



Custer County Search and Rescue Spring Recruitment

Custer County Search and Rescue, Inc., (CCSAR) is a volunteer organization under the direction of the Custer County Sheriff's Office. We assist in the search, rescue, and/or recovery of persons who have become lost, incapacitated, or deceased in Custer County, Colorado. CCSAR is part of Colorado Search and Rescue Board, Civilian Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Medical First Response, and provide cooperative support for those organizations outside the county.

SAR is organized into



A mutual aid mission with Saguache County and Custer SAR rescuing a man on Challenger Point via a Black Hawk helicopter.

Courtesy photo

applications are approved by both the Sheriff and the organization. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

Specifically, CCSAR is looking for those individuals that possess general mountaineering skills as well as those in the community with specific technical climbing experience. We also welcome individuals who can help at "search

base" oriented, with a variety of administrative duties.

For more information, contact Captain Cindy Howard at cindy@alpenglowland.com, or by calling 371-5764. If this vital community service appeals to you, please attend the February or March CCSAR meeting. More information, including membership applications, are available at www.custersar.org/newmembers.



Technical Rope Rescue training in Hardscrabble Canyon

Courtesy photo

Ground Team members, those interested in Technical Rope Rescue (TRR), and the administrative side of the organization.

Ideally, prospective members are already active in the outdoors during all seasons, are physically fit and have the necessary personal protective equipment for those outings, including those in cold weather conditions.

Required spring training is right around the corner, including CPR, Wilderness First Aid, Flight for Life Lift Ticket Training, GPS

and a simulated mission. Specific TRR team trainings will be held for those who want to improve their skills, including training with neighboring Fremont County SAR.

If you would like to become part of a team dedicated to helping those in need in the backcountry, please attend one of our general membership meetings, held on the second Monday of the month at 18:30 hours, at 710 Rosita Ave., east of the Sheriff's Office.

Membership in the organization is voluntary and all



Custer SAR and Fremont SAR line probing during avalanche training.

Courtesy photo

Lady Bobcats
Photo Feature
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Huntress:
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"Stupid"
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Parent's Bill
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**PATRIOT
ALERT!**
Islam
"Woven" into
the Fabric of
Our County?"
The Facts Please
page 17



"My grace is
sufficient for you,
for my strength
is made perfect
in weakness."

2 Cor 12:9
NIV

SANGRE DE CRISTO SENTINEL

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A different view from
the same mountains!The newspaper
of record for
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

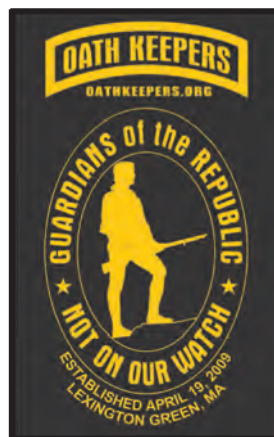
AND THE OSCAR GOES TO...WHO CARES?

We are not sure why America is so bedazzled by award ceremonies where artists, actors, actresses (is that sexist now?) singers, and other performers and entertainers of all sorts give themselves trophies and awards. We can only guess these ceremonies may fulfill some kind of fantasy in a sort of dream-world way. Television goes whole hog. For weeks before the big event we are inundated with the nominees and endless analysis about who should win and who will win. Sort of like political races. We've reached a point now that there is no "quiet time" in between elections. The day after we voted in November 2014, we were immediately inflicted with coverage of the 2016 candidates and their polling information. Please, can't we just have at least a few months before we are subjected to that? But we digress. Let's return to the annual bombardment of the Grammys, the Emmys, the Oscars, and the Razzies, et al. The Oscars are probably the biggest and most costly spectacle of all. They have become the "Oscars-with-a-cause." Since the "union" members are about 99% liberal progressives, you would think that they would cancel the Oscars and use all that money for the many social justice issues they seem concerned about. We believe the carbon footprint to stage this self-aggrandizing, egotistical-boosting award night must be enormous. We wonder how many of those limousines were electric. Not many, you can bet. How many private planes were

nearby? Anyway, after suffering through the Red Carpet Event, viewers were subjected to several hours of "entertainment" while expectations rose off the charts. Now the real fun began. The many winners couldn't seem to resist making their mostly misguided and liberal progressive political statements as they were handed good ole Oscar. Don't believe for a moment that the winners are selected on talent alone. Each "winner" also made a political statement from the entire guild membership. And we mustn't forget the presenters. They each got their chance to slip in a liberal progressive zinger or two also. And last, but not least, the host had many opportunities to showcase all the bad things America does or doesn't do. What would an award ceremony be without all those political statements thrown in? It's not politically correct now to thank a few people and sound patriotic; a winner seems obligated to make some social justice or income equality statement. This year we were forced to hear about pay equity, government surveillance, immigration, green cards, diversity, civil rights, incarceration rates, and how the Voting Rights Act is being compromised. And all this during a "so called" talent award contest. One winner said he hoped "that present day immigrants can be treated with the same dignity and respect afforded those that came before and built this incredible immigrant nation." We would agree with him if he was speaking about LEGAL immigrants, but

that's not the liberal progressive case here, is it? Keep in mind the Oscars are not a popularity contest where "we the people" speak. It's a vote of the membership awarding awards to themselves and not always for the best performances. If "the people" had anything to say about it, *American Sniper* would have won almost all the awards. The "box office" results showed that it was viewed over four times more than the next closest film. However, when the director is Clint Eastwood who blasted Obama in the 2012 campaign and the "message" is not to their liking, we know exactly why it was completely snubbed. However, you won't hear any real demands for an emergency meeting and an investigation like we heard from Al Sharpton. The Oscars simply aren't that important. It's a night for "artists" (aka one percenters) to dress up, put on their jewelry, and show themselves off. We know many Americans like the Oscars

and look forward to them. That's great. This is America, you should enjoy. We just wonder about all the hypocrisy. We wonder how many hungry children could have been fed for the cost of this television spectacle. In previous years we have been told that each little "gift bag" they receive is worth tens of thousands of dollars. The cost of one gown worn by these beauties could help those in need in a small community like ours for the entire year. These spoiled rich people, who live in a make-believe world, should leave the politics out of what is nothing more than a grandiose patting of their own backs. How about a little redistribution of wealth from them. We end with our award: And the Oscar for the best performance during an acceptance speech for finding fault with the most exceptional nation in the world is...Oh, never mind. Everyone in Hollywood is a winner, yes? Thank goodness it is over for another year at least.



Steward Rhodes of Oathkeepers

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"We the People" Speak



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NEEDED: POSITIVE Reinforcement

by Shannon Byerly

There has been a lot of conversation in the past weeks about the children in our community and what we can do to help them cope with the difficulties they face growing up. A few groups have been formed to discuss and come up with ideas and ways to reach out to help kids that could be having difficulties. Many people are talking about the kids and we have tried to identify youngsters who are "at risk" or are of "special concern" and talk to them or counsel them. I think we, as a community, have done a very good job in trying to address some of the possible areas where we can be of assistance, but I would like to take a minute to bring up an area where I think we, as a community, have completely lost our way in regards to our kids.

This past Friday I was sitting in the high school gym, keeping score of the basketball games, when a realization came to me of a core issue we have. I have recognized that for many years we struggle to have a big following of athletics in the community, but this particular game brought that observation to focus. Our high school athletes were competing against a long time league rival from South Park in games to determine district seeding. These were important games, and that evening, there were 11 girls and 7 boys from our school and community playing in what could have been the last

home game of the season. These high school students have given over four months of their free time to represent not only our high school, but our community in the basketball program. These are kids that are not in trouble, are not struggling to "find their way", are not out wandering the streets, but are in the school, building character and positive work ethic through athletics. In the stands were approximately 40-50 fans from our community. This wouldn't be an alarming number except South Park, about a two-hour drive from here, was able to bring well over 50 fans to our gym. They out-cheered our fans, they out-represented our fans, and supported their athletes in a positive manner. I find it odd that we struggle to get 100 people in the gym to support our athletes, yet if a student harms him or her self it is standing room only in the very same gymnasium. As a community, what are we really demonstrating to our kids? I think you and I both know exactly what that message is.

I have been exposed to more troubled kids than I ever wanted and I can honestly say the one common denominator they have is they are looking for attention. I have said hundreds of times, society in general doesn't have a kid problem, they have parenting problems. All kids need attention on several levels and, if they can't get it through positive reinforcement,

they will get it through negative behavior. This is a fact and what I have seen in the past few weeks really opened my eyes to the problems we are creating as a community. The travesty of teenagers taking their own lives is not something we can take lightly. We must take action and do whatever we can to try and stop this from occurring, everyone agrees. Now we as a community must decide what behavior we are going to recognize. When kids see empty seats in the gym for the reward of hard work, yet the gym is filled for a very bad choice, the inadvertent message is clear to not only the athletes, but to every child in the gym. We as adults have simply taken it upon ourselves to reward poor behavior without even recognizing it. Now I am not here to point the finger. I, too, am guilty of staying home when a school event is going on. I have missed plays, concerts, and athletic events just like everyone else. The question now becomes are we the community that is going to reward behavior and participation in positive, character-building activities, or do we focus on the troubles and poor choices of our youth. I, for one, believe if we spent a little more time rewarding good behavior and encouraging our kids to participate in positive activities, maybe we wouldn't need to have this conversation. Ultimately, I believe that is the solution, and the parents are where it all begins.

Whoppers

by J Cascarelli

With memories of the Brian Williams' war time fabrications still fresh in my mind, I can't help but wonder why someone would make up a military record or a harrowing experience when these things are so easy to verify. As I write this, VA Secretary Bob McDonald has been exposed as having told a homeless veteran that he, McDonald, was a special ops member. This was taped by a CBS camera on January 30, 2015. One can't help but wonder how this former P & G CEO and West Point graduate would state this whopper for future broadcast on network TV. What was the man thinking? McDonald has a distinguished career. What was he trying to gain by this tall-tale?

For those who don't notice these little lies, let's look at the history of fabricating a military record. In 2006, the Congress passed the Stolen Valor Act. This made it a crime to either verbally or in writing for one to say that they were "awarded any decorations, medal authorized by Congress for the Armed Forces of the United States." The penalty for which would have been up to one year in prison. By 2010, a Federal Appeals Court decided that this new law was a violation of the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. It appears that Supreme Court Justices Kennedy, Roberts, Ginsburg, Kagan, Sotomayor, and Breyer all agreed that lying about one's military service was just fine with them because it did not cause "tangible harm to others."

I can't help but believe that

this ruling has on some level encouraged others to make up stories of war-time heroics. We all remember when then presidential candidate John Kerry was telling everyone who would listen about spending Christmas in Cambodia. He also told of throwing his medals over the White House fence during an anti-war demonstration. The problem for Kerry was that his "Swift Boat" colleagues actually remembered what really happened. Oh, and those medals that were "thrown away" were proudly displayed on Kerry's Senate office wall. I've always believed that since the creation of NEXIS that politicians would rue the day that they made stuff up to enhance their resumes. By the way, if you want an interesting read borrow "Stolen Valor" by B.G. Burkett from your local library. You will be shocked by how many well-known Americans have fabricated war records.

Brian Williams never served, but he did cover the Iraq War for NBC. He was caught fabricating being shot down in a helicopter while flying to the front. This lie cost him a \$20 million per year job and his reputation for honest reporting. But, Williams like so many others didn't actually lie. We now have euphemisms for lying. Celebrities "misspoke" or "misremembered" the actual events. One would think that being shot at was something so common that it strains one's brain to recall it accurately.

Then, of course, Hillary Clinton was subjected to "sniper fire" back in 1996 at Tuzla Airport in Bosnia. The only problem was that she

was the only one on that trip to remember it. Well, she just "misspoke." Comedian Sinbad also on the trip recalled no sniper fire. Sinbad like the Swift Boat sailors didn't "misremember" anything.

We all remember Max Cleland, Democrat Georgia, built a whole political career from a made up version of his "war injuries." The simple fact of the matter was that as a staff officer he mishandled a hand grenade and blew off a hand and two legs. By the time he was ready to run for office, he morphed into a wounded war hero. It was the Burkett "Stolen Valor" that told the truth about Cleland's Vietnam battlefield heroics.

One of the worst was the total fabrication by Senator Richard Blumenthal of his Vietnam War record. Blumenthal spent the war in the Marine reserves in a Hartford Connecticut unit. This information was made public before the elections. The good people of Connecticut elected him anyway. Why? As Blumenthal said, "I will not allow anyone to take a few misplaced words and impugn my record of service to our country." It appears that Connecticut voters agreed. These are just a few of the lies that prominent Americans have told to further their careers.

What I don't understand is why so many of the members of American public and the Supreme Court fail to find this kind of behavior worthy of scorn. Pundits spend gallons of ink and

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On Political Footballs and Local Publications

I am a Vietnam combat veteran. I am a DAV life member and a member of the local American Legion. I do not agree with the politics of the national administration; I do not agree with all of the policies of the state American Legion especially concerning open carry at the July 4th parade; I do not agree with making any part of our Constitution a political football especially by a group that is supposed to be a veterans organization.

I have friends in California who call the *Tribune* a “rag” newspaper because of its liberal slant and I have local friends who believe the *Sentinel* is the “voice of the Tea Party.” I believe that each publication should be called a Custer County Newspaper.

*Robert Lettmann,
Rural Custer County*

What Makes A Leader?

Recent events in our community have left citizens frustrated and factions divided, while a sense of gloom and despair has infected many of us.

It is during times like these that community leadership is expected to be proactive in leading citizens to seek healing solutions.

But it appears to me, and others I speak with, that our community leaders seem noticeably absent from key events or fail to take leadership roles when their constituents and citizens are grappling

with the major challenges we are confronted with. A refreshing exception is the recently elected Dr. Kattnig, who has since his appointment worked hard to be engaged in community initiatives.

We need to remember these turbulent times when leadership by incumbents was absent or inadequate next time we elect our officials, be they on county, town, or school boards.

On a positive note, many of us are working hard to provide support to each other and reach across

divides to make this, our valley, a better place for all of us to live. In the void of community leadership, several groups have started grass root movements to begin this healing process and to search for answers and craft solutions.

All of us, regardless of political stripe, need to work together to solve the problems that have stressed our community, and our elected leaders need to lead this initiative.

*Walter van Woudenberg
Rural Westcliffe*

Search and Rescue Thanks A Generous Community

Custer County Search and Rescue (CCSAR) receives some interesting supporting gestures from time to time. There’s the one-time generous donation from an anonymous party a few years back, occasional donations from the subject of a search mission or a family member, and the open smiles, waves, and ‘thank-you’ from so many of you as we pass by in a parade.

But by far, the most humbling and heartwarming support comes this time of year when the citizens of Custer County and those beyond, open their hearts and wallets and donate to us through the Spirit Campaign. We are

entirely a volunteer agency and we could not operate without your most generous support.

Our gear for the most part is our own personal equipment. But costs run high for specialty items to outfit our Technical Rock Team, ATV team, and other needs. Equipment needs to be specialized to operate in our challenging local mountains and specially equipped vehicles are required to get us there. Additional costs are incurred from continual training and certifications in preparation for something we actually hope doesn’t happen.

We have our rewards.

There’s the inherent satisfaction of a job well-done. Most will agree there is no higher high than completing a successful search mission and reuniting family and loved ones. Too often it is a recovery. But that too is satisfying to helping people achieve closure. But overarching is the feeling of knowing that this community is so supportive of its agency responders and we at Custer County Search and Rescue extend a heartfelt thank you to all who donated so generously to allow us to do our job.

*From all of the members of
Custer County Search and
Rescue.*

brass, as a result.

All this means is that citizens and political parties need to vet their candidates more carefully. This requires work and something else...curiosity. Many voters are intellectually lazy. Reporters too are intellectually lazy and biased. Unfortunately, we have become a nation of terminal learners. So many Americans under 50 have no good grounding in American or World History. They might as well have had their curiosity gland removed at birth. We think that we are electing the best that America has to offer, but often we elect cardboard cutouts of the kind of

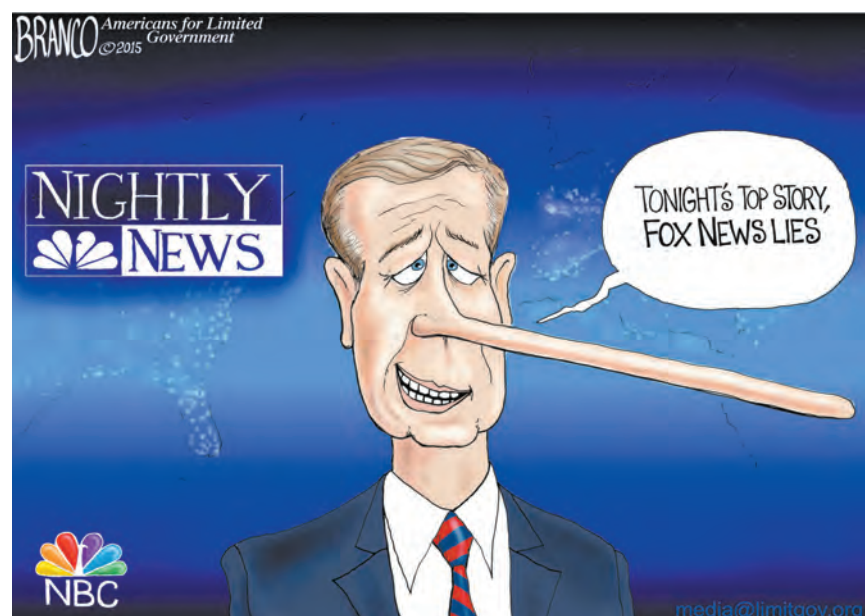
WHOPPERS

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miles of video tape (Do we still use tape?) trying to figure out why so many distrust the media and the government. It is so difficult to know what is true and what is a lie. When he couldn’t find any evidence to further destroy President George W. Bush’s reputation, Dan Rather manufactured evidence. Fortunately, the public isn’t as dumb as Dan thinks they are and some private citizen uncovered the fraud. Rather was fired from CBS, after months of deliberation by the



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Resident Pleads Guilty to Felony Sex Assault on a Child

by Carol "Scoop" Clemenson

Christopher William Adair of rural Custer County pleaded guilty on February 24, 2015 before District Judge David M. Thorson in Fremont County to a 4th degree Felony charge of Sexual

Assault on a Child. The crime occurred in Custer County. He has been remanded to custody in the Fremont County jail without bond. He will be transported to the Custer County Jail as soon as possible. Sentencing is scheduled for May 1, 2015.

Hidden Dangers of "Marijuana Infused Products"

by Paul Sage

While Fremont County considers permitting another grow and marijuana infused products (MIP) facility on our doorstep, it is important to review the dangers of such products. The hearing on coming up on March 10th will consider permitting the grow and MIP facility is being considered for the iconic Apple Shed building on Highway 115 in Penrose.

Chris Haight from Colorado Springs has leased the property from absentee land owner Ali Abrahamia of Tennessee and has approached Fremont County with a request to grow marijuana and manufacture marijuana infused products on the site. Marijuana infused products are the things like cookies, candies, trail mix, energy drinks and the like laced with the active ingredients of the high potency pot now grown in Colorado.

Despite the proposed facility being less than 1,000 feet from a community park and two churches, and in close proximity to numerous residences, the Commissioners will review the request on March 10th. If approved, this would be the tenth marijuana grow facility in Fremont County, eight of which will be located in Penrose.

The marijuana infused products proposed to be manufactured at this facility and others like it pose their own unique set of hazards. The biggest risk associated with these products is their accidental ingestion by unsuspecting children and others. On the surface,

these products look much like other cookies, candies and the like, and children often find them irresistible when left unprotected by careless adults.

According to statistics from Children's Hospital Colorado, the number of these accidental poisonings of children under 10 years of age has increased from 0 in 2008 to 14 in 2014. According to information from Children's Hospital, "of these, seven were in critical condition and required ICU treatment."

Aware of the problem, the state has attempted to make these products "safer," but has failed to agree on how to do so. According to a November *Denver Post* article, "After months of futile meetings, a state task force that was supposed to make recommendations regarding the appearance of edible marijuana products has failed."

In addition to the obvious problem of accidental ingestion by children of these products, there is little assurance of their overall safety due to little to no effective regulation. The strength of given products can vary greatly, making it difficult for users to determine safe limits, and the products themselves may be contaminated. Unlike other food products kept under some regulatory quality standards, the marijuana products are unlikely to face any scrutiny.

According to a December story on KUSA in Denver, "An ongoing investigation between *USA Today* and *9 Wants to Know* reveals

more than 13% of marijuana and THC infused products has failed testing for contaminants for such things as mold, salmonella, and E. Coli in Washington." Products in that state are at least tested while those in Colorado are not.

Of course, there are the stories of apparent accidental overdose that have been widely covered in the media like the Congolese exchange student who jumped off the hotel balcony to his death after eating pot cookies. According to the medical examiner's report, "the decedent consumed marijuana cookies and soon thereafter exhibited hostile behavior (pulling items off the walls) and spoke erratically." Shortly after being temporarily calmed down by his friends, he walked to the balcony and jumped to his death.

And in April of last year Kristine Kirk, a mother of three, called 911 after her husband ate some marijuana infused candy and became out of control. According to a *Denver Post* Story, "she told operators he was hallucinating and holding a gun. She was shot and killed before help could arrive."

The largely unregulated marijuana infused products industry presents a whole new set of unreasonable risks to the public. This type of facility, by the way, is the same type of facility proposed for the town of Silver Cliff a few months ago by local resident Steve Rorick and Pueblo County drug merchant Shawn Honacker.

Westcliffe Parents Group Meeting

by Carol "Scoop" Clemenson

On February 21st, at 2:00 p.m., the new Westcliffe parents group met at the Lutheran Lange Hall for another session. About 25 people attended the meeting.

There were several folks with some great ideas that they wanted to bring forward. One was Cathleen Reeder from Club America who wants to have a free swim night for teens on Friday nights from 8:00 – 11:00 p.m. They need volunteers to be life guards and supervisors. Please contact her if you want to volunteer.

Any one volunteering to help with these kids would undergo a background check. This will cost \$7 un-

less you already have gone through this with a concealed carry permit. There will always be two adults present with the kids.

Amy Molton wants to have game night every other Friday at the library.

Shelly Nordyke is setting up people to give training classes. The first one is a free seminar at Highlands Ranch on March 19th for Suicide/Crisis hotline training. This is a three-hour class.

We also need to find out what the kids want to do and see if we can help get it done. It was noted that we can pack the gym or church for a memorial, but we can't show up for a basketball game or a wrestling match where the kids really would like to see us. Re-

member, baseball starts in a few weeks. Also, there is often nobody at the school board meetings other than newspaper reporters. You could change that.

Peggy Collins, owner of Nacho Mama's is planning on establishing an after-school program at her establishment. Peggy is looking for volunteers, so please contact her if you want to help.

Another idea was to have a family dinner at Lange Hall where families could come, prepare the meal together, and then participate in activities after the dinner.

Next meeting is Saturday, February 28th, again at the Lutheran Lange Fellowship Hall.

Custer County Wrongful Death Featured on KOAA

To see the interview and what KOAA has discovered, please go to www.koaa.com and click on the NEWS tab and News5Investigates.

Scroll down and look for "Westcliffe Widow..."

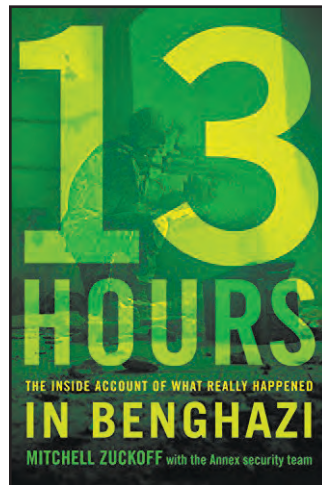
This story came out February 23rd.

Join us for the PCRCP Lincoln Day Dinner

Saturday, March 7, 2015

We are Honored to Host Special Guests and Speakers:

Mark Geist and John Tiegen



13 Hours:
*The Inside Account
of What Really
Happened in Benghazi*

Our Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be Derrick Wilburn, Founder, President and Chairman of the Board of the Rocky Mountain Black Conservatives, American Conservatives of Color, and BlackandConservative.com.

**Event will be held at
Pueblo Weisbrod Airport Museum**

**March 7, 2015
Reception and Book Signing at 5 p.m.
Dinner at 6 p.m.**

\$60/person, your check is your RSVP

**For questions call Barb Schneider
719-568-9826 or Becky Mizel 719-671-7095**

Local Mountain News & Notices



*But a Constitution
of Government once
changed from Freedom,
can never be restored. Liberty, once
lost, is lost forever.*

John Adams

Founding Father and Second President of the United States

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Creating Beautiful Smiles in Colorado

National FFA Week!

by Lia McGee

This week (February 21 - 28), the Custer County FFA Chapter is celebrating National FFA Week. This year's national theme is, "Go All Out!" and embraces more than 80 years of FFA traditions while looking forward to the organization's future. National FFA Week is celebrated at local, state, and national levels by more than half a million FFA members who exhibit passion for agriculture.

In 1947, the week of George Washington's birthday was designated as National FFA Week. During this week, FFA members are given opportunities to educate the public about agriculture.

The Custer County FFA Chapter kicked off National FFA Week on Tuesday with all members wearing official dress. One of the requirements to be an active member of the FFA is to be enrolled in an agricultural education class. Throughout the week, the different ag classes had the opportunity to teach younger students, ranging from grades PK-8th with lesson plans they created, introducing the FFA as a national organization, and presenting activities that FFA members are able to be involved with. The rest of the week consisted of a pep-assembly with the high school students encouraging participation and



FFA members teach younger students, introducing them to possibilities through FFA and the Ag Program. Top photo is third grade, and to the right is preschool.

*Courtesy photos
by Lia McGee*



raising awareness for the organization. The week was rounded out with FFA members in official dress and the Officer Team making a trip to Florence (who just recently approved an FFA/Ag Program of their own) to present to the Florence School Board. An Open House BBQ will be held at a later date.

Our FFA chapter has a bright future. We have a great amount of appreciation to a community full

of supporters and look forward to learning and growing tomorrow's youth. Today's FFA members are the innovators and leaders of tomorrow. Through agricultural and hands-on learning, they are preparing for more than 300 career opportunities in the food, fiber, and natural resources industry. Thank you to all who support the FFA and helped make this week possible!



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Knights of Columbus Donate to Elementary School Program

Steve Yackley and Wayne Guilmette from the Knights of Columbus present a check to Loretta Remington, Resource Room Teacher K-8 along with Holly Anderson the Elementary School Principal and Brian Cline, School Board Member. The recently formed Knights of Columbus Roundtable at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church raised \$300 during its November fundraiser. The Knights of Columbus worldwide conduct an annual fundraiser to help the intellectually disabled. The local Roundtable members gave Tootsie Rolls to customers outside the Westcliffe Market who generously donated to this worthwhile cause with the proceeds designated for the Custer County Elementary School Exceptional Students Program.

Courtesy photo

Local Mountain News & Notices

Profile of a Huntress: Brianna Cozzetto

by Tira "Tee" Doran

Fourth generation Westcliffe native Brianna Cozzetto, daughter of Jerry and Rhonda Livengood, is a fearless huntress who doesn't hesitate to take a bear down, alone!

Her first real hunt was for a bear with her dad in 2005. She was finally successful and harvested her first bear in 2013. "My first bear was exciting because it was my first bear and I had waited and worked so hard for it," she explained. It is normal for a huntress, or hunter, to go years without a success-



Brianna with her bear in 2013

Courtesy photo

cool to watch them act crazy during the rut."

Brianna uses both rifle and bow for hunting. She makes sure she practices year-round and especially just before the season starts. "The best thing about having a bow - they are much easier to practice with, and cheaper." So far she uses her bow for elk and turkey, but is thinking she may apply for an archery bear tag next



Brianna and Aubrynnne

Courtesy photo

ful harvest. You want to be sure and take a good shot on a target you can identify and see clearly. There is no second guessing. Brianna explained what hunting is for her by saying, "A day of hunting and coming home empty handed is better than any great day at work." And she doesn't draw the line at bear; she also hunts elk, deer, antelope, and turkey.



Brianna and her dad, Jerry Livengood

Courtesy photo

In Brianna's mind, hunting is only 1% the kill and 99% everything else, like watching animals and enjoying nature. "There are so many incredible things about hunting - being out in the woods, seeing all the beautiful scenery. I have been so close to elk that I was afraid they would see me blink, I have watched elk calves play in a meadow, I have seen tons of bears and love watching them scavenge for ant larvae on the prairie." As a mother of a three-year-old daughter, it is also very important for Brianna that she can provide free-range, growth hormone and antibiotic free meat for her family, so no hunt goes in vain. Like any responsible huntress, she uses or donates the meat,

and uses as much from the animal as possible.

Brianna loves to hunt with her dad. "He is my best hunting buddy. He has taught me everything about hunting. He is a hunting safety instructor and is passionate about hunting and wildlife. I come from a long line of hunters on both my mom's and dad's side."

Every hunt is exciting, but one stands out on her mind. "My first bull was exciting because it was on my first big-game kill and it was on my dad's birthday." But there can be so many reasons why hunts are exciting. Brianna adds, "My antelope was exciting because you hunt them totally different than anything I had hunted before, and it is so

year. Now that should be an adrenalin-driven hunt!

The ultimate hunt for Brianna would be a bear hunt. You might wonder why, as she already successfully hunted for them. "I would love to have a collection of every bear: polar, grizzly, brown, Kodiak," she explained, "everything but panda - they are kind of sissy bears," she added playfully.

If you wish to get to know Brianna a little bit more and read her experiences as a huntress, you can read her stories in Huntress Life Magazine and also on the Custer County Tourism Board website: <http://visitcustercounty.com/mountain-blog>.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcat Youth Basketball

by Kristen Foster

In the Junior Division, the Hawks took down the Broncos with a score of 30-10. Samantha Gray, of the Hawks, led her team with 18 points. Grant Rusk added 5, Matthew Ensy scored 3 and Ben Stafford and Lexi Wetendorf each had 2 for the Hawks. Tough defense was played by Zach Smerchek and Stephen Hess of the Hawks. For the Broncos, Christopher Mullett was the top scorer with 6 points. Brooke Bomgardner added four. Great team play by Michael Cessnun and Isaac Smerchek.

Also in the Junior Division, the Lions and the Blue Jays ended in a tie after a single overtime with a score of 11-11. Mia Sayhouse led her team with 6 points. Mia scored the tying basket with 9 seconds left in regulation. Ainsley Selle added 3 points and Willie Bo Cline had two for the Lions. Paige Lorenzen and Lily Bomgardner played strong defense for the Lions. On the Blue Jays side, Raina Rusch led her team with 5 points, Josh Wofford had 3, Harry Kroeker had



Youth league player drives hard to the hoop.

2 and Brylee Shy added a free throw. Adison Selle and Elijah Anderson both played tough for the Blue Jays.

In the Senior Division, the Heat was able to hold off the Thunder in a tough game with a score of 20-16. The Heat were led by Garrett Stepanich with 12 points, Samantha Gray added 4, while Jackson Mullett and Brooke Flynn each added two. Adrian Crawford and Bubba Widger showed great defense and rebounding in their victory. Ben Penkoff showed dominating guard skills while scoring 14 of the team's 16 points. Bailey Sluder got her first basket

of the season for the Thunder. Sheyenne Shy showed aggressive defense, while Hailey Ann Widger pulled down a few rebounds for the Thunder.

Final games for the Bobcat Youth Basketball League will tip off at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 28th, in the East gym! For the Junior Division, the Broncos will take on the Blue Jays for third place on the season. Playing for the Championship will be the Hawks and the Lions. For the Senior Division, the Lakers will tip off against the Heat for the Championship. Awards for the season will be immediately following the completion of ALL games.

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

Bobcats Represent Well at State Wrestling Tournament

by Michelle Pedigo

Senior Kody Aldrich and sophomore Andrew Feldmann proudly represented Custer County last weekend at the 2015 CHSAA State Championships at the Pepsi Center in Denver. Two hundred three teams from across the state competed in Divisions 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A. Rocky Ford took home the number one team place in 2A competition, where 49 teams filled fourteen, 16-man brackets. Custer County competes in Region 2 of Division 2A with 14 other teams. Five Region 2 teams placed in the top half of state team results, and fourteen individual places were earned by Region 2 teams.

Preliminaries started Thursday afternoon, and both Aldrich and Feldmann dropped in their first matches. Friday morning was a different story when Feldmann pinned his opponent from Byers in the first round, and then Aldrich took his Buena Vis-

ta opponent in a quick 40 second pin. As both Bobcats moved into second round consolation brackets Friday evening, their state competition experience came to a disappointing end. Feldmann couldn't hold on against Denton from Swink, and fell in the second period. In a similar manner, Aldrich couldn't hold on against Diamond from Buena Vista, and fell in the third period. Custer County was represented well, and we are proud of Kody and Andrew.

Kody Aldrich is one of three seniors on the wrestling team, but due to unfortunate circumstances, the other two seniors were unable to compete most of the season. So as the senior who didn't miss a match, and a state qualifier, I asked Kody to reflect on his wrestling career. Kody said the best thing about the state tournament was his 40-second pin, and the worst part of it was the weather. His favorite memory of Bobcat

wrestling is the bus rides home from tournaments. When I asked him what he might have done differently for his wrestling years, he stated he would have taken it more seriously in middle school. Advice for new guys joining the team? Work hard every day and take no days off. Kody plans to attend Otero Junior College where he will compete on the college rodeo team, and he would like to thank everyone that has been behind him through everything. He gives special thanks to his family and coaches, Mike Ham and Chris Selle, for a great senior year of wrestling.

So ends the 2014-15 grappling season. Before you know it, we will be gearing up for 2015-16, so keep watching for news and notices. The team, coaches, and volunteers would like to give one more big thanks to the community and all those who supported Bobcat wrestling throughout the season. Go BOBCATS!

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

The Valley Thanks Michelle Pedigo: Helping Our Kids by "Doing"

Our heartfelt thanks to Michelle for her outstanding volunteer work in covering the CCCS wrestling program this year (and last year). She spent countless hours going to the matches, locally and all around the state, writing great articles and taking superb pictures of our dedicated young wrestlers. Her coverage was simply outstanding. Michelle is a local example of a citizen who not only "cares" but actually "does" something about, and for, our kids. Talk is cheap, folks. Go to the school games

and matches and cheer our dedicated athletes on. Not just once. These young adults sacrifice a lot to be on a sports team, compete, and represent our school and community around the state. Facebook postings about our youth issues here in the valley is not "doing". Turn off the computer and the boob tube and actually do something positive for our children. Participate in their success and effort: Show Up at the Games and Cheer. Our kids would greatly appreciate it. Editor/GG.

Thanks to The Sponsors of Lady Bobcat Basketball

At Friday's home game, the Lady Bobcats shared a list of this season's sponsors and asked folks to support the businesses who support them.

They are: Nacho Mama's, Seifert Enterprises LLC, Beach Redi-Mix, Critical Path Metalworks, Inc., Solar Solutions Ltd., First State Bank of Colo., B & D Automotive, Gem-1 Foam Insulation, Wright Electric, Family Dollar, Antler Motel & Store, Wise Iron Forge, St. Andrews at Westcliffe Golf Course and Pavilion, Westcliffe Builders, Stanwood West Motorsports, Oakley Construction Inc., Triple T Construction, Crestone Graphics, The Mane Attraction Salon & Barber Shop, Rick's Trees, Carpet Direct, Norup Gas, Inc., Westcliffe Petroleum Inc., Valley Feeds, Loan Arranger LLC, Town & Country Salon, The Cliffes Veterinary Clinic, Dirt Guys LLC.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcats Finish Basketball Season

by Jim Silver

The Bobcats played their final home game on Friday against the visiting South Park Burros. Though the outcome of the two teams previous meeting a month earlier in South Park was a victory for Custer County, this time South Park went home with a 54-23 win. Jordan Rhodes led the Bobcats scoring effort with 11 points, and brought down 5 rebounds in addition. Conner Rowley scored 7 and tallied 10 rebounds.

A high point of the evening of basketball was “Parents’ Night,” with this being the last opportunity to see the teams on their home court. All players, boys and girls, brought flowers to their parents in the stands before the start of the boys game. In addition, Conner Rowley was given special recognition by Athletic Director Greg Cravens for his strong contribution to basketball during his years of play, as this year’s only senior on either team.

On Saturday, February



Jordan Rhodes(22) jumping high for the tip-off

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

21st, the Bobcats traveled miles to the south to play a non-conference team, the Antonito Trojans. This 1A team showed themselves to be a formidable opponent, 6-1 in their league. They prevailed against Custer County, winning 50-33. The score doesn’t tell the whole story of the game, however. Cody Lyons posted a “double-double” with his team-leading 10 points and 11 rebounds. Conner Rowley followed with 9 points.

The story of this season for the Custer County Bobcats has been about building for the future. Conner Rowley is an irreplaceable senior. He leaves one junior, Jordan Rhodes, to be next year’s only senior, unless others come along to join the program. Lyons and

Hockaday played great basketball as sophomores this 2014-15 season. Likewise, the three freshmen, Batson, Kinsey, and Lewsader got more experience than they ever dreamed of as good middle school players a year ago. As Coach Jim Bistodeau said at the outset of the season, this was a year for the boys to “pay their dues, with an opportunity to be competitive.”

By the time this issue of the *Sentinel* is being read, the Bobcats will have traveled to Del Norte for a 2A District 1 playoff game on Tuesday, February 24th. Coach Bistodeau gave recognition to the individual performances noted above and concluded, “For us to move past Del Norte, all players must play at a high level.”

Lady Bobcats Post a Win and a Loss

by Jim Silver

The Lady Bobcats of Custer County made a good showing on the home court on Friday, February 20th, when they defeated the South Park Burros for the second time this season. This time, the score at the final buzzer was Bobcats - 48, Visitor - 40. Scoring was evenly matched half of the game, but the Bobcats dropped in an extra 3 points in the 2nd quarter and an extra 5 in the 4th. That’s what it took, as two players--Serenity Ham and Nicole Lorenzen--scored 11 points, and Elizabeth Mullett was right behind with 10. And, it should be added, there were good contributions throughout the line-up. Strong rebounding effort was shown by Megan Frahm and Lorenzen especially, each with 8. Athena Wisecup and Mullett each pulled down 6 rebounds. It must be said that these girls have played so well as a team and have shown the hometown fans some good basketball this season, getting better week by week throughout the roster.

The teams traveled to Antonito for their final game of the regular season and met up with a pretty good, 1A girls basketball team. The Trojans have a 13-6 record this



Lady Bobcat drives for a layup.

Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

season, and came out on top against the Bobcats 55-31. Elizabeth Mullett led in scoring for her team with 10 points, with good contributions across the lineup. Elizabeth also brought down 10 rebounds and posted 4 steals.

The Lady Bobcats have just one day of practice before entering into 2A District 1 playoffs. On Tuesday, February 24th Custer County hosts the Center Vikings, with the game scheduled to start at 5 p.m. This is a “one-game-at-a-time” situation for the Bobcats, but we can note that our team came out on top 50-41 against the Vikings about a month ago. If the girls win, they advance to the next level and play at Adams State College on Friday and Saturday, February 27 and 28. KEEP GOING, BOBCATS!

2A District 1 Basketball Playoffs: Lady Bobcats On to the Next Step!

The Bobcats went separate directions in opening games of the District 1 Playoffs on Tuesday, February 24. The boys team traveled to Del Norte and played a hard-fought and high-scoring game but came out on the short end, losing 52-78. This ends the season for the boys, and they’re to be congratulated for a good team effort over the past months.

The girls brought the fans to their feet on the home court, as they defeated the Center Lady Vikings 46-40! The Lady Bobcats move on in the playoffs, meeting up next with Sargent on Friday, February 27 at 3:30 pm at Adams State College in Alamosa. The winner of this game moves into the winner’s bracket, playing on Saturday at 6:00 pm. WAY TO GO LADY BOBCATS!



Bobcat Menu • March 2 - March 5, 2015

Monday breakfast
Pancakes
Sausage Patty
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Chicken & Noodles
W. W. Roll
Choice of Veg. & Fruit
Milk

Tuesday breakfast
Scrambled Eggs
W. W. Toast
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Italian Dunkers
Bread Sticks
Choice of Veg. & Fruit
Milk

Wednesday breakfast
Bagels, Cream Cheese
Fruit
Milk
lunch
Hamburger
Choice of Veg.
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Thursday breakfast
Sausage Gravy
Biscuit
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Italian Sausage Pizza
Choice of Veg.
Choice of Fruit
Milk

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

KIDS

Friday, February 27, 2015

“WESTERN WOMEN WILD WITH JOY OVER COLORADO’S ELECTIONS”

That was a newspaper headline on February 7, 1893, when Colorado women won the battle of the ballot and won the right to vote. Those headlines were important because Colorado was the first state to allow women to vote from a victory at the polls. It meant that women convinced a majority of men in the state that they should share their political power with them.

It didn’t just “happen,” but took many years of hard work, failed attempts, persistence, and patience. A grassroots effort finally began with women’s organizations and clubs, charities, church groups, and within political parties. Elizabeth Ensley rallied African-American male voters in the cities, while Grange women rallied the farmers, and others convinced the labor unions to support their cause.

The nation was in a bad economic depression and Colorado’s unemployment rate was at 25%. Many were dissatisfied. The rallying cry “Let the women vote! They can’t do any worse than the men have!” rang throughout the state. Many thought that women were political equals to men and should have the right to vote. Others felt their different roles – mothers, housekeepers, caregivers – would help change the community. They felt women might fix failing schools, poor housing, unhealthy working conditions, and clean up some dirty, Colorado politics.

The many who supported women’s right to vote went door-to-door, passed out leaflets, conducted speaking tours, and wrote letters to get out the word. The women also formed a large relief effort helping many who were unemployed and homeless.

With Colorado’s victory in 1893, many were inspired in other states. The very next year, Colorado elected the first three female state legislators in U.S. history. In 1920, with the passage of the 19th Amendment, Women’s Right to Vote became the law of the land.

Source: www.womhist.alexanderstreet.com and www.theautry.com

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER



Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES



PUBLIC NOTICE

Custer County BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Tentative Agenda

FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 27, 2015
9:00 AM

Meeting Location:
County Courthouse /
Court Room

Call meeting to order
Pledge of allegiance
Roll Call
Amend agenda
Audience introduction
Approval of minutes
Public Comment
Commissioner Items
Attorney Items
Executive Session
New/Old Business
- Silver West/Butler Field
Airport Budget/Fuel
- Veterans Service Office
discussion
- EAGLE-Net Alliance
update
Review Vouchers and Sign
Checks
- CORA Policy
- Tourism Report
- Proposed ATV use on

County Roads
- Annual Jail Tour

NOTICE TO PUBLIC: To meet publishing deadlines, all agenda items must be submitted either by calling the Commissioners Office at 719-783-2552; in writing to the Commissioner's Office at PO Box 150, Westcliffe, CO 81252; or by e-mail to kris@custercounty.gov no later than 9:00 AM on the Monday of the week prior to the BOCC meeting. Items not submitted in time may be tabled for one month so they may be properly published. True emergency items will be heard.

Published February 27, 2015
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

PUBLIC NOTICE

Custer County BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tentative Agenda

MONDAY,
MARCH 2, 2015
9:00 AM

Meeting Location:
County Courthouse /
Commissioners Room

Call meeting to order

Pledge of allegiance
Roll Call
Amend agenda
Approval of minutes
Audience introduction
Public Comment
Commissioner Items
Attorney Items
Executive Session
New/Old Business
Staff Reports
Public Health, Airport
Advisory Board, Human
Resource/Finance, Human
Services

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Published February 27, 2015
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

PUBLIC NOTICE

Custer County

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tentative Agenda

TUESDAY,
MARCH 3, 2015
9:00 AM

Meeting Location:
County Courthouse /
Commissioners Room

Call meeting to order
Pledge of allegiance
Roll Call
Amend agenda
Approval of minutes
Audience introduction
Public Comment
Commissioner Items
Attorney Items
Executive Session
New/Old Business
Staff Reports:
VSO, Treasurer, CSU
Representative/Extension
Agent, OEM, Road and
Bridge
CDBG Business Loan
Fund Application – Jeff
Ollinger

NOTICE TO PUBLIC: To meet publishing deadlines, all agenda items must be submitted either by calling the Commissioners Office at 719-783-2552; in writing to the Commissioner's Office at PO Box 150, Westcliffe, CO 81252;

or by e-mail to kris@custercounty.gov no later than 9:00 AM on the Monday of the week prior to the BOCC meeting. Items not submitted in time may be tabled for one month so they may be properly published. True emergency items will be heard.

Published February 27, 2015
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Custer County School District is accepting bids to sell school buses. The school district will be selling a 1998 Bluebird bus with a seating capacity of 71 and 238,712 miles, and a 1993 Genesis bus with a seating capacity of 48 and 204,436 miles. Bids must be received by 4:00 p.m. on March 9, 2015. Bids must be in writing and may be submitted in person, by email, or by fax. Interested bidders may contact David Bennett at 719-660-5004 or david.bennett@ccebobcats.net to request additional information or view either of the buses.

Published February 27, 2015
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

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>

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Wanted

Want to Rent: House 1-2 Bedroom, prefer in town location. References provided. Phone Richard at 783-2450



Club America needs a count of people in Custer County who need a pool lift to access the pool. Call Cathleen 783-0501 to help us get grant funding to purchase a pool lift.

Call 719-783-3360 or

email sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

to place your ad.

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



Seven Marriages Recommitted at Eagles Summit Ranch

At the conclusion of the week-long Couples Session on Friday, February 13th, at Eagles Summit Ranch, the couples recommitted their lives and marriages to each other by renewing their wedding vows. Dave Roever (photo left) also invited those in attendance to celebrate with them, to renew their wedding vows as well. (photo above)

Sentinel photos by Paul Sage

Teens to "Road Trip" at the Library

The West Custer County Library is hosting a Spring Break themed event: "Road Trippin'" for students in grades 6-12. Teens will be "traveling to the tropics" with food, games, and activities like Foot Volleyball, Limbo Dance, and Tourist Trap.

The event will be held in the Library Community Room at 209 Main Street in Westcliffe on

Thursday, March 5th, from 4:15 p.m. until 6:45 p.m.

For more information or to RSVP, please call the library at 783-9138 or email jessica@westcusterlibrary.org

Local Mountain News & Notices

Events Calendar

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

Monday, March 2
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.: FFA Final State Degree Review at Crowley County

Thursday, March 5
10 a.m.: Airport Advisory Meeting
4:15 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.: WCC Library hosting "Road Trippin'" at Library Community Room, 209 Main Street; RSVP 783-9138 or email jessica@westcusterlibrary.org

Saturday, March 7
8 a.m. Hunter Safety Class begins - details below

Tuesday, March 10
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Estate Planning Workshop hosted by CSU Extension at Nacho Mama's. Cost is \$25 for 1st person, \$10 for family member. Call (719) 783-2514 or email Robin at robin.young@colostate.edu

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

Hunter Safety Education Class

Hunter safety education class will be offered on March 7, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and March 8, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District station. Hunter Education is required in Colorado for all hunters born on or after January 1, 1949. Hunter Education is much more than just hunter safety.

The course covers hunter responsibility, outdoor preparedness and survival, bow hunting information, wildlife management and wildlife identification, hunting regulations, and hunting opportunities in Colorado. It provides a solid foundation for hunters of all ages. Many people take a hunter education class to learn more about hunting or basic firearms safety even though they do not intend to hunt.

The local hunter safety course will be held at the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District station located at 215 N. 4th street on Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sunday. The cost is \$10 and participants should bring water and a lunch for both days. They should also bring pen and paper to take notes. Please contact Justin Krall with questions and to sign up 371-2240.

Obituary

Renee Louise LeMoine

Renee Louise LeMoine passed away February 16, 2015, in Prague, Czech Republic, where she lived and worked for Microsoft until she became too ill with cancer.

Renee was born April 29, 1964, in Denver, Colorado, and spent most of her childhood in Westcliffe, Colorado, and attended the Custer County School system. After high school she attended college in Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, and Boise, Idaho, where she received her degrees.

She served with the Peace Corp in Kiev, Ukraine, and later moved to Prague, Czech Republic. Renee was an adventurer and traveled extensively to many different countries for both work and pleasure. She had an infectious personality and made friends all along her paths of travel. She will be extremely missed by those who knew her. Renee is survived by her mother, Marlene Jo Kunz, and brother, Micah L Kunz.

Services will be announced and held at a



later date.

The family request donations be made to the American Cancer Society at: <https://donate.cancer.org/index>

Obituary

Bill Raymond Walker

Bill Raymond Walker, age 59, of Cotopaxi, Colorado, has gone to join the Lord and his family above on February 17, 2015. Bill, known as Uncle Bill, was known for his kindness, love, huge heart, and his ability to always make us laugh and feel welcome. Bill leaves behind a large family which meant the world to him: a sister, Ruth Cochran, 67, of Cotopaxi, Colorado; a brother-in-law and legal guardian Lonny Cochran, 65, of Cotopaxi, Colorado; a brother Donald Walker, 56, of Kettle Falls, Washington; Irene Walker, 74, of Buckley, Washington; and Alice Walker, 62, of Buckley,

Washington. Nieces Mary Jo, 47, of Washington; Lisa, 42, of Colorado; Jake, 31, of Colorado; Melissa 31, of Washington; Alysha, 29, of Washington, and Ashley, 25, of Washington. Nephews Shawn, 37, of Colorado; Donnie, 32, of Washington; and Brian, 27, of Washington. Great-nieces Michelle, 27, of Washington; Tanya, 25, of Washington; Malisha, 22, of Washington; Hailley Ann, 11, of Colorado; Paige, 10, of Washington; Rylee, 9, of Washington; Ava, 8, of Washington; and Kara, 5, of Washington. Great-nephews TJ, 24, of Washington; Scott, 21, of Colorado; Bubba, 11, of

Colorado; Alex, 8, of Washington; Macyn, 7, of Washington; Bryce, 2, of Washington; and Jordan Lee, 2, of Washington. Great-great-nephews Ayden, 4, of Washington; and Dayton Cash, 1, of Colorado. Bill joins his family in heaven, his mother, father, sister, and two brothers.

We have lost a great man with a huge heart and will cherish all his memories we have. Bill, Uncle Bill, you will be forever missed.

Services were held on Saturday, February 21, 2015, at 2 p.m. at the Wild West Cowboy Church in Westcliffe, Colorado, officiated by Pastor Larry Smith.

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!

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

A CSU Extension workshop where you will learn about:

- Sharing your values and life lessons with future generations
- Gifting your personal possessions having emotional value
- Planning for important end-of-life issues
- Transferring your finances and real estate

Colorado State University
Extension
CUSTER COUNTY

March 10th - Nacho Mama's, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch and materials will be provided. \$25 for the first family member, \$10 for each additional family member
For more information or to register, contact CSU Custer County Extension at 719-783-2514

Lady Bobcats Headed To 2A District 1 Playoffs



Local Mountain News & Notices



The Sheriff's Corner from Sheriff Byerly



Greetings from the Sheriff's Office! I would like to welcome you to the new Sheriff's Corner column where I hope to build a strong communication line to the citizens through open conversation. I hope to answer questions and address concerns you may have within the community. This article will run on the second and fourth week of the month. The second week of the month, the *Wet Mountain Tribune* will pose a question to the Sheriff's Office and I will answer it in both papers, and then on the fourth week of the month the *Sangre de Cristo Sentinel* will pose a question to be answered. Hopefully, this will cover the community and provide a balanced opportunity for everyone. Please submit your questions to either newspaper and they will choose a question for me to answer each time. I look forward to this article and hope you do as well.

Since I have taken office, we have had a very busy first month. The unfortunate death of a teen has brought to light many questions and concerns in the community and I would like to address some of them. I received several phone calls from parents worried about sending their children to school in fear for their safety. I have to tell you that our school administration takes the safety of your children very seriously and does a fine job of actively engaging kids and addressing potential problems. After the tragic incident, we were in communication with the staff in the middle of the night so they could immediately begin preparing to handle emotionally distraught students and provide counselors to help them through this difficult time. At the same time, we worked together to ensure there were several deputies and posse members actively in and around the school as a strong presence and deterrent to any thought of additional incidents. The staff has partnered with the Sheriff's Office to ensure they have done all they can to provide a safe environment for your child to learn. The Sheriff's Posse is an invaluable part of that process as they spend several hours each day in and around the school. Today, we live in a different era of school violence. Can we eliminate it completely? Most likely not, but we strive to do the very best we can for your children. Both the school and I would love to have a full time School Resource Officer in the school building but this is not feasible due to cost right now. But rest assured, the school and my staff hold the safety

of your children as a top priority. With this incident there has also been a rise in interest with parents to begin a group to help address concerns with our children. This is very encouraging and I am excited to see what productive ideas come out of the group. I am sure we will hear good things from them in the very near future.

I would also like to announce the beginning of the Citizens Accountability Group to begin in March. This group is open to all citizens of the county and I would welcome your participation in the group. This is an opportunity for you to meet with me and openly discuss concerns, questions, or overall impressions you have with the Sheriff's Office. I will be available for you to question directly, and I will do my best to present honest and candid answers to your questions. You are encouraged to speak freely and give honest input to help our community through law enforcement and the important role it plays within the county. I am looking forward to this group and hope you will participate with me. The meetings will take place on the third Thursday of each month. The first meeting will be held March 19th at the Search and Rescue Building at 6:00 pm. There will be coffee and conversation for anyone who wishes to attend. I hope to see you there.

I encourage the community to call the Sheriff's Office anytime you need assistance or have concerns. We are a small group of individuals dedicated to our community, friends, and neighbors. Your vigilance and assistance with suspicious activity or criminal behavior is valuable and a resource we appreciate. Please call the main line at 783-2270 or anonymously on the TIPS line at 783-2847.

*Until next time, may you be blessed,
Sheriff Shannon Byerly*

Sheriff's Report...

On the days noted below, there were 160 calls for service. On February 20th, there were 2 men and 1 woman in the county jail.

02/12/15 T-15-115
08:20 AM - Vehicle abandoned on private property in the area of 731 South Street. Vehicle is clear, and valid, has been red-tagged until further notice.

02/12/15 T-15-872
08:48 AM - Officer responded for a welfare check on a juvenile party who was not at school. The juvenile, and her mother, were both contacted. Both parties are okay. No further action needed.

02/12/15
The Sheriff's Office spent considerable time today working with the school to check on students who had stayed home during the day or they were concerned about. Posse members also spent the day at the school to ensure the safety of the kids and staff.

02/13/15 T-15-118
04:33 PM - Officer responded to an abandoned vehicle on Bear Basin Ranch. Vehicle had been involved in a roll-over accident near the 100 block of CR 271. License plates had been removed and the vehicle had been abandoned on Bear Basin Ranch sometime around February 6th. Owner of the vehicle has been contacted and has agreed to move the vehicle by 02/14/15.

02/14/15 I-15-918
11:11 AM - Officers performed a civil stand-by at 1101 CR 264 while party removed his belongings from the premises. No issues.

02/17/15 T-15-125
07:27 AM: A deputy was dispatched to a one-vehicle rollover accident on CR 319.

02/17/15
08:02 AM / Ambulance Run: The Sheriff's Office dispatched Deer Mountain EMS to 14th Trail in Cotopaxi for a 55-year-old male who was unresponsive and not breathing.

02/17/15 T-15-126
08:09 AM: A deputy was dispatched to a one-vehicle accident on CR 140. A motor vehicle slid off the road and into a ditch at the entrance of the Wapiti Creek subdivision. There were no reported injuries.

02/17/15 I-15-972
09:02 AM: A party called the Sheriff's Office to re-

port a rumor of a school shooting planned during a pep rally to be held on February 19, 2015. An investigation by the Sheriff's Office did not uncover any information substantiating the rumor. It is believed the rumor may have originated as a result of a tabletop exercise conducted on February 13, 2015. The Custer County Office of Emergency Management facilitated training attended by personnel from the Sheriff's Office, Custer County School District staff, and members of the various county emergency services. The exercise involved various hypothetical scenarios, one of which was very similar to the rumor reported to the Sheriff's Office. It is important to note the consolidated training scenario had been planned for over a year and was in no way related to the recent incidents within the community.

02/17/15
10:31 AM / Ambulance Run: EMS was dispatched to Sangre Drive in Antelope Valley for a 19-month-old female child who had fallen off a chair. The child was assessed by EMS personnel and the patient's parent declined to have the child transported to the hospital.

02/17/15
3:44 PM / Ambulance Run: EMS was called to the Custer County Clinic to transport a 66-year-old male experiencing severe head pain. The patient was taken to Parkview Hospital in Pueblo.

02/17/15
4:56 PM / Ambulance Run: EMS was called to the Custer County Clinic to transport a 90-year-old male experiencing an allergic reaction. The patient was taken to Parkview Hospital in Pueblo.

02/17/15 T-15-127
7:26 PM: The Sheriff's Office received a 911 call reporting a one vehicle rollover on CR 328. The Wet Mountain Fire Department was dispatched to the scene along with personnel from the Sheriff's Office. The two occupants in the vehicle declined an ambulance, instead choosing to be transported to the hospital in a private vehicle. The driver, Kaess, Robert (DOB in 1967) of Cañon City, was issued a summons for careless driving.

02/18/15 I-15-992
5:32 hours: A deputy on patrol in the county encountered several large

rocks posing a road hazard in the westbound lane of Hwy 96 at approximately MM 19.5. The obstructions were removed from the road.

02/18/15
The Sheriff's Office maintained a presence in and around the Custer County School throughout the day. Two deputies were on patrol at the start of school; Posse members conducted school walk-throughs mid-morning and mid-afternoon; and, a deputy was on patrol when school let out.

02/19/15 O-15-025
08:15 AM - Officers met with several juvenile parties in regard to ongoing thefts from gym lockers at the Custer County School. The investigation is ongoing.

02/19/15 I-15-1006
11:30 AM - Officers took a report of a possible missing/endangered party (Stuart, Michael - DOB in 1949) last seen in the Florida/Georgia area. Party was entered into the national missing/endangered database. No further information at this time.

02/20/15 T-15-130
08:01 AM - Party (Tucker, Chase - DOB in 1990) was arrested, in the area of 60 Main St, for driving while license is in a canceled/denied state.

02/20/15 T-15-131
04:14 PM - Party (Nau, Brian - DOB in 1965) cited, in the area of HWY 96 (MM 9), for failure to yield to emergency vehicles that were headed to a multi-vehicle accident at CR 271 and HWY 96.

02/20/15 T-15-131
08:02 PM - Officers responded to a single vehicle roll-over at HWY 69, MM 54. Party (Marion, Daria - DOB in 1973) of LeVeta, had minor injuries, refused treatment from EMS at the scene. Party was then cited and transported to the Custer County Detention Center where she was booked on a \$1,000 bond for DUI and Careless Driving.

02/20/15 I-15-1023
Deputy responded to the Sangre De Cristo Sentinel on the report of a suspicious phone message. The message was from a self-identified Muslim who is offended by the message from the newspaper. A deputy then contacted the male party who left the message and advised of the First Amendment rights of all parties involved. He

See SHERIFF
on page 15

*Rejoice always,
pray without ceasing,
in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

SHERIFF

From page 14

was also advised not to contact the newspaper again.

02/21/15 I-15-1047
9:07 PM - Officers responded to a tip to do a welfare check on a juvenile in the area. Party is okay, and is safe, at home, with family.

02/21/15 T-15-136
11:56 PM - Cooper, Lance - DOB in 1968 of Westcliffe was contacted and arrested for DUI during a traffic stop, near 60 Main Street, in Westcliffe. Cooper

per was booked into the Custer County Detention Center on a \$1,000 bond.

02/22/15 I-15-1054
10:55 AM - Officer responded to 215 Main St. (Somewhere Saloon) for a report of an attempted burglary. Officer took a statement from reporting party and compiled pictures of some minor damage at the scene. Nothing further at this time.

02/23/15 T-15-137
07:55 AM - Officers responded to a vehicle in a ditch in the area of HWY 69, near airport road. Parties were able to re-

move vehicle from the ditch, and no damage occurred.

02/23/15 I-15-1067
11:20 AM - Officers took report of a possible check fraud involving the purchase of hay from a local party by an out of town buyer. Nothing further at this time.

02/23/15 T-15-139
04:56 PM - Citation issued to party (Whitten, Jeanette DOB - 09/19/1962) for exceeding the posted limited on HWY 96 (MM 25.5) by traveling at 71 MPH in a 55 MPH zone.

Fremont County Bulletin News, Opinion, Commentary

Does Penrose Need Another Marijuana Facility?

Fremont County Commissioners Apple Shed Hearing Tuesday, March 10th

by Barbara Penezic

Fremont County Commissioners will be meeting Tuesday, March 10th, starting at 10:00 a.m. An important item on the agenda is the question of allowing the Apple Shed to operate a grow facility as well as a MIP (marijuana infused products) facility. The owner needs a SRU-P (Special Review Use Permit) to operate the MIP.

Tuesday, March 10th, the final hearing will be held in what could be called a double header. The Commissioners will not only be deciding the final hearing for the permit, but, per the owner's request, they will also be addressing the hearings for his Fremont County licenses to grow and extract. A large number of Penrose residents, people who actually reside there and are raising their families in the affected community, are very much opposed to yet another marijuana facility in their backyard.

Your support at the meeting is crucial. Letters and e-mails to the Commissioners are most helpful. Please consider the following when addressing this issue. The Penrose Community Park as well as two churches (pastors of both churches have letters of opposition) are less than 1,000 ft. from the facility. Penrose's commercial and residential areas are intermingled, keep in mind this is an agricultural community and does not lend itself easily to true industrial activity. The Clear family,

who live directly across from the Apple Shed spoke in favor of the SRU-P being granted. However, as of 2-22-15, the Clear's residence has had a 'FOR SALE' sign in front of it.

The lessee lives in Colorado Springs and the owner resides in Tennessee. The economic gains they speak of would be very short-lived. When whatever restorations to the building are complete the work force would be reduced to 5 or 6 workers. There is a safety issue as well, using butane in a building that is over 100 years, even the local Fire Department has voiced their concern. One last thing to be mentioned; Penrose has 80% of the legal marijuana grow facilities in Fremont County. Prior to the Apple Shed, there were nine facilities in the county and 7 were in Penrose. If the Apple Shed is approved, there will be 10 in the county and 8 of those will be in Penrose.

Let the commissioners hear your voice:

Email:
debbie.bell@fremontco.com
tim.payne@fremontco.co
ed.norden@fremontco.com

Mail:
Fremont County Commissioners
615 Macon Ave.
Cañon City, Colorado 81212

The Artists' Gallery First Friday Art Reception

The Artists' Gallery, 416 Main Street, Historic Downtown Cañon City, invites the public to our March 6th, "First Friday" art reception from 5-8 p.m. Two very diverse artists will have their work featured throughout the month:

Painter Pat Wiles is a nationally known professional transparent watercolor, acrylic and pastel artist, as well as an illustrator of popular children's books. Her Western-themed subjects, often of horses, are masterfully executed. As an avid horsewoman, her philosophy is that "you cannot paint a horse properly if you have never brushed

one". For over four decades, she has exhibited her work throughout the United States, as well as in Paris. Her recent work simply shines with a new degree of looseness and color that is captivating!

Native Coloradoan Rhonda Denney loves fiber art. After discovering the art of quilting in 2004, she began exploring the use of fabrics as her art palette. Currently focusing on creating art quilts, incorporating an infinite variety of colors and textures, she has won awards for her amazing pieces, and several have been published in books. A multi-faceted individual, Rhonda employs many

different artistic techniques to create art that is an expression of her mercurial depths of whimsy and seriousness. Her fanciful beaded décor items, as well as limited edition high-quality Gicleé prints and note cards of her art quilts, are also available.

Bring your friends and join us to meet some of our 50 member artists, listen to live guitar music performed by Marc Hizer, and enjoy complimentary refreshments. The Artists' Gallery is open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call (719)345-4070 or visit our website: www.theartistsgalleryonline.com.

Hunter Education Class

Westcliffe, CO

Saturday, March 7th 8am- 5pm

AND

Sunday, March 8th 8am-3pm

Attendance on BOTH days is required

For anyone born on or after Jan. 1st, 1949

****Minimum recommended age is 10 years old****

Wet Mountain Fire Protection District Firehouse

215 North 4th Street

Westcliffe

Cost: \$10

Please call and pre-register with Justin Krall, Custer County Wildlife Officer, (719) 371-2240

REMINDER:

2015 Big Game Limited Draw License Application Deadline April 7, 2015

(more info in next week's issue of the Sentinel)

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

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

16th Street Cafe

302 N. 16th St.
in Cañon City

Mr. Ed's

1201 Royal Gorge Blvd.
(Hwy 50) in Cañon City

Coyote Den

Highway 115 & 6th Street
in Penrose

Here 4 You

2975 CR 27A (Copper Gulch Rd)
in Cotopaxi

Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

IMPORTANT DATES IN FREMONT

School Board Meetings:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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@gmail.com



CDOT vs. Subdivision Owner

Blatant Abuse of Government Power and Penrose Residents Take the Hit

by Barbara Penezic

Not so long ago Penrose area residents found themselves dealing with the down side of pot. The small, rural, township was inundated by speculators hoping to cash in on the newly legalized medical marijuana, hoping the retail market would follow close behind and they would be in place to cash in on the windfall cash generated by this ‘green gold’ nightmare. Fremont County residents have fought back tirelessly and have experienced some wins in this on-going battle, but now the Colorado Department of Transportation (C-DOT) has placed a new obstacle in the path of these beleaguered, tax-paying citizens.

The closure of the crossover between milepost 288 and milepost 289 on Highway 50 just west of the intersection of Highway 115 and Highway 50 has area residents crying foul and with good reason. The problem that exists is between the Colorado Department of Transportation and

Subdivision owners, Norm Montee, and Ronald Van Eg Mond, (the latter gentleman is now deceased.) According to Bob Wilson, CDOT spokesperson, there was a previous agreement between the land developers and CDOT, making the developers responsible for acceleration and decelerations lanes at this crossover. The proposed lanes never materialized. Why then, many are asking, were the developers allowed to open this subdivision and why close the crossover now after many years of allowing the crossing to be used? CDOT’s answer, one that leaves many of us wanting to cry in our milk and cookies, was the standard, Public Safety Concerns.

Mr. Richard Hildebrand, prominent Penrose citizen, addressed his concerns in a letter written to Ms. Gina Talmadge, Citizens Advocate Office, CDOT. Mr. Hildebrand made clear in his letter, “The idea that the additional moves required with the newer traffic configuration are somehow

safer than prior traffic patterns is absurd. The situation is made worse if drivers are new to the area and do not know the turns.” A large number of vehicles needing to make the turn are large and have trailers and live animals. One of the crossovers that is used for the U turns is also a turn into a hot springs pool. That turn on Highway 50 has no slow or acceleration or turn lanes and has a number of vehicles using that turn which creates an additional traffic hazard. A review of the CDOT action makes one thing abundantly clear, there is something other than traffic safety at work here. Possibly a skunk or two in the proverbial wood pile.

Mike De Vriendt and Richard Burr, co-owners of the fairly new Auto Salvage Company located near the crossover, tell us that when they purchased the parcel of land they thought the existing Highway access permit would transfer with the acquisition of the property. Surprise num-

ber one it did not, surprise number two their application for a new permit was denied by the county. According to Richard Burr, the owners were then told by CDOT, “You have the option, install the needed lanes or we will close the crossover.” Estimated cost of installing such lanes is something over \$200,000! The crossover was closed leaving area residents in an untenable position with very little recourse. CDOT representative, Bob Wilson, made it painfully clear, Highway 50 is a state road and Fremont County has no authority in this matter. Mr. Wilson further stated, “if Penrose citizens convince CDOT that the crossover at the hot springs pool is also dangerous, we will close it as well.” This would mean drivers would have to go to the Highway 115 overpass to turn. Not a problem for the folks at CDOT! You certainly don’t have to be the sharpest tool in the shed to figure out that CDOT is willing to apply pressure wherever it can to get those costly lanes installed and

they have no concern for the burden being placed on area residents.

The Legislative Hour held at the Fremont County Administration Building offered the opportunity to discuss the Highway 50 closure issue with Senator Grantham, Representative Clarice Navarro-Ratzlaff, and Representative Jim Wilson. “This is something Clarice and I have been made very aware of,” said Senator Grantham. “CDOT reaction is not: ‘we’ll just open that back up’ but rather ‘we will close everything down.’ It would almost be funny if it weren’t true. We are working on it,” the Senator concluded. “We are talking with them and may actually have to get their attention with something a little more drastic ... I’ll be speaking with Representative Navarro about that. If it requires legislation to force the issue, then that is what we will have to

See CDOT
on page 24

Shots Fired in Florence

by Barbara Penezic

According to Florence Police Department, A shots were allegedly fired from a vehicle during a physical disturbance. In another incident a man was arrested after allegedly stabbing a 32-year-old Penrose man in the abdomen.

Rodney Cornell, 21, of Florence has been arrested on suspicions of first degree assault, a class three felony; menacing, a class 5 felony; and disorderly conduct, a class 3 misdemeanor. Mr. Cornell, is currently being held at the Fremont County Jail on a \$10,000 bond. A 26-year-old man is also being sought in connection with this incident. He is suspected of felony menacing and disorderly conduct. According to FPD Chief Mike De Laurentis, “There was reported to be a gun involved, so that’s why the warrant came out.” The victim has been released from the hospital and there is no further information available at this time.

During the shooting incident no one was hit by the bullets, but one person was transported to the hospital after being pepper sprayed. The suspect who sprayed the mace is not the same one suspected of firing shots. “There were several people involved in the physical altercation. There were two-by-fours used,” said Chief De Laurentis, “and some other instruments used in this physical disturbance, and then it escalated ... We have reports of anywhere between one and three shots that were fired.” The FPD located the dark-colored Firebird that the suspect was in during the suspected shooting. “He was interviewed by detectives” according to Chief De Laurentis. This incident occurred in the 500 block of West Main Street. The street was closed for a short time. No information is available at this time to explain what may have caused the altercation.

Heaven’s Gait Equestrian Center

by Charlotte Burrous

A year after opening Heaven’s Gait Equestrian Center, Shawnee McAninch along with her husband, Mark and his parents Ron and Elsie McAninch, have expanded the programs at 1945 11th St. in Penrose.

“The boarding business has just been fantastic,” said Shawnee, spokesperson for the group. “It’s been a rough year, (but) we’ve had a lot of doors opening in the areas we really want to go.”

Upon receiving a 501c3 non-profit status, the center recently became an equine rescue center in October.

“We do a lot of adoptions,” she said. “Out of my first six adoptions, I’ve placed three of them so far.”

Another new program is known as “Equine Ability.”

“We’re going to be reaching out to kids and adults with brain damage or any kind of physical or mental challenges that could benefit from the program,” McAninch said. “We’re also going to reach out to disabled veterans and veterans with (post-traumatic stress disorder). I’m getting ready to go into some certification classes then I’m going

to be interning with Linda Aberschier.”

Those who would like to learn how to ride will have the opportunity with a new trainer, who provides ground work and beginner lessons in western riding, roping, and team penning. The center also offers an internship program for Florence and Cañon City High School students.

“It’s been awesome,” she said.

Not only has it been a boom to the equestrian center, but also for the students, who are learning new skills for their future endeavors.

But McAninch said they could use more help at the center, not only with the work load, but also with finances.

With the number of horses on site, she said the center needs another barn. In order to do that, she started a fundraiser to accommodate the horses.

“We can give tax receipts (to the donors),” McAninch said.

This spring, the center will host an open house for everyone in the area.



Shawnee McAninch works with Bodacious, a rescue horse in the arena at Heaven’s Gait Equestrian Center at 1945 11th St. in Penrose.

Courtesy photo
by Charlotte Burrous

“We (have tons of things) going on out here,” she said. “We’d like to see 4-H (members) and Boys and Girls (Club members, too). Anybody that’s got a club that wants to do something with horses (is more than welcome). We’re open for community involvement, (as well).”

Watch for details on the website, which is currently under construction. For more information, e-mail mark-shawneemcaninch.com or call 719-214-1157.

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

The Daily Jot

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

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

How The “President” Sees It -- No War with Islam

The “president’s” propaganda summit on Countering Violent Extremism at least set the record straight on who we are not at war with--Islam. The “president” said in his summit-closing remarks: “So I want to be very clear about how I see it...and we are not at war with Islam. We are at war with people who have perverted Islam.” He also lumps all violent extremists together by saying that “inexcusable acts of violence have been committed against people of different faiths, by people of different faiths--which is, of course, a betrayal of all our faiths. It’s not unique to one group, or to one geography, or one period of time.” Two “presidential” takeaways: Islam is misrepresented by terrorists and violence is not unique to Islam.

His basic premise from his own words is: “Al Qaeda and ISIL and groups like it are desperate for legitimacy. They try to portray themselves as religious leaders--holy warriors in defense of Islam. That’s why ISIL presumes to declare itself the “Islamic State.” And they propagate the notion that America--and the West, generally--is at war with Islam. That’s how they recruit. That’s how they try to radicalize young people. We must never accept the premise that they put forward, because it is a lie. Nor should we grant these terrorists the religious legitimacy that they seek. They are not religious leaders--they’re terrorists.”

He then recognizes that while not all Muslims accept the violence of the Islamic State, most believe

Islam is being picked on. He said, “The reality--which, again, many Muslim leaders have spoken to--is that there’s a strain of thought that doesn’t embrace ISIL’s tactics, doesn’t embrace violence, but does buy into the notion that the Muslim world has suffered historical grievances--sometimes that’s accurate--does buy into the belief that so many of the ills in the Middle East flow from a history of colonialism or conspiracy; does buy into the idea that Islam is incompatible with modernity or tolerance, or that it’s been polluted by Western values.”

While the “president’s” view of Islam is disconnected from reality--delusional--he makes a few valid points. A little bit of truth makes a better lie. American leaders like the Clintons, Bush’s, and the “president” all seem to ignore the contextual verses of the Koran that instruct the beheading, burning to death, dismembering, and torturing of those who either do not believe or will not follow Islam. The Islamic State is not perverting Islam. It is Islam. Islam’s nearly 1,400-year history of violence proves itself. To think otherwise is foolhardy. Proverbs 14:8 says, “The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.” In this case there is both the appearance of lack of understanding and deceit.

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

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Ephesians 2:8, KNJV

Historian David Barton Takes Apart Obama’s Claim That ‘Islam Has Been Woven Into the Fabric of Our Country Since Its Founding’

by Erica Ritz,
TheBlaze.com

(Editor/GG: Nobama lying about America again. When you learn your American history at a Muslim school in Indonesia, it might give you a different view. Note that the Muslims were and are the biggest slave traders in the last 1500 years. It’s one of their community outreach programs.)

After President Barack Obama said this week that “Islam has been woven into the fabric of our country since its founding,” Glenn Beck asked historian David Barton to come on his radio program and share some examples of what the president meant.

“In all the reading I’ve done, thousands of books, there’s nothing there,” Barton said on Friday. “I mean, we know that Muslims were the folks who captured the slaves sent to America, largely out of Africa. ... The Muslims did the slave hunting and the slave trading, et cetera. The first Muslims came to America as a result of the Muslims capturing them and sending them to the Dutch traders.”

Barton said that beyond their heavy involvement in the slave trade,

America was at war with the Barbary pirates shortly after the founding of the country, but those were “the two biggest contributions.”

“This is the fabric,” Beck said with heavy sarcasm. “I mean, it’s practically the whole blanket.”

“If the president wants to extol those who were selling people into slavery ... so be it.”

Barton added that there were a number of Muslims whose activities were recorded in the 1800’s, but it might be a stretch to say they are part of the “fabric of the country.” One such Muslim helped the American military raise camels, he said.

“In 1856 the American military was engaged in all sorts of Indian wars in western lands,” Barton explained. “The secretary of war at that time was Jefferson Davis. Five years later, he would become part of the secession and the president of the Confederacy. But at that time, he’s secretary

of war. What they did was they hired a Muslim to raise camels in Arizona because the cavalry said, ‘You know, instead of using horses across the desert, let’s try these camels.’”

“It was a short-lived experiment, but I have to credit their technology,” Barton added. “If you’re going to be in the desert chasing folks, why not use the animals that will go for several days, rather than several hours? But they were just so slow, they couldn’t keep up with the Indians.”

Beck emphasized that the founding fathers preached tolerance for all religions, and Thomas Jefferson defended the rights of Muslims overseas. But he feels the president is “changing our history” by saying Islam has been “woven into the fabric of our country since its founding.”

“David, thank you very much for enlightening me on this,” Beck concluded. “If the president wants to extol those who were selling people into slavery ... so be it.”

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Colorado DUI Bill Stalls: When Bleeding Hearts Freeze

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

It’s ironic how some Democrats instantly become fiscal conservatives when they don’t want to do something, like punish repeat offenders who insist on getting behind the wheel of a car, drunk, and kill or maim people.

It’s not the drunk’s fault, Democrats whine. They have an addiction; they just need a hug and go to rehab. And besides, it costs too much money to enforce the law.

Those bleeding hearts ran dry and brittle after Frank Martinez testified about his nephew and two grand-nephews, ages six and one, who were killed last month in a driving accident after church. The drunk driver who killed them had eight prior DUI arrests, the Colorado Springs Gazette reported.

Liberal do-gooders are

cold as a stone, even after this testimony earlier this month in front of the House Judiciary Committee, also reported by the Gazette:

Ellie Phipps, 49, a Grand Junction resident, told lawmakers she was going to the gym on a Saturday morning three years ago when she was hit by someone with six prior DUIs. Phipps suffered major injuries to her spine and she is still walking with a support brace around her midsection. Her rehab continues, she said.

Increasing the penalty for repeat DUI offenders was a priority of U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner when he was in the State House in 2010, but his bill was blocked by the penny-pinching Democrats.

“There’s a way we can pay for this right now and that’s simply by saying, ‘Hey, let’s save less than

one percent in each state agency,’” said Gardner.

Being one of only four states in the union without a felony DUI law, that’s a political statement.

Now the *Denver Post* reports that Gov. Hickenlooper, who touted the proposal in his State of the State address, has failed to persuade his own party to back the bill.

Its prospects are further complicated by criticism that it is merely a political statement that would do little to improve public safety.

Merely a political statement? Being one of only

four states in the union without a felony DUI law, that’s a political statement.

Being slapped on the wrist for a fourth DUI misdemeanor conviction and spending up to 12 months in jail is a political statement.

Sending a habitual DUI driver to jail for two to six years because they ran over someone — that improves public safety by preventing them from killing another victim.

We hope the legislature will learn to separate politics from public safety, and do what’s right to keep Coloradans safe from habitual drunks intent on getting behind the wheel of a car.

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Ex-Fire Chief Who Claims He Was Terminated Over His Biblical Views on Homosexuality Sues — and Delivers a Message About ‘Freedom’

by Billy Hallowel,
TheBlaze.com

Atlanta’s former fire chief who was terminated after he self-published a book that included his faith-based opposition to homosexuality has filed a lawsuit against the city in federal court. This act follows a complaint, that his attorneys filed last month with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, citing unlawful discrimination.

Kelvin Cochran, who is being represented by the Alliance Defending Freedom, a conservative legal firm, believes that he was fired because of his Christian faith, arguing in the complaint that his freedom of religion was violated in the dismissal process.

“To actually lose my childhood-dream-come-true profession – where all of my expectations have been greatly exceeded – because of my faith is staggering,” Cochran said in a statement following the filing on Wednesday. “The very faith that led me to pursue my career has been used to take it from me. All Americans are guaranteed the freedom to hold to their beliefs without the consequences that I have experienced.”

The Alliance Defending Freedom is working with Jonathan Crumly and Garland Hunt, two allied local attorneys in the case, which was filed U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta Division, according to a press release.

“This civil rights lawsuit is not only about restoring Kelvin Cochran’s constitutional freedoms, but the freedom of all Americans to live without fear of being fired because of their beliefs and thoughts,” David Cortman, senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, told *TheBlaze*. “It’s ironic that some claim Chief Cochran was fired in the name of ‘diversity’ for having different beliefs than the city. That sounds more like compelled conformity and thought policing.”

As reported last month, the legal firm filed an official complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on behalf of Cochran in January, alleging that he was discriminated against when Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed fired him. The newly filed lawsuit ups the ante on the situation, though, solidifying a formal legal complaint about the firing.

Cochran’s dismissal in early January followed controversy over “Who Told You That You Are Naked?” a book that he self-published in which he called homosexuality “sexual perversion” and compared it to “bestiality,” among other critiques. Activists reacted swiftly to the text, sparking involvement from the mayor’s office.

While Cochran has repeatedly said that he was terminated for his religious views, Reed has offered up a very different story, claiming at a press conference last month that Co-



Former fire chief Kelvin Cochran (Facebook)

chran’s judgement was at the center of his firing, according to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

“I, too, am a person of very deep religious faith ... 1 Corinthians 14:40 says, ‘Let all things be done decently and in order’ and I want to make very clear in my judgement that was not done here,” Reed proclaimed. “Chief Cochran’s book ... was published in violation of the city’s standards of conduct, which require prior approval of the ethics officer and the board of ethics.”

While Reed claims that he wasn’t consulted before the book was written and that Cochran, who spoke out about his battle with the city to religious groups when he was reportedly told not to, isn’t being persecuted because of his faith, the former fire chief disagrees.

Cochran claims Atlanta ethics officer Nina Hickson gave him verbal permission to write the book and that he had given a copy to Reed’s office last January, the *Journal-Constitution* reported.

Reed launched an investigation in November after it was revealed that the book discussed homosexuality in a negative light, though Cochran was found to not have discriminated against any employees during his tenure, but his termination followed.

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GloBull Warming: It Is a SCAM

by Karl Denniner,
Market-Ticker.org

What happens when you don’t get the politically-correct outcome from data?

You change it.

Seriously.

But two aspects of this system for measuring surface temperatures have long been worrying a growing array of statisticians, meteorologists, and expert science bloggers. One is that the supposedly worldwide network of stations from which GHCN draws its data is flawed. Up to 80 percent or more of the Earth’s surface is not reliably covered at all. Furthermore, around 1990, the number of stations more than halved, from 12,000 to less than 6,000 – and most of those remaining are concentrated in urban areas or places where studies have shown that, thanks to the “urban heat island effect”, readings can be up to 2

degrees higher than in those rural areas where thousands of stations were lost.

That’s where some of the “warming” has come from. But it gets better -- that wasn’t enough to stop what is actually a cooling trend from being reported, so...

But still more worrying has been the evidence that even this data has then been subjected to continual “adjustments”, invariably in only one direction. Earlier temperatures are adjusted downwards, more recent temperatures upwards, thus giving the impression that they have risen much more sharply than was shown by the original data.

The article in question shows one example -- a single station where the “reported” data shows an increasing trend.

The raw data? No increase at all, and in fact cooling from 1960 to today --

by a lot!

If you recall when Climategate broke there was documentary proof that the code used to “analyze” said data had been doctored to add “fudge factors” (all in one direction) to the raw data, with the “fudge” increasing over time so as to produce a false upward trend.

Now we’re finding that this is still going on -- and without it there is no warming at all.

You’re still being lied to America. When are you going to stand up and demand that this c**p stop? Will it be before or after your money is all confiscated and given to scam artists parading around as “saving the earth” when the only thing they’re actually doing is robbing you at gunpoint and paying for the Lear Jets -- and the fuel for them?

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One Day Before Terrorist Shootings, Copenhagen Muslim Cleric Gave Fiery Speech About Non-Muslim ‘Infidels’

by Sharona Schwartz,
TheBlaze.com
(Editor/GG: This could be Maine, Michigan, or Denver. This IS main stream Islam. Read it and learn.)

A Muslim cleric gave a fiery speech in Copenhagen, Denmark, calling all non-Muslims “infidels” and inciting to “war against the Jews” just one day before a terrorist gunman launched a deadly attack on a group of free-speech advocates and a synagogue.

The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) obtained video of the Arabic sermon given by Hajj Saeed, imam of the Al-Faruq Mosque in Copenhagen, and translated excerpts of it. While there is no evidence that suspected gunman Omar Abdel Hamid El-Hussein, whom witnesses heard shouting “Allahu akbar,” heard the sermon, it does offer a glimpse into

the kind of hardline messaging he may have been exposed to in worship services attended by Middle Eastern immigrants in Copenhagen.

manner of the U.N. and of those who call to reconciliation truth and falsehood? Or did he call upon them to worship Allah?” Saeed said, according to the trans-

“Allah has made laws that regulate our relations with them, if we live in their countries. The so-called interfaith dialogue is not part of these laws,” the Muslim cleric said.

Offering insight as to how some Danish Muslims may view the country in which they live, Saeed said Islam was an “alternative to their bogus culture, which has hurled them into the abyss of depravity and corruption, and which has reduced them from humanity to the level of beasts.”

He contended that the United Nations was “established in order to fight Islam, to destroy the state of Islam, and to draw the Muslims away from their religion.”

MEMRI reported that the sermon was posted online by the Scandinavian chapter of Hizb ut-Tahrir, a group dedicated to estab-

Saeed called those who advocate interfaith dialogue “Satan and his followers.”

“All people are called to convert to Islam, and anyone who refrains from doing so, after having been presented with evidence, is an infidel, without a doubt,” Saeed said.

The preacher recounted the experience of the Prophet Muhammad who had Jewish neighbors as an example of how to respond to interfaith efforts.

“Did he call for closer relations, harmony, and dialogue with them, in the

lation. “When they violated their pledge and did not accept this call – well, you know what he did to them. ... He waged war against the Jews.”

The crux of his message was aimed at swaying congregants away from interfaith efforts – which he labeled a “malignant idea” – and warned its aim was to lure Muslims away from Islam. Saeed called those who advocate interfaith dialogue “Satan and his followers.”



Hajj Saeed, imam of the Al-Faruq Mosque in Copenhagen, Denmark, called non-Muslims “infidels” and incited to “war against the Jews” in a sermon one day before a Danish Muslim launched twin terrorist attacks.

(Screenshot: YouTube)

lishing a global caliphate. As of Thursday morning, the video did not appear to be on the group’s website. Reprinted with Permission. Please see: www.theblaze.com/stories/2015/02/19/one-day-before-terrorist-shootings-copenhagen-muslim-cleric-gave-fiery-speech-about-non-muslims-infidels/

Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire: Washington Post Nails VA Chief as Fibber



by ColoradoPeakPolitics.Com

(Editor/GG: Is there ONE Nobama appointee who isn’t a pathological liar? Must be in the liberal gene set. Just look around.....)

We weren’t the only ones who noticed that VA Chief Robert McDonald appeared to be wildly inflating his facts as to how many employees have been fired for the scandal that rocked his agency last summer.

forced to use that time defending his vicious attack on our own U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman. McDonald came unglued during a Capitol Hill hearing last week under questioning from Coffman on the VA’s performance.

“Nine hundred people have been fired since I became secretary. We’ve got 60 people that we fired who have manipulated wait times,” McDonald claimed.

Now the Washington Post has sent in their own fact-checker, who has awarded McDonald their highest ranking for fibbing — “four Pinochios for wildly inflating his ‘firing’ statistics.”

For those of you at home keeping score, that counts as a “whooper.”

Recommending people to receive a letter about their wrongdoing is not the same thing as being fired. Recommending people to be fired is not the same thing as being fired. Employees are not fired unless they have been removed from their jobs — and as of two days before McDonald went on the air, there were eight employees who were removed for manipulating patient wait-time data. So McDonald’s statement is incorrect.

As for the 900 number McDonald threw down, the VA maintains those bureaucrats were fired for various reasons including absenteeism or doing a poor job not related to the scandal.

But to McDonald’s point that he is cleaning up shop, the 900 figure lacks context. Senior executives have known problems existed there, and the 900 employees are not those executives.

The VA is the largest non-military Cabinet agency, with more than 340,000 employees as of September, 2014. That means even if 900 employees were fired, they accounted for less than 0.3 percent of all VA employees. Plus, in fiscal year 2013, there were 2,247 VA employees fired in one year, which was two-and-a-half times more than McDonald’s 900 figure — and that was before a massive systemic problem was found.

We’re still waiting for that apology from McDonald and the White House, which deployed their toughest kindergarten tactic of name-calling by labeling Coffman a “pretty aggressive antagonist” in the hopes that Democrats would fall in line.

They have not.

Colorado Democrats are backing Coffman on this one, Dems on Capitol Hill are staying out of the fray, and when the Washington Post goes after a Democratic administration, they have nowhere left to hide.

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The Post continues:



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McDonald made his first Meet the Press appearance Sunday, but was

ASPEN EXTREME: Bloomberg Tells Audience Young Minority Males Should Not Have Guns

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

(Editor/GG: Hmmm. Liberals keep telling us that they are not racist. No, it wasn't them that destroyed the black family structure (President Lyndon Johnson, Democrat, The Great Society, circa 1964 started it). Libs view the citizens as simply peasants, who are incapable of making rational decisions. This is a perfect example of their arrogance. Here, Bloomberg, one of the deans of liberal thought, lets loose on how liberals really think about minorities.)

Wow. Maybe it's the rarefied air or maybe it's a feeling of being among friends that compels so many liberal politicians to step in \$*** up in Aspen, but we couldn't make up this quote from former Mayor of Nanny State New York Michael Bloomberg if we tried.

Perhaps Bloomberg, a huge backer of the extreme gun legislation from 2013, fails to realize that many of the cities with a high number of minority male deaths also happen to have some of the most restrictive gun laws on the books.

"Bloomberg claimed that 95 percent of murders fall into a specific category: male, minority, and between the ages of 15 and 25. Cities need to get guns out of this group's hands and keep them alive, he said."

Again, wow. Bloomberg isn't exactly known for his tactful musings, but then again maybe that's what a

net worth in excess of \$37 billion buys you – a sincere lack of giving a c**p. The New York State Rifle and Pistol Association called on Mayor Bloomberg to apologize for his racist remarks. From NYSRPA Executive Director Tom King, according to Ammoland:

"If a politician said this about anything other than guns, the mainstream media would be all over them. Michael Bloomberg isn't just any politician, he is the leading voice for gun control in America. He should be held accountable for this slander."

Bloomberg also is not known for accuracy in his proclamations (see: Colorado Springs roads), and this time is no different. Perhaps Bloomberg, a huge backer of the extreme gun legislation from 2013, fails to realize that many of the cities with a high number of minority male deaths also

happen to have some of the most restrictive gun laws on the books. Even *The New York Times* gets it. Mayor, read your hometown newspaper.

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Let's Ditch "Stupid Carry" of Handguns

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

(Editor/GG: Bob is down on concealed carry purses. But women often really don't have a choice. My Opinion: If a CCW purse is your only option, make sure the weapon is in a holster designed for it, and, the weapon has an external safety.)

Veronica Rutledge was trying out her new concealed carry purse, and thought it was safe enough to leave with her toddler for a few seconds while shopping. She died of a bullet in the head, courtesy of her two-year-old.

We've just recently discovered that Christina Bond was having trouble adjusting her bra holster when she shot herself in the eye. Bond died the next day.

While Rutledge's story became nation news for a short time and there is some interest in Bond's death due to the oddity of the circumstances, these stories are not well known, nor are the other deaths and injuries that occur each year due to what I call the "stupid carry" of handguns.

What is stupid carry?

Stupid carry is any form of concealed carry that involves a concealed carrier carrying his or her firearm off-body and therefore out of his or her immediate control, or which utilizes an on-body carry system that doesn't adequately contain and control the weapon, fails to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction during normal activity, and/or fails to protect the trigger. All of these design failures increase the likelihood of a negligent discharge causing serious injury or death.

Examples of "stupid carry" include:

- purse holsters
- tablet/notebook/organizer holsters
- briefcase holsters
- horizontal shoulder holsters

- holsters that don't cover the trigger guard of the pistol on both sides
- bra holsters
- cheaply-made holsters of any design

This list is by no means exhaustive, and is simply an example of the dangerous holster designs that I've personally seen. I know that Bearing Arms contributor Stephen P. Wenger noted in his Defensive Use of Force Digest that he knew someone that carried a small DAO semi-auto in a holster hanging from his neck, where the barrel was pointed at his chin. I've never seen such a monstrosity, and I'm sure that isn't the only dangerous holster design that I've missed.

Purse holsters, organizer holsters, and briefcase holsters are all off-body carry systems which encourage concealed carriers to put their firearm down, relinquishing control of that firearm. Some have poorly designed "universal" holster compartments that make the handgun slow to access and difficult to safely reholster.

Horizontal shoulder holsters constantly muzzle anyone behind the shooter.

Holsters that don't adequately protect the trigger from both sides are begging for a negligent discharge in an age where so many are carrying firearms without external safeties. There is a seemingly popular minimalist IWB holster design where a plug that goes into the barrel is supposed to provide some level of support, and there is a shield on one side of the holster to protect the trigger, but at all nothing on the other side. It is only a small step up from simply thrusting a handgun in your pants.

The most popular bra holster is a relatively benign design when used as it was intended, and the holster is removed entirely to reholster the handgun before the system is reattached. Unfortunately, it isn't the only bra system on the market, and there are those who insist on trying to make adjustments while

the handgun is in place, such as the unfortunate Bond.

"Cheaply-made" holsters are those holsters made out of flimsy and substandard materials, regardless of cost. I've seen \$100 "cheap" holsters and good quality \$40 holsters. The low-quality of cheaply-made holsters often leads to them losing shape and failing to adequately protect/contain the handgun.

I personally prefer strong-side carry, either an OWB holster at the 3-4 o'clock position, or an IWB at the 4-5 o'clock, but I'm not saying that my way is the only way. It simply works for my body shape, the handguns I prefer to carry, and the rigid holster designs and materials that I prefer to use, and the style of clothes which I prefer to wear.

There are many people I respect who use different carry systems, but the common denominators are:

- they all carry their firearms on their body where they are in control of the handgun at all times
- the weapon is contained in a quality rigid holster with little or no movement
- the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction
- holster never puts the muzzle pointing anywhere near vital organs structures when unholstering/reholstering.

The best way to avoid a potentially deadly negligent discharge is to learn safe gunhandling skills, and pair those skills with a reliable handgun and a quality on-body holster.

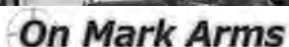
Don't make the mistake of choosing a novelty holster simply because it's novel, or of buying a cheaply-made holster simply to save a few dollars.

The life you save may be your own.

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Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16, NKJV



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Colorado: Senate Approves "Parent's Bill of Rights"

by Todd Engdahl,
Co.Chalkbeat.org

(Editor/GG: Of course, every Colorado Senate Democrat voted against this. The liberals believe the government's rights over YOUR children always tops the parent's rights.)

Updated Feb. 12, 9:25 a.m. — On Thursday, the state Senate gave final 18-16 approval to the bill dubbed the "parent's bill of rights." Republican members voted yes and Democrats voted no, with one Democrat excused and not voting.

The measure, supported by Republicans and opposed by Democrats, had passed on a preliminary voice vote Thursday following more than two hours of debate that highlighted philosophical and partisan differences over the roles of parents and government, and protecting children. There was no additional discussion on Thursday.

Parent rights are something of a theme for Republicans this session. With their new 18-17 majority in the Senate, GOP members have the opportunity to advance such social-issues bills to the floor, although proposals have little chance in the Democrat-controlled House.

Senate Bill 15-077 declares that parents have the fundamental right to raise, educate, and provide medical care for their children and that government cannot interfere with that unless there's "a compelling interest." It sets out a long list of parental rights, including withdrawal of children from classes whose content they find objectionable, receiving information about opting out of sex education

classes, access to textbooks, and consent to medical and diagnostic procedures, and to video and audio recording of children. (See the link to read the bill text and a summary at www.co.chalkbeat.org.)

"We need to get back to understanding that parents make the best decisions for their children in almost all cases," said prime sponsor Sen. Tim Neville, R-Littleton, during Thursday's debate.

"It's about time we had this discussion. ... It's an issue that's not going away," said Sen. Kevin Lundberg, R-Berthoud.

Democrats had different views.

The bill "is fine as a manifesto," said Senate Minority Leader Morgan Carroll, D-Aurora. "The problem is this is actually law that we are writing." She added that SB 15-077 "radically reduces and in some cases completely eliminates the rights and protections of the child. To me this looks like a no bill of rights for kids."

Much of the debate focused on the bill's possible implications for child welfare and health, with less attention paid to the impact on schools. Democratic senators warned that requiring parent consent for all medical and mental health care would be dangerous for children who've been abused by their parents or have issues they didn't want their parents to know about.

Republicans countered that existing laws require medical professionals and educators to report suspected child abuse and are sufficient.

Sen. Mike Merrifield, D-Colorado Springs, said state law already covers parent notification and opting out of a wide variety of classroom activities. (There's been a lot of discussion about how the bill affects vaccinations. The measure requires schools to notify parents of their existing rights to opt out of vaccinations but wouldn't change the opt-out system.)

Senate Bill 15-077 declares that parents have the fundamental right to raise, educate, and provide medical care for their children and that government cannot interfere with that unless there's "a compelling interest."

Democrats proposed several amendments to the bill, but all were defeated except one that removed misdemeanor or criminal penalties for teachers and other school personnel who didn't seek parent consent before sending a troubled student to a counselor or health professional.

Please see: co.chalkbeat.org/2015/02/11/senate-approves-parents-bill-of-rights/#.VN4GE-Dd7Hg

Judge Rules Against Grandma Florist For Refusing To Service Gay Wedding

by Casey Harper,
DailyCaller.com

A Washington grandmother and florist of 40 years who refused to service gay weddings because of her faith will now be forced to arrange flowers for gay ceremonies, a judge ruled Wednesday. On top of that, the woman, Barronelle Stutzman, will have to pay the legal penalties imposed by the judge as well as attorney's fees.

Benton County Superior Court Judge Alex Ekstrom ruled in a summary judgement that Stutzman violated anti-discrimination and consumer protection laws.

Ekstrom ruled that the gay couple could collect penalties not just from her business, but also from her personally, according to Alliance Defending Freedom, the legal group that represented Stutzman. That means she could lose her personal possessions and savings.

Stutzman refused to serve a gay couple in 2013 when they asked her to arrange flowers for their wedding ceremony. The ACLU represented the couple and took her to court.

"The message of these rulings is unmistakable: the government will bring about your personal and professional ruin if you don't help celebrate same-sex marriage," ADF Senior Counsel Kristen Waggoner, who argued before the court in December, said in a statement. "The two men had no problem getting the flowers they wanted. They received several offers for free flowers, and the marketplace gives them plenty of options. Laws that are supposed to prohibit discrimination might sound good, but the government has begun to use these laws to hurt people — to force them to conform and to silence and punish them if they don't violate their religious beliefs on marriage."

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Meet the Group That's Burning Through College Speech Codes

by PG Veer,
DailyCaller.com

(Editor/GG: Free Speech. A concept that is foreign to liberals, and particularly to our very own Westcliffe Liberal Elite. We have our own Ruling Class who knows what is right for us peasants. Comforting.)

Greg Lukianoff of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) gave hope to students tired of asking permission to speak out on campus at the eighth Student for Liberty Conference. Thanks to his organization, 36 colleges have abolished or severely scaled down their speech codes. But the fight is far from over.

"Over 55 percent of colleges we surveyed have speech codes that wouldn't stand court challenges," says Lukianoff. "These colleges include Jacksonville University, which forbade

students to offend anyone, or this other college that had a rule against 'inappropriately directed laughter.'"

though we had created it," recalls Lukianoff. "On Constitution Day a veteran wanted to hand cop-

tion somewhere in October. Campus officials kept acting like the victim until the veteran's video got released."

And it's not even the worst case yet. "The University of Hawaii has the so-called free speech zone that's limited to a tiny puddle of water away from student life. 'This is not the 1960s' claimed university officials. They seem to forget that all public colleges have to submit to the Constitution including the First Amendment."

To find out if your college limits free speech to a yard-square area which you need to reserve two weeks in advance to use or if they basically forbid you to offend anyone, visit theFire.org.

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The University of Hawaii has the so-called free speech zone that's limited to a tiny puddle of water away from student life.

Since the "soft method" — trying to win the public opinion, exposing the absurdities of speech codes — wasn't working, FIRE decided to drop the gloves and go to court to affirm First Amendment rights. And even when colleges are cornered with their nonsensical codes, they still act like victims.

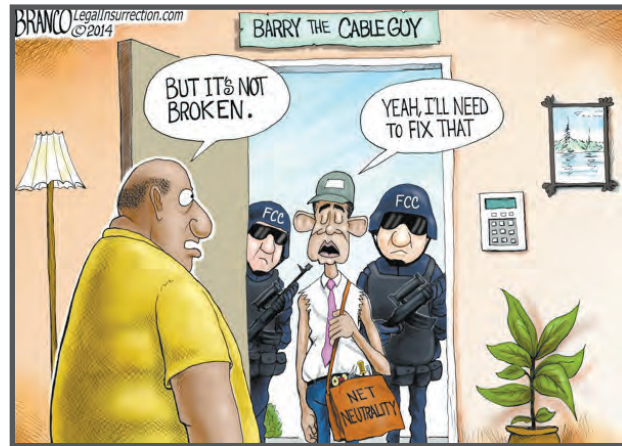
"Our first case in Modesto, California, was beyond parody; some people even

ies of the Constitution on campus. He recorded his journey because he was convinced that something would go wrong, which it did. He was stopped by a campus officer who told him he had to fill out forms before he could exercise his free speech."

"He went to the main office and the receptionist browsed through a fat binder," he continued. "She said he could do his distribu-

**"I am the good shepherd;
I know my sheep and
my sheep know me--
just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father--and I
lay down my life for the sheep.
I have other sheep that are not
of this sheep pen. I must bring
them also. They too will listen
to my voice, and there shall be
one flock and one shepherd."**

John 10:14-16, NIV



Politics & The Bible

From Pastor Jim



Jim Modlish has been in the ministry 48 years, pastoring churches large and small from upstate New York to western Washington. He holds a doctorate in theology, but frequently states: “I have education, but I got over it.”

Southern Colorado natives, Jim and his wife, Linda, were happy to return to their home state in 2006. They started the Huerfano Community Bible Church in Walsenburg six years ago, and that work has experienced excellent growth and the blessings of God. Pastor Modlish believes the Bible is the greatest political science textbook on earth, and that all current events should be examined under the searchlight of Scripture.



No Reputation?

It has been noted by some observers who track words that President Obama possesses a particular tendency to reference himself (I, me, myself, mine) in speeches. According to a recent article in The Weekly Standard, Obama utilized “I” or “we” 118 times in 33 minutes in his departure speech from India. A variety of other examples are used that demonstrate the Chief Executive’s fondness for the first person. The author cites a fairly comprehensive study done by researchers at the University of Virginia which documented the use of “I” spoken in State of the Union addresses delivered before Congress. To be fair, not all presidents have given speeches but have rather submitted a written report. From FDR to present, all presidents have followed the practice of an annual address. The average number of “I’s” per speech have been chronicled with FDR at 23; Truman at 29.2; Eisenhower at 39.9; Kennedy at 35.3; Lyndon Johnson at 58; Nixon at 50.3; Ford at 62; Carter at 32.7; Reagan at 39.6; George H.W. Bush at 65.8; Clinton at 102.1; George W. Bush at 35.6 to Obama at 72.9. The last century has experienced a general acceleration of self-appreciation with Clinton and Obama leading the pack.

What may be far more telling is that the I-meter registered 13.4 for George Washington and 10.5 for John Adams. Could it be that these selfless men who were willing to sacrifice all for their sacred honor and country had a better handle on genuine self-esteem than our contemporaries? Just a long shot, but perhaps their

affinity for the Bible had something to do with it.

Washington said, “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.” Usually, the best evaluation of a person’s character comes from others. Reverend Henry Muhlenberg at Valley Forge said, “I hear a fine example today, namely, that His Excellency General Washington rode around among his army and admonished each and every one to fear God, to put away wickedness that has set in, and become so general, and to practice the Christian virtues. From all appearances, this gentleman does not belong to the so-called world of society; for he respects God’s Word, believes in the atonement through Christ, and bears himself in humility and gentleness.”

In similar fashion John Adams stated, “The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were...the general principles of Christianity...I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.” He further observed: “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

Our forefathers had a decent comprehension of the attributes of Jesus Christ which are partially described in Philippians 2:7... “but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.” God the Father had all venues open to His plea-

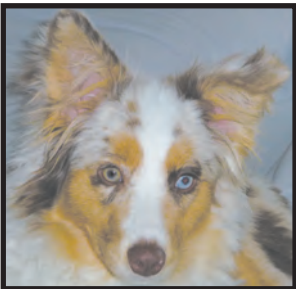
sure but the grand design for His only begotten Son was to be of no reputation. Consider: no pride of birth.... “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.” (Mark 6:3) No pride in upbringing.... “And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:46) No pride of scholarship... “And the Jews marveled, saying, How knowest this man letters, having never learned?” (John 7:15) No pride of independency.... “And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.” (Luke 8:3) No pride of ability.... “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things so ever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.” No pride of success... “for neither did his brethren believe in him.” (John 5:19) No pride of sanctity... “And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.” (Luke 15:2) No pride of appearance.... “he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.” Isaiah 53:2)

The only reputation that Jesus ever had with the majority was a bad one (Luke 23:1-2), and he never made any attempt to correct his approval rating. He must have made an impression on Washington and Adams.

A Sheepdog Barks!

The insanity going on in America is wholly the result of the Obama administration. I keep “barking” that it cannot get any worse and then it does. America is in for a real bumpy ride during Obama’s last two years. Just look at the latest responses to how they see the way in protecting America and Americans. First, a small agency in the U.S. State Department, the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications, is going to “attack” the Jihadists by harnessing all existing attempts of “countermessaging.” Yes, that’s right countermessaging. Oh, the horror of it! Apparently that means America must “out-Facebook” the terrorists. The New York Times quoted the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Richard Stengel as saying, “We’re getting beaten on volume (speaking about the terrorists 90,000 tweets and other social media responses a day) so the only way to compete is by aggregating, curating, and amplifying existing content.” HOWL! Yep, that should do it! Oh, BTW, does anybody understand what that really means? The best I can tell it means we have to out-tweet those violent extremists and then we’ll be safer. Obama created this agency in 2011 and apparently their efforts haven’t been very successful. We are told in the article that when a terrorist posts a recruiting message Obama has some “digital outreach specialist” (aka social media nerd) counter that tweet with something like “No, don’t join them, they are bad people. Think again, turn away!” If we step those kinds of actions up, the Obama administration believes that will help stop those mean ole’ ISIS guys in their tracks and America won’t have to put “Boots on the Ground” (BOTG). Hasn’t worked too well so far. Four years later their conclusion is we need more tweets. Good luck with that effort. WOOF! Though there may be some minimal effectiveness in something like this it certainly is not going to “win” the war on Islamist Terrorism. This social media attack plan was followed up by the Secretary of State

John Kerry, and others in the State Department like Marie Harf, starting the dialogue about “jobs for jihadis.” These comments were designed to set the stage for Obama’s White House Summit on Violent Extremism. Yes, it appears that the fight to stop Islamic terrorists begins with social justice. If we can just make sure that the countries in the Middle East, with U.S. help, would provide enough good paying jobs then the Islamic ideology to kill infidels and non-believers would just go away. As the “pathological liars” on Saturday Night Live used to say, “Yes, that’s the ticket, more jobs and the war is over.” Obama, and his merry band of clueless clowns, believe that if we can just get to the “root cause” of why they want to kill us we can all just get along in the future. The problem is they want to look for that root cause everywhere but in the right places. As long as they remain in complete denial there will be no “winning of hearts and minds.” I was told recently that I needed to keep an “open mind.” Then I read somewhere that “one’s mind can be so open that their brains fall out.” Know anybody like that? All these social attack measures will do little or nothing. Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta said “ISIS is the new face of Islamic Terrorism. They have good command and control, they are well-funded and they are well-armed.” This will take BOTG my friends and the sooner the better. We saw on social media this weekend that the terrorists have called for an attack on the Mall of America in Minnesota. Stupidly, that mall is a gun-free zone. I’m sure a few thousand tweets about “not doing that” will put a stop to that right? What might really stop it is a few thousand soldiers. However, in the meantime the Jihadists can just keep walking across the Rio Grande River and running their training camps right here in America. From these safe havens all over our country they can easily launch an attack. However, in support of Obama’s strategy to stop them, I will send this tweet out today: “Hey all you Islamic ter-



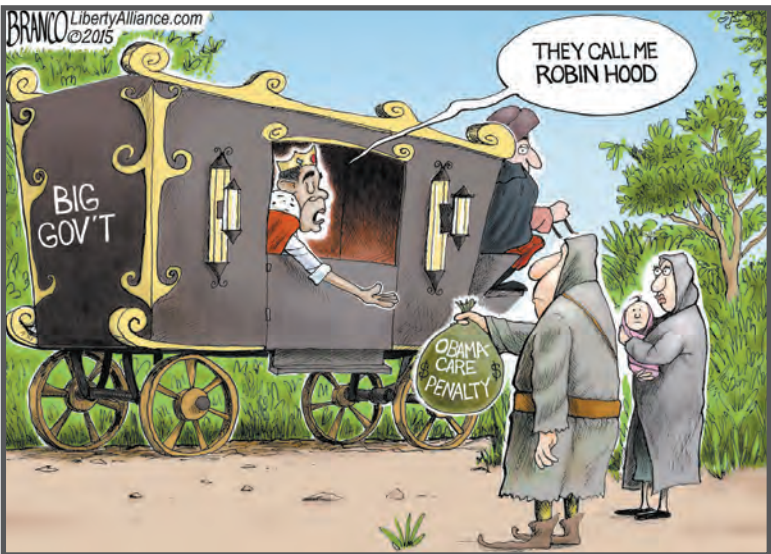
rorists that want to kill us. That is not nice. We want you to stop that. What is wrong with you? Get a job and a haircut. Please just leave us alone. Don’t make us put boots on the ground. We love you and want to be friends. We want to talk. We feel your pain and suffering. Please contact us at whitehouse.gov. Peace and Love.” I hope I didn’t exceed the 140 characters I’m allowed. If so I’ll send it out in multiple tweets. Can you add a selfie to a tweet? Can someone lend me a selfie stick? Oh wait, sticks are for whacking or chasing aren’t they. WOOF!

We may not be in a war with Islam, but it is sure in a war with us. Obama wants to use the Neville Chamberlain approach. Don’t give them credibility by using the term Islam. It’s better to ignore them and they will go away. Sound familiar? Where in the heck is our Winston Churchill? Like Dennis Miller said, “Obama is ‘Churchil lion.’ However, it is Ward, not Winston.” Obama, listen up! Jobs for Jihadists? REALLY! You can’t even solve poverty in America (it’s gotten worse in your 6 years) and you want to solve poverty in the whole Arab/Muslim world. This is a complete waste of time and puts America at further risk. This is how bad it is. Secretary of Homeland Security told Americans to “be careful” if you go to the mall. WOW! Security under the Obama administration. It’s bad. The LPSDs are always saying that we right wing nut jobs always want to solve threatening problems with our military. The LPSDs always want to solve threatening problems with more money. It’s ALWAYS about more money with them. Check out history and see which method has worked the best. WOOF!

May God Have Mercy On America! JMH

Whoever desires to come after Me,
let them deny himself,
and take up the cross,
and follow me.

Mark 8:34, NKJV



Free Trade Is a Scam

by Karl Denninger,
Market-Ticker.org

(Editor/GG: This 21 year, bi-partisan attack on OUR economy by our elected representatives has effectively destroyed our manufacturing base. It CLEARLY shows the absolute stupidity (or corruption) of our representatives with regard to common economic laws. Why would they do this to American workers?)

If you read *Leverage*, you know my view on trade: *The United States must impose wage-and-environmental parity tariffs on goods and services produced for sale in the United States and which (1) are not produced in compliance with U.S. wage and working condition laws and/or (2) arbitrage environmental regulations so to evade cost by imposing environmental expense on those in other nations.*

It is **trivial** to become the “lowest cost” producer of any good or service by simply ignoring environmental responsibility (e.g. dumping your expensive-to-treat toxic waste in the nearest river), or abusing employees through either extraordinarily low wages that are only acceptable due to either generally terrible economic conditions **or worse**, effective slave labor.

An example of the latter is destroying an agricultural society’s ability to continue to farm for their subsistence, effectively forcing them into factories to survive. **Examples of both can be found in nations like Vietnam and China -- for openers.**

There is utterly no reason for our nation to allow this **other than** intentional destruction of our middle class workforce **and, ultimately, our economy** for the benefit of a very few at the very top of large, multi-national corporations.

Now Reuters is weighing in:

Twenty-one years after NAFTA

and four years after Obama’s 2011 U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement, there is abundant data documenting how this trade model has been disastrous for most U.S. businesses, farmers, and workers.

Since the pacts were implemented, U.S. trade deficits, which drag down economic growth, have soared more than 430 percent with our free-trade partners. In the same period, they’ve declined 11 percent with countries that are not free-trade partners. Since fast-track trade authority was used to pass NAFTA and the U.S. entrance into the World Trade Organization, the overall annual U.S. trade deficit in goods has more than quadrupled, from \$218 billion to \$912 billion.

Yep.

The only real answer to this is to cut the cp with the so-called “free-trade” paradigm and instead implement a tariff system that recognizes the differences in production cost that are driven by what amounts to arbitrage against people and the environment.**

Neither the Republican or Democrat party is interested in this issue, and the reason is simple: *The various business interests have only one thing they’re concerned about: their bottom line.*

This is not surprising, of course; the point of running a company is to make a profit. But the *government* is supposed to represent **people**; corporations can lobby, but they cannot vote.

The bottom line on this issue is that the failure is **ours** as citizens -- we refuse to put this issue front-and-center and demand that this rank giveaway to the 0.1% of Americans (never mind foreigners!) at the gross expense of American citizens be stopped.

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Please see: market-ticker.org/akcs-www?post=229855

And Now, The Truth (Measles Outbreak)

by Karl Denniger,
Market-Ticker.org

Hoh hoh hoh, look what the cat dragged in... (Editor/GG: from www.cdc.gov)

“Among the 110 California patients, 49 (45%) were unvaccinated; five (5%) had one dose of measles-containing vaccine, seven (6%) had two doses, one (1%) had three doses, **47 (43%) had unknown or undocumented vaccination status**, and one (1%) had immunoglobulin G seropositivity documented, which indicates prior vaccination or measles infection at an undetermined time. Twelve of the unvaccinated patients were infants too young to be vaccinated. Among the 37 remaining vaccine-eligible patients, 28 (67%) were intentionally unvaccinated because of personal beliefs, and one was on an alternative plan for vaccination.”

In other words of the people who got sick roughly half were illegal invaders.

In point of fact only **one quarter** were intentionally-unvaccinated kids **who were here in America legally, either as citizens or otherwise.**

43%, or nearly double the number, were “unknown or undocumented” as to their vaccinated status, which means they weren’t here in the country legally.

If you were a **visitor** (e.g. tourist) that came into the country and got sick, you’d be asked and would be able to explain.

Who is “unknown or undocumented” as to their vaccination status? That’s simple: **Illegal invaders.**

Cut the ** people -- it is not a bunch of “anti-vaxxers” that caused the majority of this outbreak. Twelve of the unvaccinated people were too young; that risk pool always exists.**

In addition despite the claim that the measles vaccine is 97% effective if you have either

two or three doses the actual field failure rate appears to be rather high. In other words are they lying about the effectiveness of the vaccine, too? And these are *clinical failures* -- the number of people that get a *sub-clinical* case (and thus never go to the doctor or get diagnosed) is probably **much** higher.

As of this point the CDC says they do not know who patient zero is. Uh huh.

Or maybe they do, but it’s someone with an “undocumented” history in more ways than one.

Anyone want to take bets on whether the *mainstream media* honestly reports any of this?

Vaccines and “politicized science,” eh? How about **the truth** as regards to the infection vectors **and the illegal invaders that are both contracting and spreading it?**

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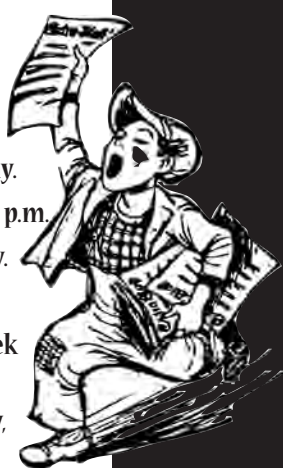
Deadline for all other submissions is noon on Monday, and can be emailed to sdcsentinel@gmail.com

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Local Mountain News & Notices

CDOT From page 16

do. Certainly the people of Penrose and travelers on Highway 50 don't need to be penalized." Representative Navarro and Representative Wilson both agreed. Rep. Navarro said, "I want to say thank you to the city of Penrose and ask that all area residents get involved." Send letters, e-mails, make phone calls, and keep them coming. It is time to make a lot of noise and continue to make noise until this issue is resolved in a way that is fair to all Fremont County residents. Time to kick the skunks out of the wood pile.

According to Richard Burr, co-owner of the Auto Salvage, highway patrol records show there have been six accidents in this area in the past five years. One was caused when a dog entered the path of an oncoming vehicle, two were caused by deer entering the highway, two were roll-over accidents caused by icy road conditions, and one was a rear end collision caused by a vehicle slowing to make the turn at the crossover.

This is just another example of abuse of power by those in government. No doubt, CDOT has the authority and the power to do just as they please in the name of 'PUBLIC SAFETY.' One thing they need to be reminded of however, America is still the home of the free and the brave. There is power in the written word! Ladies and Gentlemen, start your computers and get those e-mails rolling. Time for everyone to help our elected officials help us. Give them the tool they need ... your voice.

Be informed

Get Involved

"Takin' It To The House..."

A Calendar And Commentary From The Golden Dome

From: Representative Jim Wilson – HD 60, February 22, 2015

Last week was Presidents' Day and this week we have a "snow day" -- two short calendar weeks in a row. For those of you that are seeking ways to slow the growth of government...think snow! Due to the 11+ of snow over the weekend here in Denver, the General Assembly did not meet on Monday. Monday's calendar will have to be pushed back later into the week, contributing to a backlog of legislation that is beginning to become a concern to a lot of us here under the Golden Dome. You may recall from last year that the backlog built up until, with just two weeks to go in the session, a third of the total number of bills had yet to be heard. This year is on track for a similar logjam!

One of the bills postponed from Monday was one of mine: HB15-1155 "Concerning Flexibility Regarding The Requirements Imposed On Rural School Districts". HB15-1155 is based on the premise that rural and small school districts who are accredited or accredited with distinction should not have to file progress reports

with the Colorado Department of Education every year. The bill would allow biennial reporting as well as other flexibility for high performing rural districts.

As is usually the case, special interest groups weigh in on bills that may jeopardize their specific agendas and HB15-1155 is no exception. Special interest groups would like every school building in Colorado to be required to post a complete financial statement. The bill would allow small schools to post one, single district-wide financial statement. The other objection is that the bill allows local districts to determine if their children are ready for school, rather than relying solely upon a state-mandated assessment. I happen to believe that local schools are better able to determine what is best for their children vs. the government knowing what is best for their children. What a novel concept! I have been trying to pull all the factions together in an exercise that resembles herding cats. Stay tuned on this challenge...

I mentioned last week another bill of mine that was scheduled to be heard in the House

Education Committee. I am happy to report the bill passed out of committee on a 10-1 bipartisan vote. The bill, HB15-1146: Colorado Student Leaders Institute (co-sponsored by Sen. Nancy Todd: D-Aurora) would create an annual, 4 week summer residential program for exceptional students who have completed 9th or 10th grade and are recommended by their building administrators. The bill will now have to clear the Appropriations Committee before it can be heard on the House floor.

Two other bills I am sponsoring are on the calendar for this week. HB15-1170: "Increasing Postsecondary And Workforce Readiness" (co-sponsored by Rep. Kraft-Tharp: D-District 29) will be heard by the Education Committee on Wednesday. HB15-1170 will heighten awareness of post-secondary careers outside of college and allow school districts to receive credit for preparing students for both college and the workforce. HB15-1180, another bill I am co-sponsoring with Rep. Kraft-Tharp passed the House



Business, Labor & Technology Committee and is scheduled to be heard by the House Finance committee on Thursday.

My bills are seeing a lot of activity this week. Barring any more "snow days" I will be updating you on their progress next week. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us at 303-866-2747 or e-mail us at wilsonforhd60@gmail.com or james.wilson.house@state.co.us. Keep your snow shovel close!

Yours for HD 60 -- Representative Jim Wilson

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