse Secret Service Illegal Search of Obama Critic

Tim Brown,
FreedomOutPost.com

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

News 5 reports:

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

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

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

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

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

police chief recounted what happened.

“The resident refused to come outside and shouted back, ‘Show me your warrant,’” Anderson wrote.

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

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

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

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

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

Anderson said that there was no acknowledgement of his letter, but that Smith did return his call with a “condescending and dismissive” tone. After that, Anderson demanded a meeting with the Secret Service's Nashville office (can't

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

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

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

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

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

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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.



Wage War With Truth

All evidence available indicates that Iran has not only been working on developing a nuclear bomb but also on the ability to deliver one to a distant location. The concern is compounded by the Iranians' continual threats to annihilate Israel. The political history of Iran suggests that timing is critical in the minds of its leadership. One only has to look back to late 1979 when the new Iranian regime, under the command of the late Ayatollah Khomeini, attacked the U.S. Embassy and took 90 American hostages.

Amazingly, President Jimmy Carter, in an act of desperation, reached out for assistance to the Palestinian Liberation Organization, a terrorist group that had vowed to destroy Israel. The Iranians thumbed their noses at a weak and indecisive Carter administration.

In January 1981, when Ronald Reagan was sworn into office, Iran released all of the American hostages, believing that Reagan would take necessary and decisive actions to respond to Iran with military force. The feeble attempts of President Carter to deal with terrorists did much to weaken our country at the time. It was also very damaging to Israel that the Carter administration attempted to work in partnership with a terrorist group committed to the destruction of Israel.

The present White House has embraced Carter policies, and that has done nothing but embolden the maniacs to continue to pursue a vision of extermination of all infidels. When Khomeini returned to Iran from European exile, he imported an Islamic revolution. The followers of the Ayatollah established an Islamic republic in Iran, seeking to bring about the Islamic Caliphate, formally abolished in 1924, in which there would be one worldwide Islamic community that would apply the religious laws of Islam and the traditions of the prophet Muhammad.

By so doing, Khomeini set out to wage a war to the death against contemporary infidels: "the big Satan," the United States, and "the little Satan," Israel. Not one event or statement has transpired that would suggest that this radical philosophy or theology has been altered to the slightest degree; on the contrary, the rhetoric persists.

A jihad by definition is a Muslim "holy" war against any religious group that is not Muslim; originally, it was applied to killing Jews, Catholics, and Greek Orthodox (630-1900 A.D.). All murders, assassinations, suicide bombings, and military actions are "holy" and "righteous," according to the Koran. Lying is also legitimate, as well as violating treaties and killing unarmed women and children. When dealing with this kind of mentality, you can expect nothing but deceit, hatred, and aggression. America's leadership would do well to spend some time in a politically incorrect history class.

The Scriptures make the bold assertion that history is a series of circles; therefore, the best way to understand the present or predict the future is to examine the past. The biblical book of Esther is set in Persia (modern-day Iran), which had political influence from India to Ethiopia. The kingdom was populated with thousands of exiled Jews, carried away by the Babylonians (the site of present-day Iraq), who in turn had been upended by Persians. The King, Ahasuerus, promoted Haman to prime minister, and he quickly demonstrated a livid hatred for the Jewish people, plotting their eradication. Not all of the population was complicit with this verdict, as they considered the many positive contributions that the Jews had offered to their society.

Modern Iran finds itself in a similar situation. The recent fraudulent election brought thousands of protestors to the

streets of Tehran. To be sure, they were not protesting in favor of Israel, but the demonstration proved that Iran is a divided country in its general sympathies. Tragically, our President failed to seize that brief window of opportunity to lend even a word of encouragement to the dissenters. Internal turmoil is the most effective weapon at our disposal.

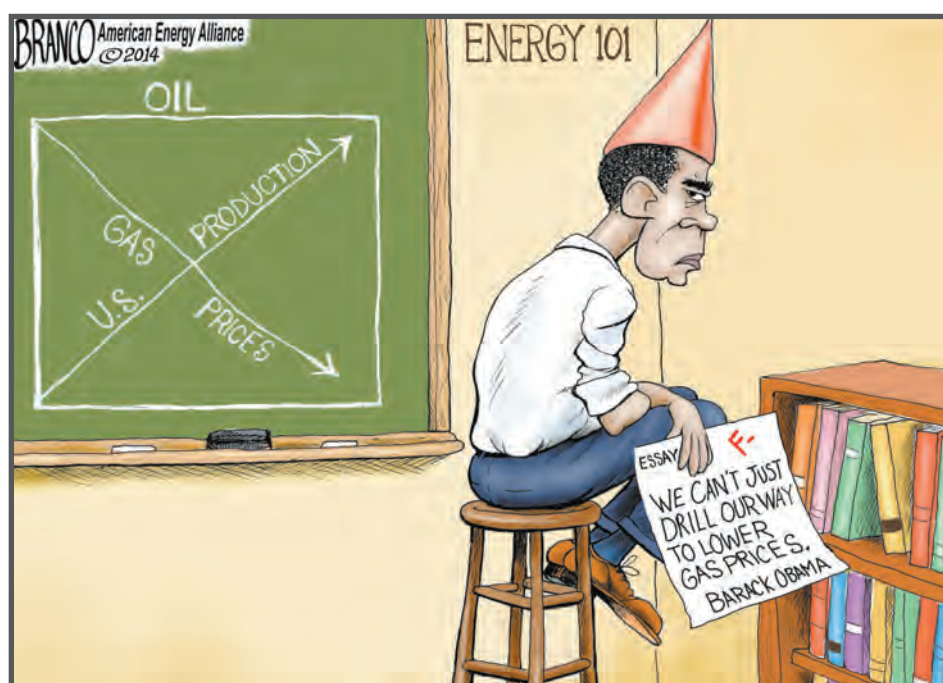
Mordecai, a Jew who was the principle object of Haman's abhorrence, had an adopted daughter, Esther, who through a series of God-ordained events, had been elevated to queen and became the focal point of this story. Esther was given opportunity to show the king the true motives of Haman, who was then hanged on the same gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. The entire episode reveals a present strategy. Because of the divided thinking in Iran, should we not be engaged in flooding that country with information?

Every media possibility from radio to printed material should be aimed at its inhabitants. The Hamans have sought to control the populous with propaganda—how about a little fire with fire? Here is a major mind-bender that ought to be widely publicized: Sura 17:107 of the Koran confirms the truth that the land of Palestine is the homeland of the Jews. This Sura says that Allah gave Moses the signs and then said to the children of Israel (not Ishmael) after him, "Abide in the land." If any Muslim tried to take a foot of that land from Israel, he would be fighting against Allah, for M.M. Ali (an Islamic scholar) tells us plainly that "by the land" is meant that the land is promised to the Israelites—the Holy Land.

Alas, political correctness would never allow us to use their own religion against our declared enemy even if the lives of thousands of innocents hang in the balance. That would be tantamount to Gitmo torture.

Wishing you a Happy and Blessed New Year!

from
The Sheepdog



Doom and Gloom: Hickenlooper Promises Sky Will Fall If State Gives Tax Refunds

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

(Editor/GG: The democrats are trying to steal your upcoming TABOR tax refunds. Chickenlooper says grandma in the state nursing home is gonna starve and our children will have no teachers. Please, at least give us a new sob story. These libs simply have no shame.)

In an interview with Colorado Public Radio, Democratic Governor John Hickenlooper bemoaned the idea that the state of Colorado would have to refund tax dollars to taxpayers as part of the Colorado constitution. From the article:

"Hickenlooper says [giving funds back to taxpayers] will mean the state may have to cut some essential services. As an example, he says the state won't be able to provide oversight of nursing homes to the extent it currently does — and at a time when the nursing home population is growing."

Given this dire proclamation that nursing homes will lack oversight — Grandma is in danger! — we assume that the state budget contains absolutely no fat that it could trim from superfluous or wasteful programs. Wait. What's that? There are areas of massive waste. But, what about Grandma? Here are some suggested areas from which to cut the fat:

- Rein in Connect for Health Colorado's spending as a recent audit showed that the exchange was blowing through tax dollars, some of which enriched Democratic political operatives, like Hick's campaign team. While much of the exchange was federally-funded, the state spent at least \$20 million in 2013 to support the out-of-control organization. The worst

offense? Nearly \$40,000 for promotional lip balm. Grandma could have some silky soft lips with \$40,000 in chapstick. Then, there was the firm given \$129,000 to engage voters in healthcare — a contract that the audit found to be so incomplete that it was unclear whether campaign finance laws were broken. (We're guessing yes.)

- Leave the Morrison bridge alone. U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn listed this bridge as one of the worst wastes in the country in his 2014 annual "Wastebook". Apparently, there was talk about whether the bridge would have to be torn down for not using enough steel manufactured in the United States. We can appreciate the sentiment, but wasting more tax dollars isn't the answer. This would cost at least \$20,000 to fix, according to the report.

- Hickenlooper could stop with all the Blue Ribbon Commissions and wasteful task forces. You know, since they accomplish pretty much nothing, and only enrich his buddies.

- Colorado public schools could tighten belts regarding the \$200,000 they spent on fast food and thousands spent on conferences at swanky resorts like the Broadmoor. Just saying. Grandma might like a stay at the Broadmoor, though.

- Maybe the Governor's Energy Office could track down the \$252 million it "misplaced" to help with Grandma's care?

- Consider closing the medical marijuana loophole that's allowing millions of tax dollars to go up in smoke. Those who use marijuana recreationally can avoid the large taxes on recreational marijuana by purchasing it as medical marijuana,

na, which is taxed at a rate 22% lower. Just convince one of the, maybe, four doctors in the state who write, oh we don't know, 95% of medical marijuana prescriptions that your wallet pain, back pain necessitates medical marijuana use.

Grandma could have some silky soft lips with \$40,000 in chapstick.

- Buy state office furniture from Ikea, not Sothebys. A 2013 report found that each appellate judge's chambers in the new Ralph Carr Justice Center costs \$19,000 to decorate, which included end tables that cost nearly \$6,000. Pretty sure Grandma's entire house was furnished for \$6,000.

- And, then, there's Grandma's favorite Colorado-based movie, Dinonauts, which received a \$64,000 grant to create the crappiest, most bizarre movie of all time. It speaks for itself.

We're not saying TABOR is the best thing ever (actually, we are saying that), but before Hickenlooper recommends that the state keep Colorado taxpayers' hard-earned dollars, let's start by cutting the cronyism and waste in the state budget. We think that Grandma would approve.

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- See more at: <http://coloradopeakpolitics.com/#sthash.BZpHgpyd.dpuf>

Census Data Shows Record High 61.8 MILLION People In USA Speak Foreign Language In Homes

by Eric Owens, DailyCaller.com

(Editor/GG: How can you have a cohesive, productive society when you can't even talk to your neighbor or co-worker. This Tower of Babel will come tumbling down.)

The number of people living in the United States who speak a language other than English in their homes has now reached an all-time high.

The latest data, from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 American Community Survey, shows that some 61.8 million people in America — or over 20 percent of all residents — speak a foreign language at home. The number has increased by 2.2 million since 2010.

The figures come from an analysis of census data by the Center for Immigration Studies, a group that favors reduced immigration.

The figures include everyone living in the United States — their citizenship and immigration status notwithstanding.

The languages which have seen the biggest increases since 2010 in number of speakers have been Spanish, Chinese and Arabic.

In terms of actual people, the Spanish language has gained 1.4 million new at-home speakers in America since 2010. There are 220,000 new Chinese at-home speakers and 188,000 new at-home Arabic speakers.

In percentage terms, Arabic has seen a 22-percent spike in the number of people currently in the U.S. who speak the language at home. Chinese has seen an eight-percent growth spurt. Spanish is up just four percent.

Urdu — one of the many languages spoken in both Pakistan and India

— is next on the growth list at 13 percent.

Overall, according to census figures, 38.4 million people living in the United States speak Spanish in their homes. About three million speak Chinese. Some 1.6 million speak Filipino or Tagalog. America's homes also have 1.4 million Vietnamese speakers, 1.3 million French speakers, one million Korean speakers and one million Arabic speakers.

Many of these people also speak English. However, over 40 percent indicated they speak English at some level that is less than "very well."

In California, 44 percent of all school-aged children speak a foreign language at home. About a third of all students in Texas, New York, and Nevada do. Other states are experiencing substantial foreign language growth as well. In five states — Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Nebraska, and Delaware — the number of students living in homes where a language that is not English is spoken is now one in seven.

The number of people living in the U.S. who speak some language besides English at home has increased steadily and dramatically in recent decades. In 1980, 11 percent of all people residing in the U.S. spoke a language other than English at home. In 1990, it was 14 percent. At the turn of this century, it was 18 percent. The percentage now stands at 21 percent.

The Center for Immigration Studies notes that many people living in the U.S. who don't speak English at home are not immigrants. Over 27 million of them were born right here in the United States.

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