

Mikey Neal Memorial Service Held

The east gym of the Custer County School was at near capacity for the memorial service for Michael James Neal, Jr., better known to most in the community as Mikey. A Power-Point presentation included memorable pictures with family and friends played to some of Mikey’s favorite songs. Several speakers memorialized ways in which this young man had influenced their lives.

The presentation made by football coach and school counselor Troy Baumgardner was both moving and inspirational. The *Sentinel* requested and was given permission to print the text for those who may not have been able to attend. It follows:

“As I was preparing my thoughts for today, I looked through the student record files and found the birth certificate of a Michael James Neal, Jr. And I thought Michael Neal?? Who is that?? We didn’t have a Michael Neal in our school....we had a Mikey Neal. Mikey....a name that brings unique memories to each of us.

“With Mikey having grown

up in Westcliffe, there are plenty of Mikey stories. As a 1st grader we had a glimpse of this Mikey character being formed...While lining up for lunch, Mikey and Scott Freeburg were being a little mischievous, and Mrs. Pinnella made him write a note about it

“Now imagine this is in a 1st grader’s handwriting and spelling...“I thought I was at recess and then I realized I was inside the school. And then I tried to stop Scott. But he wouldn’t listen to me. And I tried to be quiet, but Scott was making me laugh. I couldn’t stop laughing until you came out. Then I stopped laughing.”

“The “Mikey” character had an early start and kept developing. In 8th grade, Mrs. Tillotson noted how Mikey always had a sense of humor and could somehow weave that into the classroom lesson. In being given the assignment of a demonstration speech, it was never considered that Mikey and Arlo would choose to demonstrate “how to ask a girl out on a date”.

“And this year in 9th grade



Hundreds of mourners released balloons in honor of Mikey Neal.

Sentinel photo by Paul Sage

from Mrs. Selle. “Mikey was the “spark” in my class. He was always excited to relate things he had seen or done to what we were learning in Science. I had to get extremely creative with my seating as the “Three Stooges” always found a way to make eye contact in class and speak in their silent, secret language.

“And one of the three stooges sent this message

to me. So this one day in the summer I had a few rolls of duct tape and we were walking down to JJ’s. It was a little early in the morning and JJ likes his beauty sleep...well...he does need it so we decided to stop on main street. I looked at Mikey and he looked at me, I looked at my bag of tape, he looked at a stop sign, and at that moment we had the same idea. Now just imagine

driving or walking down main street and seeing a wild Mikey duct taped to a pole. Soon after he duct taped me to a pole and Thomas recorded it all. We made everyone feel better with our stupid imaginary minds.

“And then there is the time he came up to one of the

See MIKEY on page 5

COMING TO THE CLIFFS! Ride the Rockies

by Fred “P-Dawg” Hernandez

At the Ranchers Roost function room the meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 16, by Ms. Donna Hood who heads the core group charged



A packed house for the public forum to talk about Ride the Rockies.

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

with coordinating the Ride the Rockies Event for the town of Westcliffe. Mayor Christy Veltre gave the opening remarks to a packed room with all seats taken and about half a dozen people

standing on the sides and back of the room. Her simple message was essentially a confirmation that the town can do this and do it well. Mr. Jerry Keffer then spoke about his two initial concerns: parking and food which he now felt more comfortable with. In fact the core group had been working on this event since November of last year with representatives of Ride the Rockies (RTR) who had asked for complete secrecy until the event was officially announced by them and this was done on February 7th (just last week).

Ms. Hood did a slide presentation which showed, among other things, the logo for the ride which commemorates the Thirtieth Anniversary of Ride the Rockies. Since this was an information session the slide presentation went on to show the 2014 demograph-

ics to give the audience a feel of what this event could mean for the twin towns and the county as a whole. Some of the highlights were as follows:

- event population 2,000 - 2,750
- 2,000 registered cyclists, event staff, family and friends
- over 2,500 applications received
- ride is capped at two thousand riders
- 74% male riders and 26% female
- household income 50% over \$125K
- 15% over \$100K
- 16% over \$ 75K
- 10% over \$50 K
- 66% Colorado residents

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Bobcat Basketball

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New Prairie Dog Habitat at Antlers Liquor

page 6

Eric Holder Defeated

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PATRIOT ALERT!

New Veterans' Program To Be Cut?

page 23



Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

Psalm 73:23-24
NIV

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Custer County.

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

PROTECTING THE UNBORN: THE 2015 CAMPAIGN BEGINS



2014 was a good year for protecting those that cannot protect themselves. 2015 promises even more gains. Abortion has not been eliminated, but many gains have been made that helped reduce the number. Today, there are 550,000 fewer abortions a year than in the peak year of 1990. There are still far too many. Laws are changing and pro-life candidates are being elected all over the nation. These accomplishments help the fight to stop the unnecessary killing of babies. You can help by supporting one of the many wonderful organizations that work hard all year long to reduce and eventually stop this horrible practice. Today we will highlight four of them:

Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)

This is a national level organization with nearly 2500 Allied Attorneys which help litigate religious freedoms and pro-life cases all across America. Recently they won a decision that could be a turning point in the fight to expose America's largest abortion business, Planned Parenthood (PP). Sue Thayer spent almost 18 years with PP, but when she was ordered to implement "webcam abortions" she could no longer continue. She turned to ADF to expose the big lie. According to Sue, PP is not about helping women access "health" care. It is about making money and abortion is its moneymaker. You can help ADF continue with the initial victory to stop PP from Medicaid fraud, "voluntary" contributions from low-income women, and fraudulent billing for Medicaid services in connection with non-reimbursable abortions. Ms. Thayer, a long-time PP clinic director has exposed these alleged PP illegal activities in Iowa.

ADF has also recently won a 9-0 Supreme Court decision to strike down a Massachusetts law that created a 35-foot buffer zone around abortion clinics. In Maryland and Texas they were successful in having ordinances struck down that required pregnancy care centers (like our own Lighthouse Pregnancy Center) to post mandatory messages suggesting to the women they needed to look "elsewhere" before deciding to choose life. You can support and contribute to ADF at 15100 N. 90th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85260 or at their web site: AllianceDefendingFreedom.org.

National Right to Life (NRL)

This is another national level organization that focuses on federal legislation and the election of pro-life legislators. They were very successful in the 2014 elections. Their massive mail outs and advertising campaigns help elect 8 new, pro-life U.S. Senators and 15 new, pro-life members in the U.S. House of Representatives. They also helped elect hundreds of pro-life candidates in state legislative races. These new pro-life representatives all over America will help pass significant pro-life laws at all levels. NRL continues the good fight against much better-funded opponents like Planned Parenthood, NARAL, and Emily's List. However, the successful 2014 campaigns have left their purses empty. With all these great legislative gains now is the time to pursue more anti-abortion laws. NRL is committed to helping pass one of the most significant federal, pro-life bills in our history, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This Act would provide nationwide protection from abortion for unborn children

who we now know are capable of feeling pain at 20 weeks fetal age, about the beginning of the sixth month. 60% of Americans support this bill. Cases involving rape and incest are still exceptions. Ten states have already passed similar laws – Colorado is NOT one of them. NRL has been saving babies lives since 1968. You can support and contribute to NRL at 512 10th Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20004 or at their website: nrlc.org or nrlc@nrlc.org

And Then There Were None (ATTWN)

This fairly new organization is taking a rather unique approach in its pro-life efforts. A young woman named Abby Johnson began working at a Planned Parenthood facility near Texas A&M University. As she progressed further up the management chain the horrors of what PP does became apparent to her and she became very concerned. These are her words: "In the last year of my employment, many things began to disturb me...the increase in our abortion quota, our new desire to expand late-term abortion services and in the end, watching a 13-week-old child in the womb struggle for his life during an abortion procedure." Abby learned first-hand the deceptions of the abortion industry. She wants to make sure no workers have to continue because of a lack of support. Abby has made this her ministry to help educate and turn PP workers, et al., from what they are doing. What better way to stop abortion in many places than by convincing the workers to turn to other pursuits. Clinic workers, like Abby, are often misled at first. Like the case of Sue Thayer described above, PP is not what so many are led to believe. You can

help Abby reach out to staff workers inside abortion mills and help them find life-affirming jobs at P.O. Box 2571, Round Rock, TX 78680 or at their website: attwn.org.

Lighthouse Pregnancy Center

Our local area is fortunate to have a facility which supports local women (and men) in their difficult times. The Center provides encouragement and hope as well as baby clothes, food, diapers, strollers, baby swings, books on parenting, and many other baby-related items. They now have an ultrasound machine and can provide Godly advice, choices, and comfort to women in their greatest time of need. Basically they are here to listen and help with any number of issues for teenagers and young mothers and fathers alike. They need volunteers and donations of all kinds: money, time, expertise, baby items, and items for their annual yard sale. You can support and donate to the Lighthouse at P.O. Box 144, Westcliffe, CO 81252 or 417 Cliff Street in Silver Cliff, 81252. You can call them at 719-783-HELP or visit their web site at: LighthouseWestcliffe.org

Someone has to fight to protect these innocent young lives. They deserve the right to life. Can you even imagine that an abortion mill like Planned Parenthood would issue "quotas" to their directors? They now provide "webcam abortions" which is a doctor prescribing abortion pills to patients on a computer monitor that they never see or follow up with. We can all help stop these terrible and uncivilized procedures by supporting pro-life organizations like the ones identified above. Please help in any way you can.



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A Response to Traci Hibbard

by Adam C. Mokhriby,
Fremont County

“School prayer is unconstitutional and illegal in a public school. There is no grey area here.”

The quote you just read is from an article written by Traci Hibbard that appeared in the Southern Colorado Shopper. It was written in opposition of Randy Pfaff’s request for support for his involvement with Florence High School. I thought you, the readers of the *Sentinel* would appreciate an editorial I wrote in response to Traci Hibbard.

This is a response to an article authored by Traci Hibbard which unfortunately made a false legal claim as well as being misleading. This article is an attempt to clarify the current legal situation to anyone who may have been misled by Hibbard’s claims. I’d like to bring your attention to this quote from Hibbard’s article, “School prayer is unconstitutional and illegal in a public school. There is no grey area here.” I imagine the millions of students who choose to pray before eating, the thousands of religious clubs that openly pray on school property, as well as the school boards, principals, and the Department of Education that knowingly allow this activity will be quite surprised to learn that school prayer is unconstitutional and illegal! Is it possible that school boards, principals, and attorneys are uneducated on this subject? There is another possibility

however: prayer always has been, and most probably will always be, not merely legal, but in fact protected underneath free exercise of religion and free speech rights, though admittedly with a few provisos which will be mentioned in part

Individual, silent, personal prayer never has and never could be outlawed in public schools.

below. Court cases such as *Westside Community Board of Education v. Mergens* guarantees the constitutionality of school prayer while other court cases limit school prayer such as when Hibbard mentions in her article the court case *Lee v. Weisman*, which found that prayer during graduation by a clergy member was in violation of the Establishment Clause. But that is a far cry from what Hibbard would have you believe, for in her article it is clearly implied that *Lee v. Weisman* found all prayer at school unconstitutional which is appallingly misleading to the actual ramifications of the decision. To go through every court case would make this article too long, so I will attempt to summarize the current legal situation; if you want a more detailed understanding sources are widely available online. A Summation by the FFRE, (an organization which is far from being

religiously friendly), “Individual, silent, personal prayer never has and never could be outlawed in public schools. The courts have declared government-fostered prayers unconstitutional - those led, required, sanctioned, scheduled, or

suggested by officials.” In guidelines written for school districts by the Anti-Defamation League they state, “a school district must never, in whatever it does, appear to endorse or disapprove of religion.” You see a student will always have the right to pray, and a religious club will always have the right to exist, just as a chess club would. Problems only arise when the school can be seen as showing favoritism/endorsement to a religion, or a religious lifestyle, or if a student’s display of religious practice is disruptive to the class and/or classmates. And if one of these conditions does exist, it is still possible it may be found constitutional depending on the particulars. Claiming that prayer at school is illegal, is inaccurate. The moral, (which is really for everybody): before you spread a falsehood, spend a few minutes of your time to verify the validity of your claim.

Update from the High Mountain Hay Fever Board

The High Mountain Hay Fever Board of Directors met on Tuesday, February 3rd, for several reasons that we would like to share with the community. Our first order of business was to meet our promised commitment to evaluating whether the amount that we had set aside for EMS was still necessary in light of the facts that the mill levy to support EMS had passed. We deemed the passing of that levy as wonderful news for the community and for EMS. The Board had committed last fall to donate three payments of \$14,000 each to EMS contingent upon using our own discretion as to the need for each payment. In light of the fact that the levy had been passed and also that HMHF had given permission to use \$13,000 that we had previously given to the Custer County Medical Clinic (and earmarked for other purposes) to be used for the repair of an ambulance, the HMHF Board

decided to make its final payment for this year to the medical clinic in the amount of \$6,000.

That freed up some funds which we needed to help the community in other ways and to help us achieve our own goals of producing an even better event than the ones in the past, which we feel strongly will also benefit our community in many ways. As a result of a request from Sheriff Byerly in his quest to initiate a Computer Aided Dispatch System, the HMHF Board will donate \$4,000 towards that effort. We are honored to be part of a group of donors that has worked to raise funds for this project. We believe that once CAD is up and running it will help all first responders in the county: such as, EMS, area fire departments, the Posse, Road and Bridge crews, SAR, and the Sheriff’s Department itself.

We also earmarked some

funds for our own purposes, namely, to do more and better advertising and to buy a badly needed new computer.

The HMHF Board is very proud of the many community non-profit organizations, community projects, and safety and service organizations that it has been able to help support throughout the event’s history, and we are committed to continue helping others in the future.

Very truly yours,
Ron Thomason,
Chairman High Mountain Hay Fever Board of Directors:
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Jackie Barnes, Secretary
Don Belveal
Dana Diehl Derick
Butch Gemin
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Ask a Pro: How can I save money on a service call?

Anything that saves us time on the job saves you money period. One of the main things is ‘access’ to the pressure tank and controls. Some are located in utility rooms full of ‘stuff’. If we have to crawl over, clear an aisle or move your ‘stuff’, that’s costing you money.

Some pressure tanks are located in a home’s crawlspace. Many are full of rodent feces and bodies in various states of decay. Some have loose fiberglass and black-widows lying all around. Aside from being a health hazard to the service tech, it takes time to suit-up and dodge dead bodies, spiders and fiberglass. Well pits or houses with small doors, filthy conditions and no ladders are the

biggest waste of time / money.

A properly installed system with easy access is much less costly to service. We can do in minutes what has taken hours to do on some jobs. We want to be efficient but it’s impossible when we have to fight certain conditions.

Folks don’t see these places and don’t think of improving them but even a few minutes with a shop-vac can save you a lot of \$\$\$.

- David Nequette Lic.1043
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Local Mountain News & Notices

Keeping Kids Safe

by Chris Selle

On behalf of the Custer County School District, I would like to extend a deep appreciation to individuals that have provided support to our students and staff as we are navigating through a difficult time. During a time such as this, it is normal for parents and community to share questions about school safety. Along with student learning, the safety of all students is the top priority of the Custer County School District. Before last week's tragedy, the Custer County School District had the following proactive steps in place to ensure student safety. The following information outlines those steps as well as a few additional items that have occurred in response to last week's incident.

- We know there are a number of students hurting deeply and still at high risk of self-harm. Several of these students have been identified and the school is currently in the process of completing a written school-level threat assessment that will be followed by a written safety plan.
- Students known to be at high risk of self-harm are continuing to receive additional counseling at the school through a previously formed group.
- The school district has been in close communication about these students with law enforcement and with the student's parents.
- A threat assessment and safety plan will be completed for any student the school district believes to be at high risk of self-harm or harm to others.
- In working with the Custer County Sheriff's Office, the school district has received no information to indicate that the individuals at risk of self-harm will

extend that risk to include other students.

- It is believed that no threat exists to students beyond those that have already been identified as at risk for self-harm.
- The school district's Crisis Team will continue to be intentional in implementing initiatives that will be sustainable and will result in positive culture change for our school.
- The Custer County School District has a well-developed crisis response plan that gives guidance on how staff are to respond in emergency situations. School staff recently completed a training on this plan.
- The Custer County School District works regularly in conjunction with the Custer County Office of Emergency Management to ensure first responders in the county are well equipped should an emergency occur at the school.
- The Custer County Sheriff's Office will be providing an increased presence of armed law enforcement officials on school grounds for the time being.
- The Custer County School District is working to be an active liaison with the recently formed parent group intended to provide additional support for our students.

Should any parents and community members have questions or concerns about these items, they are encouraged to call me at 719-783-4951. Additionally, should parents or community members hear or see anything they believe may jeopardize the safety of students, they are encouraged to share that information with school administration immediately.

Thank you.

New Parents Group Holds First Meeting, Second Meeting Saturday, February 21st

by Carol Clemenson

On Saturday, February 14th, the first meeting of a new parenting group was held at Lange Hall in Westcliffe. This group was put together by Shelly Nordyke, Christy Morrell, Katie Michaels, Andrew Rodgers, Monica von Steinman, and Gail Stoltzfus, and is open to anyone who is part of the life of any child in the community. Representatives from Custer County school and the Sheriff's Office will also be working closely with the group.

There were about 45 people in attendance, but interest was expressed by many more who were unable to make this first meeting. A survey was done to identify the top concerns regarding the youth. The top five concerns are: 1. Drugs/Alcohol, 2. Depression/Anxiety/Self-harm, 3. Boredom/Lack of entertainment outside of school activities, and 5. Bullying, both in and out of school.

Of the 12 teens who completed a quick anonymous survey, almost every one of them identified with: "I often feel alone" and said they would like to have a trusted adult they could talk to confidentially. The group would like to expand and get input from all the kids in our community.

Undersheriff Chris Barr talked about a program the Sheriff's Office would like to implement to involve youth in law enforcement, and reinforced the need for parents to know what their

children and teens are saying and doing on social media sites online.

Troy Bomgardner, the school counselor, spoke on behalf of the school about the variety of support the school is offering, as well as plans that are in the works for other programs. He reminded everyone that his door is always open.

Ideas such as a mentoring program for the youth, a hotline for anyone needing help, and support for parents were discussed, and the group is planning on meeting again at 2 p.m., Saturday, February 21st, at Lange Hall, located at 312 S. 3rd Street in Westcliffe.



The first meeting of the new parents group in Westcliffe

Sentinel photo by Carol Clemenson

Veterans Meeting with Senator Bennet in Colorado Springs

The Custer County Veterans Service Officer has received notice of a planned meeting with Senator Bennet in Colorado Springs on February 24, 2015. This meeting is to discuss legislation to hold the VA accountable for negligent and willful actions that create undue hardships on the veteran. While each veteran's situation is unique and different, several will be given the opportunity to explain their situation caused

by the undue hardship. If you, or any veteran you know, wishes to participate in this meeting, please have them contact Jerome James Long III, U.S. Army/Retired directly at his email address jjlong762000@gmail.com. Please contact Mr. Long as soon as possible if you would like to attend. The actual location of the meeting will depend on how many veterans plan to attend.



But with respect to future debt; would it not be wise and just for that nation to declare in the constitution they are forming that neither the legislature, nor the nation itself can validly contract more debt, than they may pay within their own age, or within the term of 19 years.

Thomas Jefferson

*Founding Father and Third President of the United States
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Local Mountain News & Notices

MIKEY From page 1

girls to ask for their earring because he had just pierced his nipple. Or the time the EMS was called to the playground to care for Mikey after one of his stunts that didn't end so well.

"If you have seen Mikey's 9th grade school photo, it captures this quirky, squirrely personality that helped to define "Mikey".

"But there was another side of Mikey that was equally as defining. I have repeated many times as I've sat with students over the last few days that I didn't feel Mikey had an enemy in the world. I never heard him say a cruel word to anyone or ever see him laugh at another student in jest. Simply said, he cared for others in his own quiet way.

"Like taking a walk with Alex because he knew Alex shouldn't be alone. Or taking time to encourage a young boy named Ty at football practice.

"And so we struggle with this caring and squirrely character named Mikey, who for some reason decided that his life wasn't worth continuing. Grief has invaded every cell in our bodies and has cried Why? We grieve the "What if" of Mikey's life, what would he have become, what kind of husband, father, grandfather would he have been.

"It is tough to wrap my mind around the darkness that must have surrounded Michael Neal on the night of February 10th. It is a darkness that somehow has crept into this valley and is threatening to define it.

"I have a couple of thoughts I want to share in closing today. I appreciate the family giving me their blessing to share my thoughts with you. The first question is, for 1 month....30 days, will you join me in committing to build relationships and bring healing to this valley? Students, will you commit to use social media to bless someone? When you open your Facebook, consider the power of your words and use them to encourage your classmates. Adults,

will you commit to find the "right" that your neighbors are doing and not dig for the "wrong"? Find an encouraging word to say, much like Mikey would have? And then evaluate at the end of the month what it has done for you and your neighbors? For if this tragedy of another youth doesn't spurn us towards a more caring community, it is indeed a very dark tragedy.

"My next question and more importantly is, Where do you find hope? Where do you draw your strength from in this time of grief? As I sat with the family just hours after the tragedy, we read together from Psalms 69-

Save me, O God, for the floodwaters are up to my neck.

2 Deeper and deeper I sink into the mire; I can't find a foothold.

I am in deep water; and the floods overwhelm me.

3 I am exhausted from crying for help; my throat is parched.

My eyes are swollen with weeping, waiting for my God to help me. I am suffering and in pain. Rescue me, O God, by your saving power.

32 The humble will see their God at work and be glad. Let all who seek God's help be encouraged.

33 For the LORD hears the cries of the needy; he does not despise his imprisoned people.

"And then amidst deep tears we found our way to Romans:

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[b] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomor-

row—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

"It is in these dark, dark hours that one discovers if their foundation is secure. Over the last 10 months between the loss of Tanner and Mikey, I have discovered my foundation is solid and secure. My hope is in Jesus Christ. My strength is not through human philosophy or theories.

"The prophet Jeremiah says it so well. This is what the LORD says:

"Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the LORD. 6 They are like stunted shrubs in the desert, with no hope for the future. They will live in the barren wilderness, in an uninhabited salty land. 7 "But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. 8 They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water.

Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought.

Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.

"And so if all we do is mourn and send balloons into the beautiful Rocky Mountain sky, Mikey's death is another statistic that will haunt us forever. But, if it causes us to evaluate our lives and the foundation on which we have built them....LIFE will spring from this tragedy to fill this valley. And I believe this would make Mikey very proud.

Debbie, Al, and Robert, I want to close with a promise found in 1st Corinthians:

Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

God bless you."

RIDE From page 1

- 64% professional/managerial positions
- 30% first-time riders
- 92% have college degrees or higher
- last year the youngest rider was 9 years old
- last year the oldest rider was 81 years old
- ten countries are represented/truly international event

This is a big and important event for Westcliffe and Silver Cliff as the towns could potentially have sales of about fifty to a hundred thousand dollars in a twelve-hour period.

There will be extensive media coverage with articles being published daily by bloggers of the *Denver Post*. An event guide will be published and each host town will get a free ad, plus all the internet exposure. For example, in 2014 there were 348,000 views and 90,000 unique visitors during the six-month period from February 2 to August 2.

Ms. Hood informed the audience that the Denver Post Community Foundation will award \$5,000 in support of non-profit agencies and entities in each of the host communities. Deadline for submission of applications for the Charity Grant is on March 9 and she urged those who were interested to file their applications as soon as possible. Ms. Hood reiterated a number of times that all matters concerning this event had to be passed through and approved by the core group. It was emphasized that no one should attempt to go directly to the either the RTR organization or the *Denver Post*.

It was duly noted that Ride the Rockies provides the following services and logistical support for the entire event:

Route Research, Colorado State Patrol, Ambulances (2), Ride Medics, Aid Stations with water, Bike Tech Support, Road Marshall, Support, Baggage Transport, RTR Information Tent, Medical

Center, Shower Truck with Porta Potties at Finish

They also supply the shuttle buses to transport baggage and cyclists to and from Denver and the Park-and-Ride areas.

In addition, there is a financial assistance of \$1,500 for the town to use in their music, dancing, beer garden, and other miscellaneous expenses. There is also a \$2,000 stipend for non-profit groups that provide volunteers.

RTR will have sales tents for the official merchandiser and the official photographer, as well as tents for coffee and smoothies sales. They will approve 20-30 vendors in addition so the community can apply for these tents subject to their approval of what will be sold.

Food sales at the finish line can be a good opportunity for community fundraisers and other services such as helping transfer baggage (boy scouts). The community was asked to create promotional items such as sunglasses, bandannas, stickers, and other such items for merchandising.

Community volunteers are needed such as baggage personnel, bicycle security, green team crew (about 10), Finish Line volunteers (10), Traffic Direction and Parking Personnel (10), and the hours for the volunteers is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Extensive media coverage is expected based on 2014 experience which generated two hundred million exposures in radio, print, TV, and internet. Nationally, the event was featured in cyclist magazines, NBC, and other national media and international print media with numerous awards given by states and national and international organizations as the best cycling event.

The core group of Ms. Hood is having a closed meeting with officials of RTR on February 27 where they will continue to discuss details of the event. A public meeting will then be held after that meeting and the date set is March 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ranchers Roost function room.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Michael Charles Spencer Sentenced

by Carol Clemenson

In the jury trial that took place in Custer County in late October, Michael Charles Spencer, the former owner of Sangritas Restaurant in Westcliffe, was found guilty of six counts of sexual assault, harassment, and exploitation. He was ordered to go through sexual assault evaluation and treatment monitored by his probation officer. Spencer, now living in Michigan, returned to Custer County Court on February 12th for sentencing.

Judge Michaelson sentenced Spencer to

four years of probation, 120 days in jail, and he must register as a sex offender. He also has to undergo sexual assault treatments and must complete 120 days of community service. There was also a temporary restraining order against Spencer, which the judge made permanent. Spencer will be allowed to return to Michigan and the orders will be transferred.

The two victims in this case are clearly relieved and hope the treatment helps so that no other women will have to endure similar assaults.

Custer County High School Knowledge Bowl Team Qualifies for State!

On February 3rd the Custer County High School Knowledge Bowl team traveled to Alamosa to participate in the state qualifying meet. CCHS competed against 22 other teams from all classifications and was one of six 2A schools. By having the top score of the 2A schools the CCHS team has qualified for the state meet to be held at Colorado College on April 16th and 17th in Colorado Springs. The last time the CCHS team qualified for the state Knowledge Bowl meet was 2010.

Students comprising the Knowledge Bowl team are Madeleine Woods, Michael Franta, Jess Franta, Corey Lewenkamp, and Jenna Heinrich. Students competed in one written round where they completed a multiple choice exam as a team. Following the exam, the team competed in four oral rounds where questions are presented



Knowledge Bowl team on the "Tree of Knowledge"

Courtesy photo

and team members "buzz" in to provide answers. The academic prowess of these students proved to be too

much for their competition in the 2A division and the Bobcats are now on to State!

Grand Opening of the Chamber of Commerce's New Facilities

by Carol Clemenson

Sunday, February 15th, the Chamber of Commerce had a grand opening of their new building. It is located at 107 N. Third Street in Westcliffe, with a phone number of 719-783-9163.

There were several folks that stopped in to congratulate them. Senator Larry Crowder came and gave an appreciation certificate to Donna Hood for all that she has done for this community and around Custer County.

Buffalo Gals catered the celebration with some wonderful food. They are located at 1701 A South 8th Street in Colorado Springs. Kathy Dreiling is the owner and Wade Russell is the Grill Foreman. (He is the Buffalo Guy!) Kathy has a small cabin here in the valley and comes here often.

Dale Mullen gave a presentation on broadband that Dale and Charles Bogle have been working to get it here in the Valley. This year will be a big year for broadband. Before you know it,



Colorado Senator Larry Crowder with Donna Hood.

Sentinel photo by Carol Clemenson

everything will be connected to the internet.

The new offices will be a great asset to the Chamber and for the visitors that come to the valley. It is very nicely decorated and

feels very cozy. The celebration started at 1 p.m. and lasted until at least 4:00 pm. There was wine, soft drinks, beer, and water that was supplied by the Liquor Cabinet and High Peaks Animal Hospital.



It Takes a Village

Brian Cline is re-landscaping his Antler Liquors road frontage with the help of his new neighbor, Harmony P-Dawg. Brian recently received a sizable grant from the Prairie Dog Preservation Trust Fund to create a sustainable, dark skies, renewable, eco-friendly, harmonious, equal opportunity, affirmative action, non-discriminatory, asexual, non-invasive, one size fits all, free speech, no bag limit, prairie dog habitat around his business. He says he will be the first business in town to accept Colorado's new Prairie Dog EBT cards (no ID required) issued by our truly benevolent Governor ('Eat Mo' Chicken') Hickenlooper. Brian says, "They're people, too". It truly is a "One World" environment in Westcliffe these days with harmony breaking out all over in Happy Valley.

Sentinel photo by Paul "Sagegrouse" Sage

Proud to serve as Custer County's community bank for the past 35 years!

Visit us at our new location – 102 S. Adams Blvd.!



First State Bank of Colorado

Banking as it should be



Local branch at 102 S. Adams Blvd., Westcliffe, CO 81252 719-783-9211

Local Mountain News & Notices

All Place at Regionals, Two State-Bound

story and photos by Michelle Pedigo

The 2015 CHSAA 2A Region 2 tournament is in the books. With Rye High School as the hosting location, the region's thirteen teams were represented by 81 wrestlers. The Regional tournament brings the best in grappling action, as each wrestler knows that no matter what kind of season they had, this is their chance to put it all on the line in one last battle to qualify for State. There was a large point difference between first place Centauri (255.0) and second place Monte Vista (136.0), but going down from there the point spreads were much less. Custer County placed ninth. Every Bobcat came home with a place ribbon, and senior

Kody Aldrich and sophomore Andrew Feldmann, advanced to the State Championships taking place at the Pepsi Center in Denver.

In regional action, first year wrestlers Dylan Schoch, Taiyr Seiilkhan, Ian Aldrich, and Edgar Pedigo competed hard in the 113-pounder, 126-pounder, 138-pounder, and 160-pounder classes respectively. Schoch placed 5th, while Seiilkhan, Aldrich, and Pedigo each placed 6th.

Although junior Cody Koble is no newcomer to the mats, his 152-pounder weight class was one of the largest and toughest. Koble ended in 6th place. In Andrew

Feldman's first Regional tournament, the 145-pounder hit the mats aggressively, and his efforts paid off with a 2nd place win and a trip to State. Seasoned senior Kody Aldrich, 170-pounder, will make his third trip to the State tournament after bringing home 4th place at Regionals.

In the face of injuries and other setbacks, the Bobcats continued laying it on the mats throughout the season. Consistency was their foe, but they persevered. The team would like to thank everyone who supported them this year. The response and participation in the Grappler Run fundraiser was terrific, and several have expressed interest in making it an annual event. This year's winner was Mary Seif-

ert, who graciously donated her winnings back to the team. Thank you, Mary! Many of you also supported our Home tournament and the Fan Table. Thanks to everyone who gave encouragement and got to know us a little better.

State tournament starts Thursday, February 19. Session 1 begins at 3:00p.m. If you want to experience some of the action in person, the full schedule and tickets are available at www.pepsicenter.com. To catch all the action live via internet, go to <http://www.nfhsnetwork.com/search?query=colorado> or <http://chsaanow.com/>. And be sure to watch for next week's paper for State recap, results, and season wrap-up.



Bobcat Wrestlers: L-R front row: Titus Crawford, Taiyr Seiilkhan, Edgar Pedigo, Andrew Feldmann, Dylan Schoch, Ian Aldrich
L-R back row: Seani Millard (manager), Cody Young (manager), Coach Chris Selle, Weldon Rusher, Cody Koble, Kody Aldrich, Assistant Coach Manny Pedigo, Coach Mike Ham



Koble stretches for a pin

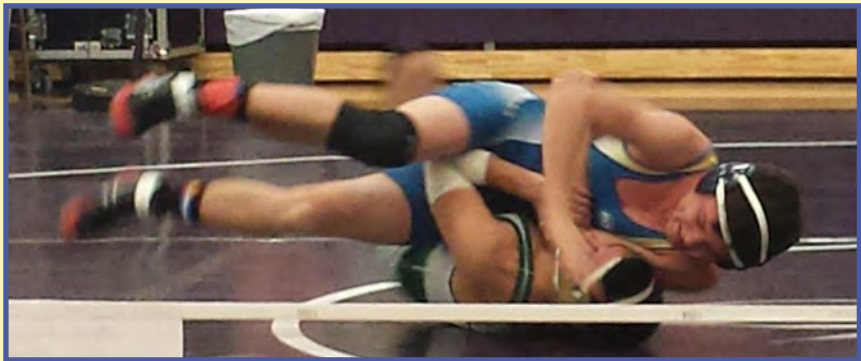


Left: Pedigo elevates in preparation for reversal

Below: Seiilkhan works for position



Ian Aldrich works to get hands and legs free

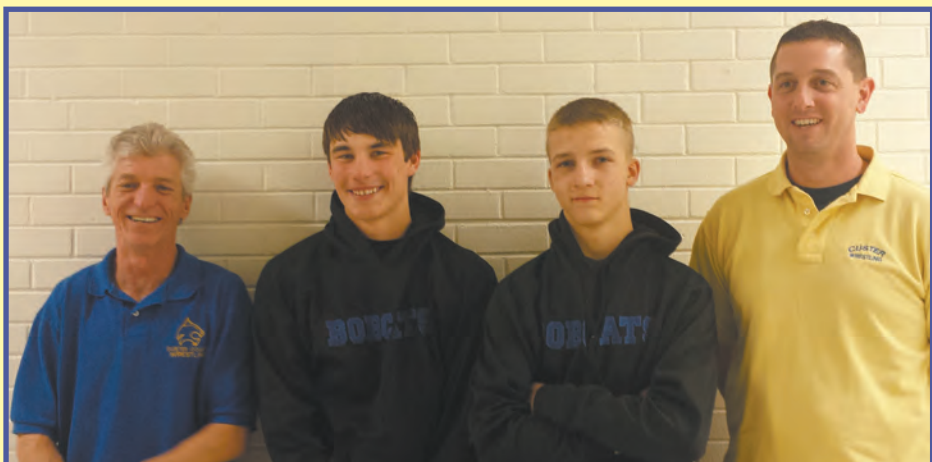


Left: Schoch waits for the whistle

Below: Feldmann struggles to get control



Left: Kody Aldrich goes head-to-head setting up his move



State Bound: L-R: Coach Ham, Kody Aldrich, Andrew Feldmann, Coach Selle

Local Mountain News & Notices

A Princess Ball

The CCHS class of 2016 is hosting the
Annual Father/Daughter Dance

on Saturday, February 28th

**in the multi-purpose room at Custer County Schools
from 6:30-8:00 p.m.**



All princesses and their daddies (or other significant male role model) in grades K-5 are welcome to attend. The price is \$15 per couple and \$5 for each additional person. Plan on an absolutely unforgettable night of dancing, competitions, crafts, and indulging in succulent snacks from the chocolate fountain!

Please RSVP by February 17th to Michelle Selle at 783-4940.

The following businesses are partnering with the CCHS Business Club to offer generous discounts and specials for your special evening with your princess:

10% Discount - Chappy's, Tony's Mountain Pizza, Rancher's Roost

15% Discount - Alpine Lodge, Nacho Mama's

Buy one entree, get 2nd entree 1/2 price - Sangrita's

TBD - Silver Cliff Mountain Inn

Salty Pine Floral and Boutique will be selling mini corsages for \$15 and boutonnieres for \$12!

**PLEASE CALL AND
MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!!**



WASHINGTON D.C. FUNDRAISER



Please come and support our Middle School students who will be traveling to Washington D.C. this school year by attending a fundraiser meal and drawing.

Silver Cliff Mountain Inn

Sunday, March 1,

4:00-6:30 pm

Meal Ticket Includes pulled pork or chicken sandwich chips and a drink.

\$10 for adults

\$5 for children (under 10)

Contact Maegan Holycross for more information:
719-783-4899 maegan.holycross@ccbobcats.net

Upcoming FFA Events

by Noah Tillotson,
FFA Reporter

On Tuesday, February 10, the Custer County FFA Chapter met and discussed many upcoming events that the chapter may be holding and CDEs (Career Development Events) in which the chapter will be involved, including Parli Pro (Parliamentary Procedure), where members run through a mock meeting in under 10 minutes, Horse Judging, and a Livestock Judging. The chapter is also looking into having a Meats Team.

FFA Week is coming up during the week of February 23rd, and the chapter members have looked into many options for celebrating the week. Under consideration is the development of an "AG Day" where a free BBQ meal would be provided, and informational speakers



would teach about the agricultural industry. During FFA Week, the chapter plans on having students teach separate classes about agriculture from kindergarten through 8th grade. The members will wear official dress on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; on Wednesday, members will wear their Custer County FFA shirts.

State and Chapter Degree Interviews are coming up in March, and our FFA Chapter has many eligible members who will be interviewing, in hopes of attaining their degree.

The Custer County FFA Chapter would like to give a huge thanks to the Farm Bureau in Cañon City for helping us with our floats in both of the parades in which we participated, the "Parade of Lights" in Westcliffe and Cañon City.

Bobcat Youth Basketball

by Kristen Foster

In the Junior Division, the Hawks returned this week with a great victory over the Blue Jays with a score of 34-11. Samantha Gray, of the Hawks, was back on her game again with 28 points! Grant Rusk added 4, while Zach Smerchek sank a basket for the Hawks. Tough defense was played by Lexi Wetendorf and Ty Stoltzfus of the Hawks. For the Blue Jays, Josh Wofford was the top scorer with 6 points. Raina Rusch added four, while Harry Kroeker drained two free throws. Great team play by Graycee Cravens and Brylee Shy of the Blue Jays.

Also in the Junior Division, the Lions were able to hold off the Broncos with a close score of 10-7. Mia Sayhouse led her team once again with 8 points, while Ainsley Selle added two. Alyssa Gaide and Willie Bo Clince played strong



A Bobcat launches a great jumpshot.

defense for the Lions. On the Broncos side, Christopher Mullett had 3 points, while Isaac Smerchek and Brooke Bomgardner each had two. Colt Moulton and Viola Gurule both played strong for the Broncos.

In the Senior Division, the Lakers got off to a slow start against the Thunder, but then showed strong defense coupled with great offensive play and won the game with a score of 30-13. The Lakers had well rounded offense with Zach Fischer leading his team with 9 points. Both Cameron Penkoff and Micah Zeller had 6, Ty Bomgard-

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

ner added 5, AJ Stoltzfus added two, while Morgan Foster swished two from the line for the Lakers. Ben Penkoff led the Thunder with 11 points, while Chad Lewis added two. Eryn Lemoine and Malakai Anderson were able to pull down quite a few rebounds for the Thunder.

There are only two games left in the season. Championship games for the Bobcat Youth Basketball League will tip off at 9am on Saturday, February 28th, in the East gym! Awards for the season will be immediately following the completion of ALL games.

Local Scholarship Night February 25th

The Custer County PTSO will host a local scholarship night for seniors and their parents on Wednesday, February 25th at 6:30 p.m. in multi-purpose room of Custer County School. Local agencies will have a time to meet and answer questions from students about the scholarships. There will be a drawing sponsored by PTSO to equip stu-

dents for college. "This is a great night for our seniors to get a face-to-face with the local representatives and ask questions," said CCHS counselor Troy Bomgardner. For questions or to be involved in the scholarship night, please contact Troy Bomgardner, CCHS counselor at 783-4927.

Local Mountain News & Notices

The Lady Bobcats Fought Hard

by Jim Silver

The four-game winning streak came to an end for the Lady Bobcats when they played at Sanford on Friday, February 13. Head Coach Gary Fischer called this 57-33 loss a tough game against a top-rated girls 2A team: “We were even at the end of the first quarter, and then lost our energy level.” Serenity Ham led the team’s scoring with 12 points, 8 of them from the free-throw line. The Bobcats were at that line 24 times during the game, which speaks for their facing an opponent who plays a very physical game of basketball. Nicole Lorenzen brought down 5 rebounds and accounted for 5 steals. The Bobcats posted 14 steals total--tough on defense!

The next two games finish out the regular season for Custer County. **On Friday, February 20, South Park will play on the Bobcats home court with the girls game scheduled to start at 3 p.m.** The first of the two games is against a West Central Conference opponent, and the Lady Bob-



Lady Bobcats move the ball around the perimeter for a shot.

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

cats defeated the South Park Burros 50-34 in their first meeting. Saturday’s game is on the road in Antonito, a 1A non-conference school, and this is Custer County’s first shot at Antonito this season.

The District play-offs start for the Bobcats teams on Tuesday, February 24, but at this point the girls and boys teams part company. **The Lady Bobcats play at home in the Custer County gym, with the game scheduled for 5 p.m.** Most likely, the opponent will be Center, whom the Bobcats previously defeated 50-41. A repeat victory will send our girls on to the next level at Adams State College on Friday and Saturday, February 27 and 28. **KEEP GOING LADY BOBCATS!**

Bobcats’ Work Cut Out for Them

by Jim Silver

The Bobcats traveled to Sanford on Friday, February 13th, to take on the Sanford Indians, a team which shares the distinction with one other school in boys 2A basketball of having an undefeated 2014-15 season. Custer County was outscored 72-19 taking on this Southern Peaks Conference opponent. Coach Jim Bistodeau said this about the game: “Sanford is number one for good reason. The score doesn’t reflect the tough defense our guys played.” Conner Rowley led the Bobcats in scoring with 9 points. Once again, the Bobcats played with a roster of 6 men, and this aspect of their game has captured some attention in the greater world of sports. *The Pueblo Chieftain’s* “Preps Thursday” on February 12th carried the article entitled, “Custer Fighting Numbers Game,” by sportswriter Jeff Letof-



Bobcat takes a nice 3-point shot.

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

sky. The main take-away in reading the article is the praise the Bobcats get from their own coaching staff for their battling through the season’s challenges.

On Friday, February 20th, the Bobcats host the South Park Burros on their home court, with games scheduled to start at 3 p.m.--girls first. This is the last home game of the season, and the Burros are a West Central Conference opponent. The outcome of this game, therefore, affects the Bobcats entry in post-season. With a win against South Park, Custer County is #6 seed and with

a loss, #7. We must say here that our team was on the right side of the 45-37 final score against the Burros a few weeks ago, so they can do it again. The Bobcats will play an away game in District play-offs on Tuesday, February 24th, at either Center or Sargent.

The Bobcats have a Saturday, February 21st, non-conference game in Antonito, the final game of the regular season. A win against this pretty good 1A team would be “icing on the cake,” but the game the day before matters most. **GO BOBCATS!—FINISH STRONG!**

Camp Happiness

**Friday, February 20th
from 10:30 a.m. until about 12:00 p.m.
at the West Custer County Library**

Camp Happiness is an interactive library program that gives kids the opportunity to learn through play, singing, movement, and art. The events are designed for children ages 0-6 years, but all ages are welcome.

Camp Happiness is held once a month.

For more information about Camp Happiness or for a list of event dates, stop by the library or call Jessica Carter at 783-9138.

Bobcats Sport Schedule

VARSITY BASKETBALL

Friday, February 20
4 p.m.: South Park HOME

Friday, February 21
4 p.m.: Antonito AWAY

Tuesday, February 24
5 p.m.: District Playoffs: Girls HOME
TBD: District Playoffs: Boys

WRESTLING

Thursday - Saturday, February 19-21
3 p.m.: State at Pepsi Center



Bobcat Menu • Feb. 23 - Feb. 26, 2015

**Monday
breakfast**
Waffles, Sausage Links
Fruit
Milk
lunch
Nachos
Choice of Veg
Choice of Fruit
Milk

**Tuesday
breakfast**
Scrambled Eggs
W. W. Toast
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Lasagna
Garlic Roll
Choice of Veg. & Fruit
Milk

**Wednesday
breakfast**
Breakfast Burrito
Fruit
Milk
lunch
Chicken Patty Sandwich
Choice of Veg
Choice of Fruit
Milk

**Thursday
breakfast**
Sausage Gravy
Biscuit
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Soft Beef Taco
Rice
Choice of Veg. & Fruit
Milk

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

KIDS Friday, February 20, 2015

February: Black History Month HIRAM RHODES REVELS, First African American Senator

The Civil War ended in 1865, and black Americans became citizens with the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1866. Four years later, on February 25, 1870, with much applause from the galleries in the Senate, Hiram Revels took his oath of office and became the first black senator of the United States. He was a Republican representing the state of Mississippi.

Hiram was born “free” in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in 1827 because his parents were free people of color with African and European ancestry. His early education came from home schooling. In 1838 he moved in with his brother and became an apprentice barber in his brother’s shop. When his brother died, he attended the Union County Quaker Seminary and in 1845 was ordained as a minister, serving various churches in the Midwest. In 1866 he accepted a permanent call to a church in Natchez, Mississippi. He settled there with his wife, Phoebe, and their five daughters. There he founded several schools for freed slaves.

He was widely respected and known as a great communicator and leader in Natchez and was elected as a town alderman. Then in 1869, he was elected to the Mississippi State Senate for his county. In those days, the state senate members elected representatives to the U.S. Senate. (In our day, it is by popular vote of the people). Hiram Revels was elected to fill one of the seats by a vote of 81-15. When he first arrived in Washington, D.C., the Southern Democrats opposed seating him, but after two days of much debate, Revels and his supporters prevailed. During his term in the Senate, he advocated compromise and moderation working quietly and persistently - but vigorously - for racial equality.

Source: www.senate.gov and www.wikipedia.org

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Custer County Board of Zoning Adjustment will hold a public Hearing on February 24, 2015 at 1:00 P.M. Custer County Commissioners room. The following will be considered:

1. Hearing for Black Hills Energy electrical substation/Creation Undersized lot for an electrical substation, County Road 255, Custer County Colorado.

The agenda is posted on the bulletin board located in the hall of the Custer County Courthouse. Copies of the agenda are available in the Custer County Planning and Zoning office.

Anyone wishing to comment may do so at the Hearing or by mail to Custer County Planning and Zoning office, P.O. Box 203 Westcliffe CO 81252; by fax 719-783-9907 or by e-mail Jackie@custercountygov.com

Ordered published by
Kenneth Patterson, Chairman
Custer County Board of Zoning Adjustment

Published February 13, 2015
Published February 20, 2015
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Westcliffe Planning Commission needs to fill a vacancy on the Commission. The member must be 18 years of age or older and must live within the Town of Westcliffe limits. If interested please submit a letter of interest to Alan Clark at P.O. Box 406 or Benson Hall – 305 Main Street, Westcliffe, Colorado 81252.

Letters of interest must be submitted on or before Wednesday, February 25th, by 5:00 p.m.

Alan Clark
Building /Zoning Official
Town of Westcliffe

First Publication: February 13th, 2015
Final Publication: February 20th, 2015
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

Furry Scurry 5K Fun Run/Walk

starting at
Club America on
Saturday, March 7,
finish at Silver Cliff
Town Park for
the Winterfest.

Registration opens
at 9:30 a.m.,
start at 10:30 a.m.

\$20 entry fee adult,
\$15 teen,
free for under 12.

Let's get moving!

Classifieds

For Sale

Yamaha TW-200, 2008 fat-wheel trail bike. Honda commercial 3700 PSI 13 HP. Both garage kept; very good shape. Joe 783-0420

99 Chevy S10 ZR2 3Dr 161K 5-speed KN Air intake Vortex V6 bedliner, nearly new tires \$4K - OBO PH 719-783-9452

Steel target stands. Compact, portable, durable. \$20 ea, 3 for \$50, all 7 for \$100. Mike 783-0258

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

Help Wanted

SCBOCES and Custer county district are joining efforts to offer **Adult Basic Education courses** to assist adults in obtaining their GED. We are seeking instructors to teach Adult Education: 2 days per week, 2 hours per day, (plus 1 hour prep time per day).

Please apply at:
<https://southcentral.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>

Real Estate

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Independent Broker
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6.5Kw - 125Kw.
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Call Glenn
at 719-371-8625

CHAINSAW SHARPENING:
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Ring J.B. 719/783-4448

SEPTIC PUMPING
(719) 783-2747 or Cell (719) 371-3523 Please call Art Nordyke for your septic pumping and inspections.
Don't let your septic fail!
NORDYKE SANITATION

The deadline for getting your information into the Classifieds is **Monday at 5 p.m.** for that week's edition. Call 719-783-3360 or email sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

Court Report...

Trujillo, Joseph Shane – Charged with driving a motor home off the highway with license under restraint. Suspended. A second charge of possession of a controlled substance was dismissed by the DA. Mr. Trujillo was found Guilty of unlawful use of a controlled substance. The fine was \$1,193.50 with 60 hours of community service.

Hinson, Dustin Tilmon – Found Guilty of Careless Driving and fined \$95.50 with 30 days in jail. Charges of Driving Without a Drivers License and use of Fictitious Plates was dismissed by the DA. A Texas warrant has been issued for the defendant in Texas which will require extradition.

Woodward, Jesse - An Arrest Warrant has been issued by the Colorado Springs Police Department for Mr. Woodward for aggravated motor vehicle theft, a class five felony, in violation of Colorado revised statutes within the county of El Paso and state of Colorado. Therefore any peace officer into whose hands this arrest warrant shall come is hereby ordered to arrest Jesse Garen Woodard and bring him/her without unnecessary delay before the nearest Judge of the County or District Court. Further ordered that a Bond is set in the amount of \$10,000.

Day, Kenneth L. – Suspect arrested without incident at Cliff Lanes as a result of an anonymous tip on outstanding extraditable felony warrant for burglary charges out of Indiana. The probation warrant for theft is non-extraditable. After reviewing the case, the DA will not extradite. Defendant was released.

Barwick, Rachelle Ann – Charged with bribing a witness or victim and violation of protection order. DA dismissed the charges.

Spencer, Michael Charles – Charged with sexual assault. Found guilty by trial jury. He was sentenced to 4 years probation, 120 days in jail, and 120 hours of community service. He has to register as a sex offender, and a temporary restraining order was made permanent. Fined \$10,734.50.

Wrasse, Patrick James – Charged with operating an uninsured vehicle. Guilty. Fine - \$760.50. An additional charge of operating an unregistered vehicle was dismissed by the DA.

Miller, Richard Scott – Charged with assault 3: Knowingly and recklessly causing injury. Guilty. Protection order continues, Jailed for 2 days. Must complete 40 Hours of community service. Fined \$1,519.

Morrow, Andrew Peter – Charged with speeding. Guilty. Fine - \$276.50

Hawkins, Merle W. – Charged with improper mountain driving. Guilty. Fine - \$279.50

Sayhouse, Navar Ray – Charged with expired plates. Dismissed by DA.

Evans, Troy M – Charged with improper mountain driving. Guilty. Fine - \$149.40

Harrison, Nicholas Cory – Charged with operating an uninsured vehicle. Guilty. Fine - \$760.50. A charge of operating a vehicle with an expired temporary permit was dismissed by the DA.

England, Jessica Kesey – Charged with theft. Guilty. Six months probation and 48 hours of community service. Fine - \$220.

Hernandez, Fred – Charged with careless driving. Guilty. Fine - \$177.

Herrera, Deven Vincent – Charged with Harassment. Dismissed by DA.

Kagan, Wesley – Charged with following too close. Dismissed by DA.

Murray, Kyle Lee – Charged with 3rd degree assault - Knowingly/recklessly causing injury. Dismissed by DA. Mandatory restraining order was entered.

Montoya, Amanda R. – Charged with failure to appear. Bench warrant issued. Guilty of driving under the influence (blood alcohol level of 0.08 or more), operating an uninsured vehicle, driving with a revoked license, use of fictitious plates, use of an unregistered vehicle, and disregarding a traffic device. Fine - \$2,500.

Harbour, John Ross Jr. – Charged with lane usage violation. Dismissed by DA. Found guilty of driving while impaired. Guilty. Sentenced to two years probation and 48 hours of community service. Fine - \$2,466.50.

Cessun, Michael Anthony – Charged with 3rd degree assault - knowingly/recklessly causing injury. Dismissed by DA.

Trinajstcik, Michelle Mar – Charged with careless driving, driving with license under restraint, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs or both, harassment, and unlawful conduct. Dismissed by DA.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Events Calendar

Friday, February 20
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Camp Happiness at Westcliffe library
3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.: Westin Denver Downtown in Foyer, Denver, CO: Colorado Press Association's Student Internship/Job Fair
Monday, February 23
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.: Battle of the Books competition at Cañon City Middle School

4 - 6 p.m.: Drama Auditions at school
February 27
9 a.m.: BOCC meeting courthouse boardroom
Saturday, February 28
6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Father/Daughter Dance for grades K-5, multi-purpose room at school; RSVP 783-4940 by February 17

Recurring Events and Business Hours

Monday
6 p.m.: Closed step study Alcoholics Anonymous at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Westcliffe. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172 or Lisa at (719) 783-0809
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Custer County public transit service available to everyone through Wet Mountain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
Noon: Lunch served at Custer County Senior Center located on first floor of Silver Cliff Town Hall. Call 783-9508 to RSVP by 9:30 am
Monday and Thursday
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources in Silver Cliff assisting new mothers and families. Free pregnancy tests, ultrasound, counseling, and more. Call 783-4357
Tuesday
12 - 4:30 p.m.: Bridge Club meets in the library community room in downtown Westcliffe.
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Jammin' band at The Mining Company Restaurant in Silver Cliff
First Tuesday of the Month:
6:30 p.m. at Cliff Lanes - American Legion
Post 170 monthly meeting
6:45 p.m. Post 170 **Auxiliary** monthly meeting
(March-October) at the Saddle Club.
Tuesday through Friday
10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Library open in downtown Westcliffe; 783-9138
Wednesday
9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.: Line dancers meet at the Methodist Church. Call Clem at (303) 909-7370
6 p.m.: Closed Big Book study Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Westcliffe. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172, or Lisa at (719) 783-0809
6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Custer County Community Band practice in band room at high school
Thursday
Second Thursday of the Month: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m., "Ask a Nurse" at the library
Friday
6 p.m.: Open discussion Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172 or Lisa (719) 783-0809
Saturday
10 a.m.: Wet Mountain Al-Anon Family Group meets at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 201 Third St.; Call Dee (719) 404-1851 or Jean (719) 371-1229
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.: West Custer County Library open in Westcliffe

Obituary

William Durand Bizzell



William Durand Bizzell, known as Durand, born March 6, 1961, passed away unexpectedly on February 16, 2015.

He is survived by family in California, Karen and Gary Lundstedt of Utah, Scott Lundstedt of Westcliffe, and the love of his life, Kathy Lundstedt. His passion when younger was baseball. He was an avid golfer for 16 years and loved the game.

There is an account at Minnequa under Kathy Lundstedt for donations to help with expenses.

There will be a celebration of his life to be determined at a later date.

Tater and Jen-Jen love you.

*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen,
but on what is unseen.
For what is seen is temporary,
but what is unseen is eternal.*

*Now we know that if the earthly tent
we live in is destroyed, we have a
building from God, an eternal house
in heaven, not built by human hands.*

2 Cor. 4:18-5:1, NIV

Custer County Republican Central Committee Update

The Custer County Republican Central Committee held its first meeting of the year on January 27.

Officers reelected to serve another year were Chairwoman Sharon Berry, Vice Chair Mike Hess and Treasurer Lynn Butler. Donna Hood was elected Secretary, replacing Nora Drenner who chose not to run again.

Rounding out the local GOP committee are county officials: District One Commissioner Bob Katnig, District Two Commissioner Lynn Attebery, District Three Commissioner Kit Shy, County Treasurer Virginia Trujillo, County Assessor J.D. Henrich, County Sheriff Shannon Byerly, and County Coroner Art Nordyke.

Precinct committee persons are Andrew Zeller and Lori Kastendieck of precinct one, Bill Donley and Dave Trujillo of precinct two, and Iris Supan and Jim Silver of Precinct three.

Precinct alternates are Carole Custer and Suzanne Coleman of precinct one, and Chuck and Suzie Steigerwalt of precinct two. There are no Precinct three alternates at the current time.

The local GOP committee will hold its next meeting on February 23, beginning at 4:15 p.m. in the Custer County Resource Center annex located adjacent to the county courthouse. All interested Republicans are invited to attend. Call Sharon Berry at 783-2337 for more information.

Sheriff's Report...

There were four males in the county jail as of February 16.

02/10/15 I-15-816
10:13 AM: A deputy attempted to serve civil papers to a party on CR 172 in Verde Creek Ranch. Negative contact was made.

02/10/15
1:03 PM / Ambulance Run: EMS was called to the Custer County Clinic to transport a 67-year-old female who had fallen off her horse, suffering chest trauma and a possible pneumothorax. The patient was taken to Parkview Hospital in Pueblo.

02/10/15 I-15-819
1:07 PM: A deputy served civil papers to a party on Mill Street in Silver Cliff.

02/10/15 I-15-822
1:30 PM: A deputy attempted to serve civil papers to a party on CR 328 K in Rosita. Negative contact was made.

02/10/15 O-15-2110:00
PM: Custer County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a juvenile needing assistance. Deputies and EMS personnel responded to the area of Hermit Road and Grape Creek where they found a 15-year-old juvenile male had suffered a single gunshot wound to the head.

02/11/15 T-15-112
7:48 AM: A deputy assisted a motorist whose vehicle slid off Highway 96 at approximately MM22. There were no injuries or damage reported.

02/11/15
3:31 PM / Ambulance Run: EMS was called to the Custer County Clinic to transport a 66-year-old female experiencing chest pains, and presenting with an abnormal EKG and elevated blood pressure. The patient was taken to Parkview Hospital in Pueblo.

02/11/15
The Custer County Sheriff's staff conducted a series of welfare checks on local area youth throughout the day as a follow up to the death of a 15-year-old juvenile male who had suffered a single gunshot wound to the head on February 10.

02/16/15 O-15-023
12:54 AM - Officer responded to a call regarding an intoxicated party causing criminal mischief in the area of 10 Lea Lane. Party (Jones, Aaron DOB in 1991) was found to have caused damage estimated at around \$100

to the property. Party was arrested and booked into the Custer County Jail. Nothing further at this time.

02/16/15 T-15-123
07:45 AM - Officer responded to a two-vehicle crash that occurred at the entrance of the Custer County School. Parties exchanged information before the officer was able to arrive on scene.

02/16/15 O-15-024
09:21 AM - Investigation into a possible fraud by check at The Village Shop. Party was made aware and has agreed to retrieve the check from the Custer County Sheriff's Office and pay the \$20 collection fee. Nothing further at this time.

02/16/15 T-15-124
10:50 AM - Officers responded to a party (Smith, Jessica DOB - in 1991) whose vehicle went off the road and through a fence in the area of HWY 96, MM 1.7

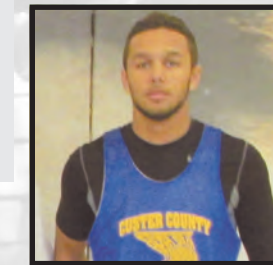
02/16/15 I-15-957
02:10 PM - Officers responded to a call of an unattended death. Bizzell, Durand DOB in 1961 at 513 2nd Street in Silver Cliff was discovered by his girlfriend. Foul play is not suspected. Nothing further at this time.

Coming Next Week:
A bi-weekly column from Sheriff Byerly!

Custer County Boys Varsity Basketball



From left Coach Jim Bistodeau, Michael Batson, Cody Aldrich, Conner Rowley, Kobe Lewsader, David Kinsey, Devon Hockaday, and Manager Brandi Platchek. Jordan Rhodes, pictured to the right, was not available for the team picture.



Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary



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All men having power ought to be distrusted to a certain degree.

James Madison - Fourth President of the United States



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LAND LEADER

Majority of Cañon City Council Positions and Mayor Up For Election in 2015

by Candy Thompson

In this election year the following Cañon City municipal positions are going to be either term limited or up for re-election: Mayor (term limited), District 2 (currently vacant), District 4 (term limited), at large (Pat Frieda, term limited), and at large, (Colby Katchmar not term limited). “This leaves the Council open to be taken back by honest hard working people who do what the people want and not what the “good ole” boy group wants”, according to former council member Roger Parsons.

This is the Council that tried to get retail marijuana in the city but was forced to put it to the voters be-

cause of citizens protesting. With three positions term limited as well as the mayor and a fourth also up for re-election, it’s the perfect opportunity to elect representatives that will respect and honor the wishes of the electorate that voted them in rather than serving their special interests.

We need public servants who are just that: servants of the people rather than themselves. We also need representatives who understand and respect the Constitution. The majority of this Council and the mayor were in favor of the gun restrictions that the liberals came up with in Denver, showing that they did not represent the conservative majority nor want to up-

hold the Constitution of the United States.

We have issues that are facing our elected officials that were not even dreamed of 10 years ago. We need wise and thoughtful leaders who understand the ramifications of such evil devices as Agenda 21, an international plan to take away the rights of Americans forcing them to comply with laws that go against our Constitution. We need true leaders who are not afraid to stand for what is right even if not popular. These positions are not paid positions but the opportunity to make a difference and make Cañon City a better place to live for everyone.

**BE INFORMED
GET INVOLVED**

IHOP Hopping in Cañon City

by Candy Thompson

Manager Matt Poteet is happy with the reception the new IHOP location has received in Cañon City and is excited about managing a new startup IHOP business in new territory for the chain. Hiring and training a whole new crew of 45 employees (all local residents) for two weeks on location was one of his greatest challenges in getting ready for the January 26th Grand Opening. Matt’s experience includes being the General Manager at two other IHOPs in Pueblo and he commutes from Pueblo West to oversee the Cañon restaurant. He was not privy to how the business fared with the local government entities in opening here, but was pleased with his response of the residents.

The Grand Opening, which was just in time for Valentine’s Day, exceeded expectations with crowds eagerly supporting the new establishment. The parking lot and dining areas inside were also packed on Presidents Day when we stopped by to get an interview. The waiters and waitresses seemed efficient and pleasant, and more importantly, the food was served in a reasonable amount of time. The manager noted that the dinner crowds had surprisingly rivaled the numbers of Breakfast and Lunch patrons.

IHOP is open 24-7 which is the nationwide chain’s biggest calling card for night



owls, insomniacs, and late night travelers looking for a cup of java. Located on Highway 50 just east of Chili’s at 108 Latigo Lane, IHOP serves anything on the menu anytime, morning, noon or night. Known for luscious pancakes and breakfast concoctions, IHOP’s Strawberry Rhubarb and Blackberry Lemonade “Criss-Croissants” top the list of “must try” selections. However, they are being offered for a limited time. Manager Matt admitted to having a “sweet tooth” and recommended the pancakes with cheese cake bits in them topped with strawberries and whipped cream, his personal favorite.

For those looking for taste without all the calories, IHOP offers at least 60 se-

lections at 600 calories that suit the health-conscious gang. The 55-plus menu offers a variety of meals with discounted prices tailored for the senior appetite as well as specialty coffee selections including Swiss Mocha and Salted Caramel. With a kids menu available there’s something for the entire family.

IHOP now has over 1500 family restaurants in all 50 states and in some foreign countries as well. It is hoped that IHOP will have a long, successful Cañon City presence. IHOP is a welcome addition to the restaurant selection that the residents of Cañon City can enjoy that also gives them quality that is constant and prices that are comparable to other restaurants in the area.



Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

Reported Shooting at Dawson Ranch Sparks Reverse 911 Call

From the Cañon City Police Department

Cañon City Police responded to a shooting in the 100 Block of Blue Grouse Drive located in the Dawson Ranch subdivision.

The victim (18-year-old male) initially reported that an unknown man wearing a mask entered his home through a basement window and shot him when confronted. The victim reported that the intruder fled the area on foot prompting the Cañon City Police Department to send out a reverse 911 to alert citizens of a possibly armed suspect on the loose in the area.

As the investigation continued, it was revealed that the shooting was accidental and there was no intruder and no danger to the public. The victim was transported to St. Thomas More Hospital for treatment for what appears to be non-life threatening injuries at this time.

Gas Leak Forces Evacuation of Three Area Businesses

by Barbara Penezic

A private contractor accidentally drilled a 6-inch hole in a steel gas main near 15th and Main Street in Cañon City. The contractor was doing directional boring for underground fiber optic cable when the mishap occurred.

According to Safeway Manager, Tad Kubacka, it was about 2 p.m. when his store was evacuated. No one was injured but there were some tense moments for himself, his staff, and customers. "Shoppers were told to

abandon their shopping carts and leave the store immediately," Tad related. "You could smell the gas and even hear it hissing up out of the ground near the Dairy Queen." The Dairy Queen and Pueblo Bank and Trust customers and employees were told to evacuate the area at once.

Atmos Gas employees responded quickly shutting off the gas to the affected areas and there were no reported injuries. Lt. Shane Roberts

See GAS LEAK on page 23

Mr. Ed's Family Restaurant



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

Florence School Board Supports Fellowship of Christian Huskies

by Charlotte Burrous

He cares deeply about the youth. But a complaint against his presence in the Florence High School has left everything up in the air.

In November 2011, Cowboy Church of the Crossroads Pastor Randy Pfaff founded the Fellowship of Christian Huskies club at the Florence High School, which offers movies, concerts, candy, water, and pizza with a Bible study at lunch and prayer around the flagpole before school.

However, recently several individuals have complained about Pastor Randy and other adults being on school grounds, but Pfaff pointed out that the church provides the finances for the activities.

On February 9th, a group of residents attended the Florence-Penrose School Board to show their support of the club and Pastor Randy.

At the opening of the meeting, Board President Tommy Covington said the board supports the club.

"At no time has the board of education or administration talked about or had discussions about banning the (Fellowship of Christian Huskies)," he said. "We support that club 100 percent and it will continue. We have no intention of doing away with praying at the pole and the (Fellowship of Christian Huskies). We support that student-led club and their right to meet during the school day as any other club. To pray on school grounds is not a problem."

During the public input, Pastor Randy talked about the club.

"Our church started Fellowship of Christian Huskies in November 2011," he said. "We started with a small group of kids, having no idea where, I believe, God was going to take us. There's no club that compares (with it). I think

we're dealing with a bigger problem than (not only) here in our community, but (also) a nation as a whole. I don't think our founding fathers wanted this taken out of our schools at all."

For the past year, the church has provided pizza, a bottle of water, and candy once a week to anyone who stopped by.

"(The students) don't even have to stay to listen to anything we have to say," Pastor Randy said. "We knew (Superintendent Rhonda) Vendetti and (Principal Brian) Schipper supported us."

But recently two people complained about the club.

"They were given the same opportunity to do the same thing that we were doing," Pastor Randy said. "It's my understanding their response that 'it was too much work and they don't have the time.' I know you're in support of us. None of the things (that have been said) came from me. I'm not here to lead a rebellion; we're here to support you. The young men and women in leadership (roles) need adult leadership and they need somebody to help them. You can't just let young men and women try to lead by themselves. Our church took this on as a mission and supported it to the tune of thousands of dollars. We gave out 31 college scholarships and not one of the recipients attended our church."

After he talked, several others spoke in support of Pfaff, followed by remarks by Covington.

"A lot of times in life, mistakes are made," Covington said. "We don't do things the right way. When that happens, we need to stand up and admit that. If you find out you've done something wrong and it needs to be done another way, you need to make that change. Just because you do something wrong on one point (is a reason to) continue it."

The changes came about because the board has to follow the confines of the law.

"The law said the school shall be deemed to offer a fair opportunity to students who wish to conduct a meeting in its limited open forum if such school uniformly provides that (1) The meeting is voluntary and student initiated. (2) There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, government, its agents or employees. (3) Employees or agents of the school are present at religious meeting only at a non-participatory capacity, which means we have staff there to make sure everything runs right and the kids are safe. (4) the meeting does not interfere with orderly conduct of educational activities within the school and (5) Non-school persons cannot direct, conduct, control or regularly attend activity. That's the law."

After the meeting, Pastor Randy said he wasn't sure what he and the church would do next.

"When I'm told I'm offensive to teachers by my very presence, that kind of concerns me," he said. "What they're not telling you is the way policy reads now (is parents) can't even go to that meeting. They've hard-lined it and it's gone far above what the law really (states). This is not the problem. If it was a science club and a scientist was leading it or if this was a rap group with music and Snoop Dog was there, there would be no problem. The (Bible) is the issue."

In 1782, the forefathers along with Congress put its stamp of approval of using the Bible in the schools, as well as prayer and reciting the books of the Bible.

"Where have we gone and when is it going to end?" Pastor Randy asked. "We see this going on all over our country. Now it's come home here. God was directing this from the beginning."

IMPORTANT DATES IN FREMONT

School Board Meetings:

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

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

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

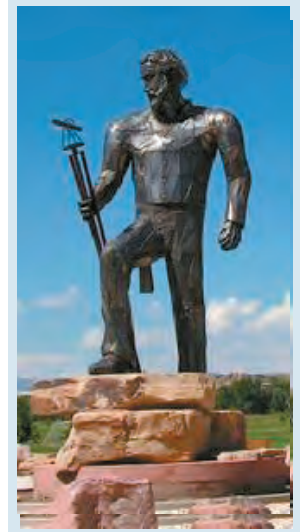
County
Commissioners
2nd and 4th Tues.
9:30 a.m.
615 Macon, Rm. 105
Cañon City

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

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

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

sdc.sentinel@gmail.com



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

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

Coyote Den
Highway 115 & 6th Street
in Penrose

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

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



302A N. 16th St.
Cañon City

719-275-5211

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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.

Unconstitutional IRS Must Be Reigned In

The federal government has collected a record amount of taxes during the time period of October 2014 through January 2015. According to the Monthly Treasury Statement, federal tax collections were a record \$1.046 TRILLION during the period. Notwithstanding, the government spent \$194.209 TRILLION during the period, and government spending is up 8.3% over the same period last year. So how is the government collecting so much money? Through an unconstitutional agency called the Internal Revenue Service. One of the reasons it is unconstitutional is that the IRS does not have to undergo due process to seize your money. You are guilty until proven innocent, constituting a culture of fear and bullying. Just ask Illinois Republican Congressman Peter Roskam, who is chairman of the Ways and Means oversight subcommittee. Roskam held a hearing on IRS seizures of taxpayer money--seizures that took place without due process. Roskam said the IRS has too much power, especially when it seizes assets of taxpayers when it doesn't have evidence of a crime. Roskam said, "The IRS doesn't have to give notice to the account-holder before seizing the assets. And the IRS doesn't have to prove that the person is actually guilty of anything — just that the account probably is involved in structuring." So we have a Congressman stating that your rights to due process are violated by the IRS. He needs to fix it. Testifying at the hearing was Andrew Clyde, a former Seabee who served three tours in Iraq, and owns a gun shop in Georgia. His insurance

would not cover losses of more than \$10,000. He would therefore carry less than \$10,000 when he made bank deposits. A law designed to catch drug dealers and terrorists requires that deposits of more than \$10,000 must be reported. But if you consistently deposit just less than \$10,000, the IRS seizes your assets and makes you prove that you are not guilty of criminal activity. AP reports that Clyde was never accused of anything illegal, yet the IRS filed a civil complaint against him and made several offers to settle the case by forcing him to forfeit large portions of his money. Remember the IRS is the agency that was used by the White House to intimidate its perceived foes. Gun owning, former veterans and Christians were at the top of the list according to one of the first reports released by Homeland Security under the current "president." Now before some Christians rush to quote me part of what Jesus said in Mark 12:17, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's," be reminded that America is not a Roman dictatorship. Also know Acts 5:29, "We ought to obey God rather than men." God's law says not to covet. The IRS, as part of the government of the people, covet's your earnings, meaning the government of the people also covets. We the people are allowing it. We are part of it. We must demand it stops. The government must live within the means of the people--not TRILLIONS beyond it.

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!
Bill Wilson
www.dailyjot.com
Reprinted with permission.

Guess Who Is Now Listed in the Southern Poverty Law Center's 'Extremist Files' Among Neo-Nazis, KKK Members, and Many Others

by Billy Hallowell,
TheBlaze.com

(Editor/GG: The SPLC is about as nut-case, left-wing as you can get. Their outrageous claims and extreme anti-Christian bias over the years have caused them to be a laughing stock. The liberals use them as a "hit team" against their fellow Americans when these poor citizens cross the SPLC's racist or "hate" criteria line. And they really, really don't like Christians. Perfect example here, Doctor Carson, a great Christian, black, American presidential candidate, is now a dangerous "extremist" for opposing gay marriage on religious grounds. Liberals are sooooo tolerant. Who really hates who here?)

Let's take a look at the SPLC's famous "hate map" of the USA (go to www.splcenter.org), and list the "hate" groups for Colorado. There are 17 organizations listed there. And they are sooooo bad. For example, the Christ the King Church in Larkspur is a hate group (anti-gay), the great Christian Family Research Institute is a hate group (anti-gay), the Scriptures for America Ministries is a hate group (their thought crime is, and I am not making this up, "Christian Identity"), and The Pray in Jesus Name Project is a hate group (anti-gay). These Christians need to be punished, obviously. And I noticed they have a very specific

A man who was convicted of opening fire at the Family Research Council's Washington, D.C., headquarters in 2012 acknowledged that he used the [SPLC's] "hate map" to target the organization.

category of hatred that they use for the real bad Christians - "General Hate" (I am NOT making this up.). Guess who gets to be named to that one? The infamous Ann Barnhardt (whose crime is being Catholic). It was her anti-islam article we ran a few weeks ago that so inflamed a Denver muslim imam (a young guy originally from Westcliffe) that he had to come down here and blat to the Commissioners that the Sentinel had it all wrong, that islam was the religion of peace, as thousands of

innocents were being slaughtered, beheaded, raped, tortured, and burnt alive by his fellow peace activists in the middle east and elsewhere around the world.

You see the left can't stand the Constitution. It is limiting their power. They, and only they, can have the power to define things like free speech. The SPLC and our local liberals share a common belief, free speech they don't like is hate speech. Be wary, fellow citizens, of these folks. Your speech will be next.

UPDATE: After a firestorm of outrage, the SPLC just decided to de-list Doctor Carson, but in their absolutely insane press release still insists that "Doctor Carson has, in fact, made a number of statements that express views that we believe most people would conclude are extreme. They are described below." I will list just one, and this will give you an idea of what the SPLC considers "extreme" and "hateful": "Marriage is between a man and a women." Case closed.)

Famed neurosurgeon and potential 2016 GOP presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson has been granted many honors, but his latest designation is anything but flattering.

Carson has been added to a list of "extremists" being populated and compiled by the Southern Poverty Law Center, an Alabama-based group "dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society."

It's Carson's apparent "anti-LB-GT" views that have landed him in the Southern Poverty Law Center's "extremist files," where he is listed among other individuals in categories such as "anti-Muslim," "Ku Klux Klan," and "Neo-Nazi."

"Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson rapidly ascended as a far-right political star after publicly scolding President Obama, whom he sat a few feet away from, at a National Prayer Breakfast in February 2013," reads the group's profile on the noted neurosurgeon. "Carson's reproach of Obama for his health care and tax policies went viral, unleashing a flood of adulation from right-wing media and hate groups."

The Southern Poverty Law Center claims that Carson began speaking soon after to "right wing and hate group gatherings," claiming that he linked gays to pedophiles and endorsed "biblical economic practices for 21st century America." The latter is likely a reference to Carson's comparison of the traditional church tithe to a flat-tax system.

The profile includes a list of quotes from Carson's media appearances and writings seen by the Southern Poverty Law Center as being anti-gay or for being, at the least, egregious. Here are



just a few of those quotes:

"Obamacare is really the worst thing that has happened in this nation since slavery. And ... in a way, it is slavery." —Values Voter Summit, Washington, D.C., October 11, 2013

"I mean [our government and institutions] are very much like Nazi Germany. ... You know, you had a government using its tools to intimidate the population. We now live in a society where people are afraid to say what they really believe." —Quoted by Breitbart News, March 12, 2014

"What we need to do is come up with something simple. And when I pick up my Bible, you know what I see? I see the first individual in the universe, God, and he's given us a system. It's called a tithe." —Endorsing a flat-tax for all Americans, White House Prayer Breakfast, February 7, 2013

This is not the first time the Southern Poverty Law Center has added a well-known conservative to one of its lists, as historian David Barton has been among those targeted by the group.

And it's no secret that the Southern Poverty Law Center has come under fire from conservatives for its liberal inclinations in the past. The group was removed from the FBI's hate-crime web page last year after conservative groups protested its initial inclusion there.

As TheBlaze previously reported, the Southern Poverty Law Center's "hate map" targets groups with "beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics." The hate map is "compiled using hate group publications and websites, citizen and law enforcement reports, field sources and news reports," its website states.

The Southern Poverty Law Center includes Ku Klux Klan and New Black Panther Party groups on its "hate map," as well as organizations like the Family Research Council, a socially conservative organization. A man who was convicted of opening fire at the Family Research Council's Washington, D.C., headquarters in 2012 acknowledged that he used the "hate map" to target the organization.

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Please see: www.theblaze.com/stories/2015/02/09/guess-who-is-now-listed-in-the-southern-poverty-law-centers-extremist-files-among-neo-nazis-klk-members-and-many-others/

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

Some Conservatives Cheer Alabama for 'Drawing a Line at the Courthouse Door'

by Susan Jones,
CNSNews.com

(Editor/GG: About time.)

(CNSNews.com) -

The conservative Family Research Council is hailing Alabama for refusing to "roll over and play dead" as the federal courts "trample" state laws.

After a federal judge struck down Alabama's ban on same-sex marriage in the state, the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday refused Alabama's request to stay that judge's ruling.

But as happy homosexuals waited outside Alabama courthouses to get their marriage licenses on Monday, many of the state's probate offices turned down their requests, on orders from Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore.

"It's my duty to speak up when I see the jurisdiction of our courts being intruded by unlawful federal authority," the Associated Press quoted Moore as saying in an interview on Monday.

As FRC noted: "From Marshall, Franklin, and Lawrence Counties to Jackson, Tuscaloosa, and Dekalb

Counties, dozens of judges sent couples home empty handed. Caught between the state's courts and a federal judge, most offices are issuing their own stay."

One probate judge explained that he was obeying a directive from Chief Justice Roy Moore of the Alabama Supreme Court, who on Sunday issued an order saying that "no probate judge of the state of Alabama nor any agent or employee of any Alabama probate judge shall issue or recognize a marriage license that is inconsistent with the Alabama Constitution."

Limestone County Probate Judge Hardy McCollum was quoted as saying that he and other probate judges are held to Moore's order -- "and we're going to comply with his order." Russell County Probate Judge Alford Parden said he considered the directive from Moore, the state's top judicial officer, as a binding court order.

Elmore County Probate Judge John Enslen said that he, "as a believer in the Word of God...cannot in good conscience participate in a purported mar-

riage ceremony which I strongly believe would profane the sacred institution of marriage."

The Family Research Council quoted Enslen as saying, "This is not about hating people. Each of us needs to treat every other human being with dignity and respect, regardless of our diametrically opposing viewpoints on this divisive issue. But tolerance is a two-way street. Either there is tolerance for all or there is tolerance for none. I want tolerance for my personal religious viewpoint."

FRC said the organized resistance to federal intervention in Alabama may be the "turning point" on marriage that many Americans have been waiting for.

It's not clear what happens next, but as the AP reported, the legal wrangling over gay marriage isn't over.

At least six couples who hoped to marry on Monday filed federal lawsuits after they were unable to get marriage licenses, in one case because the probate office closed rather than issue the licenses.

Justices Clarence Thomas

and Antonin Scalia dissented from the Supreme Court's decision not to block gay marriage in Alabama. In his dissent, Thomas said the court's refusal to stay gay marriage in Alabama "may well be seen as a signal of the court's intended resolution of that question."

The Supreme Court last month agreed to decide whether the Fourteenth Amendment requires a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex; and whether or not the Fourteenth Amendment requires a state to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state.

As Thomas wrote in his dissent: "I would have shown the people of Alabama the respect they deserve and preserved the status quo while the Court resolves this important constitutional question."

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Supreme Court Ruling Could Make Colorado a School Choice Destination

By Ben DeGrow
Watchdog Arena

Anticipation is building among school choice supporters for a Colorado court ruling that could create wide and deep ripples in the fabric of American K-12 education.

On December 10, 2014, the Colorado Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case of *Taxpayers v. Douglas County Board of Education*. The case's third and decisive round of legal hearings will test whether an unprecedented local school choice program not only will survive, but also could multiply.

The ruling could embolden other local Colorado boards of education to offer parents educational options outside the public system, and inspire policymakers hoping to expand choice in other states.

New Choices Lost

In March 2011, a unanimous vote of the Douglas County school board made Colorado's third-largest district the first in the nation to enact a local, private school, choice program. Created as a pilot, the Choice Scholarship Program offered 500 current district students a full 75 percent of the state's per-pupil funding formula to underwrite tuition if they left to attend a private school partner of the parents' choice.

Unlike most choice programs, enacted at the state level, the program was structured to benefit students regard-

less of a family's income. Douglas County is a largely conservative and affluent area, a fast-growing suburban region connected to rural pockets that together serve more than 66,000 students grades K-12.

Several hundred DougCo students had already begun attending a new private school with the promise of a \$4,600 scholarship when Denver District Court Judge Michael Martinez put the program under a permanent injunction. A group of plaintiffs, led by the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, won their first-round court victory in August 2011.

Don Willson's family was prepared to benefit from one of the 500 scholarships. While his older three children experienced "good success" in Douglas County's public schools, his youngest struggled during her freshman year in one of the district's large high schools. The injunction dashed residents' hopes for financial aid.

"Our daughter never did take advantage of that scholarship opportunity," Willson told AM 630 KHOW radio host Mandy Connell during a December 11 interview.

Though covering a broad number of claims, the legal dispute has centered around a handful of state constitutional provisions that plaintiffs say forbid the use of public dollars from supporting "sectarian" schools and other institutions. Defendants argue that the program represents one choice among

many offered by the district, and that participating families decide whether they want to use their scholarship in a religious or non-religious school.

Opponents of the program won the first round, but a privately-funded legal effort enabled the district to challenge Martinez's ruling. The Court of Appeals' February 2013 decision completely overturned the findings, concluding that the ACLU and its co-litigants lacked legal standing and failed to prove the program violated the state constitution.

However, the injunction was left in place. More than three years have transpired with the Choice Scholarship Program dormant.

Though not in operation, the program still is generally popular. An April 2013 survey sponsored by the Independence Institute (full disclosure: my employer) found 55 percent of Douglas County voters favored the Choice Scholarship Program.

True "Local Control"

In 2004, a 4-3 Colorado Supreme Court majority struck down a state-enacted school voucher program, on the grounds that the legislation encroached on school boards' "local control" to appropriate locally collected tax dollars. From the genesis of the Douglas County program, the school board and its supporters

See CHOICE
on page 23



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Gallup CEO: “America’s 5.6% Unemployment Is One Big Lie”

by Jim Clifton, CEO of Gallup,
via Zerohedge.com

The biggest threat to a corrupt regime is when truth moves away from the “conspiracy theory” fringes and into the mainstream. Which is why we thank Jim Clifton, Chairman and CEO of Gallup, for daring to tell the truth to those who care to listen.

The Big Lie: 5.6% Unemployment

Here’s something that many Americans -- including some of the smartest and most educated among us -- don’t know: **The official unemployment rate, as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor, is extremely misleading.**

Right now, we’re hearing much celebrating from the media, the White House and Wall Street about how unemployment is “down” to 5.6%. The cheerleading for this number is deafening. The media loves a comeback story, the White House wants to score political points, and Wall Street would like you to stay in the market.

None of them will tell you this: If you, a family member, or anyone is unemployed and has subsequently given up on finding a job -- if you are so hopelessly out of work that you’ve stopped looking over the past four weeks -- the Department of Labor doesn’t count you as unemployed. That’s right. While you are as unemployed as one can possibly be, and tragically may never find work again, you are not count-

ed in the figure we see relentlessly in the news -- currently 5.6%. Right now, as many as 30 million Americans are either out of work or severely underemployed. Trust me, the vast majority of them aren’t throwing parties to toast “falling” unemployment.

There’s another reason why the official rate is misleading. Say you’re an out-of-work engineer or health-care worker or construction worker or retail manager: If you perform a minimum of one hour of work in a week and are paid at least \$20 -- maybe someone pays you to mow their lawn -- you’re not officially counted as unemployed in the much-reported 5.6%. Few Americans know this.

Yet another figure of importance that doesn’t get much press: those working part time but wanting full-time work. If you have a degree in chemistry or math and are working 10-hours part time because it is all you can find -- in other words, you are severely underemployed -- the government doesn’t count you in the 5.6%. Few Americans know this.

There’s no other way to say this. **The official unemployment rate, which cruelly overlooks the suffering of the long-term and often permanently unemployed as well as the depressingly underemployed, amounts to a Big Lie.**

And it’s a lie that has consequences because the great American dream is to have a good job, and in recent years, America has failed to deliver

that dream more than it has at any time in recent memory. **A good job is an individual’s primary identity, their very self-worth, their dignity** -- it establishes the relationship they have with their friends, community, and country. When we fail to deliver a good job that fits a citizen’s talents, training and experience, **we are failing the great American dream.**

Gallup defines a good job as 30+ hours per week for an organization that provides a regular paycheck. **Right now, the U.S. is delivering at a staggeringly low rate of 44%, which is the number of full-time jobs as a percent of the adult population,** 18 years and older. We need that to be 50% and a bare minimum of 10 million new, good jobs to replenish America’s middle class.

I hear all the time that “unemployment is greatly reduced, but the people aren’t feeling it.” **When the media, talking heads, the White House, and Wall Street start reporting the truth -- the percent of Americans in good jobs; jobs that are full time and real -- then we will quit wondering why Americans aren’t “feeling” something that doesn’t remotely reflect the reality in their lives.** And we will also quit wondering what hollowed out the middle class.

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Arizona Sheriff: Up To 30% of Illegal Aliens Caught at Border Have Criminal History

by Brittany M. Hughes, CNS-
News.com

(CNSNews.com) -- Speaking before the House Judiciary Committee on the issue of illegal immigration, Sheriff Paul Babeu, from Pinal County, Arizona, said up to 30 percent of the roughly 120,000 illegal aliens apprehended every year at the southwest U.S. border around his county have some kind of criminal record in the United States, adding that “the border is not more secure than ever” as President Barack Obama has stated.

He also said the situation is so lawless in some areas it is like a war-zone on American soil, where “local law enforcement is leading the effort to fight criminal syndicates from a foreign nation.”

According to Babeu, between 88,000 and 123,000 illegal aliens are apprehended each year at the Tuscon Sector, one of nine border patrol zones along the U.S.-Mexico border. Among those illegal aliens, between 17 and 30 percent have a criminal record in the country, Babeu testified.

“This clearly shows that the border is not more secure than ever,” he said.

Babeu also detailed the drug-running and smuggling operations that have become more and more prevalent in his county. In one day alone, law enforcement officials arrested 78 members of a notorious cartel and seized 108 illegal weapons, all during a single drug bust.

“[These are] not just handguns,” Babeu explained. “These are scoped rifles and AK-47s, two of which were traced back to the Fast and Furious operation. This is in my county.”

Illegal aliens who assist in drug-running efforts are also situated on mountaintops as “scouts,” equipped with binoculars and encrypted radios to avoid law enforcement, he said.

“When I tell a story like that, having served a tour in Iraq and commanded soldiers in

the army, it almost appears I’m telling a story of some war-torn area,” Babeu said.

“This is on American soil. That’s what’s so disruptive, is the fact that here, as the sheriff, where our primary job is to answer 9-1-1 calls, how on Earth did we get here to this place that local law enforcement is leading the effort to fight criminal syndicates from a foreign nation on American soil?”

Babeu also described what he referred to as a “mass prison break,” in which hundreds of illegal alien criminals have been released from custody by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and sent back into the local community.

At one point in 2013, around 400 illegal alien criminals were set free from local jails and back into Pinal County. Another 30 to 50 illegal alien criminals are released every day, Babeu stated before Congress.

“These are the people that everybody, including the president, said are the bad actors,” he said, adding that those released people have criminal records that include rape, manslaughter, child molestation, financial crimes, armed robbery, and assault against law enforcement.

When he asked for more information regarding these individuals and their criminal history, the federal government refused --and continues to refuse -- to give it to him, Babeu said.

“I, as the sheriff, who swore an oath to protect the people of my county, should have a right to that information,” Babeu said.

“I would urge this Congress to stand up as a lawmaking body, to enforce the laws, just as you expect me and every other law enforcement officer locally to do, and secure the border,” he added.

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Party Time! Health Exchange Officials Celebrate Gobbledygook

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Health exchange officials said Monday that 132,000 Coloradans have submitted applications for insurance as of February 4, despite numerous glitches that have plagued the system’s open enrollment period that ends this weekend.

To put that into perspective, officials said last year that 124,000 insurance plans were sold by the March deadline, but months later projected that about 24,000 would cancel their policies.

And, by the end of 2014 only 93,000 opted to stay in the insurance scheme for this year.

So the simple math equation is this: Take the number of new applications submitted, subtract the unknown quantity that will never pay for it, divide by number of times health exchange pleads for another million bucks, add the half-million Coloradans STILL without insurance, and the answer is: The same gobbledygook we’ve come to expect from our failing multi-million dollar health insurance scheme.

Until the House approves the Senate bill demanding an audit and Gov. Hickenlooper makes it law, it’s all just a guessing game as to how much the program actually grew this year.

Nonetheless, Interim Chief Executive Gary Drews is handing out the party hats, pom poms, and novelty blowers:

“It’s a huge success, and it’s very important to celebrate that,” Drews said.

We hope that celebration comes with enough food on that party platter to feed the 3,600 whose policies were cancelled during the renewal process.

As for the half-million or so Coloradans still without insurance, we’re guessing they’re not invited to the party.

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Revealed: Known Jihadist Members Among Attendees at Secret White House Meeting

by Allen West,
AllenBWest.com

Remember the piece I wrote firmly stating several reasons why President Barack Obama is an Islamist sympathizer? I think the case was laid out rather simply and wasn't based on conjecture, but fact, actions, and policies by the president. Of course, I'm not the only one to say so. More and more Americans are coming to that conclusion as well.

You have to scratch your head after watching the recent Vox.com interview where Obama referred to the Paris Jewish kosher store terror attackers as "folks" and "random." And of course the historically inaccurate moral equivalency and relativism proclamations of the president at the National Prayer Breakfast further solidifies the case of our president sympathizing with the Islamist enemy.

However, last week something happened even more d**ning for Obama (if that's possible) — and he doesn't seem to care. As you might recall, President Obama met with American Muslim leaders at the White House, but the administration was unwilling to reveal who attended the meeting, which was closed to the press.

But as reported by *Investors Business Daily*, "After complaints, the White House finally released names of the 'Muslim leaders' Obama met with behind closed doors a week ago Wednesday. Now we know why it was secret. The list includes members of known jihadist groups. After stonewalling for days about the names of participants at the almost two-hour meeting with the president and his national security advisers — a meeting that was granted at the request of Muslim Advocates, an Islamist group that's demanded a stop to NYPD surveillance of radical mosques, anti-terrorist drone strikes, and Gitmo detentions — the White House quietly attached the list of attendees to the back of its daily press briefing transcript on Thursday evening, according to the *Washington Times*."

"Topping the agenda was 'anti-Muslim bigotry' and banning Muslim terrorist profiling by federal law enforcement."

As you recall, it was the following day that President Obama delivered his very offensive and controversial comments at the National Prayer Breakfast. Here are some of the 14 Muslim leaders who had our presidents' ear for two hours according to *Investors Business Daily*:

Imam Mohamed Magid, who preaches at a fundamentalist Northern Virginia mosque that has listed a number of trustees and major donors whose offices and homes were raided after 9/11 by federal agents on suspicion of funding terrorists.

Azhar Azeez, president of the Islamic Society of North America, a known

radical Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas front group that remains on the Justice Department's list of unindicted terrorist co-conspirators.

Sherman Jackson, who as the King Faisal Chair of Islamic Thought at USC, once gave a lecture at a conference in Toronto that has been described by "Campus Watch" as a "call to battle" between Muslims and the West.

Hoda Hawa (Elshishtawy) national policy analyst for the Muslim Public Affairs Council, which was founded by known members of the Muslim Brotherhood, a worldwide jihadist movement. The group's former president, Salam al-Marayati, was once kicked off the National Commission on Terrorism after his defense of terrorist acts and the groups who carry them out was revealed.

It's noteworthy that no representatives of the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations, a terror-tied group the FBI has banned from outreach events, were invited to the White House. The FBI says CAIR is a "front" for the Hamas terrorist group."

CAIR does however possess very posh headquarters on Capitol Hill and is an unindicted co-conspirator in the largest Islamic terrorist funding case in U.S. history — the Holy Land Foundation — but who cares, right?

I just want to ask a simple question. When was the last time Obama met with Christian leaders? (And Reverends Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, or Jeremiah Wright are not what I'm talking about).

Where are the voices of secular humanists and atheists, like the Freedom From Religion Foundation screaming about separation of church and state? I tend to believe there is an unholy alliance between progressive socialists, Islamo-fascists, and secular humanists. They do all seem to form the base for Islamapologists.

Aren't you dying to know what they discussed?

According to the *Detroit Free Press*, "the White House ordered the Muslim attendees not to talk after the meeting about what Obama said during the discussion. However, some have broken the ground rules and leaked what was discussed."

"Topping the agenda was 'anti-Muslim bigotry' and banning Muslim terrorist profiling by federal law enforcement. Participants said they got a sympathetic ear from Obama. The president reportedly entertained the idea of naming Muslim judges to federal courts. Meanwhile, the most pressing Muslim-related issue of our time — violent jihadism — was not discussed."

So let me ask of y'all, what do you think will be the topic of the upcoming White House meeting on "violent extremism?" And who will be in attendance for that summit? I can bet there won't be any Christian leaders — can't have those mean Crusaders around.

So who will be defined as the "violent extremists" at the conference — the Tea Party? After all, how many times have we heard the voices on the left refer to Constitutional Conservatives as such?

The FBI says CAIR is a "front" for the Hamas terrorist group."

Yesterday we found out that Kayla Mueller, a 26-year-old American woman was killed at the hands of ISIS — they were holding her hostage. Our response? Perhaps we'll have more Islamic sharia courts like what's rumored to be right here close to me in Irving, Texas.

Remember the rally for *Charlie Hebdo*? Of course you don't, that's how we roll in Western civilization, with emotional empty responses. Jordan knew how to respond — you didn't hear about King Abdullah having meetings with Muslim Brotherhood affiliated individuals.

I will close with these thoughts from the *Investors Business Daily* article for you to ponder:

"If it seems Obama is more interested in protecting the Muslim community than America, that's because he is more interested. As he vowed after 9/11, revealed in his 2006 memoir: 'I will stand with (Muslims)' — even if Muslims are tied to another 9/11. That is, it is their 'sense of security' that concerns him, and it is their needs he will tend to — over the needs and security of the majority of Americans. This is the man who's supposed to be protecting America from violent Muslim fanatics. This is our commander in chief for the next two years, a period that may prove the most dangerous terrorist stretch in our history."

Yes, the actions, statements, and policies of President Obama do lend one to believe he is an Islamist sympathizer. There are too many disturbing unanswered questions. Where was the request for authorization to support Islamists in Libya, and why did he abandon Americans to die in Benghazi and then lie about it? Why such affinity for the Muslim Brotherhood — going back to that 2009 speech in Cairo when he insisted they be seated in front?

If nothing else, it is time for the Congress — House and Senate — to vote on a resolution for censure.

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"Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

~Benjamin Franklin



The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand

2015



Holder Defeated As Judge Rules Federal Interstate Handgun Transfer Ban Unconstitutional

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Connor has declared that a U.S. ban on the interstate sales of handguns by federal firearms dealers to buyers from other states violates the U.S. Constitution in a ruling in *Mance vs. Holder* issued Wednesday.

The ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Connor stemmed from a challenge to the ban brought by a Texas firearms dealer and a couple from the District of Columbia in July 2014.

The federal law prohibits a dealer from transferring a handgun, but not a rifle

or shotgun, to an individual who does not live in the state in which the dealer's business is located.

"While we expect the government to appeal, we are confident that the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will agree with Judge O'Connor's sound ruling," attorney William Mateja, who represented the challengers, said in a statement.

While the ruling is important, I wouldn't count on running over to your neighboring state to purchase a handgun just yet. The judge may have made his ruling, but the government is certain to ask for a stay and then appeal the case, and

there are not rules for how FFLs can legally conduct the sales at this time.

Despite the fact that the ruling can't be implemented immediately, it is still the latest in a string of important victories in Second Amendment cases in recent years.

Judge O'Connor found that the federal ban violated both the Second and Fifth Amendments. The law only impedes the lawful transfer of handguns across state lines, and does not impact the illicit transfer of handguns used in crimes.

The defeat of the ban was another slap in the face of

outgoing anti-gun Attorney General Eric Holder who wholeheartedly supported the ban (and every other gun restriction).

The law only impedes the lawful transfer of handguns across state lines, and does not impact the illicit transfer of handguns used in crimes.

Once the case finishes winding its way through the court system—which could be several more

years—the law may have the practical effect of making the handgun market slightly more competitive in pricing, but it is unlikely

that it will have the effect of undermining those states with politically-motivated approved handgun lists

such as Massachusetts and California.

Of particular long-term importance in *Mance* is that Judge O'Connor set the precedent of using the standard of strict scrutiny in his ruling. That is the most strict level of judicial review. O'Connor stated that the federal attorneys failed to establish a compelling government interest for the ban, and that the law was not narrowly tailored to achieve that goal.

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Columbine Massacre Survivor Introduces Bill To Allow Concealed Carry in Schools

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

Patrick Neville survived the infamous school shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, in 1999. Like the other students, faculty, staff, and administrators that day, he learned firsthand the futility of gun control laws, including the futility of the practice of declaring schools "gun free zones."

92-percent of all mass shootings in the United States since 2009 have taken place in these so-called "gun-free zones."

Now an elected official, Rep. Neville (R-Castle Rock) is introducing a bill to allow anyone with a concealed carry permit to carry firearms in public schools.

A student who survived the Columbine High School

massacre has introduced a bill that would allow anyone with a concealed weapons permit the right to conceal and carry firearms in public schools.

Rep. Patrick Neville, R-Castle Rock, was a student at Columbine in 1999 in Jefferson County when two seniors went on a rampage, killing 12 fellow students and a teacher.

"This bill will allow honest, law-abiding citizens to carry a concealed firearm for protection if they choose to," Neville said in a news release. "But most importantly, it will give them the right to be equipped to defend our children from the most dangerous situations."

The bill is one of several introduced in the Colorado legislature this year. Most of the firearms-related bills introduced in Colora-

do this session are expected to pass in the Republican-controlled Senate, and die in the Democrat-controlled House.

The battle in Colorado is symptomatic of a larger legislative battle over guns on campus occurring nationwide.

Florida, Indiana, Montana, North Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming are all advancing different bills to allow concealed carry on campus.

It remains to be seen if any of these bills will be signed into law, and, unfortunately, the larger left-leaning, education establishment is as dead-set against the Second Amendment as they are the First and the Fourth. You have to remember that these control-oriented educators are the same zealots that brought us "free speech zones" to squelch dissenting thought on campus, and who hysterically suspend students for everything from eating pastries to threatening to use the "one ring" from

the Hobbit.

They will continue to fight tooth and nail against defending the lives of our students and teachers until The Expected Attack happens.

The Expected Attack (should we™ that?) is the long expected mass attack on an American public school (or schools) by cells of Islamic terrorists who have been transiting our virtually undefended southern border for more than a decade.

William Forstchen wrote a chilling novella called *Day of Wrath* imagining how such a series of attacks might be conducted across the nation, and reading it will make you sick to your stomach as you realize just how vulnerable our schools are to these sorts of attacks.

U.S. counter-terrorism experts agree that this kind of attack is coming to America, but government on every level and education administrators refuse to acknowledge the

certainty of these attacks. They have instead retreated into the "it can't happen here" delusion that should have been shattered once and for all on September 11, 2001.

92-percent of all mass shootings in the United States since 2009 have taken place in these so-called "gun-free zones."

After a December terrorist attack on a Pakistani school left 150 students and teachers dead, government officials declared that arming teachers with concealed weapons is a "logical step" consider-

ing the threat of Islamic terrorism. At Peshawar's Government High School for Boys, principal Abdul Saeed keeps a loaded handgun nearby. He will not be caught defenseless if mass killers attack his school.

"After what I have seen I refuse to be helpless and unarmed if anyone comes in to attack my students the way [the militants] did in December.

"We were once warriors of the chalk and the blackboard. Now we must be soldiers at war and fight for the cause of education and a brighter future for our children."

It's too bad that American educators, terrified of everything, don't share his passion to protect our students from madmen of every stripe.

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Texas Mother Puts Gun Between Herself and Two Would-Be Intruders to Protect Son

by Tim Brown,
FreedomOutPost.com

(Editor/GG: Way to go, Mama Bear!)

You know what they say, “Don’t mess with a mama’s babies.” Two would-be intruders found this out as they attempted to break into a Texas home and found a mama bear with a gun protecting her son.

April O’Neil, a stay-at-home mother, recounted the moment her eyes made contact with one of two men who were attempting to break in her home.

“It was this look like, I could read it in his face that he wanted in here and if he got in here, he was going to hurt us,” she said of the incident on Thursday.

Once she saw the men, who had on masks and had apparently jumped the family’s fence and were attempting to break in through the back, she set off the home alarm, grabbed her gun, and shoved her three-year-old son into a utility closet, placing herself between the closet and the would-be intruders.

“I was pointing the gun at the bigger of the two suspects,” O’Neill said. “Then the bigger of the two guys looked in and he saw that he had a gun being pointed at his face. Then they were gone.”

O’Neil was more concerned with her son’s safety than her own, just like most mothers I know. She was also concerned that her son might see something that he would never get over and so she placed him in the utility closet to protect him from those sights.

Ms. O’Neil spoke soberly about the world we live in and expressed her gratefulness that she has a personal gun, which she was able to use to protect herself and her family.

“We don’t live in a ‘Leave it to Beaver’ world anymore, and a knife and pepper spray isn’t going to take down a 6-foot-4, 6-foot-5 guy,” she said.

Though O’Neil had cameras around her home, not one of them captured the two men on video. Harris County Sheriff’s Office is asking you to call if you have any information on the would be intruders.

Guns really do save lives. Does anyone actually think that if Ms. O’Neil only looked at these intruders armed with pepper spray or a spatula that they would have tucked tail and run? I don’t think so, and neither does a study commissioned by the Obama administration under his 23 executive orders following Sandy Hook. In 2013, this study determined that firearms used for self-defense are an “important crime deterrent.” That was a \$10 million worth of taxpayer money study that I could have given them for free from common sense.

And, by the way, that same study also confirmed that background checks and more rigorous gun laws don’t keep guns out of the hands of criminals. “Most felons report obtaining the majority of their firearms from informal sources,” says the study, while “stolen guns account for only a small percentage of guns used by convicted criminals.”

So, this story has a happy ending all because a mother had her gun and exercised her unalienable right to use it in defense of her and her son’s life. Well done, Ms. O’Neil!

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Almost Home: One Man’s View of American Sniper

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

(Editor/GG: Mr. Owens pinpoints the left’s real opposition to the film.)

I finally saw *American Sniper* last night.

I now know why Michael Moore hates it.

American Sniper wasn’t a war movie. It was a movie about what war does to a man, and that’s much harder for a porcine blowhard to easily dismiss.

The Chris Kyle portrayed by Bradley Cooper in *American Sniper* was a ranch hand and rodeo cowboy stumbling through life. He became a reluctant savior as a Navy SEAL sniper in four tours of duty in Iraq. As the movie developed and Kyle went to war, you saw him buried under self-imposed responsibility, fighting to retain his humanity. The man we saw portrayed in the film was trapped between being “the Legend” others needed him to be, and everyman that he was in his heart.

What angers the anti-war, anti-military left is that director Clint Eastwood and actor Bradley Cooper presented us with an extremely complex

character. Kyle was a loving husband, and at times a distant husband. He was a doting father, and a man trapped half a world away while his children were in his arms. He was a steely-eyed hunter of men and a human being, haunted by what he was forced to do to save lives. He was devil to some, an angel to others, and for all his toughness was also deeply affected by the things he’d seen and done.

The Chris Kyle of *American Sniper* isn’t a shallow, Hollywood action hero easily discounted by even shallower polemicists. He didn’t have cheesy catch phrases, and he wasn’t invincible. Cooper’s Kyle was a man who rose to the occasion time and time again no matter what obstacles were put in his way. Though he ended up losing his life, he never surrendered his humanity.

So much of the criticism of the film seems to revolve around the decisions that Kyle had to make as a sniper providing overwatch to Marines in Fallujah, Ramadi, and other urban battlefields. These critics are missing the point of the movie entirely.

The “shoot/don’t shoot” decisions he makes in the film are surprisingly important to some critics of the

film. Those who would seek to portray him as a monster for some of the decisions Kyle had to make only expose how immature and ill-equipped they are to handle difficult decisions.

Every bullet Kyle fired from his .300 Winchester Magnum was to save the lives of American Marines, soldiers, and SEALs. Each kill made perfectly logical sense, and while Kyle clearly states that he wouldn’t change them and that he doesn’t regret firing these shots, he was also quite clearly affected by them.

In *American Sniper*, you see a man shaped by war, whose toughest fight was to leave the war behind and try to fully return home to be the husband and father that he wanted to be.

If you haven’t seen it, I recommend that you do. I have no idea whether or not *American Sniper* is an accurate depiction of Chris Kyle’s life, but it certainly seems to be an accurate depiction of many of the common struggles of every warrior who is fighting both a war on the outside, and a more deadly and desperate war within.

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NPR’s Ombudsman Is A Drooling Moron Who Doesn’t Understand The First Amendment

by Eric Owens,
DailyCaller.com

(Editor/GG: Was this lib at the Custer County Courthouse a few weeks ago? Blatting that the *Sentinel* was filled with, oh my, “hate speech”? Or was it just our local liberal constitutional scholars. Seems to be a liberal DNA gene that prevents them from using logic over emotion. But its good theatre.)

In a novella-esque, 2,828-word diatribe, outgoing National Public Radio ombudsman Edward Schumacher-Matos has casually suggested that he has no earthly idea about how or why the First Amendment protects speech.

In the screed, published last week, NPR’s official public advocate gushed a river of words explaining his views on the Charlie Hebdo terrorist attack in Paris last month. During that attack, two radical Muslim immigrants massacred 12 people over political and religious satire.

“I do not know if American courts would find much of what Charlie Hebdo does to be hate speech unprotected by the Constitution,” Schumacher-Matos explained.

He then flatly stated that he hopes “most Americans” believe satire that angers lunatic Muslims is “hate speech unprotected by the Constitution.”

“It is one thing to lampoon popes, imams, rabbis, and other temporal religious leaders of this world; it is quite another to make fun, in often nasty ways, of their

com, Schumacher-Matos has a shockingly shallow, stupid, and unsophisticated understanding of the First Amendment and the U.S. Supreme Court’s free speech doctrine.

The NPR ombudsman does not appear to know about or understand, for example, that in *Joseph Burstyn, Inc v. Wilson*, a 1952 case, the

that governments in the United States shall make no law prohibiting “hate speech.”

Snyder v. Phelps (2011) protected disgusting, bigoted speech at a funeral, for example. *R.A.V. v. St. Paul* (1992) invalidated a “hate-speech” law in Minnesota. *Forsyth County v. Nationalist Movement* (also 1992) mandated that racists can’t be charged higher administrative fees. *Brandenburg v. Ohio* (1969) protected racist Ku Klux Klan speech.

It’s also worth noting that French law does prohibit “hate speech” but French courts have found that Charlie Hebdo did not engage in “hate speech” as that concept is defined in France.

Schumacher-Matos, who likes himself on Facebook, also indicated that he is concerned about “the rise of advocacy journalism, such as talk radio, Fox News, MSNBC, *Huffington Post*, and a plethora of web sites.”

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“It is not the business of government in our nation to suppress real or imagined attacks upon a particular religious doctrine, whether they appear in publications, speeches, or motion pictures.”

prophets and gods,” Schumacher-Matos instructs.

The retiring ombudsman also observes that NPR is “a public media that receives some 11 percent of its funding indirectly from the government.” Thus, the multimillion-dollar media conglomerate “cannot be partisan or have a declared bias.”

As Competitive Enterprise Institute attorney Hans Bader notes at Examiner.

Supreme Court ruled that blasphemy laws are blatantly unconstitutional.

“It is not the business of government in our nation to suppress real or imagined attacks upon a particular religious doctrine, whether they appear in publications, speeches, or motion pictures,” Justice Tom C. Clark, a Truman appointee, wrote for the 9-0 majority.

Since then, the Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled

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.



Who Was The First Liberal?

Some time ago while driving down the highway I tuned the radio to one of those non-White House approved conservative talk programs. A caller from Alabama made a statement in passing that clearly stunned the host momentarily. In the midst of a discussion about liberal thinking, he declared that Satan was the first liberal. Vehicle confinement was immediately relieved as I began to contemplate that brief theological assertion. My mind raced in a chronological order of satanic events in the Scriptures, which are our only real source of authority on the behavior of the Wicked One.

Over the years the definition of liberal has been tinkered with to the extent that it has changed dramatically. In yesteryear, liberal was akin to generosity; today that may still be true, but it generally is government generosity with the taxpayers’ money. Any examination of liberal thinking in the light of satanic influence must be done with contemporary definitions.

The first mention of Lucifer beyond his creation occurs in Isaiah 14, which documents his rebellion and fall from the Heavens. Five times he announced his abhorrence for God’s authority and his intentions to elevate himself to the extent that he would be accountable to no one. Because this mindset has always appealed to the leftist, the growing majority of Congress despises the idea of being held accountable to the voters who put them there. The 60’s were characterized by a certain cultural revolution that included Woodstock, hippies, etc. The war cry for so many of that generation was “do your own thing.” Their behavior strongly suggested that any blankets of traditional values be thrown off in favor of societal nakedness. That mindset has provided the soil for the present trees of leadership

in our nation.

The next appearance of the devil is in the Garden of Eden. He approached Eve with a simple strategy: just question what God has said and sow seeds of doubt which will eventually erupt into the same rebellion that Satan himself manifested. The “Yea, hath God said” society seems to be alive and well to this day. In the case of Adam and Eve, it had to do with a forbidden fruit; liberals seems to favor putting the crosshairs on just about anything that is forbidden. These time-honored values, such as marriage and religion, must be classified as anchors that weigh down the ship of human experience. The serpent promised that disobedience to the single commandment of God would result in eyes being opened with an incredible ability to be like gods. There was the bait, like a bear going to a September apple tree. Just think, if we can be like gods, we would be highly intelligent, able to forecast the future, admired by everyone and accountable to no one.

The narrative immediately preceding the garden episode is the account of creation. It seems that regardless of how much science is produced to verify this marvelous explanation, it is dismissed and rejected from even being presented as a competing theory. Why is this narrow-minded, prejudicial modus operandi constantly being demanded? Is it because it is truly unscientific or rather because creation, spoken into existence by the Word of God, has an enemy that casts a wide swath of influence? It’s obvious that liberals favor evolution no matter how many holes it may have in it. Who originated, “Yea, hath God said?”

Jesus launched his earthly ministry by fasting forty days and nights in the wilderness. The tempter came to him and said,

“If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.” The temptation was obvious: you deserve a break today. Burger King is available at your command. You should be provided for ---healthcare, welfare, and all the other amenities should be yours. Jesus resisted the temptation to do what he clearly had the power to do, even if it meant a denial of his own comfort. Liberals would have accepted the invitation to dine without reservation, but Jesus was just too conservative to accept a dinner that wasn’t prepared by someone who worked in the kitchen.

The second temptation finds the devil daring Christ to cast himself off the pinnacle of the temple in the belief that angels would intercede in his behalf. To live in a reckless fashion with the exception that it is the obligation of others to salvage all of our personal insanities is ungodly. Should I be responsible for those who choose to become addicted to destructive behavior? Satan would say, “Yes;” Jesus votes “No!”

The third seduction is the most covert of all. The devil takes Jesus to a high mountain and offers him the kingdoms of the world if he will just fall down and worship him. Christ knows that all these kingdoms will one day be his, but he must first follow the path of the cross before he can wear the crown. The tree of enticement is so evident that it is usually missed for the forest. Sacrifice the permanent upon the altar of the immediate. Liberals are good at that—get a bill through, pass a stimulus package, cap and trade sounds good, but there is no real concern for long term ramifications.

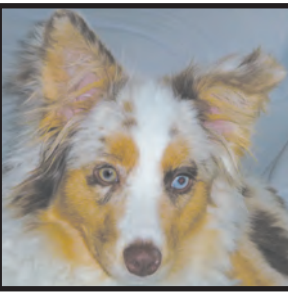
Many would consider any caller from Alabama an ignorant redneck, but he may have captured a profound truth. Who was the first liberal?

A Sheepdog Barks!

Another Islamic terrorist attack, this time in Copenhagen, Denmark. Same MO. Attack and kill someone that has insulted Mohammed and then target some Jews for good measure. It’s just a matter of when, not if, it hits America. Paris, Copenhagen, USA! You pick the city. And where is the President? Playing golf in California. He golfs way too much and especially when the world is burning down around him. So, since he’s “busy” lining up a putt on the 16th green, his National Security Advisor’s office writes a press release that says “The United States condemns the deplorable shooting in Copenhagen. We offer our condolences and our thoughts to the wounded.” Really? Not a very strong statement, don’t you agree? WOOF! Let me translate that into what it really says: “Last Saturday some ‘zealots’ (not sure what religion they are motivated by) randomly attacked some random people holding a freedom of speech rally which randomly included some random guy who had drawn Mohammed as a dog, then the ‘zealots’ randomly attacked a random building where random people worship (might have been a synagogue, but what difference does that make? We don’t believe these random acts of “violent extremism” have anything to do with Islam. Oh, yeah, and we are sorry if anyone got hurt or killed by this randomness.”

Meanwhile, when he’s not playing golf, Obama is telling Congress that he needs a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF). Finally, we hoped this “commander-in-chief wannabe” had come to his senses and really wanted to do something about Islamic terrorism, especially ISIS. Instead he produces a political statement about how he needs just a small force for a short time (just enough time so he can get the heck out of Dodge) and so he can act like he’s doing something about ISIS. He tries so hard to not upset his left-wing base of LPSDs that he actually ties our military’s hands behind their back in the AUMF. No “enduring” combat operations? What does enduring mean here anyway? How in the heck do

you go to war against what might be the most barbaric and evil force the world has ever seen WITHOUT having to conduct “enduring” combat operations? WOOF! Obama also made sure there was an ending date to his mess. Why? We must remember that when he was campaigning he told us he ENDS wars, not START them or WIN them. He must also let his LPSD base know that this is just another of his halfhearted “flyswatter” attacks on a swarm of giant killer bees. Let me translate again. “Be patient my left-wing worshipers. This won’t be much of an effort and it won’t take long. I can’t do too much while I’m trying to get a meaningless deal with Iran about their nuclear weapons program. I’m pretty sure I can kick this can down the road in my last two years and then it’s the next president’s problem. Sorry, Hillary. Be patient, my darlings, we’ve got to let diplomacy work.” HOWL! While Obama is dithering around playing Nero, his counterterrorism office is testifying to Congress that ISIS is out of control. I guess it will take an attack somewhere in America and then maybe, just maybe, the LPSDs will be demanding this terrible leader finally acknowledge the enemy and then do something to protect America and Americans. This last week he told us ISIS is on the defensive and has bad morale. Then they go and conduct a probing attack near our 300 Marines that aren’t properly supported and we also learned their ranks are increasing from almost every country in the world. Obama’s right about someone being defensive and suffering from low morale. The problem is it’s OUR military, not ISIS. The fact is this president doesn’t have a clue how to be a commander-in-chief. He has no strategy and no plan to destroy ISIS. He has Susan “Benghazi Liar” Rice calling Generals daily and telling them what to do. Good Grief, this is worse than Jimmy Carter calling the shots from his White House. At least he had served in the U.S. Navy. Obama is a community organizer directing a bunch of former college professors and ex-social workers. There is no hope he will

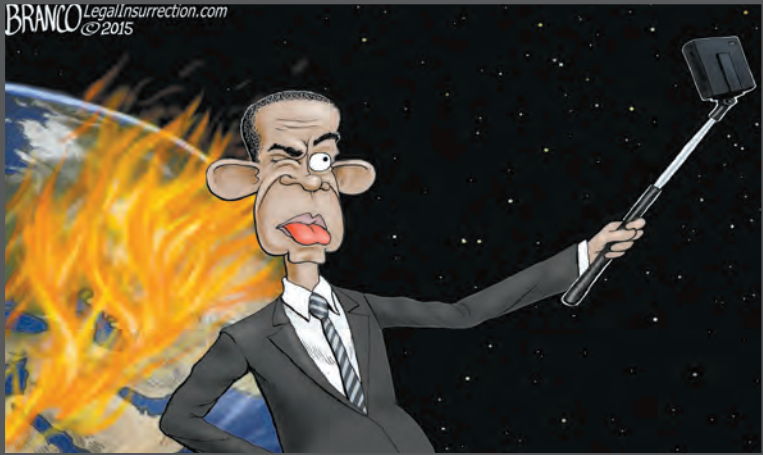


do the right thing. He’s on his fourth Secretary of Defense. The first three have all criticized him. You would think even the sheep would take notice. BAAA!

ISIS, with low morale and while being on the defensive, is encircling the base where our insufficiently protected ground force is. Admiral Kirby, the dishonorable Department of Defense (DOD) spokesman, says we shouldn’t worry about the militants in Iraqi uniforms that were wearing bomb vests and probing our bases because there are always “ups and downs” and besides it was “only one town.” Yes, the one town where our Marines are! Admiral Kirby is a disgrace to those serving and to those who have served. He should resign rather than prop up and support this administration.

Lastly, what was the president doing the very day ISIS told the parents of the American woman that she had been murdered? Making a ridiculous and undignified “selfie” video in the White House for Obamacare. The LPSDs think he’s cool, he’s hip, and that he’s got “swagga.” And under his watch veterans are still suffering from lack of care after they have served, but PFC Bradley Manning, the man who released thousands of classified documents, is proceeding on with his sex change operation in a military prison. Where are the real military leaders with the guts to stop this kind of insanity? Shame on them all. The Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army should not let this happen. For God’s sake, someone do something! We have a commander-in-chief of the most powerful military force in the world that is consumed with golf, selfies and brainwashing college kids. Wake up America. We are not safe under this guy. WOOF!

May God Have Mercy On America! JMH



CHOICE

From page 17

have established a contrast by hailing their program as the essence of local control.

A 2010 community task force’s research and recommendations led to the development of the Choice Scholarship Program and other parent-friendly policies. Grassroots support for the school board’s forward-thinking initiative continues through the group Great Choice Douglas County, which keeps its network of parents and taxpayers informed about local and national school choice developments. The organization also hosted a press conference in Denver right before the December 10th hearing.

Hopeful about the ruling, Great Choice spokesperson Pam Mazanec told Watchdog Arena, “It would be a victory for more opportunity for families to obtain the education that best fits their child.”

One attorney defending the program believes national legal trends are on Douglas County’s side.

“Across America, there is a steadily growing wave of school choice programs and judicial opinions upholding them,” said Institute for Justice attorney Michael Bindas, who represents families harmed by the lawsuit against the program.

Among the initial students IJ represented was Nate Oakley. The autistic middle-schooler experienced bullying at his public school but required financial support to enroll in Humanex Academy, a private learning environment designed to serve special needs kids. His family since moved out of state.

“With each new victory, we’re leaving the failed, one-size-fits-all approach to education behind and entering a future that respects the unique, individualized needs of every child,” Bindas added.

Future Destinations

In the meantime, some have made Douglas County a destination because of local school leaders’ exceptional commitment to offering families a wider range of options. That was an important part of the decision that brought Aaron John-

son and his family back to Castle Rock, the town where he grew up, after years living in the Washington, D.C., area.

“We chose Douglas County because we saw the emphasis placed on choice by the school board,” Johnson wrote in a December 6th *Denver Post* guest column. “The Choice Scholarship program, as well as the growth of charter options, drew us here.”

Whether that full range of educational options remains intact is up to the state’s highest court. Bindas says that a ruling from the seven justices is expected this spring. That timing potentially would allow the Choice Scholarship Program to restart for the 2015-16 term, four years after it was originally launched.

“A win in this case would be a tremendous victory for Douglas County families—indeed, all families—who simply want the right to choose the schools that are best for their kids,” said Bindas. “We’re confident that the Colorado Supreme Court will recognize that right and the constitutionality of school choice programs that empower parents to exercise it.”

Mazanec says Great Choice Douglas County plans to stay engaged with the school board, parents, and taxpayers after the court resolves the case. She also believes a favorable ruling from the Supreme Court “would be a victory for all districts in Colorado,” emboldening other local boards to craft private school choice programs that fit the needs of their communities.

Even though his youngest daughter is now enrolled in college, Willson stated that he wants to continue speaking out for the program and those who may yet benefit.

“It’s something that will help kids in the future, and I’d just like to see the Supreme Court make the right decision here to allow parents and the local school district to make that choice,” he said.

This article was written by contributors of Watchdog Arena, Franklin Center’s network of writers, bloggers, and citizen journalists.

Please see: watchdog.org/195215/school-choice-colorado-supreme-court/

The Important Veterans Program Obama Wants to Cut...Just Six Months After He Signed it Into Law

by Pete Kasperowicz, *TheBlaze.com*

(Editor/GG: You wonder why the military dislikes Obama so much?)

The Obama administration outraged members of Congress on Monday by proposing to scale back a new program aimed at letting veterans access health care outside the VA system.

Last August, Congress passed a VA reform bill that created the Veterans Choice Program, which was supposed to be a way to speed up access to health care given the breakdown within the VA itself. President Barack Obama quickly signed it into law.

But on Monday, Obama released a budget plan that said he would try to pare it back, and would offer legislation to do so. “In the coming months, the administration will submit legislation to reallocate a portion of Veterans Choice Program funding to support essential investments in VA system priorities in a fiscally-responsible, budget-neutral manner,” the budget said.

VA Secretary Robert McDonald added that he would pro-

pose this chance in order to provide flexibility at the VA, in order to “serve veterans the way they want and deserve to be served.”

Key members of the House and Senate reacted by saying the idea was already dead in Congress. House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-Fla.) called it a “non-starter, which I will not support.”

“When a near-unanimous Congress worked with President Obama last year to create the choice program, we made a promise to veterans to give them more freedom in their health care decisions,” he said. “I will not stand idly by while the president attempts to renege on that promise.”

“It is unacceptable to me that the president would begin to dismantle the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 that he just signed into law last August by taking the resources allocated to enact this legislation for use elsewhere,” said Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.).

A Monday story in *Military.com* said Obama’s plan is to reallocate some of the \$15 bil-

lion under the Veterans Choice Program, in part because not all of that money is needed. According to that story, a senior VA official said interest in the program “has not been as high as anticipated.”

Concerned Veterans for America indicated that their members worry that Obama’s plan would make it harder to escape a VA system that is still rife with health care delays for veterans.

“This budget action would have the effect of denying many veterans the choice to access private health care, thereby forcing them to stay in a VA health care system that has failed, for too long, to provide care in a timely manner — sometimes with deadly consequences,” said CVA CEO Pete Hegseth.

“He is undermining the very reforms he signed into law before they are fully implemented, making it quite clear that he has no desire to truly reform the VA,” Hegseth added.

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GAS LEAK From page 15

of the Cañon City Fire Department explained that the windy weather conditions helped to disperse the gas fumes so no one suffered from inhalation. I asked why the middle school and RE-1 School Administration Building had not been evacuated given their close proximity to the Dairy Queen. Lt. Shane said that was considered but the decision was made that it was not necessary.

Tad Kubacka said he was allowed to re-enter the Safeway Store around 7 p.m. to secure the store and close for the evening. The gas grills at Dairy Queen and the propane tanks at Safeway made this a very frightening and possibly catastrophic event but thanks to the quick response by Cañon City Police Department, Cañon City Fire Department, and Atmos Gas the only real harm to civilians was to those employees who lost a day’s wages. Hopefully, when the financial damages are assessed against the private contractor, these worker’s will be taken into consideration.

FYI... for your information...

The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel is published every Friday. Our office hours are Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday. Deadline for classified ad copy is Monday by 5:00 p.m.

Deadline for display ad copy is noon on Friday the week before the ad is to appear in the paper.

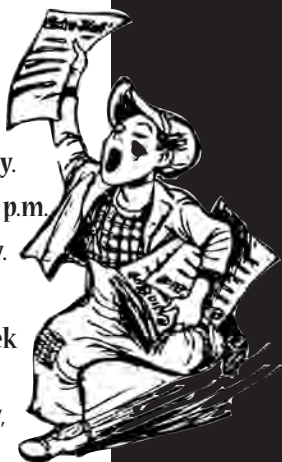
Deadline for all other submissions is noon on Monday, and can be emailed to sdcsentinel@gmail.com

Please send us information on clubs and organizations, news stories and pictures, and upcoming events.

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by Jeremy Carr

Ye olde scrub oak.....or the Gambel Oak as it is commonly called is a true oak! It may not tower twenty feet over your head and be able to hold your kid’s tree house, but it is an oak none the less. I have heard the Gambel Oak referred to many times in Colorado as the Mexican Scrub Oak, but it is not. Its range is a large area of the Western U.S. expanding south from Mexico, north to Wyoming, west to Nevada and east to Kansas. The Gambel Oak was named after the nineteenth century American naturalist William Gambel.



Oaks are deciduous shrubs or trees, and aside from

appearing different from most oaks, there is almost no difference in edibility from one species of oak to another. Gambel Oak is no exception. If you were to take a handful of acorns from a Live Oak located in Texas and compare them to Colorado’s Gamble Oak acorns, you would find that both would be prepared exactly the same, whether it’s coffee, muffins, or bread the recipes are still the same. In comparison to today’s standard of living, the use of oak acorns or the cambium layer would be considered survival food only. It takes diligent effort to extract the useful parts and ensure they are rendered non-toxic; even then to the unaccustomed digestive tract it may not be easily tolerated.

One thing all oaks have in common is tannic acid. Tannic acid is found in every part of the tree and while evidence suggests it is tolerated in small doses it can be very toxic in larger amounts. The method used to remove the tannic acid, whether from the bark or acorns, is called leaching. If you are from an older generation you may have heard stories of using a

freshly cut oak stump hollowed out as a bowl for tanning hides.

Tannic acid has uses that can be both medicinal and utilitarian. Here is a list of some of the potential uses of the Gambel Oak’s:

- Tannic acid (which can be extracted by boiling or leaching acorns and/or inner oak bark and twigs) is anti-bacterial. I’ve heard of it used as an antiseptic wash and was used to quell diarrhea. It will also tan (preserve) leather.



- The wood itself of the oak is a very hard wood that is good for ax handles, digging sticks, and shelter frameworks. When dried, the white oak flowers make suitable tinder bundles and can be found in great abundance certain times of the year.

- Acorns can be used as bait for squirrels and other small game animals. The little buggers love them, of

course.

- Coffee - more information on this later in an upcoming article.

- Acorns (after leaching out the tannic acid) can be ground and used as flour to make acorn-bread, pancakes, muffins, and biscuits. We are used to flour being smooth, but acorn flour is a more course, clumpy grain and not at all smooth.

In order to leach the acorns, put them in a cooking pot and cover with about twice as much water. Bring them to a full boil, and boil them for about 5-10 minutes. Then pour off the dark, muddy, bitter water and add more. Repeat this process up to 5 or 6 times until the acorns taste mild and palatable. You may also place the acorns under running water or some sort, and allow them to sit for a few hours. You’re probably thinkin’, ‘Wow, that’s a lot of work, and on top of that I don’t want to leave the water running that long, my water bill will be through the roof!’ Native and early Americans used streams for running water they weren’t forced to pay

for it by the gallon.

The trick to using acorn as a flour substitute is to split the amount of regular flour in half and use as much acorn flour as you took away from the original recipe. This can be done for almost every recipe like cake, bread, biscuits, and everyone’s favorite: pancakes.

Here is an old Choctaw recipe from a book that was given to me by my wonderful 80-year-old Great Aunt, Helen Kasper, in Beaumont, Texas. The book is called, *Old Trace Cooking: Native American and Pioneer Recipes* by Mrs. Gladiola B. Harris. It’s out of print, of course, but you can find a copy or two on the net.

Oak Flour Pancakes

Ingredients

1 ½ cups acorn meal
½ cup corn meal
¼ cup flour
1½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon sugar
1 egg
½ cup milk
3 tablespoons melted oleo (a colloquial term for mar-

garine, also called oleo-margarine).

Directions:

Combine all dry ingredients; stir in eggs, milk, and oleo. Beat until smooth: pour onto hot griddle. Brown on each side. Makes six four-inch pancakes.

Note. I, personally, would use butter, lard, or cooking oil, but never margarine.

It’s a lot of work for sure, but survival is a full-time job. Those who will survive will have the knowledge and skills it takes. My pawpaw used to say, “Pushin’ a pencil don’t produce a darn thang”, if you want to eat you have to work.

References:

Website: <http://www.treenm.com/nm-tree-species/gambel-oak/>
Scientific name: *Quercus gambelii* {the most internet search results will be available using the scientific name}

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