

Deer Mtn. Pot License Denied!

by Barbara Penezic

It was an indisputable victory for West Fremont County Citizens today and many smiling faces could be seen exiting the Fremont County special meeting. These residents of rural Fremont County have at long last been given a ray of hope in what is an ongoing struggle to maintain their rural, western way of life. The County Commissioners voted unanimously to deny the application by The Organic Seed, LLC, (owned by Ryan Griego) dba Cannasseur at 1785 Kit Carson Trail, Fremont County (Deer Mountain/Copper Gulch area) for their Fremont County medical marijuana license. The other three license applications were approved. The public was not allowed to testify or comment at this hearing.

The meeting room was full with concerned citizens and there was an obvious tension in the air following

a summer of numerous incidents in the Deer Mountain area with illegal pot grows, the Kit Carson pot grow and a growing number of gun shot incidents involving these pot grows.

had obviously alienated his neighbors in the Glen Vista, Deer Mountain area, and he lost no time in raising the hackles of Commissioner Ed Norden. “I feel a little bit at a disadvantage

Commissioner Norden retorted with a somewhat impatient tone, “We aren’t figuring it out; we’ve got it figured out!”

The crisis in the area was first publicized in the November 14 issue of the *Sentinel* with its front page expose of the Kit Carson pot grow entitled, “Nightmare: Legal Pot Grow Next To You” which featured the problems of the Chambers Family (Jim and Kay) who lived next to the multi-million dollar outdoor grow.

The owner of the Kit Carson pot grow, Mr. Griego,

here,” Ryan Griego said, “I feel like you might be personal friends with some of the people here.” “What I have,” Mr. Norden responded, “is three months of complaints.” The residents have made it a point to attend commissioners meetings and give voice to their particular needs amidst what has become an increasingly dangerous living environment. Mr. Griego appeared arrogant



Commissioner Ed Norden

Sentinel photo by John Penezic, Jr.

during the intense questioning by the commissioners and somewhat unprepared. Commissioner Norden, on the other hand, was fully prepared and his questioning of Mr. Griego was precise and on-target.

During his testimony Mr. Griego attempted to dis-

credit the pot grow’s neighbors, the Chambers family. A guard dog from the pot property wandered onto the Chambers’ property and attacked their pet dog. This attack was reported to the

See DENIED on page 5

Westcliffe Parades Awarded to Incumbent Sponsors: Wild West Cowboy Church and the Sentinel

Westcliffe Town Board: Parades and Prairie Dogs

by Fred Hernandez

Mayor Christie Veltrie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. followed by Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call. There being a quorum the meeting went on to the next item on the Agenda, introduction of visitors. The room was not only packed, it was standing room only with perhaps thirty percent of visitors standing on the side and back of the room. It was estimated that there was about 60 people attending.

Next item on the Agenda, Approval of Minutes of the meetings of December 2 and 10, 2014, was quickly approved. At this time the Mayor stated that she was modifying the Agenda slightly in order to move on immediately to the more

important item further down on the Agenda:

Ms. Jacke Barnes, representing CART, spoke to the board regarding CART’s role as facilitator for the purpose of providing insurance. She was also at the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Silver Cliff on Monday evening. She informed the meeting that CART is a non-political entity and only wishes to assist in the providing of insurance.

Mike Hess, representing the incumbent sponsors of last year’s very successful parade, the Sangre de Cristo *Sentinel* and the Wild West Cowboy Church reviewed the history of last year’s parade noting that the parade was very well attended, was all-inclusive,

nobody was denied parade entry, and that there were no incidents of any kind.

Further comments were made by Mr. Hess regarding the involvement of CART as a “facilitator” to provide insurance for the parade. In fact, others commented as to the necessity of having another “layer of bureaucracy”. The board actually seemed to welcome the participation of CART so the sponsors would not have to shoulder the additional cost of insurance on top of their other expenses.

During Mr. Hess’s presentation, Roland Williams, Chairman of the Custer

See WESTCLIFFE on page 8

Five Month Parade Controversy Resolved in Five Minutes

Commentary by Paul Sage

While Democrat-ic Party Chairman Roland Williams once again stood to interrupt the meeting of the Westcliffe Town Board, cooler heads prevailed, and the Trustees voted to resolve the parade issue based on simple facts rather than emotional agendas.

Mayor Christie Veltrie called the meeting back to order and laid out those facts after Mr. Williams’ outburst threatened to bring the packed room to chaos on the heated subject. She explained that “we got a letter from the Cowboy Church stating

that they look forward to hosting the parades in the future.” She continued, “The town has been advised by our insurance – the state insurance CERSA – that, like it or not, the state of Colorado is an open carry state, and that for us to touch that could cause the town more harm. We don’t supersede the state, so those are just two facts.” The Mayor also commented that, “I feel very strongly personally that this has gone way beyond what’s best for the town – that this is about who is going to be able to walk out of this room and think that they win.”

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Sheriff Jobe’s Retirement Gala Photo Feature pages 10-11

Colorado Medicaid Disaster page 14

Silver Cliff Still Considering Pot Grow! page 4

Put it in a Darn Holster page 15

PATRIOT ALERT!

Vets Guns Confiscated! page 15



I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”
Psalm 91:2 NIV



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

THE 114TH CONGRESS



Tuesday, January 6, 2015, the new U.S. Congress convened. What does it look like? Who is in control? What can we expect them to do? A Republican “wave” swept over America last November as voters nation-wide expressed their strong dissatisfaction with the path America, under liberal progressive control, was taking. The Republicans gained control of several more governorships and state legislatures, the U.S. Senate and increased their control of the U.S. House of Representatives to a record level. There were clearly anti-D.C. and anti-Obama sentiments expressed in exit polling mostly about government overreach and the liberal progressive tilt to the far left on many social issues.

The fact remains that our biggest problems are the result of the “system” that has developed in our nation’s capital.

Democrats chose to try the “war on women” campaign theme again in 2014 and this time if failed. It especially failed for Colorado U.S. Senator Mark Udall as he tried to paint Senator Cory Gardner with that brush. That helped lead to Republican’s most significant

gain in seizing control of the U.S. Senate. Here’s what a quick breakdown of the 114th Congress shows us: U.S. Senate: 100 total members, 54 Republicans, 44 Democrats, and 2 Independents. There are a total of 20 women (14Ds & 6Rs). There are 6 minorities (3Rs & 3Ds). Diane Feinstein (D-CA) is the oldest at 81 and the newly elected Tom Cotton (R-AR) is the youngest at 37 years old. 47 Senators will be in or still serving in their first term. This will be interesting to watch and a challenge for Mitch McConnell (R-KY) as he takes over from Harry Reid. The U.S. House: 435 total members, 247 Republicans, 188 Democrats. It takes 218 votes to pass legislation so the Republicans have almost 30 more votes than needed. This makes for the largest Republican majority since 1928. A House term is for only 2 years and in this Congress there are 44 new Republican and 17 new Democrats. There are 84 women, 22 Republicans and 62 Democrats, a total of 19%. There are 11 Republican and 74 Democrat minorities. The oldest member will be John Conyers (D-MI) at 85 and the youngest will be Elise Stefanik (R-NY) at 30 years old.

So that is what we have in Washington, D.C., writing and passing legislation that affects us all. Total Republican control which we believe is far better than what we had. But what will they do? Will they govern any different? Many don’t believe so. We believe we must wait and see. There are dozens of significant

issues and how and what is sent to the President will tell the tale. Several years ago a retired journalist blasted the “State of America” and blamed our most serious problems on the “545.” That’s the 535 mentioned above, 9 Supreme Court Justices and

thing, anything. Not so! A “do-nothing” Congress may serve us well. In many cases the less they do the better off we are.

So, what can we expect from a Republican Congress and a liberal White House? The White House

that we will see the Republicans restore Constitutional order in the development of budget bills that reduce spending and balance the budget. No more borrowing. If they don’t do that one simple thing they will be failures. We will just have to wait and see what they produce for the FY 2016 Budget Resolution. Talk is cheap. We will judge them on their actions. Several other big issues will help define the 114th Congress. Tax reform, corporate and individual, needs to be done. Restructuring entitlement spending and the debt limit also need to be fixed. Trade issues, the XL Keystone Pipeline, and less agency regulations all need attention. Changes to Obamacare may be the biggest and most important challenges. Assuming it isn’t destroyed by the Supreme Court this summer, and it may well be, the Republicans in Congress were clearly told by the electorate to substantially change this disastrous law by unfunding it or repealing and replacing it. This is a real challenge for them. The Republicans want to show America that they have better ideas and can govern America better. Well, they now have their chance. If they want to win the White House in 2016 they had better show all of us real results. Tough talk and then weak actions and bad compromise will not do it. We encourage them to be strong, uphold the conservative values and principles that got them there and do what is right for America. We will all soon see which path they choose. Let’s see if elections really have consequences.

If [the republicans] want to win the White House in 2016 they had better show all of us real results.

Tough talk and then weak actions and bad compromise will not do it.

1 president. Our national debt of over \$18 Trillion didn’t happen because of one party. Most spending has been supported by both parties. Previously all significant legislation in our history was bi-partisan. Obamacare is a unique exception. Not one Republican, and there are several moderate and liberal ones, voted for Obamacare. It will always remain illegitimate and tainted because of that. The fact remains that our biggest problems are the result of the “system” that has developed in our nation’s capital. The “status quo” continues to exist and far too many bad deals happen to the citizens of America because of bad compromises. We keep hearing from the “talking heads” that Americans want compromise. That we just want our elected representatives to do some-

has the media buzzing because of a press release that suggests that the president will work with Congress. That has been said many times before but never happened. The last Republican Congress under President Bush lost their conservative minds and spent too much money. Many Conservatives already believe Congress went too far in the lame duck session when they so easily approved the huge \$1.1Trillion Continuing Resolution to fund the government through September 2015. Others believe it was the right thing to do to avoid another “shut the government down” fight and provide a clean slate to begin the proper Constitutional budget process which has disappeared under Democrat control. Sounds good doesn’t it? Let’s wait and see if that really happens. Our hope is

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Penrose Baptist Church: Please, Not Here

Dear Commissioners and Neighbors,

This Statement is issued in response to the proposed use of the old Apple Shed property and building as a marijuana growing facility. We, Penrose Baptist Church, neighbor this property directly southwest with our property lines touching. We (PBC) are respectful and peaceful neighbors who are opposed the proposed use of the Apple Shed. We do not wish to be difficult but we do want to be clear and direct while only seeking the wellbeing of our community and church family. We ask that you would think of what is best for Penrose as well. We ask that you reconsider the proposed business use of this property for the following reasons:

1. The Penrose Community considers the Apple Shed property a historic piece of our heritage.
2. The Penrose Community overall does not wish to be known for marijuana growing.
3. The Penrose Community has enough vices already tearing at our neighborly fabric and undermining the foundation of our families.
4. The Penrose Baptist

Church is concerned about the kind of people a marijuana growth facility would attract: making it unsafe for our children at the church and at the Penrose Park.

5. The Penrose Baptist Church feels the proposed business plan is too close to the church and will negatively affect our ministries as a result.

6. We feel that there are enough marijuana growth facilities already in our county, and, the request of one not being next to a church or park is reasonable.

7. We feel the wishes of our community as a whole have not been considered.

8. We can think of a hundred other business uses for the Apple Shed and question if a controversial business move is the best one.

9. We ask that you reconsider for your conscience sake and peace of mind.

10. We ask that you reconsider for your legacy's sake.

11. We ask that you reconsider for our community's sake.

12. We ask that you reconsider for our future's sake.

13. We ask that you reconsider for our safety and peace.

14. We ask that you reconsider for our crime's sake.

15. We ask that you reconsider for our children's sakes.

16. We ask that you reconsider for everything that is decent and right.

17. We ask that you honor God with your decision.

County Commissioners and Neighbors, do right! Do right! Do right! County Commissioners, do what is right for our community instead of what is convenient. Neighbors, do what is right for Penrose instead of what is controversial. Neighbors, choose a business idea that our community can support. Choose a better plan and this community can promote the success of it. Choose an idea that will be good for our children, benefit our families, and highlight the goodness of Penrose. Only then will your success be built on wholesome values instead of broken lives.

We ask that you reconsider the proposed use of the historic Apple Shed property.

Sincerely,
Pastor Keith G. Bates and
the Penrose Baptist Church Family

A Farewell and Thank You from “Have a Nice Day Cafe”

I'm sad to say that I have decided to close “Have a Nice Day Café”. The last two years have been an awesome journey at the café. I couldn't have done it without all my loyal customers and employees. However, being a first time business owner and the lack of experience in all the in's and out's of owning a business, combined with my personal trials and tribulations of the past two years, I have made some mistakes in my business decisions. I want to thank everybody who believed in me, supported me, and encouraged me. And especially Dave and Karen Purnell. I truly could not have done any of this without them.

They steadily encouraged me through all my good business decisions and tried to guide me through the bad decisions.

I have always believed that where one door closes, another one opens. I look forward to seeing each and everyone of you around town. Also, I do have fudge and would love to accommodate anybody who would like to still buy some. Please feel free to call me and I will certainly meet you there. (719-371-5661) Thank you from the depths of my heart.

Debbie Spatziani

PARADES From page 1

After a quick check to reassure himself that the Cowboy Church and *Sentinel* newspaper as sponsors of the parade would make the event all inclusive, Trustee John Johnston moved that they again be the sponsors of the Independence Day Parade, with facilitation being done by the CART organization, which offered to provide this service. Trustee Art Nordyke seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by the board.

Thus ended the months long divisive attempt by Democratic Party Chairman Rowland Williams to subvert the constitutional rights of the citizens of Custer County under the guise of instituting an “old-fashioned parade” filled with clowns and paper-mache decorated bicycles, absent the kind of weapons,

patriotic banners and rallies that in days gone by won him the right to act as foolishly as he desires in America.

Mike Hess, representing the *Sentinel* newspaper pointed out that “we don't want to prohibit anything. We are not out to impose restrictions on anybody's first and second amendment rights.” In response to John Johnston's question about whether we would allow gay and marijuana organizations to march, Mr. Hess responded, “We think that the people standing along the side of the street will judge whether or not that's an appropriate entry.” Hopefully the 2015 Independence Day parade will be the biggest ever with the addition of possibly the car show cars driving down Main Street in it, as well as plenty of new entries, representation by the active political parties in the county and plenty of clowns and paper-mache decorated bicycles.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

EMS STUDY: Stay with Clinic, Serious Clinic Management Problems

by Paul Sage

The much anticipated state health department report of the study of Custer County's EMS service was delivered by the study team at a public meeting on Monday, January 5th. The report was exactly what was promised by the team at the outset of the review back in October; it contained review information and options, but no single solution to the problem.

In the executive summary of the report, the team suggests that EMS stay in the existing hospital district, as opposed to other options, with the caveat that "financial and operational segregation between the clinic and the ambulance will need to take place for proper transparency and integrity to exist."

Much discussion took place at the meeting about whether any of this has or has not taken place, with recently resigned former Board Member Brent Bruiser insisting that it is already done and posted on the web site. Former board Treasurer Chuck Ippolito challenged that "the budget's not split. It's one budget." New district CFO Theresa Kennedy stated that she was "not going to state publicly that it is done," indicating that it is a work in progress and may be revised many times before they work it out. She also stated that "It is split. It has been split. What has not been split is the overhead, so it has been split all along." This was presented both as a great victory and as the same old thing, so everyone will have to check the web site and decide for themselves.

The report cites the lack of transparency and failure to communicate on the part of the hospital district board and administration numerous times. It also reports "multiple incidents of conflict with the clinic administration," (the Clinic Director is Delwin Lester) and that "the relationship of Custer County ambulance and the rest of the special district was described as

poor by the ambulance service, hospital district administration and the board of directors"

EMS service providers were quoted as expressing "displeasure with district leadership and dissatisfaction with the overall direction of the ambulance service." Going beyond the EMS issue, the report found that "there were poor relationships noted between many other public service entities and the clinic."

A consistent theme among all the stakeholders interviewed was the "continual friction with clinic management (Editor/GG: Delwin Lester), which makes remaining under the leadership and direction of the hospital district unattractive, even with increased tax funding."

The report and committee were very complimentary of the commitment of the community to resolve the issue and support the EMS, as evidenced by the passage of the recent over quarter of a million dollar tax increase to support the EMS. Randy Kuykendall, the director of the health facilities and EMS division of the CDPHE commented that "You've got half the battle for the next step beat because you've got some new resources."

It was Director Kuykendall's recommendation that now the main players in the EMS in the county – the Hospital Board, the County Commissioners, the Fire Department Board, Public Health, and the interested public need to get together and hammer out a direction for the future of the EMS, possibly with the help of some of these recommendations. He pointed out that "the quality of your service is directly related to the commitment of the agency of the community that wants to have it." Possibly a leader that doesn't consider EMS to be a big drain or "a big A-bomb type of thing," as current clinic administrator Delwin Lester does would be a good first step.

Custer County Community Share Center on the Move

by Carol "Scoop" Clemenson

On January 2nd and 3rd, the Share Center moved its facilities from the Lutheran Church and Lang building to 730 Main Street, Silver Cliff. This move was necessary as they had run out of room for the Food Pantry as well as all the donations that come in from so many wonderful folks. They had no room to hang clothes or store furniture etc., and they did not want to leave these things outside in the cold.

There were so many people that came to help and a great big THANK YOU TO ALL. The American Legion Post 170 came in force, First Baptist Church with the youth group, Pastor Deb, folks from the Methodist Church, the Sangre de Cristo Fellowship,



It was a big move, but many people came to lend a hand.

Sentinel photo by Carol Clemenson

Catholic Church, Amish folks, Boy Scouts, 4-H, folks from Wild West Cowboy Church, the Lutheran Church, and so many others that worked so hard to make this happen. There are a couple of buildings that will also be moved to the new site. Thank you also to Sandra and Shania Graber for the great chili they made to feed the whole group. There was at least six gallons of chili made.

Pastor Larry Smith came with his tractor and loaded a lot of the trucks and trailers. There were at least two blocks of truck and trailers on both sides of 2nd Street to be loaded for 10½ hours, along with trucks that were in the parking lot across the street. It was really an awesome sight to see the community all pitch in and help this cause.

Thank you Vern Collins for the snow removal from the storage units that the Share Center is renting temporarily. They will be purchasing these units as soon as they raise the funds. Also thank you to the Schlach's for supplying a

warm and dry place for items that still have to be sorted, Oak Disposal for the removal of the trash and items that needed to be removed, and to Lynn LaGree for the space he has provided for storage of the food for the Food Pantry.

The Share Center asks that no more items be donated at this time, as they have a lot of work to do to get everything organized and sorted. They will take cash donations and volunteer help because there is a lot of work that needs to be done to the units themselves.

A lot of the donations like clothes, furniture, shoes, coats, hats, gloves, etc., that have been at the Share Center for over 30 days, are boxed up and taken to other Share Centers in Cañon City (new Horizons) and in Pueblo (Loaves and Fishes and other places in Pueblo). New Horizons sells their items to help support the children of incarcerated parents being fostered by local families.

There are not enough words to say that expresses the nature of this community. When things need to be done in a short amount of time, all you have to do is make one phone call and the whole community is at your side to lend a hand, truck, trailer, tractor, whatever one needs, it is there.

The Custer County Community Share Center, Inc., thanks all who are involved. It is very much appreciated. The Share Center's Director is Ruth Mitchell and she can be reached at 719-371-7664.

Silver Cliff Town Meeting: Still Exploring Legal Pot, Post Office Surprise

by Fred Hernandez

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Weber at precisely 5:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by roll call. All trustees and staff were present along with three others in the audience.

Various matters taken up and approved unanimously and quickly were the renewal of two CDs with First State Bank, reappointment of staff and committees, and approval of the Memo-

randum of Agreement with DOLA (Department of Local Affairs) and CART, the local Main Street Program.

Minutes of the meeting of December 1 were also approved. It is noted that all the members of the board expressed a desire to have more information regarding marijuana farming, production, and retail. In fact the town will be looking for a larger space to rent so that a greater number of people interested in this

topic can be accommodated for a more in-depth learning session to include more detailed presentations, statistics, and workshops. Mr. Roger Camper correctly stated that he did not think it would be a good thing for five or seven people to make a determination as important as this one and that as many people in the county as possible should make this informed decision.

The next item on the agenda was staff reports.

New signage was presented and readily approved. A concern was brought up regarding snow plowing. The Mayor will issue a reminder regarding ordinances and county regulations as this issue seems to have been neglected by private individuals who are out plowing snow.

Treasurer Ileen Lemons then reported on having gotten a hold of a let-

See SILVER CLIFF on page 5

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Ask a Pro: Check your crawlspace, prevent freeze ups.

Most homes have plumbing in the crawlspace. These pipes can be frozen by a small air leak in the foundation. I have seen water lines 3 ft. from the outer wall freeze due to an air leak the size of a pencil.

Most importantly seal all air gaps. Go into the crawlspace on a sunny day (take a flash light) and turn the lights off and check all seams and openings. If you can see even a small amount of day light or feel a draft; get the caulking gun and spray-foam.

If you want to better insulate put insulation on the crawlspace wall but don't insulate the floor. Insulating the floor will keep much needed heat from

the crawlspace. If you must insulate the floor consider putting supplementary heat in the crawlspace.

Remember for the cost of fixing one frozen line you can buy a heck of a lot of caulking, spray-foam, and insulation. Also just because you've never had a freeze-up doesn't mean you won't. A lot of the people who have trouble utter "we never had trouble in the past."

-David Nequette /Lic.1043

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Packed House at Sheriff Jobe's Retirement Event



Over 100 people packed the CCCS Community Room for Sheriff Fred Jobe's retirement gala. (Please see the photo feature on pages 10-11,) Fred's wife, Doloris, organized the show with a great series of relatives, associates, and friends of Fred coming to the stage and telling their stories. We all thank Sheriff Jobe for his 28 years of service to Custer County and wish him well.

Photo left, left to right: Fred's granddaughters, Gabrielle and Grace Vidmar, daughter, Deborah Vidmar, wife, Doloris; next to Fred, son, Steve Jobe and grandson, Connor Vidmar.

Photo above, Fred with the special law enforcement edition Henry repeating rifle he received.

Sentinel photos by George Gramlich

DENIED From page 1

Sheriff's Office but the Chambers only wanted the event recorded and did not wish to pursue any charges.

The Sheriff acknowledged that other such incidents have been reported in like fashion, where the complainants don't want to press charges. The Chambers family was present at this meeting with Sheriff Beicker and two deputies seated directly behind the couple.

Mr. Griego actually told the Commissioners that Mr. Chambers and he had been great friends and that the Chambers were just disgruntled past employees. Mr. Griego reported that Mr. Chambers became angry with him when he was asked to fill out withholding tax forms and at that point their relationship began to fall apart. There was much muttering in the crowd during much of Mr. Griego's testimony with Commissioner Bell admonishing the attendees to remain silent. Although it required great restraint, the request was honored.

'THE SHOTS FIRED' incident that took place recently on Harmon Drive was just one of many unresolved issues that have residents watching their backs. Sheriff Jim Beicker said at the meeting he is concerned about the security aspects of the pot grows. Having armed guards on one's personal property is legal but when those armed guards patrol outside the scope of their property on public roadways that is a different matter. The Sheriff says his department has not been notified of such instances, but encouraged anyone encountering armed men on the public roads to call his department. He asked

the two deputies in attendance if they had any such information and the reply was, "Has not been reported to us, 'DIRECTLY.'"

Commissioner Norden continued his intensive questioning of the grow owner about the numerous violations and complaints from his neighbors. Ryan had an answer for every query often in a flippant tone. He blamed almost every violation on Josh Barns, previous property owner, and his own ignorance of the law, while insisting Mr. Barns had no connection to the property or his business activities. He insisted that he had no knowledge of many problems and stated at one point that, "You know when we do apply for these licenses counties typically have a policy in place. I'm aware that 'you all' are figuring it out." Commissioner Norden retorted with a somewhat impatient tone, "We aren't figuring it out; we've got it figured out!"

Mr. Griego tried once more to turn the tide of opinion in his favor stating that, "We do not wish to be a nuisance to the community or this commission." And that he is willing to talk with the Glen Vista people, work out some kind of restitution for the use of their roads. Commissioner Norden who, to say the least, appeared to be frustrated with Mr. Griego, stated, "You are not going to get a motion of approval from me." Mr. Norden stated that he had particular problems with Mr. Griego not checking on the building, the occupancy permit, the water usage, and the guard dog.

Commissioner Bell agreed, noting that her concern is with Mr. Griego's continual insistence that he has no business relationship with Josh Barns,



Sheriff Beicker, along with Ryan Griego, owner of The Organic Seed.

Sentinel photo by John Penezic, Jr.

but then state that Mr. Barns hired Mr. Griego to help file for him. "That," she stated, "constitutes a business relationship." Mr. Griego admitted he should have been more specific. Looking him right in the eye, Commissioner Bell said, "You should have been more honest!" "Feels like a shell game to me," said Commissioner Payne.

The County Attorney reminded the panel they must make a motion to "approve or deny." The decision to deny was unanimous. Mr. Griego wasted no time in vacating the premises accompanied by a deputy.

This was a hard earned victory for the citizens of Fremont County. With hard work and God's Blessing we have won this battle and, of course, we know there is much work still to be done. A special thanks to our Upstanding, Outstanding, County Commissioners. The questions were well prepared and no evasive tactics were tolerated. Our Commissioners sent a message loud and clear, "No Snake Oil Salesmen allowed in Fremont County!"

SILVER CLIFF From page 4

ter from the Post Office which seeks to change the addresses for both Westcliffe and Silver Cliff. The Post Office letter, dated December 2, 2014, which was not received either by the office of the Mayor or the Senior Center reads in part that the Main Street will now be designated West Main and East Main. Quoting from the letter we note that: "For some time now, there have been duplicate addresses on Main Street in Westcliffe and Silver Cliff. One example would be 215 Main Street, Westcliffe and 215 Main Street, Silver Cliff. Since Westcliffe and Silver Cliff are separate towns, this was never a problem for anyone until the 81249 zip code was abolished. Having duplicate addresses with the same zip code is causing a problem within our post office and mail delivery"

The letter goes on to say, "Since they are different towns, the duplicate addresses pose no problem for Custer County or 911 services so the addresses have not been changed. However, it is clear that since the 81249 zip code

has been abandoned, there is a problem with mail delivery. In an attempt to help with this, the County Assessor has changed all the addresses in Silver Cliff with a Main Street address to East Main Street. There will be no changes made to the addresses on Main Street in Westcliffe. For example, 215 Main Street in Westcliffe would stay 215 Main Street. The duplicate address in Silver Cliff has been changed to 215 East Main Street or 215 E. Main."

The Mayor expressed concerns about this and how it may affect businesses along Main Street. He is planning to discuss this matter with the Post Office.

After Staff Reports the audience was allowed time to speak. The Annual Ice Fishing Contest was announced to take place on January 25 at Lake De Weese.

The representative of CART then asked the board to consider the possibility of taking insurance coverage for the three annual parades (Memorial Day, July 4th, and Christmas).

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m..



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Local Mountain News & Notices

“Takin’ It To The House...”

A Calendar And Commentary From The Golden Dome

From: Representative Jim Wilson
– HD 60
January 4, 2015

Believe it or not, it is time to convene the 70th General Assembly of Colorado. The elections of November 2014 may seem far away in the rear view mirror, but the results of that election are directly in the headlights and approaching at a high rate of speed! All elections have consequences, and this last cycle was no exception. The legislative landscapes have changed at both the national and state levels. I will not even attempt to speculate on the federal challenges, but let me share a few changes at the state level.

As the curtain came down on the final session of the 69th General Assembly, the Democrats held the Governor’s office and enjoyed an 18-17 majority in the Senate as well as a huge 37-28 majority in the House. When the polls closed in November, the Governor was re-elected in a close race, the Senate flipped to an 18-17 majority

for the Republicans and the Democrats held onto the House by a slim 34-31 margin. What does all this mean for the new session? I am glad you asked! In light of the fact that neither party controls all 3 branches, it will be impossible to “steamroll” any legislation through the 70th General Assembly. In order to successfully get a bill signed into law, legislators on both sides of the aisle will have to “play nice”. How will the voters know if legislators are learning the new playground rules? The answer is simple – watch how many bills have both Democrat and Republican co-sponsors...

For the past two years, each time I stepped onto the floor of the House I was both humbled and awestruck by the fact that HD 60 placed their faith and confidence in me! I am grateful that you were comfortable in electing me to a second term as your representative for House District 60. One thing I learned very quickly – we have to speak up for HD 60 here at the Capitol, or we will not be heard! We truly have to unify HD

60 in order to have a strong voice in Denver. I worked hard during my first term to establish relationships across the aisle while maintaining my conservative values. Those efforts paid off in getting several pieces of legislation passed as a minority member. Colleagues on the other side of the aisle have already reached out to me to work with them on their bills. I look forward to a successful year in a new legislative environment.

One of the factors in the new legislative environment will be the lack of experience in the House. I was a part of a large freshman class elected two years ago and this year’s freshman group is even larger! There are a total of 31 Republicans in the House. This is just my second term and there will only be 6 members with more experience on my side of the aisle. The sophomore class will have to step up and shoulder a great deal of responsibility right out of the gate! As a part of taking on those responsibilities, I have been appointed as the rank-

ing Republican on the House Education Committee for this session. In addition to the Education Committee, I will be a member of the Finance and Appropriations Committees.

One final note – the dome has been re-opened and covered in new gold, the House floor has received a historical renovation, and the old office spaces in the “271 Bullpen” have been converted into a beautiful and spacious committee hearing room. So.o.o, my new office is #205 – next to the Old Supreme Court Chambers. Please come and see us...we would love to visit with you (and we can get you a great tour!)

If you have any questions, concerns, or you have a panic attack

during the Legislative Session, please feel free to call (303-866-2747) or e-mail me at wilsonforhd60@gmail.com or james.wilson.house@state.co.us.

*Yours for HD 60 --
Representative Jim Wilson*



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Man is not free unless government is limited.
Ronald Reagan - 40th President of the United States

Custer County School District C-1 Regular School Board Meeting

Great Room

January 13, 2015 - 4:30 p.m.

For the good of the students of Custer County Schools

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Welcome of Guests
3. Modification/Approval of Agenda
4. General Public Comment Session
5. Consent Agenda - Minutes of regular board meeting on December 9, 2014
6. Reports from Students/Staff
7. Reports from Public
 - a. Excellence in Education report
 - b. Accountability report
8. Board Committee Reports - Accountability Committee, BOCES, FFA, Legislative Update, Preschool Advisory
9. Action Items
 - a. Approval: Check Vouchers
 - b. Approval: Financial Reports
10. Principal's Reports
 - a. Elementary – Holly Anderson
 - b. Secondary – Barb Jones
11. Superintendent's Report
12. Items introduced by Board Members
13. General Public Comment Session
14. Executive Session (If needed)
15. Adjournment

***The LORD your God is with you,
he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you,
he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing.***

Zephaniah 3:17, NIV

Home Tournament Brings Wrestling Action and Excitement

by Michelle Pedigo

If you’ve been following the Bobcat grapplers, you know that it’s HOME tournament week, and that means a lot of energy is being put into preparations in the practice room as well as by staff and volunteers. This is the best opportunity of the year to see our team in action right here in Westcliffe, and there’s nothing like a hometown crowd to encourage the wrestlers to put their best performances on the mats.

The tournament will feature bracketed wrestling under CHSAA rules for all weight classes. Nine teams are pre-registered to attend, with several more possible to confirm by press time. In addition to watching all the wrestling action, there will be other ways to participate in supporting the team at the event. Commemorative t-shirts will be sold, a 50-50 drawing will be held, and more. Stop at the Fan Table in the gym for all the details. As always, the concession stand will be open for your enjoyment.

As you look forward to the tournament, here are some things you may not know about your Bobcat grapplers. Say hello to them at the tournament and get to know them in person.

Ian Aldrich

Nickname: none
Favorite Color: Red
Favorite Food: Hamburger
Best School Subject: Ag
Favorite Wrestling Move: Firemans
To make a difference in his world: Feed the hungry.

Titus Crawford

Nickname:
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Food: Mexican Eggrolls
Best School Subject: Social Studies
Favorite Wrestling Move: Grapevine
To make a difference in his world: Has sworn into the United States Air Force.

Edgar Pedigo

Nickname: Hollis
Favorite Color: Red
Favorite Food: Spaghetti
Best School Subject: Physical Education
Favorite Wrestling Move: Firemans
To make a difference in his world: Nothing.

Dylan Schoch

Nickname: Carrot Top
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Food: Sushi
Best School Subject:
Favorite Wrestling Move: Simpson
To make a difference in his world: Help the homeless.

Kody Aldrich

Nickname: Ramrod
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Food: Mac-n-Cheese
Best School Subject: Ecology
Favorite Wrestling Move: Firemans
To make a difference in his world: Feed the hungry.

Andrew Feldmann

Nickname: Andjew
Favorite Color: Gold
Favorite Food: Steak
Best School Subject: Biology
Favorite Wrestling Move: Cradle
To make a difference in his world: Even out social classes.

Weldon Rusher

Nickname: Ramrod
Favorite Color: Blue-ish
Favorite Food: Taco
Best School Subject: Personal Finance
Favorite Wrestling Move: The painful ones!
To make a difference in his world: End the war and all exposure to terrorists.

Taiyr Seilkhan

Nickname: none
Favorite Color: Black
Favorite Food: Pizza
Best School Subject: English
Favorite Wrestling Move: Head lock
To make a difference in his world: Struggle for himself and his family.

Not available for comments were: Cody Koble, Kyle Rose, and Thomas Dryer

Seani Millard (team manager)

Nickname: Seanzilla
Favorite Color: Mint Green
Favorite Food: Key Lime Pie
Best School Subject: Biology
Favorite Wrestling Move: Saturday night ride
To make a difference in her world: Go on a mission trip.

Coach Ham

Nickname: Hammy
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Food: Spicy Chicken Wings
Best School Subject: Math
Favorite Wrestling Move: Crossface Cradle
To make a difference in his world: Help kids learn that anything is possible with hard work first in academics and then in sports.

Cody Young (team manager)

Nickname: Joe
Favorite Color: Baby Blue
Favorite Food: Stuffed Meatloaf
Best School Subject: Biology
Favorite Wrestling Move: Crossface
To make a difference in her world: Go on a mission trip to Mexico.

Coach Selle

Nickname: “I’ve been called a lot of interesting names—not sure if you want to print that!”
Favorite Color: Blue and Gold!!!
Favorite Food: Steak
Best School Subject: Math
Favorite Wrestling Move: Mills Half
To make a difference in his world: He’s doing it—working in a public school!

Get out and support our wrestling team! Show up Friday at 6:00 p.m. (note new time) when the Bobcats will get a little pre-tournament action in a tri meet with Rye and Del Norte. Then Saturday morning be on time for the 9:00 a.m. start as all the teams will take it to the mats!

Gearing up for Soccer!

Spring youth soccer will begin practice and team organization Sunday, January 18th.
Practices will be every Sunday, in the school’s west gym at 4:30 p.m., until mid-March.
We will be setting up teams to compete in league play this spring. This is for ages pre-k through 5th grade.
For more info, call Dave Bennett at 719 -660-5004.

Bobcats Sport Schedule

VARSITY BASKETBALL

Saturday, January 10
4 p.m.: Cripple Creek AWAY
Friday, January 16
4 p.m.: Del Norte AWAY
Friday, January 23
4 p.m.: South Park AWAY

WRESTLING

Friday, January 9
4:30 p.m.: Custer Tri at HOME
Saturday, January 10
9 a.m.: Custer Tournament at HOME
Saturday, January 17
9 a.m.: Salida Tournament AWAY



Bobcat Menu • Jan. 12 - Jan. 15, 2015

Monday
breakfast
Blueberry or Banana
Muffin Loaves, Ham
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Hamburger
Choice of Veg.
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Tuesday
breakfast
Scrambled Eggs
W. W. Toast
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce
Bread Sticks
Choice of Veg. & Fruit
Milk

Wednesday
breakfast
French Toast,
Sausage Links
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Hamburger Hash
W.W. Roll
Choice of Veg. & Fruit
Milk

Thursday
breakfast
Sausage Gravy
Biscuits
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Corn Dog
Choice of Veg.
Choice of Fruit
Milk

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

KIDS

Friday, January 9, 2015

It's Time for some Common Sense: Published on January 9, 1776

Thomas Paine published his pamphlet with the title “Common Sense” to set forth his arguments in favor of American independence from Britain at a time when his ideas captured the attention of the colonists in a remarkable way. At first, the pamphlet was published anonymously, causing statesman John Adams to express his opinion of its influence in these words: “Without the pen of the author of Common Sense, the sword of Washington would have been raised in vain.”

Thomas Paine was born in Thetford, Norfolk, Great Britain in February, 1737 and died in the U.S. in June, 1809. As a teenager Paine worked as a corset-maker, and later he became a sailor and finally a school teacher. By the time he arrived in the British American colonies in 1774, just in time to participate in the American Revolution, Paine had become a “pamphleteer.” Benjamin Franklin is given credit for helping Paine come to the colonies and quite quickly get involved. How quickly is very surprising: Two years of working, watching, and listening, and then the publishing. Only 7 months passed between the printing of the now well-known pamphlet and the signing of the Declaration of Independence—“Seven months that changed the world, forever.”

“Europe, and not England, is the parent country of America. The new world has been the asylum for the persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty from every part of Europe,” wrote Thomas Paine. The words of the 47-page pamphlet caught on, and it sold about a half-million copies. The “pamphleteer” of January 9, 1776 might be called something else in our time. In today’s language—added of course to today’s technology— Thomas Paine would be known as a famous “blogger.”

Source: wikipedia.com and Glenn Beck’s Common Sense

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Local Mountain News & Notices

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LEGAL NOTICE

Kagan and Son, LLC, 555 Ernest Avenue, Westcliffe, CO, 81252, has filed an application for a Conversion of a type 110 (<10 acre) Construction Materials Operation Reclamation Permit to a type 112 (>10 acre) Construction Materials Operation Reclamation Permit with the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board under the provisions of the Colorado Land Reclamation Act for the Extraction of Construction Materials.

The mine is known as the South Pit, and is located in Section 5, Township 24 South, Range 71 West, 6th Prime Meridian.

The proposed date of commencement is April 2015 and estimated date of completion is March 2045. The proposed future land use is residential. Additional information and tentative decision date may be obtained from the Division or Reclamation, Mining, and Safety, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203, (303) 866-3567, or at the Custer County Clerk and Recorder's office, 205 South 6th Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252, or the above named applicant.

Comments must be in writing and must be received by the Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety by 4:00 p.m. 30 working days after the fourth newspaper publication of this notice (Mid-March 2015).

First Published on: January 9, 2015

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

WESTCLIFFE

From page 1

County Democrat Party and rival applicant for the parade rights, suddenly rose and interrupted Mr. Hess with an outburst. The meeting was quickly brought to order and the discussion continued until the Mayor called for a vote. On motion duly seconded, the board unanimously approved awarding the parade to the Cowboy Church and The *Sentinel*. The only thing the Mayor stressed at the end was that there should be more locations where parade application forms can be acquired in case certain parties do not feel comfortable going to the Cowboy Church or the *Sentinel* offices.

It is worthy to note that at the end of the section of the meeting regarding the parade, probably half of the room emptied out and there was ample seating for all those who remained for the rest of the meeting.

The next item on the Agenda was the infestation of prairie dogs. Personnel from the Colorado Department of Wildlife were in attendance to give their opinions on the manner to eradicate the pests. Discussion ensued and an officer of the wildlife department enumerated the various ways and toxic material for the elimination of the prairie dogs of which there are

three different types: white tail, black tail, and Gunnison. It was agreed that the town would look into the various ways to confront this problem and various providers would be contacted who are in the service of eliminating these pests.



Under New Business, the board was asked to consider a request by Mr. Kit Tyler, owner/operator of Westcliffe Inn on Hwy. 69 corner of Hermit Road. Mr. Tyler asked that parking not be allowed on Hermit Road behind and adjacent to the Shell station. He went on to explain that trucks are stopping in that location of extended periods of time and are a safety issue as well as a nuisance for his business. A discussion ensued among the members of the board, city maintenance staff, and some in the audience as to how best to address this problem. It was suggested that an official truck stop be designated where drivers of these vehicles can stop and rest.

The other matters under New Business included a review of the Bluff Park Management agreement

between the Town and San Isabel Land Protection Trust which was basically approved in principle by the board. The agreement will go back to the Trust for finalization at which time the board will ratify the agreement.

The Memorandum of Agreement between DOLA, CART, and the Town was reviewed and approved.

A consideration for redesigning the Town website was taken up and approved for further action to secure quotes from professional providers of this service. The Mayor suggested to also contact the school and see if any of the students would be interested in helping out.

The rest of the meeting was staff reports including an offer for the Town to buy a property downtown, elected officials training and Planning Commission meeting on January 12 at 4 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

(Editor/jmh: The Westcliffe Town Mayor and Trustees did the right thing when they voted to award the parade sponsorship to the incumbent sponsors. They are to be commended for upholding tradition and the state and constitutional rights of all the county citizens. We thank them.)



Veteran of the Month

On Tuesday evening, the American Legion Post 170 honored John Shoemaker as Veteran of the Month. John also recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

John, thank you for your service!

Sentinel photo by Carol Clemenson

New Program from Veterans Administration: The Choice Card

by Carol Clemenson

The Custer County Clinic gave a seminar to a packed house of veterans at the January 6th American Legion Meeting. It concerned a new VA program that gives veterans some options on getting healthcare outside of the VA facilities.

From the Veteran Administration's website:

Many veterans will now have the option to receive non-VA health care rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility.

Beginning November 5, 2014, the new Choice Program will begin to cover non-VA care for eligible veterans enrolled in VA healthcare. Veterans are eligible if any of these situations apply to you:

- 1 You have been told by your local VA medical facility that you will need to wait more than 30 days from your preferred date or the date medically determined by your physician
- 2 Your current residence is more than 40 miles from

the closest VA health care facility

- 3 You need to travel by plane or boat to the VA medical facility closest to your home

- 4 You face a geographic challenge, such as extensive distances around water or other geologic formations, such as mountains, which presents a significant travel hardship

Every veteran will receive a letter and a Choice Card in the mail with details about the program. Veterans will be eligible for the program and receive cards in three phases:

1. Veterans who may live more than 40 miles from a VA facility.
 2. Veterans who are currently waiting for an appointment longer than 30 days from their preferred date or the date determined to be medically necessary by their physician.
 3. All remaining veterans enrolled for VA healthcare who may be eligible for the Choice Program in the future.
- To set up an appointment

with a non-VA provider, call the VA at 866-606-8198 and we will work with you to ensure you are approved for care in your community.

Additional Program Information

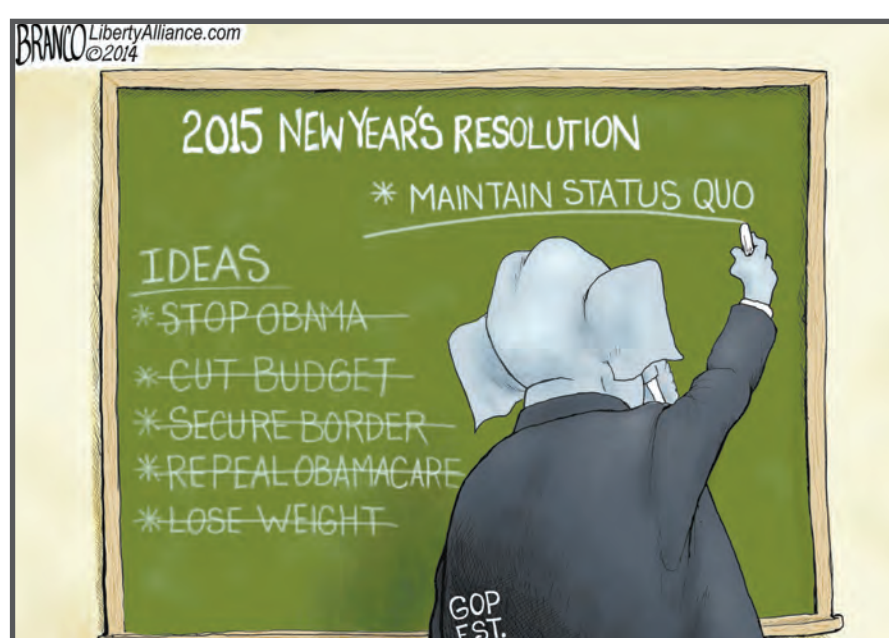
- The Choice Program does not impact your existing VA health care or any other VA benefit.

- If you are satisfied with your wait time at a VA facility and wish to continue waiting for VA care, there is nothing you need to do at this time.

- Non-VA care is only covered by VA for medical needs which have been approved by your VA physician. We can happily schedule an appointment for other medical needs, but the we can only cover the cost of care related to your VA-approved health needs

- The Veteran Choice Program is part of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA).

For more information go to www.va.gov/opa/choice-act/



Local Mountain News & Notices

Events Calendar

Friday, January 9 CCCS Snowcats at Monarch Mountain	Tuesday, January 13 10 a.m.: Courthouse: Oath of Office 4:30 p.m.: School Board Meeting
Saturday, January 10 7 p.m.: Benefit Concert for Paca Peace Ranch for Youth at Coyote Moon Lodge, 11 Granada Court; Info 276-4146; \$15 suggested donation	Thursday, January 15 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.: CCCS: Science Night in Great Room and classrooms
National Western Stock Show: Denver; Discount packages to 4-H families. Call Extension Office for more information at 783-2514	Sunday, January 18 2 p.m.: Jones Theater: In Concert - Patter-son/Sutton Duo (Cello and Guitar)
	Monday, January 19 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.: In Concert at CCCS's west gym

Recurring Events and Business Hours

Monday 6 p.m.: Closed step study Alcoholics Anonymous at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Westcliffe. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172 or Lisa at (719) 783-0809	6:45 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary monthly meeting (March-October) at the Saddle Club.
Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Custer County public transit service available to everyone through Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343	Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Library open in downtown Westcliffe; 783-9138
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday Noon: Lunch served at Custer County Senior Center located on first floor of Silver Cliff Town Hall. Call 783-9508 to RSVP by 9:30 am	Wednesday Line dancers meet at the Methodist Church from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Call Clem at (303) 909-7370 6 p.m.: Closed Big Book study Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Westcliffe. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172, or Lisa at (719) 783-0809 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Custer County Community Band practice in band room at high school
Monday and Thursday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources in Silver Cliff open to assist young mothers and families in need. Free pregnancy tests and counseling to pregnant women and more. Call 783-4357	Thursday Second Thursday of the Month: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m., "Ask a Nurse" at the library
Tuesday 12 - 4:30 p.m.: Bridge Club meets in the library community room in downtown Westcliffe. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Jammin' band at The Mining Company Restaurant in Silver Cliff First Tuesday of the Month: 6:30 p.m. at Cliff Lanes - American Legion Post 170 monthly meeting	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...

<i>As of Tuesday, January 6, there were three men in jail.</i>	<i>hicle ended up on its side with moderate damage.</i>	<i>medication. She was transported to St. Thomas More Hospital in Cañon City.</i>
OFFENSES January 5 Richard Miller, age 49, of Westcliffe was arrested for third degree assault and domestic violence. Miller was booked into the Custer County jail. No bond until advised in court.	TRAFFIC December 23 Nicole Stratton, age 42, of Sheridan, Colorado, was stopped for a traffic violation and driving with a license under suspension and no insurance. Stratton was cited for speeding and booked into the Custer County jail for driver's license under suspension. She posted a \$1,000 bond and was released.	December 30 At 1013 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to VALI for an 85-year-old male with flu-like symptoms. He was transported to Parkview Hospital.
January 3 Archie Hess III, age 61, of Silver Cliff was arrested on Vista de Aqua Loop and released on a summons for violation of protective order.	AMBULANCE CALLS January 3 At 0850 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to Shoshone Drive for a 68-year-old female who had fallen on the ice and injured her right leg. She was transported to Parkview Hospital.	December 30 At 1413 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to VALI for an 86-year-old female with flu-like symptoms. She was transported to Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center in Salida.
January 1 Louise Montoya, age 45, of Pueblo West was arrested after she veered off of the roadway and became stuck in a snow bank. Montoya was driving under the influence and did not have possession of a driver's license. A \$2,000 bond was posted and she was released.	January 1 At 1409 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the 300 block of Main Street in Silver Cliff for a female who had a bone stuck in her throat. It was dislodged. No transport.	FIRE CALLS January 3 The fire department responded to the rollover accident on County Road 255 and was on standby.
ACCIDENTS January 3 A 1992 Ford pickup truck driven by Denise Harlan, age 44, of rural Westcliffe was eastbound on County Road 255 at mile marker 3 when a deer ran in front of Harlan's vehicle and she lost control. The ve-	December 31 At 1047 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the clinic for a female patient having withdrawals from	January 2 The fire department responded to an accident on County Road 255. No details due to Colorado State Patrol handling accident.



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Mothers of Fallen Heroes

EAGLES SUMMIT RANCH COLORADO

Eagles Summit Ranch Colorado is excited to announce that we are hosting our first "Mothers of Fallen Heroes" retreat.

It will be held January 21-24, 2015.

It will be a time of healing, fellowship, and growing together spiritually. This will be a faith-based retreat with limited slots available.

If you would like more information, please email Beverly Shoemaker at bev@daveroever.org.



FINDING PEACE WHEN ALL HOPE IS LOST

P.O. Box 1002 Westcliffe, CO 81252 719-783-9729 bev@daveroever.org



A Great Farewell For Sheriff Fred Jobe

**28 Years of Service Honored
January 3, 2105
At the CCCS Community Room**



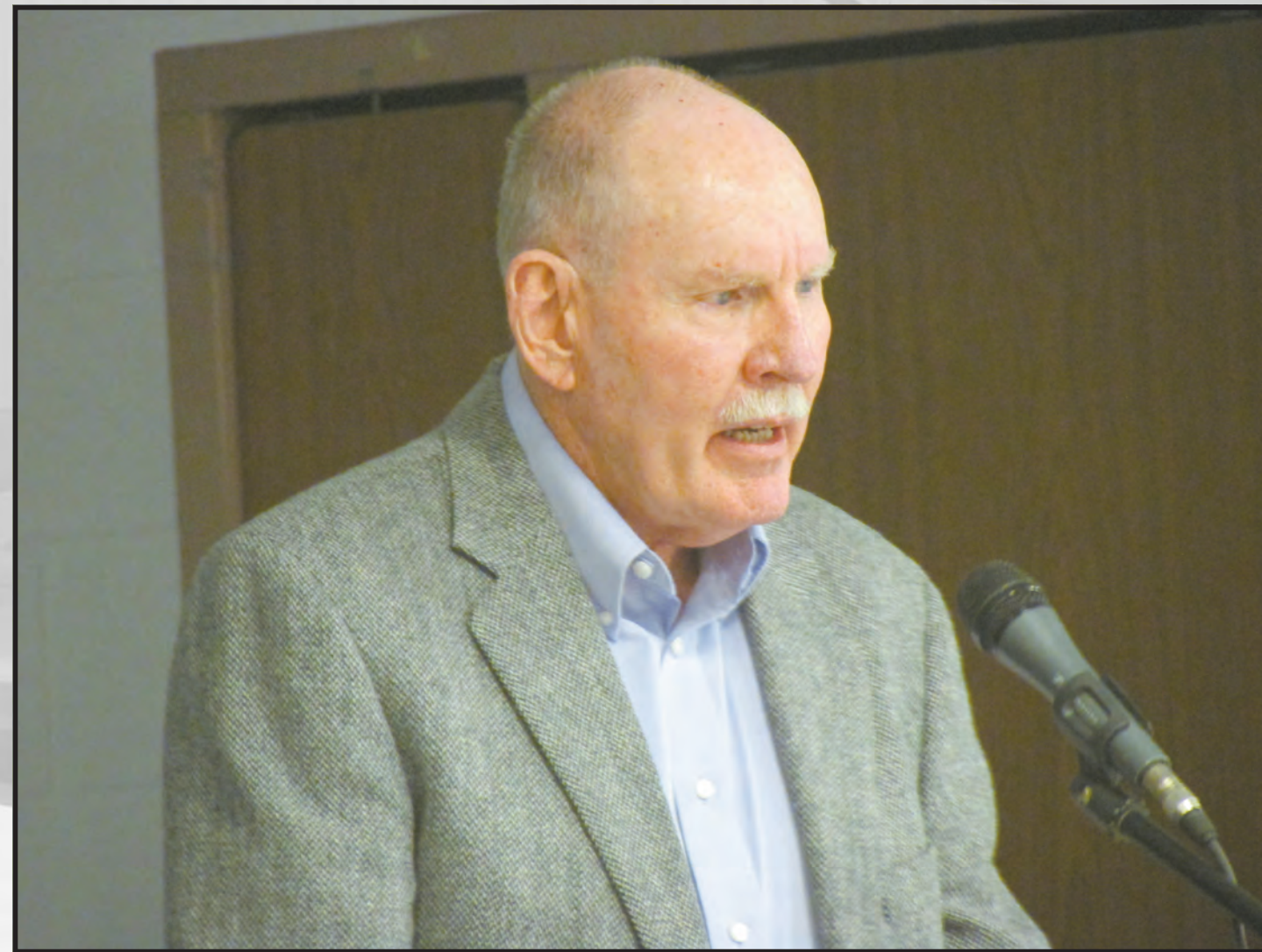
Fred with his wife, Deloris, on the stage. Deloris MC'd the event.



Fred's son, Steve, presented his father with a stunning, hand-engraved, special law enforcement edition Henry repeating rifle.



Fred's daughter, Deborah, located the first gun Fred ever shot, his fathers Winchester 1890 22 Rifle and presented it to him in an emotional moment.



Fred addresses the full Community Room.



Fred with his pastor and the pastor's wife, Glenn and Gwen Shock, of the First Baptist Church of Westcliffe.



Former Under Sheriff Tony Supan presented Fred with a beautiful engraved plaque.



Deloris made a photo board with some of Fred's photos and articles about him.



Fred with his last Under Sheriff 'Tony Supan. Tony spent ten years with Fred in the Sheriff's Department.



From left Tony Supan showing the beautiful plaque that he had Rick Ashwood make for Fred. The plaque is made out of solid black walnut.

Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

IMPORTANT DATES IN FREMONT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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about an upcoming
event or meeting you
would like to see
printed here, or
covered in an
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Shots Fired: Officers Dispatched In This Game of Hide and Go Seek, We Lose

by Barbara Penezic

Once again the marijuana growers (legal or illegal) show their utter contempt for law enforcement and the citizens of Fremont County. Officers were dispatched to 379 Harmon Drive on a shots-fired complaint. Time is of the essence in an incident such as this and, unfortunately, for the citizens of Western Fremont County, the responding officers arrived 45 minutes after the call was received. Plenty of time for the shooters to remove themselves and the alleged smoking gun from the area.

This incident took place on Friday December 12, 2014. I called the Sheriff's Office Saturday, December 13, to inquire about the incident and was informed that they were not aware of any such occurrence. On December 16th I went to the Sheriff's Office, paid my \$5, and filled out the form requesting a copy of the Incident Report. I received the report December 30th. The 8-page report concluded that there was "Insufficient Evidence." No citations were issued; no arrests were made. I can assure you that as I read through this incident report my gag reflex was given plenty of exercise. Two ladies had six bullets whiz by them on their way home from the mail box and nothing is done about it!

According to the deputies' report, the officers encountered one person (witnesses place three men at the suspect property moments after the shots were fired) when asked where he was from, he replied, "Cuba." When asked if he had any guns, he said, "NO." A subsequent search of the property revealed a Remington Model 870 12 gauge pump action shotgun. Chances are this weapon would be considered a "gun" even in Cuba! This lie speaks clearly to the lack of respect this man has for our local law enforcement and his own relationship with the truth.

The search also turned up approximately 70 marijuana plants. The resident, Felix Donates, said he was growing for medical purposes and provided a medical marijuana card with his name on it. (It is believed that the maximum amount of plants that a medical card allows you to grow is 12!) Apparently the officers who responded were not able to ascertain if this was a legal grow! One of the officers told one of the reporting parties that he would be attempting to contact the Marijuana Enforcement Division about his findings. (The street value of 70 mature pot plants is around \$500,000 to \$700,000!! How can that be legal?)

Attempting to contact is not exactly a strong commitment to following through. It has been said by Commissioner Bell and others that the Fremont County Sheriff's Office will be hiring a full-time deputy who will be a marijuana/alcohol officer. District 2 Commissioner Debbie Bell informs us that this person will be working very closely with our code enforcement officers. Residents have been hearing this for some time and now what they want to know is Who, When, and even Where. Will this new person actually be able to respond quickly to a call before the smoking gun can be removed? Please do not think that we the citizens do not support our local Sheriff; WE DO! It is time our Sheriff and his deputies were given a level playing field. For this we look to our County Commissioners to be sure the growers you approve to do business in Fremont County are law abiding citizens who pay their dues and respect the law. We ask that you provide severe, enforceable, and immediate consequences for those who choose to circumvent Fremont County Law.

Be Informed,

Get Involved!

Book Review

Intermission: A Place in Time

by Cañon City's Own:
Glenda Lee Vollmecke

by Charlotte Burrows

Set between 1940 and current day, "Intermission: A Place in time" is a book that many people can relate to. Written by Cañon City artist and author Glenda "Glen" Lee Vollmecke, the book tells the story of her life, which she began writing more than four years ago. "It's a biography and memoirs, she said, "It's got a little bit of everything. I wanted to write about everybody that affected me that were close to me.

The book also tells the story of her mother and sister, who grew up in an orphanage in the early 1900s. "From the time I started to write, it was almost instant recall from the time I was 6 to 16," Vollmecke said. "I thought I may as well throw the Beatles in there because so many people still like the Beatles -- young and old." Prior to World War II, her mother moved to England from Guernsey Channel Islands, where she watched in horror when Germany captured the islands. Along the way, her mother's cousin kept her informed of what was happening on Guernsey, a mere 16 miles from France.

"It brings in a lot of personal involvement, such as letters that were saved by the family," Vollmecke said. "Then it moves on from (the war) to the escapades with my dad."

But she noted although the book is full of tragedy, it also has humorous moments in it.

"It's full of humor, and yet, it's like 'Wallace and Gromit' and 'Angela's Ashes,' all rolled into one," Vollmecke said. "It's so haunting because there's a lot of British humor in there. It's from a



child's point of view from 6 to 16. I think the humor is a little more prevalent."

She said the book is not only full of family history, but it also goes back to the Vikings when they monopolized Wallasey in the 1700s. "That's what keeps the book lively without overstating history," Vollmecke said. But it also is a book about her memories of the Beatles when she worked at the Tower Ballroom as a student.

"They also were starting out then," she said. "That is when they brought in Ringo." After she finished two years of college, she began painting pictures for herself, but when that wasn't enough, she explored her options. About the time she turned 17, she began working as a visual merchandiser in London. After her marriage, she traveled all over Europe and Guam before moving to the United States, where she continued to hone her skills while expanding into various media."Intermission: A Place in Time" is available at Virtual Culture Art Gallery, Willie's Emporium in Old Colorado City, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble for \$19.40. To receive signed copies, order the book at alpacasrus.net or call her at 275-0229.

Mr. Ed's Family Restaurant**1201 Royal Gorge Blvd., Cañon City**
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**302A N. 16th St.**
Cañon City
719-275-5211

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at the following locations in Fremont County:

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in Cañon City

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

Coyote Den
Highway 115 & 6th Street
in Penrose

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

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33, NIV

The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

The Daily Jot

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

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

Way of the World, or Way of the Word?

The Daily Jot began nearly 13 years ago with a simple mission: to use current events to equip and encourage people to evangelize the Word of God. You may not always agree with what the Daily Jot has to say, but there may always be something in it to talk to others about or to take action. Some just get angry or don't want to think about the way events are shaping up prophetically or the way they are having an impact on society. We, as Christians, cannot afford to ignore the world around us. The issues will not go away if we look the other way. In fact, when Christians are not engaged with their family, their community, their state, their country, everything goes the way of the world, not the way of the Word.

to use to share the Word of God. As written in 1 Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." James 1:25 says, "But whoso looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." As Jesus said in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

It's not always easy. Many people find sharing the word uncomfortable in this day and age. But we are not charged to be comfortable, but to take up our cross and follow the Lord. That means it's not chocolate and roses, or rolexes or checks in the mail or nice cars or whatever material things modern preachers are preaching about. It's not really about you or me. It's about Jesus and him being preached. 2 Corinthians 4:8,9,13 says, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed...We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak." So let us speak boldly as we ought to for if you are reading this you are equipped and encouraged to do so.

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!
Bill Wilson
www.dailyjot.com
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If you receive The Daily Jot, you are hearing and you are being sent. You are called to action. You have current events

U.S. Supreme Court Rules 8-1 that Citizens Have No Protection Against Fourth Amendment Violations by Police Officers Ignorant of the Law

Press Release from Rutherford.org

WASHINGTON, D.C.

In a blow to the constitutional rights of citizens, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 8-1 in *Heien v. State of North Carolina* that police officers are permitted to violate American citizens' Fourth Amendment rights if the violation results from a "reasonable" mistake about the law on the part of police. Acting contrary to the venerable principle that "ignorance of the law is no excuse," the Court ruled that evidence obtained by police during a traffic stop that was not legally justified can be used to prosecute the person if police were reasonably mistaken that the person had violated the law. The Rutherford Institute had asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hold law enforcement officials accountable to knowing and abiding by the rule of law. Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the Court's lone dissenter, warned that the court's ruling "means further eroding the Fourth Amendment's protection of civil liberties in a context where that protection has already been worn down."

"By refusing to hold police accountable to knowing and abiding by the rule of law, the Supreme Court has given government officials a green light to routinely violate the law," said John W. Whitehead, president of The Rutherford Institute and author of the award-winning book, *A Government of Wolves: The Emerging American Police State*. "This case may have started out with an improper traffic stop, but where it will end—given the turbulence of our age, with its police overreach, military training drills on American soil, domestic surveillance, SWAT team raids, asset forfeiture, wrongful convictions, and corporate corruption—is not hard to predict. This ruling is what I would call a one-way, nonrefundable ticket to the police state."

In April 2009, a Surry County (N.C.) law enforcement officer stopped a car traveling on Interstate 77, allegedly because of a brake light which at first failed to illuminate and then flickered on. The officer mistakenly believed that state law prohibited driving a car with one broken brake light. In fact, the

state traffic law requires only one working brake light. Nevertheless, operating under a mistaken

"This ruling is what I would call a one-way, nonrefundable ticket to the police state."

understanding of the law, during the course of the stop, the officer asked for permission to search the car. Nicholas Heien, the owner of the vehicle, granted his consent to a search. Upon the officer finding cocaine in the vehicle, he arrested and charged Heien with trafficking. Prior to his trial, Heien moved to suppress the evidence seized in light of the fact that the officer's pretext for the stop was erroneous and therefore unlawful. Although the trial court denied the motion to suppress evi-

dence, the state court of appeals determined that since the police officer had based his initial stop of the car on a mistaken understanding of the law, there was no valid reason for the stop in the first place. On appeal, the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled that even though the officer was wrong in concluding that the inoperable brake light was an offense, because the officer's mistake was a "reasonable" one, the stop of the car did not violate the Fourth Amendment and the evidence resulting from the stop did not need to be suppressed. In weighing in on the case before the U.S. Supreme Court, Rutherford Institute attorneys warn against allowing government agents to "benefit" from their mistakes of law, deliberate or otherwise, lest it become an incentive for abuse.

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'Cross at Ground Zero': History Lesson or State Religion?

by Charles C. Haynes, Director, Religious Freedom Education Project

Posted at FirstAmendmentCenter.org

At a time when Americans are deeply divided over the meaning of "separation of church and state," a ruling from the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last week provides a much-needed case study in how the First Amendment's establishment clause is supposed to work.

In a unanimous decision, the three-judge panel dismissed a challenge by atheists to the display of a cross-shaped beam at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at Ground Zero in New York City.

As the court explained, "the Establishment Clause is not properly construed to command that government accounts of history be devoid of religious references."

The First Amendment, in other words, separates church from state – but not religion from public life.

I suspect many readers share this understanding of "separation." But

growing numbers of Americans – especially constituents of groups like American Atheists and the Freedom From Religion Foundation – apparently believe that any mention of religion in government settings is a violation of the Constitution.

The lawsuit in this case – *American Atheists, Inc. v. Port Authority of New York and New Jersey* – began in 2011 as an attempt to keep the 9/11 National Museum from displaying an artifact popularly known as "The Cross at Ground Zero."

The object at the center of the controversy is a 17-foot steel column and cross-beam recovered from the rubble by construction workers in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Erected on a platform near the recovery site, the cross-shaped artifact became a symbol of hope and a worship site for workers and others gathered at Ground Zero.

After a federal district court refused to block inclusion of the cross-shaped structure in the 9/11 National Mu-



Courtesy photo

seum, American Atheists conceded that the object was a historic artifact worthy of display – but argued on appeal that it would be unconstitutional to include it without also displaying a plaque acknowledging that atheists

Obama Gives \$3 Bil to U.N. Climate Fund Run by Communist, Terrorist Nations

by JudicialWatch.org

President Obama has committed a mind-boggling \$3 billion to a new United Nations Green Climate Fund run by officials from Communist nations, a country that appears on the State Department’s list of terrorism-sponsors and an Arab oil-industry chief.

As if it weren’t bad enough that our commander-in-chief is giving away money while the nation suffers through a colossal budget deficit, there are countless reasons why this is a lousy idea. First of all, the United Nations is a famously corrupt organization that is already largely funded by Uncle Sam to the tune of billions annually. The exact figure is tough to nail down because the U.S. cash flows, not just directly to U.N. coffers from the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), but also from a number of other government agencies to the U.N. system.

The entire world body is well known as a pillar of fraud and mismanagement, but that hasn’t slowed the tide of American taxpayer dollars. Even the U.N.’s Human Rights Council, funded primarily by American taxpayers, is a huge joke. A few years ago Judicial Watch reported that the U.N. awarded a genocidal warlord indicted by an international court for crimes against humanity a seat on its laughable human rights council. His name is Omar Al-Bashir, a ruthless African dictator charged by the International Criminal Court of war crimes in Darfur for killing thousands of his own citizens.

The last thing we need is another global U.N. initiative looking for cash. The “urgency and seriousness of climate change” inspired the crooked world body to create the Green Climate Fund, which aims to help the international community combat global warming. Here’s the plan in a nutshell; the fund will promote the paradigm shift towards low-emission and

climate-resilient development pathways by providing support to developing countries to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This will be accomplished by following the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, an international environmental treaty that aims to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations.

Now let’s take a look at who’s running this new Green Climate Fund that’s supposed to save the world from the ills of global warming. Among the board of directors is Yingming Yang, the Deputy Director General of Communist China’s Ministry of Finance and Jorge Ferrer Rodriguez, a minister in Cuba’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Communist island has for years appeared on the State Department’s list of nations that sponsor terrorism. Another interesting board member is Ayman Shasly, an official in Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

The selection of Shasly as a top dog of a conglomerate looking to halt climate change is peculiar since the oil industry contributes the most greenhouse gas and is well known to have a negative effect on the environment because it’s toxic to nearly all forms of life. Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources is a government body in a country that happens to be the world’s largest producer and exporter of oil. In fact, it has a quarter of the world’s known oil reserves. Shasly’s efforts as a global environmentalist may seem like a conflict of interest, especially since his government has announced plans to increase oil production from around 8 million barrels per day to 12 million barrels.

Please see: www.judicialwatch.org/blog/2014/11/obama-gives-3-bil-u-n-climate-fund-run-communist-terrorist-nations/

Gruber’s Medicaid Model Errs in Colorado

by Bruce Parker
Vermont Watchdog

(Editor/GG: Game over folks, 1.1 million Coloradans enrolled in Medicaid. And more to come. Where is the money going to come from? More and more doctors refusing Medicaid patients because of the poor reimbursement rates. Thanks, Democrats, for destroying our health care system.)

Jonathan Gruber’s health care forecasting is failing in Colorado as Vermont’s Gov. Peter Shumlin prepares to use the economist’s math for single-payer health care.

As Vermonters anxiously await a Gruber-modeled financing plan for Green Mountain Care, modeling done for Colorado’s health exchange by Jonathan Gruber Associates has proven wildly erroneous.

In 2011, following Colorado’s decision to set up a state health exchange for Obamacare, the state hired Gruber to forecast enrollment trends from which the state and federal government could estimate costs.

According to a presentation delivered to the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange Board on September 16, 2011, and provided to Watchdog.org, Gruber predicted Medicaid enrollment in Colorado would grow from 440,000 enrollees in 2011 to 710,000 enrollees in 2016.

Actual 2014 data reported by the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing shows the number of people enrolled in the state’s Medicaid program has grown to more than 1.1 million — a miscalculation of about 400,000 enrollees.

The miscalculation is

growing rapidly, as the state reported 12,533 new Medicaid sign-ups in the two-week period between November 15 and November 30.

“Medicaid and CHP+ enrollments over the last few weeks show that we are still finding and enrolling low-income Coloradans into coverage,” Susan Birch, executive director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, said in a December 2nd news release.

The errors are significant for Vermont. While Shumlin has denounced Gruber for video statements disparaging American voters and rejecting government transparency, he has continued to defend Gruber’s math.

Gruber’s Medicaid enrollment error means Colorado’s cost estimates for Medicaid expansion are presently off by about \$800 million.

“His models can’t be relied on for policy. They’re not ready for prime time,” Linda Gorman, director of the Health Care Policy Center at the Independence Institute in Colorado, told Vermont Watchdog.

Gorman, an economist who serves as a member of Colorado’s Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform, recalled that the Gruber Microsimulation Model was hailed as a breakthrough methodology for forecasting health care data, despite its use of surveys and small samples to predict Coloradans’ health insurance choices.

“They said the great thing

about using the Gruber model instead of the standard econometric model is that we’re going to use a lot of survey data. They basically set up a representative population and said this is how people behave based on surveys. That kind of thing works really badly for a small state like Colorado,” Gorman said.

According to Gorman, a miscalculation of 400,000 people is a costly error since each Medicaid enrollee costs taxpayers about \$2,000. Gruber’s Medicaid enrollment error means Colorado’s cost estimates for Medicaid expansion are presently off by about \$800 million.

“Remember, they were trying to make the law come in as saving money — so

and 52,165 in the exchange unsubsidized plan — a underestimate that indicates paying customers aren’t signing up through the state exchange.

“So far, the data suggest that the exchange is a lot less popular than predicted,” Gorman said.

“What that is showing is the model has not so far done a very good job of predicting enrollment in these health benefit exchanges that were supposed to be the centerpiece of Obamacare.”

The Gruber Microsimulation Model also provided flawed predictions to the federal government. A 2012 article in Forbes notes that Gruber erred in predicting that insurance premiums would go down once the Affordable Care Act became law:

Before the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act became law, Gruber published a widely-cited analysis, using his Gruber Microsimulation Model, in which he asserted that in 2016, young people would save 13 percent, and older people 31 percent, on their insurance premiums. Gruber’s numbers were used to rebut an October 2009 analysis from PriceWaterhouseCoopers, which projected that non-group (a.k.a. individual-market) premiums would increase by 47 percent over the same period.

By 2012, however, Gruber reversed course and began informing Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Colorado that the law would increase non-group premiums by 19 percent to 30 percent, according to the Forbes article.

Please see: watchdog.org/186963/gruber-model-errs/

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The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand

2015



Military Vet Sought Treatment for 'Insomnia' Days Later, NY Police Officers Were Knocking on His Door: LAW SUIT

by Jason Howerton,
TheBlaze.com

(Editor/GG: This is how the liberals do it. One little issue at a time. They are turning the healthcare system into a gun informant network. Next it will be unpaid traffic tickets. We have to resist EVERY effort they make to infringe on the 2nd Amendment. Think local folks.)

U.S. Navy veteran and retired police officer Donald Montgomery is suing New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and other officials after his firearms were reportedly confiscated by police after he sought treatment for insomnia.

It all started after Mont-

gomery visited his primary care physician on May 6th and complained about trouble sleeping, the *Daily Caller* reported. He claimed to have been suffering from insomnia since moving from a different state. Montgomery then returned to the hospital again days later for the same problems, except this time he was diagnosed with "Depression; Insomnia" by hospital staff.

On May 23rd, Montgomery returned to the hospital yet again with the same symptoms. He reportedly stayed at the hospital for 48 hours voluntarily for treatment.

In the lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the West-

ern District of New York earlier this month, Montgomery alleges that his visit was wrongly recorded as an involuntary stay.

Under New York's SAFE Act, mental health professionals are required to report patients who are determined to be threats to themselves or others. Regardless, the lawsuit claims the veteran was cleared.

"Patient has no thoughts of hurting himself. Patient has no thoughts of hurting others. Patient is not having suicidal thoughts. Patient is not having homicidal thoughts," the hospital notes from the visit allegedly said.

Montgomery was said to

be "mildly depressed" by hospital officials, but they found "no evidence of any psychotic processes, mania, or OCD symptoms." The notes also asserted, "Insight, judgment, and impulse control are good."

Still, Montgomery's records were forwarded to Mental Hygiene Legal Service for further review.

The *Daily Caller* outlines what happened next:

Four days after leaving the hospital, New York State police sent a letter to the Suffolk County clerk's office stating "has been adjudicated as a mental defective or has been involuntarily committed to a mental institution" and

that he was prohibited from possessing any firearms.

The next day, Montgomery received a call from an officer at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department informing him that his guns would have to be confiscated.

Montgomery says that on May 30th, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department showed up to his house and confiscated his pistol license and four handguns — Colt .38 revolver, Derringer .38, Glock 26 9mm, Smith & Wesson Bodyguard 380.

Montgomery claims in his lawsuit that officials violated his constitutional rights

during the ordeal. He also accuses the hospital of violating his privacy by giving his medical records to state police.

Montgomery is seeking monetary damages, legal fees, and the "striking down and rendering void" of New York's "Mental Hygiene Law" on grounds that it represents an "unconstitutional violation of the Second, Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments.

Reprinted with Permission. Please see: www.theblaze.com/stories/2015/01/02/military-vet-sought-treatment-for-insomnia-days-later-ny-police-officers-were-knocking-on-his-door-lawsuit/

Put It In a Darn Holster!!!

Toddler Kills Mother Via Negligent Discharge in Idaho

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

I hate off-body carry with an unbridled passion, and personally feel that if you can't carry a weapon on your body, then you should not be carrying a firearm at all.

I simply don't feel that purses, personal organizers, etc have the requisite weapon security, even though some off-body systems do look very nice.

Unfortunately, some women eschew even these quality purses designed to securely carry a handgun in a secure compartment, and instead opt to drop their handgun in a regular purse with little to no weapon retention capability at all. They then

compound the risk of the weapon being unsecured, by putting their purse with an unsecured weapon in it nearby, instead of keeping it on their body away from intruding hands, such as those of inquisitive children.

Such thoughtless negligence just turned an Idaho toddler into a killer.

Authorities in northern Idaho say a 2-year-old boy accidentally shot and killed his mother after he reached into her purse at a Wal-Mart store and the concealed gun fired.

Kootenai County sheriff's spokesman Stu Miller tells reporters that the shooting was accidental and occurred in the store in Hayden, Idaho, a town

about 40 miles northeast of Spokane, Washington.

The vultures of Moms Demand Action and other gun control groups are going to have a field day with this horrific story, and all we can do in response is wring our hands in anguish. This mother had a valid concealed carry permit, but either lacked decent training, common sense, or more than likely, both. Now she's dead at the hands of an innocent child, who will one day have to wrestle with the fact that he is motherless due to her stupidity.

Women have an incredible array of fashion choices that they can make, far more than most men. As a result, an ever widening market of products is being cre-

ated and marketed so that women can carry a holstered weapon on their body, nearly regardless of their casual, business, or formal attire. If a woman is wearing much more than her underwear, she can conceal a handgun; she simply needs to select the right system.

**And it was
all so
unnecessary.**

This mother tried to be lazy. This mother tried to be cheap. And now this mother isn't going to be anything but a vague memory and some faded pictures in

this child's life as he gets older.

And it was all so unnecessary.

Please carry on-body in proper holsters, ladies, and find a good female shooting instructor in your area or one of the ladies-focused shooting sites (Guns & Curves, perhaps) online if you have questions about gear.

Handguns can be great equalizers for the fairer sex, but only if you are trained to use them properly, which includes safe carry and storage.

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**Sangre Shooting Sports Club
Annual Meeting**

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

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

*Hope does not disappoint us,
because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
whom he has given us.*

Romans 5:5, NIV

Support for Gun Rights Grows in Black Community, So Why Are Black “Leaders” Anti-Gun?

by Allen West,
AllenBWest.com

The Second Amendment of our U.S. Constitution is seen as controversial for some. Take former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who has invested millions of his personal wealth to defeat the simple right Americans have to keep and bear arms — a right that shall not be infringed.

There have been attempts to go after magazine size, tax bullets, and even create ammunition shortages. After the tragic shooting at Newtown, Connecticut, the progressive socialist left resurrected the issue and it seemed they had a full blast of wind at their backs — or so it seemed.

According to the *Washington Times*, “Support for gun rights is higher than it’s been in decades, according to the latest data from the Pew Research Center that signals a stunning turnaround in how Americans feel about the issue just two years after the Newtown school shooting.

“Pew found that 52 percent of Americans say Second Amendment rights are more important than gun control — up 7 percentage points from just after the December 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting that left 20 schoolchildren and six faculty dead. That’s the highest approval rating in two decades, and it’s being driven in part by changing attitudes among black Americans, who are increasingly likely to view guns as good for public safety.”

“Pew found 54 percent of blacks now say firearms protect people from being victims of crimes, compared to 41 percent who say they are a public safety risk. Just two years ago, only 29 percent of blacks said guns were a public safety boon.

“Over the past two years, blacks’ views on this measure have changed dramatically,” Pew researchers said.”

You know I have pondered, how many of these “protestors” out shouting, “Hands up, don’t shoot,” “I can’t breathe,” and “black lives matter” actually reside in an urban black community rampant with crime and violence?

How many remember that it was a black man, a senior, who challenged the Chicago gun ban because he feared for his safety? And recently, I believe it was in Newark, New Jersey, that residents asked for more police coverage in their neighborhood. It’s becoming obvious to some that you can’t carry a police officer. Personal protection is indeed a personal responsibility.

Perhaps gun rights is yet another is-

sue where conservatives can find kindred unity in the black community — along with better education choices, entrepreneurial economic opportunity, restoration of the black family, and self-reliance. Without a doubt the progressive socialist left has repeatedly taken policy stances in contrast to those aforementioned positions — and truly to the detriment of those who live in the black community.

However, I do not expect the far left to raise the white flag of surrender.

According to the *Times* report, “President Obama called for major new restrictions on gun rights in the wake of the shooting, asking Congress to enact a bill to subject more gun purchases to background checks and to ban high-capacity ammunition magazines and military-style rifles. But gun rights supporters rallied, blocking

Perhaps gun rights is yet another issue where conservatives can find kindred unity in the black community – along with better education choices, entrepreneurial economic opportunity, restoration of the black family, and self-reliance.

those efforts in the Senate and leaving the matter stalled. Some states acted in lieu of federal action — and in Colorado it costs some State Senators their seats — but Democrats on Capitol Hill said Wednesday they remain committed to imposing new restrictions. “It is imperative that we act,” House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said at an event to commemorate the Newtown shooting. “We must stick with this.”

“Ladd Everitt, a spokesman for the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, said Pew’s findings reflect a sharp partisan divide on the issue, but also said the wording of the survey might have influenced the results. The survey asked whether it was more important to “control gun ownership” or “protect the right of Americans to own guns.” “The notion of having ‘rights’ is certainly going to be more appealing than the notion of being ‘controlled,’ no matter what topic you are asking respondents about,” he said in an email. “We’d be curious to see how the polling would look if Pew Research asked respondents if they believed they had ‘a right to be free from gun violence in their communities through the enactment of sensible gun legislation.’”

Well, Ladd, my lad, let me clarify something for you. Taking away the individual right to own a gun does not result in a “right to be free from gun violence” — that is an absurd policy statement. It relies on the benevolence of others, i.e. criminals, to respect the established “gun free zone” when we know the exact opposite occurs. This flawed logic by the progressive left that controlling our Second Amendment rights will lead to less gun violence instead leads to making the American people subjects, not citizens.

When posed a choice between supporting gun rights or gun controls, men and women, old and young, white and black, and Republican and Democrat all saw their preference for Second Amendment rights increase over the last two years.

Here is a simple quote that expresses the intent and meaning of the Second Amendment:

“I ask, Sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people. To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them.” It was written by George Mason, co-author of the Second Amendment, during Virginia’s Convention to Ratify the Constitution in 1788.

Is that the real objective of people like Ladd Everitt? There is astonishing hypocrisy when Michael Bloomberg, Barack Obama, and Nancy Pelosi, who are surrounded by armed security, believe they should determine how Americans protect themselves. But then again, that is the essence of progressive socialism. They know better for you than you do.

The fight for the constitutional right to keep and bear arms presses on and at no time should we, the people let down our guard. I am honored to welcome more members of the black community to this ideological battle.

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Concealed Carry Without Situation Awareness Puts a Gun in Criminal Hands

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

When I talk about concealed carry with serious concealed carriers—those that bother to learn all applicable laws, take formal training classes from professionals, invest in quality equipment, train as regularly as they can, and carry frequently—situational awareness always comes to the top of the topics of conversation.

Those concealed carriers who live in Cooper’s “condition yellow” with their heads on a swivel, constantly scanning for threats and proactively acting to avoid potential threats rarely get into situations where they have to put their hands on their concealed weapon, much less draw it. Situational Awareness is everything, and all but the most desperate or deranged criminals will turn away from someone who makes eye contact and moves confidently as if they know what they are doing. Your body language goes a long way towards saying to the criminal, “This is not someone to be taken lightly,” without you saying a word.

But merely slapping a gun in a holster under your coat doesn’t make you a competent concealed carrier, any more than buying a car makes you a safe and competent defensive driver. People who carry a concealed weapon but who lack good self-defense training (which goes beyond mere marksmanship training) are simply targets with a bonus prize.

A New Orleans man is now recent living proof of this sad reality.

A man was attacked Monday evening on Henry Clay Avenue by two assailants who beat him and took his concealed weapon, New Orleans police said.

The victim, a man in his 40s, was near Hen-

ry Clay and Coliseum around 9 p.m., Monday, December 22nd, when he was approached by two attackers who hit him with a gun, according to the initial NOPD report. They then “put him face down on the ground, frisked him, and stole the victim’s concealed weapon,” the report states.

I’m going to go out on a limb and make the educated guess that the victim was a “smart phone zombie” who was eyes-down into his mobile device or his music and who never saw the potential threats until it was far too late to take a proactive action.

Proactive actions such as crossing the street or putting an obstacle (for example, a parked car or telephone pole) between himself and his attackers would have served to either thwart the attack, or at least would have forced the attackers to commit and telegraph their intentions early. He would have had time to confirm that he was a target for criminal action, and would have had time to take cover and if need be, draw his weapon.

Instead, this clueless and unaware gun donor walked cluelessly into an ambush and put another gun on the street for criminals to use against good people.

Don’t just carry a gun.

Learn armed self-defense in which situational awareness, not your sidearm, is the most important part of your defensive arsenal.

If you aren’t going to honestly dedicate yourself to being proactive and engaged in self-defense and committed to situational awareness, leave your gun at home.

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***Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there
your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.***

Indiana Bill Would Require Prospective High School Graduates to Pass Immigrants' Civics Test

by Kyle Olson,
EAGNews.Org

INDIANAPOLIS
Indiana Senate Education Committee chairman Dennis Kruse has a simple idea: the knowledge standard for immigrants should be the same for our own high school students.

That's why the Republican is introducing a bill that would require Indiana graduates to pass a civics test before they receive a diploma.

"No matter how much knowledge you have, if you don't know how to use that knowledge within our system of government, it's not much good."

"I believe that if we're asking someone from a foreign country to know this information, that our own citizens ought to know it," Kruse tells the *La-*

ayette Journal-Courier.

While the bill is still being drafted, it will "require all public and charter school students to correctly answer at least 60 percent of the 100 civics questions that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services uses to administer its naturalization test."

The newspaper notes immigrants applying for U.S. citizenship are asked 10 of the set of 100 questions and must answer 60 percent correctly, as well.

The questions asked of immigrants are American Civics 101, such as:

- * "Who was the first President?"
- * "Why does the flag have 13 stripes?" and
- * "When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?"

Kruse has reason to be concerned.

Sam Stone, political director for the Civics Education Initiative, says while 92 percent of immigrants pass the test on the first try, less than 5 percent of high schoolers do.

A survey released in September by the Annenberg Institute found:

- * Only 36 percent of respondents could name all three branches of the

U.S. government, while 35 percent couldn't name a single one.

* A mere 27 percent know it takes a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate to override a presidential veto.

* Twenty-one percent think – incorrectly – that a 5-4 Supreme Court decision is sent back to Congress for reconsideration.

Stone notes Kruse's bill would make Indiana one of about 15 states considering such a requirement.

It comes as more states put a greater emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math courses, sometimes at the expense of other subjects.

"No matter how much knowledge you have, if you don't know how to use that knowledge within our system of government, it's not much good," Stone tells the *Journal-Courier.*

"Our government was designed to be run by informed, engaged citizens. We have an incredibly dangerous form of government for people who don't know how it works."

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Brace For Impact: 21,000 Business Regulations So Far; 2,475 New Ones on the Way

by Allen West,
AllenBWest.com

It's traditional to wish for a prosperous new year – but especially for our small business entrepreneurs, who are the backbone of our economy.

Unfortunately, that backbone is being burdened more and more. As we recently reported, *Forbes* now ranks the U.S. number 18 in the world for promoting a free market/free enterprise economic environment.

There are many factors which contribute to that ranking — one of them is the uber government bureaucratic regulatory state. When you consider the fiscal costs of regulations on businesses, it's essentially taxation, certainly without representation, as it doesn't emanate from the legislative branch.

So we enter 2015 with a sad reminder of how government is not supposed to work. A free market economic system is supposed to set the conditions for private sector success. That

doesn't mean no regulations — just not all of these "surprises."

As the *Washington Examiner* reports, "The pace of agencies issuing new rules and regulations has hit a record high under President Obama, whose administration's rules have filled 468,500 pages in the Federal Register. And, according to the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the president is poised to unleash another 2,375 new rules on American businesses without first giving Congress an up or down vote."

"CEI's Clyde Wayne Crews, vice president for policy, told *Secrets* Wednesday that of the top six biggest — annual — Federal Register page tallies since 2002, the Obama administration owns five. This year, he said, the Federal Register ended up printing 79,066 pages — 78,978 when blank pages are removed."

Is the American economy really coming back or is it barely treading water against incredible odds?

How long will the treading of water continue as the waves of incessant regulation pound our private

without any congressional input — yet another issue of constitutional governance.

Is the American economy really coming back or is it barely treading water against incredible odds? How long will the treading of water continue as the waves of incessant regulation pound our private sector businessmen and women?

sector businessmen and women? Obama's words spoken in Roanoke, Virginia in 2012 keep echoing, "If you have a business, you didn't built that, someone else did."

Can any of you fathom 468,500 pages of new regulations in six years? I wonder just how high that stack goes. But the greater question is what have been the financial costs of these almost half a million pages of new regulations? And remember, this is happening

And just so you all know, there's a little problem with Obamacare, since the SCOTUS ruled it constitutional with the individual mandate being a tax — well, the Senate can't create a tax-generating piece of legislation, only the House of Representatives can. I know, I know — the rule of law is SO old school.

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***So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed,
for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my
righteous right hand.***

Isaiah 41:10, NIV

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.



A New Year's Prayer for America

In 606 B.C. Jerusalem was overrun by the Babylonians which resulted in thousands of Jews taken captive and dragged to Babylon for various stations of servitude. In short order several young men stood out in such an exceptional way that even their captors couldn't help but notice and consequently, were elevated to positions of trust.

Daniel, at the forefront of this advancement was the recipient of some incredible God-given prophecies. One such revelation was personally delivered to the king outlining the despot's demise and the surrender of his kingdom to the Medes and Persians. The very night the memo was conveyed, the forecast was fulfilled. (Dan. 5:22-31)

Daniel quickly realized that as he and his countrymen faced this new regime, their possible peril could be elevated to a greater intensity. His solution was to offer a prayer of confession for his own sin as well as the nation of Israel's transgressions. (Dan. 9:1-19) As we launch into a new year, I humbly submit an American adaptation to Daniel's prayer.

Dear Lord,

We have indeed presumed upon your bountiful blessings and goodness, believing that our self-righteousness is sufficient to deserve continual prosperity, our so-called morals are high enough to be honored by God. We have taught millions of school children that all the glories of nature came about with no help from you, that mankind was not a noble creature created by an intelligent God, but an accident generated by a huge explosion. We have chosen to treat a

living soul like a blob of protoplasm which can be exterminated at any stage of development that suits our political and selfish purposes.

O God in heaven, we have all too often failed to consult your list of qualifications when we choose our leaders, supposing a charismatic personality capable of silky smooth rhetoric is preferable to good character. We have harkened to the voices of highly esteemed celebrities who have no regard for holiness, presuming that evil is good and good is evil. The middle verse of our Bible says, “It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man,” but we have put a greater confidence in government and politicians as a source of protection and provision than demonstrating reliance upon you. We have persuaded ourselves that human intelligence and accomplishment should be objects of worship in the temple of secular humanism. In a great effort of self-justification, we have allowed ourselves to be convinced that sin is only a state of mind with no real consequences. We have falsely concluded that there are no absolutes in morality, but only relativity.

Heavenly Father, we have tolerated your name being taken in vain and being debased, accompanied with a large volume of evil words projected on viewing screens until it has been deemed socially acceptable. We pay large amounts of money to comedians who think filth is funny. Our courts increasingly suggest that pornography should be unlimited, but the Word of God should be restricted at every possible opportunity. The same judges have, for all practical

purposes, ruled prayer out of any facet of public life. Our attitude has been: “We don't want You to completely leave us, O God, but please stay at the back of the bus. In the event of another 9/11 we may need You to temporarily come forward to offer us some reassurance.”

Dear God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we fearfully acknowledge that the houses of God are primarily left barren Sunday after Sunday, as your day is replaced with unabated recreation; many declare with unashamed boldness that the God they need can be found in the woods or at the lake. We are, dear Lord, becoming a nation of pantheists; please help us. We have discounted your righteousness by substituting “shacking up” for marriage, calling “gay” what you label an abomination and abusing our children by placing them in front of a television all day.

This nation has become exceedingly sinful in its pursuit of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Even those who have not condoned it have, to some degree, tolerated it. Therefore, we all share a guilty verdict.

Dear Father, if you would revive our hearts and minds toward you and remove from us this great transgression, the sin of presumption, it would be an incredible miracle. We have falsely presumed that you have not noticed our iniquity and have forgotten that “the eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and good.” (Proverbs 15:3)

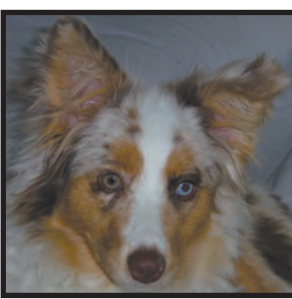
Please accept our confession in the name of our Savior. Amen.

A Sheepdog Barks!

Why would a sheepdog be glad that the Congress and President went back to work last Tuesday? That only means that the wolves have returned and we get less sleep and have to bark until we are “hoarse” while we watch over them. The more Congress is in session the more they reallocate our money, misspend it, write more regulations and control more of our lives. WOOF! The more they stay at home or on long vacations the better off we all are. I, for one, am sick of all the lying to us. ALL politicians really do believe we are stupid, clueless and have very short memories. Those things are what they count on. There are thousands of examples but consider these. A few years ago they passed a thing called “Sequestration.” They all told us this shouldn't happen because it would “devastate” the country. It was only a “stop-gap” idea to force real budget agreements out between the two parties. Only if negotiations failed would “sequestration” take effect. Well they failed. Anyone surprised? Sequestration became the law. Oh how they moaned and howled. The military is destroyed they claimed. HOWL! Thousands of government employees will have to be laid off or furloughed. HOWL! The consequences will be catastrophic. HOWL! To scare us they always use examples like “the old people won't get their social security checks” or “we will have to close the national parks and war memorials.” These initial actions are meant to deceive and alarm us. Without more of our money to spend how in the world can they operate our leviathan government? They “grounded” the Blue Angels and Thunderbirds, stopped “flyovers”, furloughed a few employees and told us things would never be the same. REALLY? Well sequestration happened and everything is pretty much back to “normal.” Normal is when they waste too much money. No employees are being furloughed, no services have been stopped, no parks or memorials are closed, all the precision flying teams are back performing and the “flyovers” have returned for sporting events. WOW! What happened to all the terrible things se-

questration would bring? Yes, they do count on our stupidity, unawareness and short memories. Wake up my brothers and sisters. WOOF! This country is in decline on almost every front. I watch and listen to the news and I wonder how we got to this “parallel universe.” Recently I watched a TV series called Manhattan. It's “kinda” about the development of the Atomic Bomb with a lot of racial and homosexual overtones thrown in. C'mon! What do you expect from Hollywood these days? Anyway the first season recently ended and the big issue was whether or not there would be an explosion or an implosion after detonation. Apparently most scientists thought that was impossible. Implosion is to burst or collapse inward. I couldn't help but think that this is what is happening to America. We are imploding and we were warned about this by several of our great leaders. The idiocy I see and hear every day is frightening. WOOF! There are LPSDs here in my county that claim the children are frightened by law abiding citizens-patriots marching in the Independence Day parade with their firearms. REALLY! What the children in this country (and the adults) should be frightened of is the imploding of our Constitutional rights and our disappearing liberties, freedoms and moral values. Washington D.C. is full of those, in both parties, helping this self-destruction from within. Can it be stopped? Will it be stopped? Do the Republicans have the guts and courage necessary? I'm not sure they do. We are becoming a nation of wimps and “Julias” totally dependent on our morbidly obese Uncle Sam to take care of our every need. Protestors around America are screaming for Dead Cops. What we all should be demanding is Tough Love. Join me – What do we want? – TOUGH LOVE! When do we want it? - NOW! Are you listening Republicans? Start acting like grown-ups. The LPSP “children” have imploded us enough. We need some discipline and we need it now.

I'll end with a few realistic thoughts. The reports that Obama and the Congress



will work together is Hogwash! Pure Hogwash! Actually I don't want them to “work” with Obama. His agenda is bad for America. Working with him would be helping the “implosion.” Let Obama decide the veto pen will not serve the Democrats well. The Democrats can help override any of his vetoes. We'll see if they really want to help the American people. We know Obama doesn't want that. He only wants to be America's “Sugar Daddy.” No adult parenting from him. Tough Love! That is what we need and it needs to start with Uncle Sam.

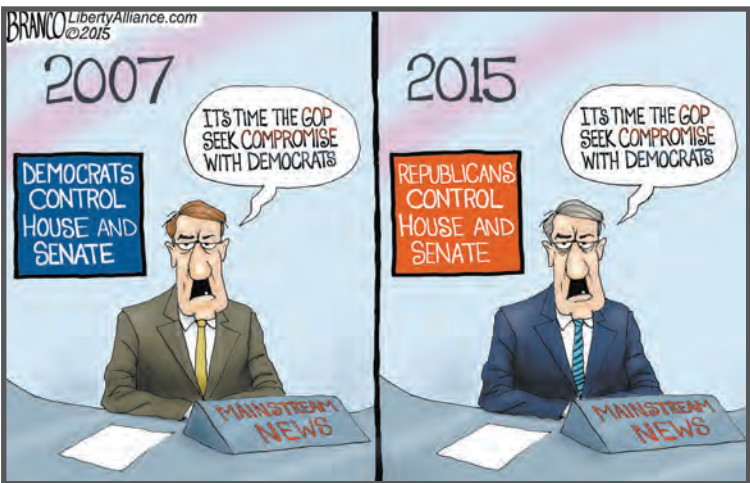
Finally, kudos to the courageous NYPD officers that have the guts to show the LPSP Mayor what they think of him. Even though the NYPD Commissioner told them to not disrespect the Mayor they continued to turn their backs to him. The LPSPs (including the Mayor and Police Commissioner) are saying that was disrespectful to the families. We all know that is utter nonsense. It was clearly a show of solidarity and support for their brothers and their families while directly targeting the Mayor for his anti-police words and actions. De Blasio's feeble attempts now to praise New York's “Finest” are too little, too late and clearly insincere. Good for you guys. Take a stance! You get a “bark out” from me. WOOF!

LATE BREAKING SHEEPDOG NEWS: At the Westcliffe Town Board meeting on Tuesday, 6 January, the Mayor and Trustees unanimously granted the parade sponsorships to the incumbents. The attempt by the LPSPs to steal the parade and ban the carrying of firearms failed. We believe the town leaders did the right thing and we salute them. This was a victory for our 1st and 2nd Amendment rights. WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!

May God Have Mercy on America! JMH

**So rend your heart, and not your garments;
Return to the Lord your God,
For He is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;
And He relents from doing harm.**

Joel 2:13, NKJV



Report Blames Obama White House for Weaponizing the IRS and Turning It Against Conservatives

by Pete Kasperowicz,
TheBlaze.com

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will release a report Tuesday that finds the Obama White House has turned the IRS into a political organization that has spent years attacking conservative groups.

“The Internal Revenue Service has compromised its traditional position as an independent tax administrator,” the report found. “The IRS’s inability to keep politics out of objective decisions about interpretation of the tax code damaged its primary function: an apolitical tax collector that Americans can trust to treat them fairly.”

It said efforts to cover up the scandal were ultimately led by Obama himself. Obama initially said the IRS’s actions were inexcusable, but later said there was not a “smidgen of corruption” at the IRS.

The document is its final staff report under Chairman Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) about the IRS targeting scandal, which ultimately led to the dismissal of the IRS commissioner and former IRS employee Lois Lerner. But the report said

the fact-finding mission of Congress is not yet complete, and said the next Congress will have to continue this work.

It made several suggestions for fixing the IRS and allowing it to act in a bipartisan fashion again. Among other things, it suggested replacing the IRS commissioner with a bipartisan commission, removing the IRS as a regulator for political speech, and creating a private right of action for victims of information leaks by the IRS.

The report indicated that improper IRS activities began with a 2010 comment from President Barack Obama, who said some of the Tea Party groups were being funded with cor-

porate money, and “we don’t know where this money is coming from.” That criticism was prompted by Democratic reactions to the Citizens United case in the Supreme Court, which many Democrats blamed for allowing the

wealthy to pour more money into campaigns.

Five days after Obama spoke in 2010, former IRS official Lois Lerner spoke at Duke University and said many wanted the IRS to “fix the problem.”

“The pressure to ‘fix the problem,’ as articulated by Lois Lerner, originated with President Obama and senior party leadership,” the report found. “For twenty-seven months, from February 2010 until May 2012, the Internal Revenue Service systematically targeted conservative tax-exempt applicants for additional scrutiny and delay.”

“As prominent Democratic politicians and the media condemned conservative non-profit groups, the IRS sought ways to rein in the groups’ political speech,” the report found. “Lois Lerner initiated a ‘c4 project’ — careful to ensure that it was not ‘per se political’ — and called applications filed by Tea Party groups “very dangerous” because she believed that they could undo existing IRS limits on non-profit political speech.”

That led to additional scrutiny of conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status. The report said that while a few

groups were targeted with the words “progress” or “progressive” in their title, almost all were conservative-leaning organizations.

The decision to target conservative groups was followed by later decisions to cover it up, and blame lower level workers for the initiative.

The report also blamed Obamacare, which gave the IRS a key role in implementing Obama’s health program, for turning the IRS into an arm of the White House, when it should have remained independent.

“Evidence shows an IRS responsive to the partisan policy objectives of the White House and an IRS leadership that coordinates with political appointees of the Obama administration,” it found.

It said efforts to cover up the scandal were ultimately led by Obama himself. Obama initially said the IRS’s actions were inexcusable, but later said there was not a “smidgen of corruption” at the IRS.

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CROSS

From page 13

were among the victims and rescuers on 9/11.

In rejecting the atheists’ challenge to the display and demand for equal time, the appeals court panel took the opportunity to give a primer on the meaning of government “neutrality” under the First Amendment.

Yes, the establishment clause requires that government remain neutral among religions — and between religion and non-religion. But for constitutional purposes, neutrality doesn’t mean ignoring religion or, in this case, leaving religion out of the story.

Government-funded museums may not, of course, erect displays intended to promote or denigrate religion. Inclusion of religious artifacts (or objects viewed as having religious meaning) must have a secular or educational purpose.

The many religious paintings, altarpieces and other religious objects in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., for example, have profound religious content and may have been used at one time for devotional purposes. But they are now part of a secular museum, displayed to convey the history of art. Remove religious images and objects from the West Wing of the National Gallery, and the place would be nearly empty.

Similarly, exhibits at the 9/11 National Museum have an obvious secular purpose: They document the history of the terrorist attacks and the rescue efforts that followed. The Cross at Ground Zero is a significant part of that story. Leaving this object out would not only be incomplete history; it would signal hostility to religion that could itself be viewed as a violation of the First Amendment.

The cross-shaped artifact is

in the “finding meaning” section of the museum, included among some 1,000 objects associated with ways — religious and nonreligious — in which people sought to make sense of the attacks.

The description accompanying the cross-shaped structure tells the story of its recovery from the wreckage of the Twin Towers and how many viewed it as a religious sign of hope. What was once an object of devotion has become, in the context of the museum, a historical artifact.

The court also rejected the demand for a plaque about atheists and 9/11. Government neutrality under the First Amendment doesn’t mean equal time or balanced treatment for all faiths and beliefs; it requires only that the exhibits represent the history of the event without either promoting or denigrating religion.

Of course, if there were a 9/11 artifact related to atheists, it would violate the principle of neutrality for the museum to leave it out.

But no such atheist-related object exists and the First Amendment doesn’t require the museum to manufacture an artifact about atheists that isn’t part of the history of the attacks and recovery.

The 2nd Circuit got it right. The First Amendment ensures government neutrality in matters of faith, but doesn’t prevent publicly funded museums or any other public institution from telling a story that needs to be told.

Charles C. Haynes is director of the Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute, 555 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001. Web: religiousfreedomcenter.org Email: chaynes@newseum.org

Please see: www.firstamendmentcenter.org/cross-at-ground-zero-history-lesson-or-state-religion

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Pueblo “Homeland Security” Agency Hires Teacher Accused of Kissing, Sexting With Students

by Kyle Olson, EAGNews.org

PUEBLO COUNTY, Colo.

A teacher who resigned amid accusations of “sexting” with at least one student has found a new job in homeland security.

Larisa Oringdulph, a former South High School teacher, was hired as the South All-Hazards Regional Homeland Security Coordinator by a coalition of county agencies.

Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk Taylor tells the Chieftain the group is essentially “a conduit for the federal homeland security funds that get passed through the state and into counties to be used for various projects.” Those include Pueblo, Custer, Huerfano, Fremont and Las Animas counties.

The sheriff says the members of the group that were a part of the hiring process knew of Oringdulph’s past, but “couldn’t say if the accusations against Oringdulph played any role in the hiring process,” according to the paper.

The teacher was never charged with a crime, but was accused of sending sexually suggestive text messages — and a provocative photo — to students while she was employed at the high school.

Oringdulph had her teaching license revoked by the state last month after the state board of education said she engaged in “inappropriate conduct toward male high school students.”

ABC 13 reports the teacher “admitted to sexting with and kissing a student.”

Sheriff Taylor tells the news station Oringdulph was one of 17 applicants and “was the most qualified due to previous grant writing experience.”

She’ll make \$48,000 annually.

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Only 19 Paterson, N.J., High School Kids Are College-Ready But 66 School Officials Make at Least \$125,000!

by Eric Owens, DailyCaller.com

(Editor/GG: Mmmmmmm, extremely well paid (i.e., overpaid) staff and administrators, 50 schools, over 24,000 students and only 19 can “pass” the SAT? The public school system at its finest. They obviously need more money.)

Only 19 students in the public school system in Paterson, N.J. who have taken the SAT scored high enough to be considered college ready, local Fox affiliate WWOR-TV reports.

At the same time, 66 employees in the Paterson school district each soak taxpayers for salaries of at least \$125,000 per year, the Paterson Press reports.

According to the College Board, which markets the perpetually-changing SAT, a college-ready score on the test is 1500, which is essentially the average cumulative score on the standardized test’s three sections (currently called reading, math, and writing).

You get 600 points for signing your name. (A perfect score is 2400.)

Paterson is no tiny town. It is, in fact, the third-largest city in New Jersey. The population is roughly 146,000 people. The population is about 60 percent Hispanic and 26 percent black, according to City-Data.com.

The city boasts some 50 public schools altogether. There are over 24,000 total students in all grades.

Rosie Grant, executive director of the Paterson Education Fund, said high school students in the city’s public schools have been forced to deal with years of managerial messes.

“These kids who are now seniors have gone through seven superintendents in their tenure at Paterson public schools and with every administration change, there’s a reworking of what the schools are supposed to be doing,” Grant told WWOR.

Students also have to deal with a lot of challenges outside of school.

Paterson’s residents suffer from the eighth-highest rate of violent crime (just over one percent) in The Garden State, NJ.com notes.

Camden is New Jersey’s violent crime per capita epicenter. The rate is a stunning 2.5 percent.

In December 2013, Camden’s then new superintendent of public schools announced that only three — THREE! — students in the entire district who took the SAT during the 2011-12 academic year scored high enough to qualify as college-ready.

Speaking to the school board and members of the community, Paymon Rouhanifard described finding out about the low number as a “kick-in-the-stomach moment.”

Back in Paterson, school officials say they have cleverly dealt with their nearly complete failure to prepare students for college entrance exams by no longer using the SAT to assess student achievement.

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