

Clinic Director Explores Centura Takeover of Hospital District

by Paul Sage

At the regular February meeting of the board of the West Custer County Hospital District, a presentation was made regarding a potential takeover of the Clinic and EMS by Centura Health Services by Gary Hildebrandt, the Director of Outreach for Centura Health Services.

Mr. Hildebrandt related that “Centura is a health management company that manages the Catholic assets along the front range, as well as the (Seventh Day) Adventist assets.” Nearby examples of these are St. Mary Corwin, Penrose St. Francis, and St. Thomas More.

According to Mr. Hildebrandt, he, the CEO of St. Thomas More Hospital in Cañon City, and current Clinic Director Delwin Lester have “had several discussions over the last several months now and have met several times and discussed about what it would look like if the rural health clinic that we have here in Custer County was converted from a stand-alone rural health clinic to a provider-based rural health clinic out of St. Thomas More.”

The advantages presented to this kind of arrangement are three, according to Mr. Hildebrandt. First, the federal government reimburses at a higher rate for the same services for these larger entities than it does

for small entities. These higher reimbursement rates don’t necessarily translate immediately into higher billed rates for customers, but higher reimbursement rates do inevitably translate into higher across the board national health care costs and taxes.

Preliminary assessments indicate that the additional take for the clinic could be \$244,000, with St. Thomas More Hospital possibly taking in an additional \$100,000 from the deal. Not discussed was the fact that, as with any ‘free benefit’ from the government, after the additional \$344,000 is spread around to everyone’s health insurance premiums together with additional management fees, the penalty typically far outweighs the benefit long term. In the short term, it would make the clinic’s income stream look more favorable.

The second advantage addressed by Mr. Hildebrandt was that Centura “would take over management of the institution,” resulting in greater efficiencies and more effective billing and collections. This is a very attractive advantage given the flawed management and ineffective billing and collections that have plagued the clinic for years. Centura has a cash flow “somewhere north of 2 billion dollars a year,” according to Mr. Hildebrandt, and that gives them greater billing and collection power,

or “arm twisting” ability, as Mr. Hildebrandt called it.

The third advantage to the takeover scenario outlined by Mr. Hildebrandt is that the clinic would have a better chance of survival with this arrangement. The odds of stand-alone rural health clinics in general surviving in the current age of government controlled and mandated health care are not good, and they commonly fail.

At this time the Centura Health takeover of the Hospital District is very preliminary and “far from a sure thing that we can make this happen,” according to Mr.

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“Dream Makers and Dream Breakers”

by Candi Sage

On February 26, a pair of events were held at Custer County High School featuring motivational speaker, Brad Hearon. Brad spoke about his life of a few years ago; as a young man who was on the fast track to success in high school when his decisions and a failed drug test put an end to his football career and marked the beginning of a downward spiral in his life. That spiraling stopped when a horrific explosion and fire, while cooking meth in his car, forever changed the course of his life.

His presentation, titled “Dream Makers and Dream Breakers,” laid out how small, seemingly insignificant decisions can establish the course of the future of your life. “Show me your friends and I’ll show you your future,” Brad quoted Janet Mayo’s advice; then spoke to how he chose to ignore it when he was choosing the wrong crowd and paths in his life. He spoke of his own decisions that led him down the path he admits to choosing, saying how the consequences of choices can drastically

affect many lives through a selfish lifestyle and selfish thinking.

Given less than 1/10th of 1% chance of survival after the fire that left him with 3rd and 4th degree burns over 80% of his body; and then being left for dead by his own choice of friends on a cold night in January, in a frozen Kansas farm field, Brad had to find the will to survive long before he could even begin the healing needed on both the inside and on the outside of his body.

He explained the process of going from being a victim of his own decisions, “that I, myself made” and the consequences he suffered from the horrific fire; to becoming a survivor and finally, the transition that allowed him to become a person who thrived over the circumstances that forever changed him, inside and out.

Speaking of bullies, he



Brad Hearon, a former drug addict, during his presentation at Custer County School.

pointed out that, “probably the people who are bullying you today will be working for you in the future”. Brad encouraged students to step up to be a positive influence on those around them and to be careful not to, “choose permanent solutions to temporary problems that arise”; pointing out that the huge problems young people are thinking they face in school today “won’t mean that much in 5 or 10 years.”

Brad’s message was well received by middle and high school students.

Students were invited to come back to hear, “the

rest of the story” in an evening session. This evening event was held in the west gym, rented by a private group of individuals and open to the community. The evening crowd of about 75 braved the cold to hear Brad’s inspiring story of how through the faith in God that he was raised with; then abandoned as a teen, came back to him in a jail cell while he was still recovering from his near death experience preparing meth.

He spoke of the darkness he experienced both while in jail and in recovering, and how he came to the end

of himself living selfishly and thinking only of himself. He shared how his faith in God helped him to overcome the challenges he found himself faced with as a result of his own bad choices.

Brad explained how his faith, and renewed faith, has carried him from a broken state to being successfully married and traveling around the country sharing his story with others to help build them up, to help them find success in their lives through good decisions, so they, too, can find a hope worth holding onto for a lifetime.

Daylight Saving Time begins March 8th



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PATRIOT ALERT! Obama Pushes Ban on AR15 Ammo page 20



Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NKJV



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

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

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Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board



THE JOURNEY TO SEE THE WIZARD

On her journey to see the Wizard of OZ, Dorothy was joined by a lion in search of courage, a scarecrow in search of a brain, and a tin man in search of a heart. The Republicans are on a journey to take control of the White House in 2016. The problem is that there is no Dorothy leading the way. There seems to be a whole pride of lions and a battalion of scarecrows, several with the missing qualities of both, leading the way. These “straw lions” can’t seem to get their act together and, although in total control, play like “fraidy cats.” There is an old saying – When in charge, Take charge. The leaders of these two “straw lion” prides (House and Senate) act like they were soundly defeated in November 2014. It was clear that in January of this year there needed to be a plan to lead the newly-controlled Congress in a smart and well-thought out manner. The issues were clear. There was a great deal of good advice. Start sending the president one bill after another that would improve things for the American people especially ones that would grow the economy and create a business environment for new jobs. The XL Keystone Pipeline bill was a good start. President Obama is clearly and solely responsible for squashing that bi-partisan opportunity for jobs and growth. Not funding the unconstitutional “amnesty” portion of the Homeland Security budget created by the president’s executive action was a good idea. Boehner and McConnell knew from the beginning that they needed to seize the narrative here or else a

possible government shut-down would once again be blamed on the Republicans. There is no doubt the media will always blame the Republicans. The important thing was to make sure the American people knew exactly what was going to happen. Twenty-two times the president said, “I can’t do this alone; it’s not constitutional.” But immediately after the mid-term elections, when his poor leadership and bad policies were rebuked by the voting citizens, he decided that he needed a political issue to help his party in the next election cycle. Keep in mind he did absolutely nothing about his “amnesty” program during his first term when he had control of both houses of Congress. Obama’s justification now is that it’s the “right” thing to do. The right thing to do and the legal thing to do are not necessarily the same thing. This was for Congress to do and just because they didn’t do anything about illegal immigration doesn’t mean the president can decide he can and will do it alone. Shortly after the executive order, he made a confession at a campaign rally that he had violated the Constitution when he said, “I have just changed the law.” Regardless, it is now up to the Congress to do something about the violation here of the separation of powers. This is really not about funding the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This is about stopping a president that has decided to seize and execute more power than the Constitution provides him. Congress is a separate but equal branch of government. They need to act like it. This “shut-

ting down” of our Homeland Security is a bogus issue being used very well by the Democrats. The “straw lions” let this happen. It appears they are inept, feckless, and scared. Their weak attempts to pass this defunding of one portion of the DHS budget totally failed. They should have known the Democrats would rally around their president rightly or wrongly. Unfortunately, that is how it works in Washington, D.C.

This bill to prevent the funding of the president’s unlawful amnesty action needed to get to his desk. Then, if he vetoed the bill which would have funded all the rest of the Homeland Security missions in protecting America, the blame, like the pipeline veto, would have been squarely on his shoulders. But this inept handling by the leaders of the “straw lions” has made a mess of it. It was recognized by everyone that the Democrats would not cooperate here in a bi-partisan manner. Did

anyone really expect Harry Reid to help out here? This could have been clearly and cleverly accomplished by using Harry Reid’s own playbook. Charles Krauthammer outlined the method months ago. He said that McConnell would need to take a radical approach, the same one used by Reid to force the approval of liberal progressive judges through Congress in violation of the standing rules of procedure. McConnell, he said, should pass this funding bill out of the Senate on 51 votes, not 60. This is not a constitutional issue but a Senate rules issue. Harry Reid violated Senate rules several times to support the president. Obamacare is with us today because of how Reid and Pelosi “bent” the rules. It’s time the Republicans return the favor and this was a perfect time. The problem was in the Senate. Pass it on a simple majority vote and the bill winds up on the president’s desk. The media would have screamed and bellowed. So what? They didn’t object much

when Reid and Pelosi “massaged” the rules. The president made it clear he operates and governs in support of the two-thirds of Americans who didn’t vote. The Republican-controlled Congress needs to operate and lead in support of the one-third that did vote and gave them a mandate to stop this president who doesn’t respect the Constitution. The “straw lions,” especially the two leaders, need to find some courage and some brain power. This is the way it works in Washington, D.C. Take control and get these things done in an intelligent way. Find the Wizard. Be brave and smart and overcome the opposition. Then Americans like Dorothy (from Kansas), Bill, Ted, and Alice will all support you. If you are not willing to get things done, then get out of the way and let someone else lead. Maybe Boehner and McConnell have been in Washington, D.C., too long. We might need new leaders. We’ve had enough of “leading from behind.”



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Where's The Local Church in the Fight Against Abortion?

by Candy Thompson

Thanks to the staff at the *Sentinel* for supporting "LIFE" and for the editorial on "Protecting the Unborn: The 2015 Campaign Begins". I believe that the support you are giving to the unborn that God loves is bringing a blessing to the *Sentinel* in the favor you are experiencing with the paper. Please continue and don't back down. There are also other victims in this holocaust: for each abortion there is a mother and a father who lost a child.

As one who sat in church for many years fearing I would be condemned for past abortions, I would like to add to your list the local church as the place where abortion, not the sinner, should be most rigorously condemned, and where those who have had abortions can find the healing, forgiveness, and restoration they need.

We as Christians lament over the number of abortions since Roe vs Wade which is now being estimated at 56 million. What most don't know is of that number 37% claim to be Protestant and 28% claim to be Catholic. Where is the preaching of the gospel that teaches that abortion is wrong, that God hates the shedding of innocent blood? Where is the call to purity and the value of staying away from fornication with all of the destruction it causes to the soul? Where is the truth of all the effects that abortion can have on a soul that can bring unimaginable hurt that can last a lifetime and will ultimately bring separation from God for eternity without true repentance? Where is the church that offers help to the one who has fallen into the sin

of fornication and is pregnant needing repentance and restoration without condemnation?

What about those who are sitting in the local church and have had abortions? Can they find healing and deliverance there? Or, instead, would the hurting have to go to a para-church organization away from a church family and go back to sit in the pew with the same issues carrying abortion as a secret rather than giving testimony to the power of the Holy Spirit to set one free? The word of God is powerful and sharp as that two-edged sword and will rightly divide the truth from a lie and the conviction of the Holy Spirit is not one of condemnation. Jesus set up His church as a safe place where the body operates with gifts and callings to teach, preach, edify, rebuke, heal, admonish, love, and build up the saints and there is no other group that can fill that calling and with which God has a covenant to do so.

Are we farming out our hurt and wounded to the inept hands of psychology, and psychology who mix a little scripture with their new age junk, or even bringing their ungodly methods into the church? Is the church a place where forgiven sinners can come forward and glorify God with the testimony of what God has done or is it a place to come and get your ears tickled where the salt has lost its flavor?

What they may regrettably find in the church is a far cry from what Jesus would have them experience. Would they sit in fear of condemnation knowing that they would forever wear the "scarlet letter"

if some of the "religious" folk who obviously never have sinned found out? God forbid that they would ever be allowed to teach the children or sing in the choir if their past were revealed.

Or, in other more seeker-friendly churches, would they ever hear a sermon on the sin of abortion as murder or hope for a pathway to healing through repentance and forgiveness? They might feel loved and accepted just as they are and yet never feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit to repent and be saved. After all, getting the "unchurched" into the church and then being careful not to offend them is most important.

These are extremes, but unfortunately, in most cases, the local church would never make the list of places where the fight against abortion is the most rigorous, nor would it be the place you'd tell someone to go to get healing from the effects of abortion, yet it is the place that could be most effective in doing both.

God Bless those Christians working in these organizations mentioned in the article and possibly they come from churches who are remaining true to Jesus and His word. There is also one group you didn't mention and that's the Abortion Abolitionists, a group that may be considered extreme by some. Just as the Christian Abolitionists against slavery did not compromise, this group also does not compromise and is known for its bold posters on abortion that so many find offensive. More may be found on them at www.abolishhumanabortion.com. Thanks and God Bless!

Yamamoto Was Correct

by J Cascarelli

It is widely believed that Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy during WW II said, "You cannot invade the mainland United States. There would be a rifle behind every blade of grass." No one knows for sure that Yamamoto actually said this, but he could have said it. After all, he knew Americans very well. Yamamoto attended Harvard University for at least two years and spoke fluent English. He possessed a good understanding of the American industrial capabilities. How has this belief lasted so long?

In 1960, fifteen years after V-J Day, American and Japanese combatants met aboard the USS Constellation for a social event. It was a Naval Commander Robert Menard who told of someone at the banquet table that asked a Japanese Admiral, "...why, with the Pacific Fleet devastated at Pearl Harbor and the mainland U.S. forces in what Japan had to know was a pathetic state of un-readiness, Japan had not simply invaded the West Coast." One of the Japanese Naval officers (his name lost to obscurity) answered as follows, "You are right, we did indeed know much about your preparedness. We knew that probably every second home in your country contained firearms. We knew that your country actually had state championships for private citizens shooting military rifles. We were not fools to set foot in such quicksand."

It is easy to imagine Yamamoto saying this back in 1942. He knew America and Americans. America alone, unlike its sister countries Canada, Australia, and India, all once British colonies, secured its freedom with an armed rebellion and an eight-year-long war that was financially crippling for Britain. America has a strong and enduring firearms' culture. Consider the numbers. American civilians own 300,000,000 firearms. Of these, 110,000,000 are rifles. Handguns and shotguns combined number 200,000,000. What is interesting is that when you combine military and police small arms, we add another 3,815,000 to the total. Thirty-five percent of American households have one

or more firearms according to 2012 statistic. This number is likely larger with the recent spurt of firearm purchases. When a potential enemy considers an invasion and an occupation of America, it will wisely combine small arms ownership with a demonstrated willingness to fight. By any measure, this is a major deterrent.

"We knew that probably every second home in your country contained firearms. We knew that your country actually had state championships for private citizens shooting military rifles. We were not fools to set foot in such quicksand."

What is puzzling is why well-known anti-Second Amendment presidents like Carter, Clinton, and Obama seem to not factor this reality into their home defense planning. Let's remember that presidents and former presidents have a whole gaggle of heavily-armed Secret Service agents, at taxpayer expense, for life. Why isn't this deterrent obvious to John Hickenlooper, Chuck Schumer, and Hillary Clinton? Because of America's size, terrain, and diversity of population, the challenge of occupation would and should stymie our enemies. Even a country like China with 1.4 billion people and little regard for human life would pay an enormous price in treasure and lives invading the United States.

There are some, no doubt, who would say that an enemy would use weapons of mass destruction to conquer America. This is unlikely because who would want an America with cities and pro-

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Silver Cliff Town Board Meeting March 2, 2015

by Larry Luikart

Mayor Weber called the meeting to order and Mr. Lowe lead the assembled group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Weber called the roll and all members were present with the exception of Ms. Wolf who was excused. There were no amendments to the agenda.

The Trustees approved the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Custer County Sheriff's Office based on the previous contract. Sheriff Byerly indicated he was willing to accept the agreement this year with the stipulation of possible new negotiations for next year. Silver Cliff will compensate the Sheriff's Department in the amount \$5,000 for services. In a related matter the Trustees approved the donation of two decibel meters to the Sheriff's Department to enforce the noise ordinance.

Barbara Sutton gave a report on Club America. Highlighting her talk she indicated the swimming pool is not ADA approved but they are working on a plan to get in compliance. In an effort to determine how many people in the area might need a lift to get in and out of the pool, she requested people contact Club America if you are interested. The agreement between Silver Cliff and Club America expires in April. Club America will then come out from under the Silver Cliff umbrella and function as its own entity. She indicated there will be some need for the barristers from the two entities to talk. Ms. Sutton and Major Weber decided to work out the details at a later time.

Roger Camper gave a brief report on the continuing effort of Silver Cliff to com-

ply with the Dark Skies initiative. After several phone calls and some jaw boning it appears a plan is taking shape that will permit Silver Cliff to provide the necessary funding for the initiative without tapping into the general fund. The missing piece of information that could take the entire plan back to a clean ledger sheet is the total cost for the 52 lights in the town. Those figures are not yet available. More work is being done.

Troy Hobby reported he has been pushing lots of snow, working on the baseball field in preparation for spring use and fixing the graffiti damage at the dug-out. During the public comments session Joy Lewis, who lives on First Street, indicated she is high-centering her vehicle turning off the street into her drive. Apparently, a large amount of snow, ice, and rocks are building up during plowing operations. Mr. Hobby and Mr. Camper will look at the situation for possible solutions.

Ms. Squire reported the DOLA training for Trustees is March 11, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Program is holding board training on March 31, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. along with Disaster 101 training at 5:30 p.m. on the same day. Ms. Squire presented a new form: Street Closure and Property Use Application. The Trustees approved the form, but Ms. Squire indicated an ordinance is necessary to make the entire process legal.

March 11, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. a Ride the Rockies meeting will take place for all the business owners in Silver Cliff and Westcliffe regarding the upcoming event. There is some con-

cern that two thousand spandex clad bike riders may overwhelm the businesses. This meeting is being held to help iron out (forgive the pun) those concerns.

Winter Fest was canceled and the Planning Commission meeting has been moved to March 23, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

The regular Trustees meeting on February 2, 2015, and the special meeting on February 23, 2015, minutes were approved. The Treasurer's and Financial Reports along with paying of the bills were all approved. Jackie Barnes gave a report on the continued activities of the Economic Development Committee.

During the public comments section of the meeting Aliah D. Behrendt offered her concerns regarding the deer situation in Silver Cliff. Her main point was the fact we live in a mountain community and the deer are here. The people should adapt to them not the other way around. Mayor Weber responded by indicating the Trustees are seeking only information at this time. There is no proposed ordinance regarding the control of deer and there is no decision on hunting deer in Silver Cliff. Joy Lewis also asked several questions regarding the deer situation. One of her concerns centered on the area of the community where deer might be hunted with a bow. Once she was informed the intent was to allow, if approved, only hunting on the outskirts of the town in low population areas her concern seemed to diminish.

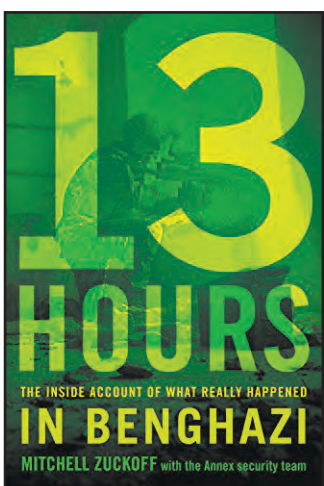
Having no further business Major Weber called for and received a unanimous vote to adjourn.

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.

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CLINIC From page 1

Hildebrandt. One of the questions inherent in this kind of proposal is whether the citizens of Custer County would be favorable toward the idea of a faith-based, private corporation taking over management of nearly a million of their tax dollars per year. There are also federal regulatory, state licensing, and other legal questions in the arrangement as well.

The risk either way is not only to the clinic operation, but also to the EMS, which

currently operates under the clinic umbrella. While Mr. Hildebrandt himself has a history as a paramedic, the company he represents has virtually no management experience in this area. They do operate flight for life services, but only very recently ventured into EMS management with their management agreement to salvage the failed hospital district in Leadville which operates an EMS service.

Like the Leadville situation, this scenario would probably at least insure the survival of the clinic for a short time into the future, but possibly at the expense

of the EMS service here the voters recently voted their support for in the form of an increased mill levy.

Private corporations, unlike government entities and special districts, are under no obligation to open their books to public scrutiny. They are not subject to open meetings laws and have no need for transparency with the public, all of which were concerns voiced by the community during the recent mill levy increase campaign.

It will pay to watch the future planning unfold over the coming months.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Commissioners Move County Road ATV Use Forward

by Paul Sage

A discussion was held at the February 27th meeting of the Board of County Commissioners regarding the approval of Off Highway Vehicles or OHVs on the roads of Custer County. OHVs are the broad category of vehicles that cannot be registered or licensed to be on roads by the state. These are commonly things like ATVs and dirt bikes that don't meet the requirements of registration in Colorado.

Both the towns of Westcliffe and Silver Cliff already permit the use of these vehicles within their town limits, and there has been a push on for some time to legalize and regulate the use of these vehicles on county roads in a uniform manner for some time.

Some of the reasons for the proposed legalization

are the increased tourist revenue that would likely be generated by people coming here to enjoy the scenic beauty of the valley with their OHVs, creating uniform rules for the use of these vehicles within the county, and creating guidelines to uniformly enforce the regulations regarding these vehicles within the county by means of a standard ordinance that would apply the same to the towns and the county.

The proposed ordinance will be modeled after those of many surrounding counties and towns that have already successfully moved forward in this direction. Some general provisions likely to be included in the proposed ordinance are that the vehicles must have insurance, the operators must be licensed drivers at least 16 years of age, and all provisions of general traffic laws would be followed on the roads.

With much of the research and groundwork already completed, the commissioners voted to move forward with a review committee made up of representatives of the towns of Westcliffe and Silver Cliff, the Sheriff's Office and the County Attorney to hammer out a final draft of the ordinance to be considered for approval. If this is accomplished in a timely manner, as the parties seem motivated to do, the ordinance could potentially be adopted in time for the tourist season this year.

"I think we can move pretty fast on this," Commissioner Attebery commented, with endorsement of the idea from many diverse groups involved, and the many successfully implemented similar ordinances in surrounding areas. A goal was set to have a first reading of the proposed ordinance at the first County Commissioners meeting in April.

CORRECT From page 3

duction resources in rubble and uninhabitable for a century or two. Sure, crazies like Iraq, North Korea, and a country-less ISIS with little or nothing to lose might consider total destruction. But, at some point the draw of America's wealth and resources would necessitate some sort of invasion. The cost of facing 100,000,000 citizens armed with rifles and the skills to use them would be enormous.

So, when I see a group of citizens, like our Custer County Democrats, who are embarrassed by America's private ownership of firearms, it is difficult to take them seriously. As for politicians committed to disarming America, they should look at recent history in our former sister colonies. Canada tried to ban private ownership

of firearms 20 years ago, but it has abandoned the effort because its citizenry just wouldn't cooperate. This was good luck for Canada. How would Canada be able to defend its 3.8 million square miles with 35 million weaponless people? Australia would be in even greater jeopardy with 22 million people and a land mass of 3 million square miles.

Personally, I love the idea of fighting our enemies on their own soil. But, if our weak-kneed politicians, who think that the can reason with the Putins and the bin Ladens of the world prevail with their "we can talk them out of it" policies and the unthinkable happens, the last line of defense, a citizen militia of 100,000,000 skilled riflemen armed with firearms with which they have practiced, will save the day. God Bless America.

Westcliffe Town Board Meeting March 3, 2015

by Larry Luikart

The Westcliffe Town Board opened with Mayor Veltrie leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. All the members were present with the exception of Mr. Wenke who was excused. The previous meeting minutes, Treasurer's report and Approval of Bills were all approved in short order.

The Board had no Old Business. Town Attorney Printz discussed a current working proposal with the Sheriff's Office and the Silver Cliff town Board to create a checklist for enforcement of the Unified Parking violation statutes.

The Board asked Sheriff Byerly to attend the meeting for an exchange of ideas regarding issues and concerns relating to enforcement in the community. A lengthy, very productive, open discussion ensued between Sheriff Byerly and the Board. Mayor Veltrie offered several concerns regarding enforcement issues and Sheriff Byerly responded by offering his honest assessment of the current situation. He emphasized his desire for open and honest communication with the Board. They agreed with a further discussion set for the May meeting.

The Board went into Executive Session at this point regarding a matter of deep importance.

Colorado Attorney General: Pot is Not Worth It

by Paul Sage

Colorado State Attorney General Cynthia Coffman relayed that bit of advice to her counterparts from other states at an Attorneys General Conference recently in Washington, D.C.

"The criminals are still selling on the black market... We have plenty of cartel activity in Colorado (and) plenty of illegal activity that has not decreased at all," she was quoted as saying at the meeting in a February 23rd *U.S. News* article.

Ms. Coffman called the \$76 million in taxes and fees raised by the legalization of marijuana in the state in the last year "not worth it." In addition to not reducing black market activities and the social consequences of legalizing what has long been considered a hazardous substance and a gateway to more dan-

gerous drugs that remains illegal on the federal level, the state now faces numerous lawsuits, the Attorney General will be forced to expend state revenue to defend from other states and citizen's groups.

Meanwhile, Washington State faces its own legal battles surrounding marijuana and the confusing Obama federal mandate to not interfere with state efforts to legalize the drug

In a case that has come to be known as the "Kettle Five," a group of pot producers, is being federally prosecuted for growing more pot than legally allowed under the state's medical marijuana guidelines before the state legalized the recreational use of the drug.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Rice, an Obama appointee, has denied that guidelines against federal intervention set forth in a large budget bill to prevent federal drug

prosecutions, applies in the case.

The defendants in the case hoped the Obama pot shield law or the fact that the state of Washington has legalized the substance would work to their defense. However Judge Rice agreed with a lower court ruling that the defendants have "no right to introduce irrelevant evidence" about the state regulations of the federally illegal drug.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Caitlin Brunsgard told a lower court that "these things (the state legislation) are not relevant and they could confuse a jury," according to details reported by *U.S. News*. Both the lower court and Judge Rice have agreed, eliminating the defendant's argument that the state approves of the activity. Each defendant faces a mandatory minimum 10-year sentence if convicted of the drug trafficking charge.



The Ranch of Hope Counseling, with Chaplain David and Hope Taylor are offering, in light of the recent tragedies that have affected our Community, free Grief Counseling. Simply advise those you know who may want to have a Biblically-based counseling approach to their sorrow of this opportunity. We serve individuals, families and can accommodate small groups. Simply ask them to review our web page www.ranchofhope.org, fill out the client application, and call for an appointment: 719-783-9642

Sincerely,

Dave and Hope Taylor, Ranch of Hope Counseling

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

Local Mountain News & Notices



*My reading of history
convinces me that
most bad government
results from too much
government.*

Thomas Jefferson

Founding Father and Third President of the United States

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Crazy Days (& Crazy Nights)

We can always find some reason to celebrate. Please check out the National Days and Months below. Surely you will find one or two that will give you cause to celebrate. If you want to know the origins and details of any of them, please go to NationalDayCalendar.com and check them out. For March we especially like National Puppy Day (23rd) and National Medal of Honor Day (25th). Or maybe National Caffeine Awareness Month would better suit you - we can't do without it! Anyway, we are sure you can find some reason to smile. See you at the bakery on the 2nd for Banana Cream Pie Day!

March 2

*National Old Stuff Day
National Read Across America
Day (Dr. Seuss Day)
National Banana Cream Pie Day*

March 3

*National I Want You To Be
Happy Day*

March 4

National Hug a G.I. Day

March 11

National Johnny Appleseed Day

March 13

National K9 Veterans Day

March 16

*National Everything You Do
Is Right Day*

March 19

*National Let's Laugh Day
National Certified Nurses Day*

March 21

National Common Courtesy Day

March 23

*National Chip and Dip Day
National Puppy Day*

March 25

National Medal of Honor Day

March 27

National Joe Day

March 28

*National Something on
a Stick Day*

March 30

*National Take a Walk in
the Park Day*

March 31

National Bunsen Burner Day

The month of March is also observed as the national month of:

*Caffeine Awareness Month
Frozen Food Month
Umbrella Month
Women's History Month*

Find your day and celebrate!

Custer County School Board Work Session

by Larry Luikart

The Board began their meeting at 9:00 a.m. with Superintendent Selle acting as coordinator for the meeting. All Board members were present with the exception of Dr. Davis. She was unable to attend due to weather-related issues.

Please note: The Working Group Meeting is not a policy - making forum. The Board gathers with the administrators from the district in a less formal structure than a regular board meeting to plan, discuss, and to create proposed policy for consideration and binding vote at a regular scheduled meeting.

The Graduation Guidelines community forum has been tentatively set for March 16, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Selle discussed once again the need to update the district website. Several proposals were made in regard to reducing costs. The Technology Committee will be informed of the proposed ideas so they may add their

input to the discussion.

Mr. Selle spent considerable time in a report regarding the recent tragic suicide and the resulting proposed changes related to improvements in identification, counseling, and prevention for troubled students. The situation required an immediate reaction to the known troubled students so they could receive the help they needed in a timely manner. This part of the plan has been accomplished. The second part of the plan requires discussions with parents, students, and teachers in relation to the suicide issue and the need for the entire community, not just the school, to be engaged in an effort to prevent another occurrence. This last incident will require changes in school policy and protocols. The Board offered constructive ideas but it became immediately apparent that no definitive plans could be developed at this early stage. All present offered their continued dismay at this event and their individual sorrow

for everyone concerned.

The Board in a very lively give-and-take discussion considered goals for the Superintendent. The Board settled on three broad areas: 1.) Public Relations. Goal: Increase community communications and enhance public relations. Action items include facilitation of biannual community forums and submitting monthly articles to newspapers and posting information on Facebook. 2.) Student Achievement. Goal: Improve student achievement results. Action Items: Improve (5% was suggested as an obtainable goal) the NWEA national norm from fall testing to winter testing on 80% of tests. Increase the ACT aggregated composite score. 3.) Long-Range Planning. Goal: Improve Long-Range Planning. Action items: Deliver a capital improvement plan to the Board by October 1, 2015, and a curriculum replacement cycle to the Board by May 1, 2015.

Since there were no further items on the agenda the Board adjourned.



What Do I Do With My Worn Out Flag? New Drop-off Location Announced

The U.S. Flag - our Colors and our Symbol - deserves our highest respect at all times, even when it becomes worn and unserviceable. The United States Flag Code and American Legion guidance prescribe how to dispose of a U.S. Flag.

As part of its charter, The American Legion is available to receive and properly dispose of your unserviceable U.S. Flags. Bring your flags to the new location at the Custer County Library and leave it at the front desk. USAF Veteran Ted Ballard will assure your flag is properly stored and disposed of at a future ceremony for that purpose. See www.legion.org/flag/ceremony for

more information.

The Legion extends sincere thanks to Amy Moulton and the library for supporting this effort. This is a community program.

Post 170 of the American Legion family will conduct a public flag disposal ceremony sometime this spring or summer. Look for an announcement in the newspaper.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Dreher, at 783-2462 or robertedreher1@gmail.com, Chairman-Flags for Main Street, PAO, The American Legion Post 170.

***Come to me,
all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.***

Matt. 11:28-29, NIV

Local Mountain News & Notices

CFO Strives to Separate Budgets Within the Hospital District

by Paul Sage

New clinic CFO Theresa Kennedy has been making a valiant effort to appropriately separate the clinic and EMS budgets in the wake of public pressure to do so in meetings leading up to the passage of the mill levy increase to support the EMS this past November. If you recall, the new mill levy and the portion of the old levy already dedicated to EMS were to be used exclusively for that purpose, and no additional money was approved for the clinic operation.

Ms. Kennedy has spent considerable effort studying every cost and payment that passes through the Hospital District to determine how to budget it appropriately to either the EMS or the Clinic.

A conflict in the process arose at the February Hos-

pital District Board meeting when Ms. Kennedy revealed she was allocating 3.103 mills of the total 7.908 mill levy that the District receives to the EMS. It was pointed out by former Board Treasurer Chuck Ippolito that on a motion from former Board Member Brent Bruiser, the board voted on August 20th of last year that "if the mill levy is approved, the (newly approved) 3 mills and an additional ½ mill from the current Hospital District property taxes would be transferred," according to the minutes from that meeting.

Ms. Kennedy arrived at the wrong figure of 3.103 mills from misinformation delivered by Board Member Bob Tobin at the community forum meetings that neglected to take the August 20th move into account, though he voted for it at that time.

Ms. Kennedy quickly corrected the error to reflect the accurate information.

Somewhat disturbing is the fact that until Mr. Ippolito pointed out the error, everyone in the district management approved of the erroneous figures gleaned from Mr. Tobin's presentation. Even "Pete Michaelson, our attorney, has concurred with all of our understanding, including the percentage allocation. He said that they have all been done appropriately," according to Ms. Kennedy. Fortunately, Ms. Kennedy corrected the error promptly when it was pointed out by Mr. Ippolito.

Unfortunately, due to a lag in getting updated minutes and financials posted to the web site – the only place it is posted – Ms. Kennedy's diligent work toward budget transparency is not yet apparent to the public.

Legal Fees a Cost of Doing Government Business

by Paul Sage

The kind and extent of legal expenses incurred by all kinds of government entities continues to grow as society becomes more litigious and activist judges attempt to set more policy.

Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman recently bemoaned the need to defend the state's legal marijuana policy against numerous lawsuits that have been filed against it by other states and citizen's groups.

The town of Westcliffe recently spent the better part of a long meeting discussing an ordinance drafted by Attorney Jay Printz defining a nuisance in the town and wound up not adopting it because no one could understand it.

Custer County recently had

to pay their county attorney to research a broad Colorado Open Records Acts request by a local newspaper, the *Wet Mountain Tribune*, concerning the county's choice of legal publisher for the public notices and further to create an official policy on how to respond to such requests in a uniform way in the future.

The West Custer County Hospital District has been sued numerous times in recent years by citizens and employees and is forced to expend legal fees to defend against these lawsuits. They have also initiated a legal action against one of their previous billing companies for failing to perform the service adequately.

All of these and other government entities are forced to regularly expend taxpayer

er funds for legal advice on issues before they can move forward, confident that they won't step on someone's legal toes.

While there are no comparable statistics readily available for Colorado, the office of the State Comptroller for New Jersey completed a review that revealed that "municipalities and school districts across the state spend more than \$100 million on legal services each year, not including amounts spent by other local governments such as counties, fire districts, and independent authorities."

The \$87,000 spent by the county to defend itself for its part in a property dispute between two citizens is an example of the bigger problem of out of control legal expenses for all governments.



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Turn south on Mill Street for 1/2 mile.

Look for big green and tan barn on the right.

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Reminder:

**Custer County School District C-1
Regular School Board Meeting
in the Great Room
Tuesday, March 10th, at 4:30 p.m.**

*We love Him
because He first loved us.*

1 John 4:19, NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

You Ought To Be In Pictures!

The Wild West Cowboy Church is proud to announce that we are in the process of gathering funding to start the Rafter Box J Production Company. Our goal will be to produce western themed movies right here in the Wet Mountain Valley that will have the youth of our community as the primary actors. Our movies will be similar to Facing the Giants, Fireproof, and Courageous but

with a western flair. We are seeking volunteer actors of all ages, horse wranglers, stage hands, camera operators, film editors, and anyone with motion picture experience. If you are interested in saddling up with us in this exiting new adventure, please send us a detailed email of you desires and any experience you have. Please email to: Isatarea1@aol.com



Cotopaxi Good Citizenship

GREAT JOB! Introducing the kids who received the good citizenship award for determination for the third quarter at Cotopaxi Elementary School.
Left to Right: Second Grader: Emily Price; Third Grader: Ciali McGinniss; First Grader: Hayden Eggleston; First Grader: Bailey Donohoo; and Superintendent Randy Bohlander.

Courtesy photo by Mrs. Mia Will

Custer County Bobcats Basketball Play-offs Update

by Jim Silver

The February 27th issue of the *Sentinel* reported the scores of District 1 Play-off opening games for boys and girls basketball teams, played on Tuesday, February 24th. As reported, the boys traveled to Del Norte and lost their final game of the season 52-78. This footnote to that information goes to show that the final score doesn't sufficiently tell the whole story. Conner Rowley played his final game wearing #4 as a Bobcat basketball player, scoring 29 of his team's 52 points. He sank 7 of 15 in the 3-point range and 4 of 8 2-point shots. On top of that, Rowley led the team in rebounds with 10, finishing his high school career in good style! Del Norte went on to a second-place finish, losing the District championship game to Sanford.

The Lady Bobcats are still in the running, with their February 24th win on the home court over Center, 46-40. This was truly a point-for-point game until the 4th quarter. The Bobcats then outscored the Vikings 18-13, with all of those points in the margin scored in the final 2 minutes of the game. Free-throws made up the difference with deadly shooting by Ham throughout the game and then Schlabach at the end. Head Coach Gary Fischer described the final minutes for these girls like this: "The last two minutes of the game was the best basketball played all year.

The future is looking good for this young group of girls. When they learn to play with that sense of urgency the whole game, 'Look out!'" He added that the girls have been shooting 50-100 free-throws during every practice for the past two weeks, and it has paid off. Serenity Ham hit 9 of 10 from the line.

With that win in the first game of Districts, the team traveled on to Adams State College in Alamosa to continue on into the play-off brackets. The Lady Bobcats were first matched up with Sargent on Friday, the 27th. The team went into half-time with a 5-point lead, and the game appeared to be going the way we'd like, but for a slow start by Custer County in the 3rd quarter. The Bobcats were outscored 7-15, and though they pulled it back together in the 4th quarter, they lost the low-scoring game to the Farmers 35-38. Taylor Staton led the team in scoring with 16.

On Saturday, February 28th, Custer County played Sanford, a team which is always expected to be a strong opponent. The Lady Bobcats showed up to play basketball though having to play catch-up



Ham scored NINE out of TEN free-throws! Great job!

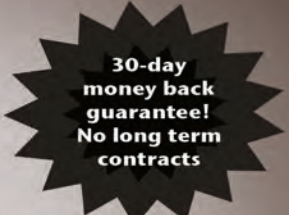
Sentinel photo by Jim Silver

after an 8-point deficit in the first quarter. They were in the game thereafter, but couldn't make up that difference and lost 32-45. Elizabeth Mullett scored a team-leading 10 points, and Staton was just a point behind. With this loss, the Lady Bobcats placed 4th in District 1. Del Norte defeated Sargent for 1st place, but with that being said, Custer County is a team to watch next year since they have competed well throughout the season against every team in the District and are not graduating any seniors.

The Lady Bobcats continue to play basketball, and next on the schedule is a trip to Otero Junior College in La Junta for Regionals. This time, Custer County will face yet another team of Farmers—the undefeated Hoehne Farmers. **The game will be played the day this issue of the *Sentinel* is in the hands of its readers, Friday, March 6 at 1:00 pm. WAY TO GO, BOBCATS!**



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When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty.
Thomas Jefferson - Third President of the United States

Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcat Youth Basketball Closed Out A Remarkable Season

by Kristen Foster

The Bobcat Youth Basketball season ended this past Saturday with a full house in the East Gym. The crowd was thick and showed outstanding support to all of our players.

The game to award third place for the Junior Division went to the Blue Jays (coached by Jack Swartz) with a score of 26-12 over the Broncos (coached by Shelly Penkoff). Josh Wofford controlled the game with 17 points for the Blue Jays. Also scoring for the Blue Jays were Harry Kroecker with 5 and Raina Rusch with 4. Graycee Cravens and Brylee Shy showed valuable guard play for the Blue Jays. The Broncos showed well rounded scoring, with Christopher Mullett having 6 and Brooke Bomgardner, Colt Moulton and Isaac Smerchek each adding 2 points.

The Junior Division Champion for the 2015 season went to the Hawks, coached by Trent Stafford and Gary Fischer, with the Lions placing second (coached by Shawn and Brenda Gaide) with a final score of 30-10. Samantha Gray of the Hawks showed superb defense and rebounding while also putting in 21 points for the Hawks. Also for the Hawks, Lexi Wetendorf added four, Zach Smerchek 3, while Grant Rusk and Matthew Ensy each had two. Ben Stafford and Stephen Hess had exceptional defense for the Hawks. For the Lions, Mia Sayhouse led her team with 6 points, while Willie Bo Cline added two. Ariana Eischer and Ainsley Selle each showed great rebounding for the Lions.

In the Junior Division, Samantha Gray was a force this season for the Hawks. She averaged 14 points per game on the season. She received the High Scorer Award. Brooke Bomgardner, from the Broncos, received the Team Player Award, Josh Wofford, of the Blue Jays, received the Most Improved Award and the Defensive Player Award went to Mia Sayhouse,

from the Lions. Coach's Awards were given to Grant Rusk, of the Hawks, Paige Lorenzen, from the Lions, Raina Rusch, from the Blue Jays and Isaac Smerchek, from the Broncos.

The Senior Division Champion for the 2015 season went to the Lakers, coached by Kristen Foster and Gary Fischer. The Heat coached by Shelly Penkoff placed second and the Thunder coached by Jack Swartz came in third.

In the Championship game, the Lakers prevailed over the Heat with a score of 17-8. The Lakers had an undefeated season! The Lakers were led in scoring by Cameron Penkoff with 6. Micah Zeller showed stunning defense at the guard position and also added 4 points for the Lakers. Zach Fischer added 3, while Morgan Foster and Ty Bomgardner each added two for the Lakers. Also for the Lakers, Ashtin Wetendorf and AJ Stolzhus showed swarming defensive play. For the Heat, Garrett Stepanich had all of the team's eight points. Brooke Flynn and Bubba Widger rebounded well for the Heat.

The Senior Division high scorer came off of the Thunder, Ben Penkoff. He was awarded the high scorer award with an average of 11.4 points per game. Zach Fischer received the Team Player Award, Morgan Foster received the Most Improved Award and the Defensive Player Award went to Micah Zeller, all from the Lakers. Coach's Awards were given to Cameron Penkoff, of the Lakers, Garrett Stepanich, from the Heat and Chad



Heat vs Thunder in the senior youth division.

Courtesy photo by Kristen Foster

Lewis, of the Thunder.

Special thanks to the league's volunteers! This league would be impossible to pull off without several dedicated people from the community. Coaches this season were Gary Fischer, Kristen Foster, Shawn Gaide, Brenda Gaide, Shelly Penkoff, Trent Stafford and Jack Swartz. Referees: Lane Byerly, Kristen Foster, Ashley Schlabach, Roger Squire and assisting with the Senior Championship game was Shannon Byerly. Score table/Music: Emily Crossley, Duane Foster and Ross Penkoff. Set up and tear down: Eugene Berry and crew.

Also, we would like to encourage all 5th graders to consider playing in both the middle school league as well as the Bobcat Youth League. Schedules do not conflict and it does nothing but make you a better ball player. On top of that, we were still playing games long after the middle school season is over. Any questions or concerns please get a hold of Kristen Foster at 783-0142.

Another thing, we are planning for a clinic this summer for all 1st -3rd grade boys and girls and another clinic for all 4th -8th grade girls and boys. Keep your eyes posted!

Thank-you, ALL, for your support. See you next season!!

CCHS Seniors Discover Local Scholarships

by Troy Bomgardner

On Wednesday, February 25th, the CCHS seniors gathered to be introduced to local agencies that are providing scholarship money for college bound students. Over 16 agencies attended the annual meet and greet event sponsored by PTSO. "This event is a great evening for the agencies and seniors to get hooked up together," stated CCHS counselor Troy Bomgardner. "This is the third year of the event and it grows a little bit each year with PTSO doing a great job with our prizes and snacks."

The PTSO provides snacks in addition to a mini-fridge and microwave as a giveaway

to the seniors. The event is an important step in the scholarship process for the local agencies. Applications are handed out and representatives get to put a face to a name of the applicants. "Our local agencies are great supporters of our students," commented Bomgardner. "And this gives them a night to interact with the students in a personal way." Senior Michael Franta added, "It meant a lot to have the local organizations to spend their evening and support the senior class" Local scholarship applications are available in Mr. Bomgardner's office with deadlines from March to May. Students and their parents can go to www.cchs-counseling.weebly.com to learn about over 50 local, state, and national scholarships.



Bobcat Menu • March 9 - March 12, 2015

Monday breakfast
French Toast
Sausage Links
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Corn Dogs
Birthday Cake
Choice of Veg. & Fruit
Milk

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

Wednesday breakfast
Sausage Gravy
Biscuits
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Ground Beef Mac
Choice of Veg.
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Thursday breakfast
Cheese Quesadilla
Fruit
Milk
lunch
Meatball Sandwich
Choice of Veg.
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Elementary: Main dish, bread, milk, choice of 1 veg. & 1 fruit
Middle & High School: Salad Bar
No K-5th on Thursday this week.

KIDS

Friday, March 6, 2015

Emmet Dalton Goes to Prison March 8, 1893

So, who was Emmet Dalton? He was born in 1871, one of 15 children of Lewis and Adeline Dalton, and the youngest of the brothers. The family had settled in Coffeyville, Kansas. Two of the older brothers turned to a life of crime and left for California and to a string of train robberies. They didn't include their brother, Emmet, because they thought he was too young. A few years later when they returned, however, Emmet wanted to follow in their footsteps and they agreed. Emmet rode off with them, leaving his sweetheart named Julia Johnson behind. Emmet said, "I rode away. An outlaw has no business having a girl, no business thinking of marriage."

After more train robberies, they wanted to do something more "exciting". The three Dalton brothers, along with two other outlaw friends, decided to rob two banks at the same time, across the street from one another and in broad daylight - in Coffeyville! The townspeople were alerted that the Dalton Gang was headed their way, and even though the gang members tried to disguise themselves by wearing beards, they were recognized. The townspeople banded together and surrounded the two banks. When the outlaws came out of the banks, a fierce gun battle broke out. All the outlaws were killed except Emmet. Even though he received 23 bullet wounds, he survived, and was then sentenced to life in prison.

After 14 years in prison, Emmet was paroled and returned to society a changed man. He finally married his sweetheart, Julia Johnson, and chose a normal life. He began a successful career in real estate. The couple finally moved to Los Angeles where he also became a consultant in Hollywood for western movies. He died in 1937 at the age of 66.

Source: www.history.com

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

A special THANK YOU to Kristen Foster for helping us with the GREAT articles and photos of the Bobcat Youth Basketball Season!



CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

An icon of a pair of scales of justice, with a large exclamation mark in the center, symbolizing legal notices.

The following is a list of all bills presented, audited, and ordered by the Board of County Commissioners of Custer County, Colorado, from their respective funds at the regular meeting on February 27, 2015.

Custer County Payments for General Fund Payments From February 1, 2015 - February 27, 2015		
Vendor Name	Description	Amount
ALTUS ENVIRONMENTAL LLC	WESTCLIFFE LNDFL SAMPLES	791.50
AMERICAN FIDELITY ASSURANCE	DS W/H	289.42
AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE	CN W/H	82.60
APPLE TIME INC	SHERIFF SUPPLIES	617.10
AT & T MOBILITY	SERVICE	938.07
BERG HILL GREENLEAF & RUSCITTI	PROF SRVS	5,006.96
CARD SERVICES	TREAS TRAINING ACCOM	171.98
CCAA % TONYA MCCANN	2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES	600.00
CCNC INC	SHERIFF MEMBER DUES	100.00
CENTURYLINK	WETMORE COMM BLDG/FIRE	438.72
CENTURYLINK	SERVICES	2,913.24
CLUB AMERICA WMV	MEMBER W/H	45.00
CMI ROADBUILDING INC	LNDFL COMPACTOR REPAIR	267.88
COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE	ELECTION TRAINING REG	30.00
CRESTONE GRAPHICS	SHERIFF SUPPLIES	283.95
CUSTER COUNTY EMPLOYEES HIT	INS W/H	29,729.60
CUSTER COUNTY EXTENSION		408.72
CUSTER COUNTY PLANNING	SUPPLIES REIMB	53.49
CUSTER COUNTY POSSE	DONATION TRANSFER CK ACT	3,160.02
CUSTER COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE	LANDFILL SALARIES REIMB	5,051.15
DELL FINANCIAL SERVICES		312.54
DELL FINANCIAL SERVICES	P & Z PC LEASES	174.19
DELTA RIGGING & TOOLS	LANDFILL CHAINS	110.00
DISH NETWORK	INMATE SERVICE	58.77
EL PASO COUNTY	3 AUTOPSIES	4,050.00
FAMILY DOLLAR	CRTHS CLEANING SUPPLIES	19.45
FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY	GARNISHMEN T	442.00
GEROUX/KRISTINA R	SHER FILING CABINET REIM	247.66
GOLDER ASSOCIATES INC	LANDFILL ENGINEER	19.30
HART INTERCIVIC INC	ELECTIONS MAINT RENEWAL	10,241.00
HENRICH/JAMES D	TRAVEL AND REIMBS	276.17
INTERNATIONAL ASSOC PROPERTY	SHERIFF TRAINING 38101	325.00
IPPOLITO/CHUCK		522.98
LANG/CHRISTINE	TRAVEL TO BOCC MTG	27.50
LEGALSHIELD	LS W/H	64.75
LEXIPOL LLC	LAW ENFORCEMEN T POLICIES	7,765.00
MARTIN/RHONDA K	REIMBURSEM ENTS	14.62
MIDDICKS LOCKSMITH SHOP	SHERIFF DOOR REPAIRS	315.00
MOUNTAIN PUBLISHING CO INC/THE	BOCC PUBS	165.42
NAPA AUTO PARTS OF WESTCLIFFE	LANDFILL REPAIRS	59.85

NATIONAL SHERIFF'S ASSOC	MEMBER DUES ID 283268	56.00
NORUP GAS INC	SHERIFF COMPLEX SRV	1,795.14
OAK DISPOSAL SERVICE	CRTHS DUMPSTER	44.00
OFFICE DEPOT	CCPHNS SUPPLIES	187.98
OFFICE OF THE DIST ATTORNEY	PROF SRVS	6,909.92
PIQUETTE ENTERPRISES LLC	FEB ACCT	771.50
PITNEY BOWES	QRTLY CONTRACT	775.89
REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY	DRUG TESTING	214.37
RELIABLE OFFICE SUPPLY	ASSR SUPPLIES	68.41
ROUND MTN WATER & SANITATION	SHERIFF COMPLEX SRV	504.00
SAM'S CLUB	JAIL NON FOOD SUPPLIES	132.02
SANGRE DE CRISTO BIOMEDICAL	JAIL AED SUPPLIES	98.25
SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC	LANDFILL SRV	53.15
SBA STRUCTURES LLC	SITE RENTAL	131.00
SCHOCH/BRANDON	TRAINING ACCOM REIMBS	118.25
SHY/CHRISTOPHER (KIT)	REIMBS	75.00
SILVA/LORRAINE	FEB VSO OFFICE RENT	100.00
SOUTHERN REGION COLORADO	2015 REGIONAL CLERK DUES	100.00
STAPLES CONTRACT & COMMERCIAL	SHERIFF ORGANIZERS	556.76
STATE OF COLORADO	MVR DELIVERABL ES	126.98
STOLTZFUS/GAIL	TRAVEL REIMBS	203.98
SYMBOLARTS LLC	SHERIFF SRVS	275.00
TASC PVR	FLEX W/H	900.00
TDS PUEBLO CO	SHERIFF UNIT 364 TIRES	553.28
TOTAL OFFICE SOLUTIONS	CLERK SUPPLIES	363.46
TRUJILLO/VIRGINIA	TRAVEL REIMBS	105.00
UAACOG	2015 RECYCLING	2,332.00
US BANK	SHER CHARGES	20.00
VALLEY ACE HOME CENTER	GRNDS SUPPLIES	228.94
WAXIE SANITARY SUPPLY	CRTHS PAPER PRODUCTS	481.08
WESTCLIFFE SUPER MARKET	JAIL FOOD	408.78
WET MOUNTAIN TRIBUNE	SHERIFF SUBSCRIPTION	56.00
WET MTN FIRE PROTECTION DIST	1/2 2015 ANNUAL FS TRUCK	100.00
YOUNG/ROBIN	TRAVEL REIMBS	60.00
ZEE MEDICAL INC	LANDFILL SUPPLIES	40.80
	Final Totals...	95,137.54
	Payroll...	88,339.14

Custer County Payments for Airport Fund Payments From February 1, 2015 - February 27, 2015		
Vendor Name	Description	Amount
AIRNAV LLC	AIRPORT RENEWAL	129.00
ANDERSON/DALLAS	LOCK REPAIR REIMBS	78.00
ASCENT AVIATION GROUP INC	POS CHARGE	30.00
CENTURYLINK	SRV	104.88
DIVERSE DATUM WIRELESS	INTERNET SRV	60.00

JOLLEY/ROBERT	FILTER/ SUPPLIES REIMBS	118.50
NORUP GAS INC	SRV	702.00
SANGRE DE CRISTO ELECTRIC	SRV	125.25
	Final Totals...	1,347.63

Custer County Payments for Capital Improvement Fund Payments From February 1, 2015 - February 27, 2015		
Vendor Name	Description	Amount
IMFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES INC	CAD START UP	4,692.00
IPPOLITO/CHUCK	CAD EQUIPMENT	1,289.83
UNITED REPROGRAPHIC SUPPLY	ASSR COPIER MAINT AGREE	81.00
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL LEASING	ASSR MAPPING COPIER	262.64
	Final Totals...	6,325.47

Custer County Payments for Emergency Services Fund Payments From February 1, 2015 - February 27, 2015		
Vendor Name	Description	Amount
AMERICAN FIDELITY ASSURANCE	DS W/H	69.61
AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE	CN W/H	20.00
BLUE CELL LLC/THE	RETAC	2,500.00
CENTURYLINK	OEM SRV	104.92
COLEMAN/CHRISTE		278.82
CUSTER COUNTY EMPLOYEES HIT	INSURANCE	4,853.51
CUSTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT	RETAC CAD DONATION	2,500.00
GALLS-ARAMARK	OEM SUPPLIES	105.00
GEROUX/KRISTINA R	TRAINING REIMBS	473.34
MUTZ/SCOTT	RETAC REIMB	17.00
SNELL/DEB	RETAC REIMBS	14.58
ST MARY CORWIN HOSPITAL	RETAC	255.00
SUGAR & SPICE MTN BAKERY	CES MTG	14.90
TASC PVR	FLEX W/H	100.00
WESTCLIFFE PETROLEUM	OEM VEHICLE REPAIR	312.99
	Final Totals...	11,619.67
	Payroll...	10,565.16

Custer County Payments for Human Services Fund Payments From February 1, 2015 - February 27, 2015		
Vendor Name	Description	Amount
	Final Totals...	12,245.09
	Payroll...	14,115.61

Custer County Payments for Self Insurance Fund Payments From February 1, 2015 - February 27, 2015		
Vendor Name	Description	Amount
TASC	RB SHARE FLEX ADMIN	276.45
	Final Totals...	276.45

Custer County Payments for Road and Bridge Fund Payments From February 1, 2015 -February 27, 2015		
Vendor Name	Description	Amount
ACORN PETROLEUM INC	FUELS	2,713.50
AFLAC	AF W/H	39.90
AIRGAS INTERMOUNTAIN INC	TANK RENTALS WC	408.04
AMERICAN FIDELITY ASSURANCE	DS W/H	555.12
AT & T MOBILITY	SRV	197.92
CALIFORNIA CONTRACTORS	SAFETY	126.00
CENTURYLINK	WETMORE	184.94
CENTURYLINK	WETMORE COMM	308.14
CLIFFES AUTO SERVICES/THE	FLAT REPAIR	20.00

See CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES
Continued on page 11

Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

Continued From page 10

Road and Bridge, cont.

CUSTER COUNTY EMPLOYEES HIT	INSURANCE	10,145.58
CUSTER COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE	REIMB MVR FEES	30.70
CUSTER COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE	REIMB SUPPLIES	56.53
DIGITCOM ELECTRONICS	RADIO	161.35
DRIVE TRAIN INDUSTRIES	PARTS	429.66
FAMILY SUPPORT REGISTRY	GARNISHMEN	546.00
FEDERAL PUBLISHING	2015 OSHA	298.50
J J KELLER & ASSOCIATES INC	VEHICLE INSPECTION	57.05
LEGALSHIELD	LS W/H	51.80
LITZ AUTO SUPPLY	FILTERS &	55.73
MCCANDLESS TRUCK CENTER LLC	MISC PARTS	529.05
MSC INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CO	HIGH	238.56
NAPA AUTO PARTS OF WESTCLIFFE	MISC PARTS	711.95
NORUP GAS INC	SRV	1,420.00
PAWNEE BUTTES SEED INC	SEED MIX	408.40
PENROSE STEEL & TUBING	MISC STEEL	128.07
POWER MOTIVE	FILTERS	191.77
PRECISION HYDRAULICS INC	WIPERS/O	79.46
PROCOM	QRTLY	94.00
PUEBLO BRAKE & CLUTCH	MULTI RELAY	66.75
PUEBLO RADIATOR	RADIATORS	1,050.00
QUILL CORP	OFFICE/CLEANING	482.10
ROUND MTN WATER & SANITATION	SRV	33.00
SSR AUTO SUPPLY INC	CONNECTORS /SEPARATORS	26.28
TASC PVR	FLEX W/H	399.99
TOOLS PLUS INDUSTRIES	MESH SIGNS	944.30
VALLEY ACE HOME CENTER	MISC	262.02
WAGNER EQUIPMENT CO	MISC PARTS	2,481.49
WHITEHALLS ALPINE BG	SLC MULTI	682.00
XEROX CORP	COPIER	45.84
4 RIVERS EQUIPMENT	PINS & TUBE	185.29
	Final Totals...	26,846.78
	Payroll...	39,385.97

STATE OF COLORADO COUNTY OF CUSTER
I, Debbie Livengood, County Clerk in and for said county, and in the state aforesaid, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true, full, and correct list of all office bills allowed paid by the Board of County Commissioners of said county and state, at the regular meeting held in February 2015, as shown by the records and files of my office. Given under my hand and official seal this month of February A.D. 2015.

Debbie Livengood
County Clerk

Date published: March 6, 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@ccbobcats.net to request additional information or view either of the buses.

Published February 27, 2015
Published March 6, 2015
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

NOTICE

As pursuant to CRS 24-6-402 (3.5) The finalists for the Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District (RM-WSD) District Manager Position are:
Stephen Harrison
Jerry L'Estrange
George Medaris
David Schneider

Published March 6, 2015
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

Classifieds

For Sale

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

Real Estate

Lori Kastendieck
Independent Broker
Real Estate
Westcliffe Broker.com
719/269-0653
Serving buyers & sellers since 1982

Services

CHAINSAW SHARPENING: Accurate sharpening. Multiple chain discount. Chain loops made to order and repaired. Ring J.B. 719/783-4448



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



Kohler
Back-up Stand-by Generators
Power when you need it!

On grid or solar.
6.5Kw - 125Kw.
Propane or natural gas.
Locally sold & serviced by G P Power Systems (formerly Miller Automotive & More).

Call Glenn
at 719-371-8625

Sink or Swim

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
to place
your ad!

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

Events Calendar

Saturday, March 7

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Hunter Safety Class at Wet Mtn Fire Station, 215 N. 4th St., Westcliffe
5 p.m.: Lincoln Day Dinner, reception, and book signing at Pueblo Convention Center, 320 Central Main Street, **"13 Hours - The Inside Account of What Really Happened in Benghazi,"** \$60 per person; (719) 568-9826

Sunday, March 8

Daylight Saving Time begins
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Hunter Safety Class;
Tuesday, March 10
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Estate Planning Workshop (*see details on page 5*)
4:30p.m.: C-1 School Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 11

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.: 4-H Carnival in the

C-1 Multi-Purpose Room

Saturday, March 14

10 a.m.: U.S. Law Shield Seminar, at the Wild West Cowboy Church
5 p.m.: Pueblo Friends of NRA Annual Banquet at Pueblo Convention Center; Contact Pueblo FNRA at (719) 546-3609

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 a.m.

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

Sheriff's Report...

There were 90 calls for service on the dates below. As of March 2nd, there are five men and one woman in the county jail.

02/24/15 T-15-1092

Deputies responded to a report of possible domestic violence and overdose in Centennial Ranch. Female party was transported via ambulance and flight for life. A warrant was later issued for Whitten, Paul Donn, DOB in 1961 of Westcliffe for Domestic Violence, Harassment, and possession of a firearm by a previous offender. He was taken into custody in Grand County when he appeared for court on another charge.

02/26/15 I-15-1102

10:00 AM - Officers responded to a civil dispute between a party (Avara, Randy DOB in 1961) and a local snow plow service driver (Camper, Scott DOB in 1965) Written statement was taken from the reporting party and the dispute was settled amicably. Nothing further at this time.

02/27/15 T-15-146

Officers responded to a one vehicle accident in the area of the 1600 block of County Road 170. There were no injuries and the driver (Elderedge, David - DOB in 1961) was cited for Careless Driving. Nothing further.

02/27/15

04:34PM - 911 call of shots fired in the area of 426 Main St, Silver Cliff. Officers were dispatched and searched the area but were unable to locate the shooter.

02/27/15 T-15-149

12:00 PM - Officer on patrol stopped vehicle at the .5mm on CR241 for speeding. Upon contacting driver, Olomon, Allen (DOB in 1991) was observed to be under the influence of alcohol. He was placed under arrest and transported to the Sheriff's Office where he was booked on a \$500 bond for DUI. He bonded out shortly after.

Lady Bobcats 46 - Center 40: The Game In Pictures



Starting team taking the floor.



The Team: All for One



Schlabach setting up the play.



Lorenzen jumping center.



Basketball - a contact sport



Serious business



Picture-perfect defense.



Ham with a lay-up, the hard way.



Schlabach with final minute free-throws cinched the win.

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The first and only recliner designed and contoured to fit your body's most restful position, FLAT. The kickout and back mechanisms act independently of each other providing endless reclining positions.

- T.V. Stands
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- Mirrors
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- Bedroom Sets
- Mattress Sets
- Dining Room Sets
- Recliners
- Power Lift Chairs
- Swivel Rockers
- Living Back Chairs
- Love Seats
- Sofas
- Sectionals
- Chest of Drawers
- End Tables
- Cocktail Tables
- Standing Mirrors
- Art Work
- Bar Stools
- Rugs
- Bunk Beds
- Figurines
- Knives
- Pillows
- Chaise
- Dolls
- Bookcases

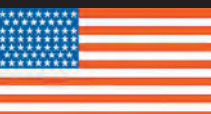


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Enough is Enough

An Open Letter To Fremont Commissioners

February 24, 2015

Commissioners Bell, Payne and Norden
Fremont County
615 Macon Ave
Cañon City, CO 81212

Dear Commissioners,

I understand from Susan that the property on Highway 115 across from the Shell station has a request for a cultivation license that will be heard March 2nd. I am surprised by this because of the questions by Commissioner Norden at the time of the hearing on 934 C Street where the grower stated that the property would be used only as restrooms and perhaps a lounge. Perhaps I did not understand correctly or perhaps this was a misrepresentation by the owner; however, in any case, enough is enough. If you care about the community of Penrose, you need to use your authority to stop the development of any additional marijuana businesses in that small residential area.

The time has come for you as commissioners to give us the master plan for the marijuana industry in Penrose. I remember Ms. Jackson commenting at a workshop that it might be good to put all the facilities in one location. If that is your plan, tell us. We will have our house on the market, take the loss, and be out of the undesirable community of Penrose as soon as possible. That may give us time to rebuild the quality of life we once had here in another location before we are too old to do so. For Penrose to have 8 of 10 or 9 of 11 marijuana facilities in the county is unacceptable.

We talk to the Penrose residents and have a lot of background information on what is happening that never comes out in the hearings. I will also point out that the projected revenue by the state for taxes was over \$100 million. As of recent figures, that was actually \$44 million with no consideration of the law enforcement, social welfare, education programs for teens, and other costs - on and on. I suspect that the revenue is essentially neutral without further considering the destructive effects on the juveniles in the state.

You have the authority to stop this where it is; the time has come for you to act! I will also point out the two recent federal preemption law suits that have been filed. If federal law is determined to trump state law, that will likely apply to medical marijuana as well.

Respectfully,
Richard L. Hilderbrand, Ph.D.

Copy to:
Senator Kevin Grantham
Representative Jim Wilson
Representative Clarice Navarro-Ratzlaff
Governor Hickenlooper

FCRCC Holds First Meeting Under New Leadership

by Barbara Penezic

Amid fond remembrances and wishes for her successful future, members bid farewell to previous Central Committee Chairperson, Jo-Ann O’Neil and eagerly awaited the introduction of the new Executive Committee.

Tallahassee Richard (New Central Committee Chairperson) and his lovely wife, Roxanna Hollabaugh (Secretary extraordinaire), are a dynamic duo and, with the support of the executive team now in place, the Fremont County Republican Central Committee is ready to do its part to enhance conservatism in Fremont County. The executive committee is now composed of Justin Grantham, Vacancy Chair; Erick Embry, treasurer; Barbara Pasco and Caroline Grantham, Bonus members; Greg Carlson, Parliamentarian; and Maria “Dee” Stubbs, Vice-Chairman. The Republican community is expecting great things of the above-named people and if the first meeting is any indication, then it should be a very successful year for the conservatives of Fremont County.

The meeting began with the usual call to order, invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and welcome.

Richard broke the ice by introducing the crowd of 50-plus to the mode of transportation, hereafter known

as the Tallahassee Limo, the newly formed Executive Committee members may use to attend functions at the capitol. There is never anything quite like a good laugh to help people settle down and discuss the more serious issues at hand.

Upcoming events were the next items on the agenda. The state CRC Reorganization Meeting will be March 14th at Castle Rock, Colorado. The Lincoln Day Dinner on April 17 will be held at the Abbey at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available now. Items are still needed for the Live and Silent Auctions, donations are appreciated. There was a brief discussion about entering a float in the Blossom Festival Parade. This will be given more consideration by the Public Events Committee under the direction of Dee Stubbs. The Tech Committee is new and will be chaired by Justin Grantham. One noteworthy new item is the FCRCC phone ‘Hotline.’ The new telephone number is 719-315-1322. You may use this number to leave messages for the FCRCC Executive Committee, and also for suggestions, questions, complaints, etc. You can also leave suggested agenda items for future meetings. The FCRCC website is: www.fremontcountyrcc.com.

According to a document from Kevin Grantham, State Senate District 2, the legislative session has been

up and running for a while which means bills are getting introduced in both chambers, ...You can follow these bills online at the Colorado General Assembly homepage: <http://www.leg.state.co.us/>. Members were encouraged to sign up for these other informative websites: www.coloradocapitolwatch.com, www.statebillnews.com, www.senate.gov, and www.house.gov. Standard membership is free and comes with great tools to help narrow the bills you are tracking. This last bit of information from Caroline Grantham concerned putting an end to criminal safe zones. State Representative Patrick Neville, a former Columbine student, has introduced Colorado’s School Protection Act, HB15-1168. This bill would allow teachers and others with valid concealed carry permits to defend the lives of Colorado students. Two lawmakers stand in the way at this point. They are State Representatives Joe Salazar (D-Thorton) and Dianne Primavera (D-Broomfield). We need to urge these people to vote for HB15-1168.

Joseph.salazar.house@state.co.us and Dianne.primavera.house@state.co.us. The next meeting of the FCRCC will be March 24th, social @ 6:30, meeting @ 7 p.m. The location is Sunflower Bank Building, lower level, 831 Royal Gorge Boulevard.

30th Annual Senior Mini-College

by Charlotte Burrous

Spring break is a time to relax and have fun. But it’s also time for seniors to go back to college when the Fremont Campus of Pueblo Community College hosts its 30th annual Senior Mini College from March 23-27 at 51320 W. U.S. 50 in Cañon City.

“Because Mini College is such a wonderful event and it’s never static, the types and classes that are offered each year change with the times,” said Kate Hudson, who organizes it every year. “We’ve got more

science this year than we’ve ever had in the past. The Geology Club is giving classes and field trips on local geology.”

In addition, a local instructor will present a class on beginning quantum physics and a representative from the Pueblo Chemical Depot, talking about the set up to dispose the chemical weapons mustard gas. “We have a class on mining from the mine in Cripple Creek and Victor,” Hudson said. “It’s really exciting. We have a lot of his-

See SENIORS on page 16

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,
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Cañon City
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Cañon City
Find them on
Facebook

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event or meeting you
would like to see
printed here, or
covered in an
upcoming issue.

sdc.sentinel@gmail.com

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

16th Street Cafe

302A N. 16th St.
Cañon City

719-275-5211

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

16th Street Cafe

302 N. 16th St.
in Cañon City

Coyote Den

Highway 115 & 6th Street
in Penrose

Mr. Ed's

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

Here 4 You

2975 CR 27A (Copper Gulch Rd)
in Cotopaxi



Royal Gorge Carousel Horse Damaged in 2014 Fire is Restored to Former Glory

by Charlotte Burrous

When he pulled it out of the pile, it was almost burnt beyond repair. After all, it was one of the carousel horses that had been damaged during the June 2014 Royal Gorge fire. But that didn't deter Fremont Community Foundation Board President Dan Brown from having faith it could be restored to its original glory.

"It looked like a marshmallow that someone had left in the fire too long," he said. "(It was) very fragile and it was crisp. We could barely move it. We had to wrap it up in a blanket to carry it. It was very fragile and it smelled like smoke." The idea began after the fire when Brown called Royal Gorge Bridge and Park General Manager Mike Bandera to ask him about the carousel horses. At the site, Brown found the dam-

aged horses in a pile and salvaged two of them, including the 1928 Alan Herschell half-and-half carousel horse that ultimately went to Mary Shell, whom he met at a local art gallery, where she was the featured artist of the month.

"I gave one away to Christine Hassler, the (woman) who stabilized and wrapped (both of them) in paper mache (then) painted them black," Brown said. "She kept one so there's probably one in Florence."

After Brown met Mary Shell he asked her if she could refurbish the horse. "I used to do that when I was in California," she said. "I used to refurbish all the carousel horses from Balboa. I refurbished them and worked for a fiberglass company who made replicas of the horses in fiberglass. So I rescued the original and made cop-

ies of them. I also made my own sculptures of carousel horses and I was also a past member of the National Carousel Association." After moving to Cañon City, she expanded into other forms of artwork, including speed painting and much more.

"I (did some research) and found out it was a Herschell," Shell said. "It was an outside jumper, which means it was the first one they saw. The outside had the mane coming down and the inside was plain because no one is going to see it. I copied the original -- the colors (and) matched it back to 1928. I painted it back as it was original (then) flamed it on the back to show it was escaping from the fire." When it was completed, the historic carousel horse was auctioned off at the Cajun Crawl, which is a fundraiser for



Alan Herschell's salvaged 'half-and-half' carousel horse, reclaimed from the damage.

Courtesy photo by Charlotte Burrous

the Fremont Community Foundation. The fundraise raises funds throughout the year for nonprofits in Fremont County.

SENIORS

From page 15

tory classes this year and art classes. We have a class on poetry and song writing. We have the old standby (classes, including) finance, reverse mortgages, wills, probates. This year, it's fun."

A schedule was posted online March 2nd with registration starting the same day.

Hudson encouraged everyone registering by phone to go online to print a registra-

tion form then fill it out before calling 296-6100 to register or stop by the college to register.

Cost is \$7 per day or \$25 for the week if registering before March 20th, or \$8 per day and \$30 per week after March 20th. Also, lunches will be available for \$8 per day for those who pre-register the day before during the week of Senior Mini College.

For more information, call 296-6100 or e-mail Hudson at kate.hudson@pueblocc.edu.

Educating The Electorate

by Edward Whitcraft, RGTP

At the Royal Gorge Tea Party (RGTP) monthly meeting conducted Thursday, 26 February 2015, the yearly calendar was planned ensuring that the resolve of the RGTP to keep the people informed and educated on who is running for office and what each candidate believes. The meeting was held on a cold, stormy night but 12 brave souls fortified with gloves, hats, and heavy coats braved the snow and ice to attend the meeting. While none of the committees could really be established, the ground work was developed for the year. We certainly have our work scheduled for the upcoming year with lots of local elections in the fall.

There will be city council elections in Cañon City and Florence. Also School Boards and Fire and Water Districts elections. The RGTP is planning to have candidates forums for all of these elections so Fremont County citizens will be able to vet the candidates and make an informed decision on who would be the best person to represent them in each of these elected positions. Sometimes we the people overlook the local elections as unimportant but, ladies and gentlemen, that is how our country has gotten into the mess it is in now. All politics start at the local level. Want to know how Common Core got into our school system? It's because those on our local school boards were not paying attention to their responsibility of being a board member. They allowed powers from outside to dictate the curriculum. Each one of these local elections have an impact on how our local taxes are spent. Also, they affect how these different districts and boards are operated and respond to our respective community needs. Outside mandates and regulations drive how our city councils, boards, and districts conduct business, pass regulations, or spend tax dollars. We need to find citizen candidates who will, shall we say, fight city hall. At the very least they should question some of the stupidity that comes from the state and federal level. Our representatives should not be afraid to say we don't want to play your game because we think it does

not pertain to our community. Examples of outside mandates and regulations would be Agenda 21 disguised as sustainable development, economic development, or environmental issues which tend to remove control from local government.

We want less government involvement in our daily lives, lower taxes, and are committed to building a coalition of informed citizens.

The RGTP will also be involved in the three local parades in Cañon City, Florence, and Penrose. Again we want to make our presence known to the community that we are an organization that believes in the U.S. Constitution. We want less government involvement in our daily lives, lower taxes, and are committed to building a coalition of informed citizens. We want to be active in our respective communities working to get folks out to vote. That is really the only voice our politicians hear from some of us, when we say yes or no when casting our ballot. The more you know about each candidate the better prepared you will be to determine who the right person will be to fill the position. The RGTP meets the second Thursday each month at the Mountain View Core Knowledge School Gymnasium. Meet and greet is at 6 p.m. with the meeting starting promptly at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. As citizens of this great country of ours we need to Be Informed and Involved. If you desire more information contact the RGTP at www.royalgorgeteaparty.com or call 719-275-0987.

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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.

What can I do?

People are writing me saying that they write letters, call elected officials, attend town hall meetings, send emails, faxes, and texts, but nobody is listening. Our elected officials do not receive the advice of those who elected them. So the feeling out there is helplessness. Nothing works. Nobody listens. This is true. These elected officials for the most part care about getting elected and keeping their power. Many are frustrated, even angry when folks like me say they must act. First, what can you do? You can pray, and if that's all you can do, then pray like you have never done before. If you can do more, let's get on it. But, we need to stop seeking political solutions, a political messiah if you will, to a spiritual problem.

As I see it, we are commanded by Christ to make disciples and preach the good news to all creatures around the world. This doesn't mean going to a great rally, getting people all emotional, getting people saved, and then leaving them on their own to figure out their salvation. We must be willing to coach people, hold them accountable, have relationships. This is difficult. It puts us out of our comfort zone. We have to know more about the Word of God than what we have heard from the pulpit. We have to get out of what is generally being taught in the church--a self indulgent, emotional and extra-biblical concept of Christ. It is not about us, it is about the Messiah. He died for us. What are we doing for him?

Sitting in the pews thinking about what God is going to do for us has disastrous consequences. If we were making disciples,

and telling, teaching, exhorting, accounting, contending for the truth, then the nation would not be in this physical bondage and spiritual darkness. Leadership that is antichrist would not be elected. It would not survive the light. We have to ask ourselves the question: Does what we are doing here on earth matter in eternity? For that is what will be judged. What can we do to change the nation? We need to conduct heart-to-heart combat. Matthew 11:12 says, "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."

We cannot make a difference in this world by disconnecting from it. We cannot make a difference in this world by asking what God is going to do for us. He already did it. He sent His only begotten Son to die for our sins that we may have everlasting life. The rest of the story is how we work out our salvation under the commandments of Christ. If we collectively were doing our job, as did our forefathers in the early days of this nation, the leadership of this nation would reflect it. We have to get outside ourselves and be effective at making disciples. But? Here is a "but" for you: But, you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)." Make disciples, change the nation.

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!
Bill Wilson
www.dailyjot.com
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**Call upon Me
in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you,
and you shall glorify Me.**

Psalm 50:15, NKJV

Homeland Security Secretary: My Job is to "Give Voice to the Plight of Muslims"

by Tim Brown,
FreedomOutPost.com

(Editor/GG: What has this got to do with the head of Homeland Security??? The whole Nobama administration is voicing this nonsense everyday. Even the generals! Custer County patriots: forget the freeze-dried food and the .223 rounds. Start digging a bunker! This is just beyond belief as Christians and other Muslims are being slaughtered around the world daily by the Islam peace activists. There can be NO doubt where our government stands today versus the American public and the Constitution.)

My goodness! When are Americans going to have enough of the federal government advancing the religion of pieces? "Homeland Security" Secretary Jeh Johnson sides with Barack Obama about not getting at the root of the terrorism taking place in the world today, Islam. In fact, recently, Johnson said that it was part of the administration's job to "give voice to the plight of Muslims."

"We in the administration and the government should give voice to the plight of Muslims living in this country and the discrimination that they face," he said. "And so I personally have committed to speak out about the situation that very often people in the Muslim community in this country face; the fact that there are 1.6 billion Muslims in the world and the Islamic faith is one about peace and brotherhood."

They will trip all over themselves and fall flat on their faces to call any terrorism "Islamic." They will do anything to promote Muhammad's religion and political ideology over and against Christian values.

In simple taqiyya style, Johnson claims not only is it the job of the government to give voice to the plight of

Muslims, but then promote Islam as a religion of peace and brotherhood.

Quite simply, this is nauseating to hear, but not unexpected. First, we've covered in several places that Islam, at its core, is not peaceful (unless you submit to it). Its history is filled with violence. In fact, I recently wrote about our own history and just how Islam is woven into the fabric of our history in the Barbary Wars.

When one starts pointing out the issues of Islam, the ridicule always comes out saying that someone is "xenophobic" or "Islamophobic," even "racist," as though Islam is a race. While many Middle Eastern people are automatically assumed to be Muslim, that is not always the case. Take for instance, the Christians that have been slaughtered like cattle by those that embrace Muhammad's death cult.

Secretary Johnson, like all of Obama's appointees, is a corrupt man. This guy, according to the Homeland Security website, "oversaw the development of the legal aspects of many of our nation's counterterrorism policies, spearheaded reforms to the military commissions system at Guantanamo Bay in 2009."

Reforms like spending your tax dollars to make Islamic jihadists more comfortable. Even though he was not in the current position, one might wonder what part Johnson has played in the release of several jihadists, including the illegal swap of five top Taliban leaders for American deserter Bowe Bergdahl.

It is because of Johnson that we recently heard the ridiculous claim that "right-wing extremists" are more of a threat to America than their buddies in the Muslim Brotherhood and its various front groups, who are operating with impunity in our borders and visiting our White House.

Many don't remember, but Johnson was behind the wicked scheme to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in 2010, which allowed open sodomy in the military that dropped the morale of our men and women in uniform and also led to an all-time high of sodomite rapes.

**They will do
anything to promote
Muhammad's
religion and
political ideology
over and against
Christian values.**

Neither Johnson nor the administration nor the federal government's job is to "give voice to the plight of Muslims." The federal government is charged with a few things in our Constitution. In the branch Johnson participates in, his agency isn't even authorized to be in existence, much less given a voice!

America, this administration does not love America. They hate it with a passion, which is why they want to "fundamentally transform" it. Why would you transform that which you claim to love? With all of his moral faults, former Mayor Rudy Giuliani was right about that statement, but for those of us who have been paying attention, we've known it since before his first term in office.

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Beef Battle: Enviros Lobby for Climate Change Warnings on Meat

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.
com

(Editor/GG: You know, you wakeup in the morning, and just wonder what could possibly top yesterday's liberal insanity. Day after day. If it isn't Nobama himself, it's some nutcase from Boulder, Westcliffe, or California. The problem is that there are millions of them out there, with many of them in some sort of government job where they can do real damage. Not content with destroying our country, they are now telling us that cows are a threat to our very existence. Last year it was global warming, this year it is global climate

change. Next year it will just be "global" change. Get ready.)

Because Washington has nothing important to do, federal weeniecrats have decided to go after the cattle industry because apparently it's their turn. Again.

But this time, the feds have truly outdone themselves in their never-ending quest to devise superfluous and just plain bizarre government guidelines.

Behold!

Proposed new federal dietary guidelines for meat won't just count calories, but carbon emissions as

well.

Straight from the overflowing, never-ending file of stuff we can't make up, the National Journal reports this:

Green groups want the government to tell Americans that eating less meat benefits the earth. And environmentalists are lobbying to add what amounts to a climate-change warning to federal dietary guidelines.

The article defines the guidelines as "a metric that millions of Americans consult when deciding what to eat."

Seriously? We about spewed our cheddar-fla-

vored popcorn across the room and had to slurp down our Big Gulp to keep from choking.

We had no idea, and suspect that neither do most Americans, that the feds have guidelines of what we are supposed to eat.

The guidelines are also "the blueprint that determines the makeup of school lunches and a wide array of government meal programs," although we skimmed the webpage and saw no mention of pizza, chicken tenders, fish sticks, or fries that are available in

See BEEF
on page 18

A Fight on Our Hands?

Major Unit From Colorado Just a Short Tank Ride from ISIS

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

The nation has watched agape at the atrocities committed by ISIS, an Islamic terrorist group, in Iraq – at least 45 people burned to death, 21 Coptic Christians beheaded, several international journalists beheaded, mass kidnappings, organ harvesting (wait what??), crucifixion of children, and more.

Now, it looks like soldiers from Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs could get the first bite at the apple in responding to these barbaric acts.

The Third Brigade Combat Team, a unit of 4,000 soldiers of the historic 4th Infantry Division, is in the process of moving its people and equipment to a pre-positioning location in Kuwait. Since official combat operations in Iraq ended in 2011, the military has maintained a force about this size in Kuwait, ready to deliver a quick strike over the land if the need arises.

Until now, units have rotated through this assignment with little notice or fanfare, but with President Obama’s post-Iraq strategy in shambles and a terrorist army operating openly across a land that we paid a great price to secure, these Colorado troops may find themselves on center stage if Obama acts on what would be a massive re-

versal of his post-Iraq policy for combat forces in that region.

Just six months ago, Obama somberly addressed the nation from the White House on this policy, and, then, toured the country re-enforcing his no boots-on-the-ground policy, saying, “as your Commander in Chief, I will not commit you and the rest of our armed forces to fighting another ground war in Iraq.”

It should be noted that the President does not express a desire for protracted ground operations as part of an authorization request that he made to Congress. But with the administration’s policy shifting faster than the wind-blown sands in the Iraqi desert, the President has not shown any reason to expect any certainty from this policy, or any other foreign policy.

We expect our congressional delegation to hold this administration accountable for its strategy (or lackthereof), planning (or lackthereof), and actions. After all, a major unit from Colorado is poised to be first to fight if Obama changes his mind yet again.

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BEEF
From page 17
most school lines.

And now they want to bastardize our thick-cut steaks, our juicy hamburgers, pot roasts and beef soup, our tacos, spaghetti, and lasagna.

And the stakes are high. Americans are eating less red meat than they have in decades, and farmers and ranchers could feel the pinch if federal guidelines cast meat in a less-than-favorable light.Environmentalists, meanwhile, see the battle as a way to cut carbon emissions at a time

when major legislation to address climate change is dead-on-arrival on the Hill.

The Agriculture and Health and Human Services departments is expected to move forward with the new guidelines in the coming days, and we hope to see our beloved cattlemen associations take up the fight and drive this ridiculous proposal right off the ranch and over a cliff.

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Border Patrol Ordered to Release Drunk Drivers, “Allow Them to Go On Their Way”

by JudicialWatch.Org

(Editor/GG: So, American citizens go to jail for DUI, but the illegal aliens are let go. Nice. And don’t misunderstand this order. It is ALL about letting more illegals into this country to destroy it.)

The Obama administration has ordered federal agents responsible for protecting one of the nation’s busiest and most crime-infested regions near Mexico to stop apprehending drunk drivers, according to an internal government memo that also concedes an officer that elects to detain them is “acting within the course and scope of his employment.”

Obtained by Judicial Watch this week, the notice is titled, “Enforcement Options With Alcohol-Impaired Drivers,” and directs the 4,000-plus U.S. Border Patrol agents in the Tucson, Arizona, sector to “release” individuals under the influence and “allow them to go on their way.” The document acknowledges that this feels counter-intuitive for Border Patrol agents, but eases concerns by answering a hypotheti-

cal question for the officers who have sworn to uphold the law: “If you allow this driver to continue down the road and they kill someone, aren’t you liable?” The answer is no, according to the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) memo. “There is no legal requirement for a Border Patrol agent to intervene in a state crime, including DUI,” the order says, adding that “therefore there is generally no liability that will attach to the agent or agency for failing to act in this situation.”

The directive offers another scenario—detaining the impaired individual at the request of state or local law enforcement officers (LEO). “There is no duty to detain the alcohol-impaired individual,” the memo says, “but if you do this option, it can raise potential liability for the agent and the agency.” The document goes on to say that Border Patrol policy is to cooperate with local and state law enforcement officers who alert them of suspected violations under state law. That means the agent would be considered to have been acting within the

course and scope of his employment while detaining a drunk driver at the request of local law enforcement officers under Arizona law, the document confirms.

The last scenario offered in the recently issued decree has a Border Patrol agent detaining a drunk driver in Arizona without a request from a state or local law enforcement officer. “This option poses the greatest liability for both the agent and the agency,” according to the order. After revealing that private citizens in Arizona can make felony and misdemeanor arrests, it nevertheless prompts Border Patrol agents to stay away from drunk drivers. “Be advised, this option poses the greatest threat to an agent for a civil lawsuit,” the memo warns.

This preposterous order has not been well-received by agents, according to Judicial Watch’s sources inside the agency. The Border Patrol Tucson Sector covers 262 miles along the Mexican border and is one of the country’s busiest in both illegal immigrant apprehensions and marijuana seizures, according to the agency website. During

fiscal year 2014 the Tucson Sector Border Patrol recorded 87,915 apprehensions that included members of notorious international gangs and felons convicted of serious crimes such homicide, rape, and child molestation. Agents also seized 971,180 pounds of marijuana as well as large quantities of cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamines.

As a whole, the Border Patrol is the critical frontline Homeland Security agency charged with preventing terrorists and weapons—including those of mass destruction—from entering the United States. Its primary mission is to protect the nation by reducing the likelihood that dangerous people and capabilities slip into the country through our many ports of entry. It’s beyond belief that the Obama administration has asked the federal officers tasked with this important duty to turn the other way when they encounter a drunk driver.

Please see: www.judicial-watch.org/blog/2015/02/border-patrol-ordered-release-drunk-drivers-allow-go-way/

Colorado: Obama’s New Monument: We’re Not Exactly Thrilled

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Not everyone is thrilled over President Obama’s latest wave of the Antiquities Act wand to national monumentize Browns Canyon.

The scenic river, surrounding property and rock spires in Chaffee County that are a mix of federal and state lands, will become further mired in the federal bureaucracy that is the Bureau of Land Management when Obama wields this executive power on Thursday, to make it so, from Chicago.

Enviroweenies demanded that Obama proclaim the monument to show his support for wildlife and the great outdoor experience. There was no threat we knew of to rafting, hiking, fishing, hunting, or ranching in the area. Some folks at the National Wildlife Federation insisted that bobcats and elk needed protection, we guess because there’s only about 1.5 million of the cats left roaming the country plus about a million elk.

But greenies demanded that government needs to preserve nature’s beauty, because it’s so darn good at everything else it does.

U.S. Representative Doug Lamborn, whose congressional district includes the new monument, issued a statement calling it an outrageous land grab. If there wasn’t a threat to some activities in the canyon, he says there is now:

“I’ve heard from multitudes of local citizens whose concerns about grazing rights, water rights, outdoor recreation, and the inability of first responders to manage and fight wildfires in the area have never been addressed. It is also important for people to note that national monuments created by presidential executive order under the Antiquities Act almost always become underfunded, neglected properties. This is because they are created without normal Congressional and local consensus, robbing the people of a fair and open process that stifles the input of the community. And they become orphans once the administration changes. Does Browns Canyon really deserve this kind of second-class status?”

The problem is that Obama did this without local input to preserve local interest and protect private property.

Enviroweenies fired back, comparing apples and oranges like they always do, claiming Lamborn is a hypocrite because he formed a study group eight years ago to determine if Pike’s Peak should be declared a national monument.

U.S. Senator Cory Gardner took the high road, as full federal authority over the canyon was one of the few things Mark Udall worked to

achieve in the state. You remember him, the former senator who Gardner spanked like a petulant child in the election?

“Browns Canyon is a national treasure with a long history of bipartisan support in Colorado,” Gardner said in a statement. “Senator Udall in particular was a champion of this beautiful site, and his legacy of protecting Colorado’s landscapes is to be commended. This monument will stand in lasting tribute to his public service. My preference is always to work through the legislative process, and in the coming days **I will be introducing legislation to ensure that Colorado’s state and local interests have a seat at the table in discussions about Browns Canyon.**”

That’s the real problem here, folks. It’s not so much what Obama did, it’s how he did it.

The Antiquities Act ranks as our least favorite law. Ever. It might have been a great idea 100 years ago, but rank and rampant abuse of the law beginning with the Clinton administration has turned the Antiquities Act into an antiquity.

The problem is that Obama did this without local input to preserve local interest and protect private property.

He did it without us. Again.

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Colorado Scientist Targeted by Democrats!

Dem "Witch Hunt" Forces Scientist Out of Global Warming Research

by Michael Bastasch,
DailyCaller.com

(Editor/GG: Liberals just love opposing opinions. (Especially around here in Custer County.) This professor dared to publish peer-reviewed articles factually countering the bogus, fraudulent, global warming hysteria from the wacko left academia. So, he must be punished by our freedom-loving democrat lawmakers. Ah, feel the love of the liberal progressives.....)

An investigation by Democratic lawmakers into the sources of funding for scientists who challenge details of the greater global warming narrative has already forced one scientist to call it quits.

University of Colorado climate scientist Dr. Roger Pielke, Jr., has been targeted by Arizona Democratic Rep. Raul Grijalva, the ranking liberal on the House Natural Resources Committee, for his research challenging the claim that global warming is making weather more extreme.

This investigation, and other attacks, have forced Pielke to stop researching climate issues. He said the "incessant attacks and smears are effective, no doubt, I have already shift-

ed all of my academic work away from climate issues."

"I am simply not initiating any new research or papers on the topic and I have ring-fenced my slowly diminishing blogging on the subject," Pielke wrote on his blog.

Pielke is one of seven academics under Grijalva's investigation for allegedly taking money from the fossil fuels industry in exchange for research. Pielke says he's never been funded by fossil fuels interests — a fact to which Grijalva already knows since Pielke disclosed as much when he testified before Congress.

Grijalva's investigation into climate scientists who scrutinize conclusions about man-made global warming comes after the *New York Times* published a piece critical of Harvard-Smithsonian scientist Wei-hock Soon for not disclosing his funding from energy companies in his research.

"Companies with a direct financial interest in climate and air-quality standards are funding environmental research that influences state and federal regulation and shapes public understanding of climate scientists," Grijalva wrote to the presidents of seven universities housing supposedly

skeptical scientists.

So what's Pielke's connection to all of this? Grijalva's staff wrote that Pielke "has testified numerous times before the U.S. Congress on climate change and its economic impacts." One "2013 Senate testimony featured the claim, often repeated, that it is 'incorrect to associate the increasing costs of disasters with the emission of greenhouse gases.'"

Why is Pielke a target? Because White House science czar John Holdren has "highlighted what he believes were serious misstatements by Prof. Pielke," according to Grijalva's letter to the University of Colorado.

"Congressman Grijalva doesn't have any evidence of any wrongdoing on my part, either ethical or legal, because there is none," Pielke wrote. "He simply disagrees with the substance of my testimony — which is based on peer-reviewed research funded by the US taxpayer, and which also happens to be the consensus of the IPCC (despite Holdren's incorrect views)."

Holdren said Pielke's views were "outside the mainstream." Pielke presented evidence to the Senate that

global warming is not causing weather, like hurricanes and floods, to become more frequent or extreme. Holdren, disagreed, and singled out Pielke in a six-page statement saying that global warming was making the weather worse.

The main problem with Holdren's argument is that the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — which Holdren himself often defers to — has said the evidence favors Pielke's argument that weather has not gotten more extreme.

The IPCC says that "[l]ong-term trends in economic disaster losses adjusted for wealth and population increases have not been attributed to climate change, but a role for climate change has not been excluded."

Pielke's views have gotten him labelled as a "climate denier" by Grijalva and some in the media. But Pielke does not deny that mankind is causing the world to warm. In fact, Pielke wrote a book calling for a carbon tax and has come out in support of the EPA's carbon dioxide regulations.

"All of this is public record, so the smears against me must be an intentional

effort to delegitimize my academic research," Pielke wrote.

"When 'witch hunts' are deemed legitimate in the context of popular causes, we will have fully turned science into just another arena for the exercise of power politics," Pielke

wrote. "The result is a big loss for both science and politics."

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Obama is Helping Illegal Aliens in a Way That an Aide Says Could be One of His Biggest Scandals

by Pete Kasperowicz,
TheBlaze.com

(Editor/GG: Would you do this to your neighbor? Would you take his job away and give it to an illegal alien? Why is Obama doing this to us?)

The Center for Immigration Studies released a report Monday that said the Obama administration has operated a "shadow" immigration system for years, one that has handed out millions of work permits to illegal aliens and aliens with unknown legal status.

According to government data that CIS received in a Freedom of Information Request, the Obama administration used its discretion to give out nearly 5.5 million work permits to aliens with varying legal status since 2009.

A Republican aide said the report could be one of the biggest scandals of the Obama administration, since it shows the administration was giving work permits to illegal immigrants at a time of high unemployment among Americans.

The report was released just as the Obama administration is preparing to implement an immigration plan that could provide legal protection to up to

5 million illegal immigrants and give them work permits. Republicans have said this plan would only make it easier for non-legal residents to take jobs from Americans, although the CIS data shows this is already happening under Obama.

"I was astonished at the huge number of work permits that are being issued by the Obama administration outside the legal immigration system through executive discretion, especially at a time of high unemployment and stagnant wages," said Jessica Vaughan, director of policy studies at CIS. "Besides the effect on the American worker, it encourages and rewards more illegal immigration."

According to CIS, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has issued 5,461,568 new work permits to aliens. That's in addition to the roughly 1.1 million legal immigrants and 700,000 guest workers that the U.S. admits legally each year.

Of that 5.5 million, 1.8 million were issued to aliens with temporary visas, but 1.2 million of that group had a visa status that does not authorize employment.

Another 982,000 work permits were given to illegal immigrants or immigrants who weren't qualified for admission. Almost all of this group

were made up of aliens who crossed the border illegally, according to CIS.

Another group of 1.7 million is made up of aliens with unknown legal status.

The Senate this week will start to consider a House-passed spending bill that would defund Obama's new immigration plans, and the CIS report will likely give new voice to Republican calls to pass that bill. However, Democrats are known to oppose the Department of Homeland Security spending bill if it contains the defunding language, which will make it difficult to pass the Senate.

Still, CIS said Congress has a chance to put the brakes on another Democratic effort to expand work permits by blocking the law, and said it should do so to help protect American jobs.

"These statistics indicate that the executive branch is operating a huge parallel immigrant work authorization system outside the bounds of the laws and limits written by Congress," CIS said. "It inevitably reduces job opportunities for Americans."

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How to Spin a False Narrative

by Karl Denninger, Market-Ticker.Org

(Editor/GG; Ah, the liberal press at it again. (They are everywhere!). False allegations. No retractions. Intentionally misleading story to fit their anti-American ideology. No wonder libs are so misinformed.)

This “story” is one of those that discerning people should return to the Times editorial board -- wrapping the poop that their dog left while being walked.

In America’s endless debate about gun rights versus public safety, there should be no disputing the hard facts in a new report on gunshot fatalities showing that at least 722 non-self-defense deaths since 2007 were attributable to individuals with legal permits to carry concealed weapons. Concealed carry by citizens has been a soaring phenomenon as states liberalize laws in the name of lowering crime that allow more permits and easier gun access in public places, even schools, churches, and restaurants.

So that’s 722 deaths in 7 years, or about 100 a year.

Sounds awful, doesn’t it?

But is it?

Before I begin, I’ll “accept”, for the sake of argument, the figures cited. Given the organization involved I have good reason to believe they’re literally making things up -- but, if this is the best they can do, then they’re in real trouble, as the facts and figures will show.

First, of those 722 deaths 218 of them were suicides. In other words the only person dead is the one with the gun, and he or she intentionally killed themselves.

It’s fundamentally dishonest to argue that these deaths have anything to do with concealed carry permits; one can certainly shoot oneself without a CWP. Indeed you can purchase a firearm in every state without any sort of concealed permit at all; as such these permits are in no rational way associated with suicide.

Then there’s this stunner -- out of the ~700-odd “homicide incidents” that VPC tries to cite, only 177 led to criminal charges, or about 24%. In other words the VPC itself admits that only one in four of their claimed “homicides” were in fact criminal acts.

But the bigger issue, beyond the intentional and knowingly-bogus inflation of the figures that “Violence Policy Center”, an advocacy organization that has been caught doing this sort of poop repeatedly over the years, is the (intentional) lack of perspective.

First, there are roughly 10,000 gun homicides annually. That is, while about 500 “non-self-defense deaths”, ex-suicide, were recorded over that seven year period by concealed carry permit holders some 70,000 people died due to homicide by non-CWP holders as a consequence of firearms over that same period of time.

Or, if you prefer, 0.7% of all such deaths during that time had a CWP holder involved -- a minuscule percentage of the total that is so small you can only argue for this being a problem by intentionally omitting all the other homicides.

Now let’s put some perspective on this figure. Florida has approximately 20 million people living here and a million and a half active, valid CWP holders. In other words about one person in 13, including children under 18 who are, by definition, not legally able to own a firearm.

Therefore it is quite clear that on a population-adjusted basis the safest person to be around in terms of being unlawfully shot, by a factor of over 10:1, is someone with a CWP!

But the real issue isn’t the minuscule number, as a percentage, of CWP holders involved in a homicide.

It’s simply this: In Florida, for example, the number of permits rose by 90% from 2007-2011. The number of violent crimes in which a firearm was used dropped by one third during that same period of time.

In point of fact there are plenty of credible studies that as many as one million felonies are interrupted through the presence of a lawfully-owned firearm every year. We don’t read about most of them, although if you’re interested in a (short) list you can read

the NRA’s publication monthly; they have a column printed every month called “The Armed Citizen” detailing some of the most-egregious examples.

Why don’t we hear of these incidents every night on the evening news? That’s pretty simple: More than 90% of the time the weapon is not discharged because it doesn’t have to be; the perpetrator, upon realizing that if he or she does not cease their unlawful conduct they are likely to assume room temperature, decides to quit whatever he or she is doing.

There is one point on which I will agree with the Violence Policy Center -- it is best if nobody gets shot. Unfortunately for the VPC, the facts related to not getting shot are not in dispute: Roughly a million times a year a violent felony of some sort is stopped by the lawful presence of a firearm and in virtually every case nobody gets shot because it is not necessary to discharge the weapon to convince the felon to cease whatever he or she is doing.

In short, to cite Mr. Lott: More guns, less crime!

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Obama Administration Pushes Ban on Certain Type of Ammo — and It Would Affect the ‘Most Popular Rifle in America’

by Liz Klimas, TheBlaze.com

The National Rifle Association and other Second Amendment advocates are speaking out against the government’s move to amend laws regarding certain ammunition, which could, in effect, ban “one of the most popular cartridges for the most popular rifle in America, the AR-15.”

The issue lies with so-called “armor-piercing” ammunition and handguns. There is an exception for such ammunition if it is “primarily intended to be used for sporting purposes.”

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives is proposing a new framework for those requesting that their projectile qualify as one designed for “sporting purposes.”

M855 ball ammunition, which is the focus of the new regulation, could then fall into this category, according to the NRA’s Institute for Legislative Action.

“The firearm industry has developed commercially available handguns designed to use conventional rifle ammunition,” ATF wrote in its proposal. “This ammunition meets the content requirement of the definition, but previously was not classified as ‘armor piercing’ under the statute because there were no handguns that could ‘use’ it. As a result of the availability of these handguns, however, some conventional rifle ammunition now falls within the statutory definition and is properly classified as ‘armor piercing ammunition,’ despite the fact that the ammunition itself has not changed. Consequently, ammunition manufacturers have requested exemptions for this ammunition.”

The NRA and Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, drafted a letter, which it hopes other Americans will sign onto and send to ATF Director B. Todd Jones to encourage ATF to reverse its proposal.

“The ‘Framework,’ however, establishes an unduly restrictive standard, does not comport with the letter or spirit of the law, and will interfere with Second Amendment rights by disrupting the market for ammunition that law-abiding Americans use for sporting and other legitimate purposes,” the letter states.

“ATF has now rescinded that exemption because repeating handguns that fire the M855 round are commercially available,” the letter continued on later. “Yet this round is amongst the most commonly used in the most popular rifle design in America, the AR-15. Millions upon millions of M855 rounds have been sold and used in the U.S., yet ATF has not even alleged – much less offered evidence – that even one such round has ever been fired from a handgun at a police officer. The idea that Congress intended LEOPA to ban one of the preeminent rifle cartridges in use by Americans for legitimate purposes is preposterous.”

The letter also said the interpretation of “primarily intended to be used for sporting purposes” should include everything from target practice to hunting to competitions to instructional activities.

In Springfield, Illinois, the new framework proposed by ATF drove a rise in sales for the 5.56 mm rounds, the Springfield News-Leader reported over the weekend.

“We sold out of what we had in stock,” Ryan Cook with Eagle Armory told the newspaper. “We didn’t have a lot in the store but I might have sold four or five cases after ATF’s statement came out. I called

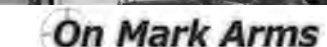
because it would be hard to hide. He also added that he thinks “gun owners are their own worst enemy” when it comes to proposed changes in gun laws.

Justin Anderson with Hyatt Gun Shop told the Washington Examiner, “We’re always concerned when the government uses backdoor methods to impose quasi-gun control.”

ATF is taking comments on its proposed framework until March 16.

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When They Have to Pay, 'Liberal' College Students Suddenly Revolt Against Obamacare-Like Health Fees

by Zach Noble,
TheBlaze.com
(Editor/GG: Doesn't get any better than this. When the libs have to use their own money, it gets real ugly, real quick.)

What happens when you give college students a taste of Obamacare? They spit the taste right out of their mouths.

Cornell University students are up in arms over a \$350 student health fee that will be assessed to any student who doesn't buy the university's health insurance, Casey Breznick, editor-in-chief of the Cornell

conservative student paper the *Cornell Review*, wrote on Legal Insurrection Saturday. He also noted that Cornell's fee resembles a national program: the Affordable Care Act's penalty for those who don't purchase health insurance.

Breznick wrote:

"As Obamacare dictates people must either buy health insurance or pay a tax, Cornell is now requiring students who do not purchase SHIP [university health insurance] pay the health fee. Of course, there are distinctions between each case—namely, attending Cornell is optional

whereas paying taxes is required.

Still, the underlying principle behind the fee implementation and Obamacare are the same: the redistribution of wealth in order to provide "for the common good," as Skorton stated.

Essentially, both the fee and Obamacare are redistributionist policies which seek to extract from some in order to subsidize others. In some ways, however, the Cornell student health fee is worse, because it's not only a redistribution of wealth, it is an administrative bailout to the tune of a cool \$4 million. It's a double-whammy of liberal ill-logic and

progressive policy."

Some of the most vocal opponents of the fee, Breznick said, are "liberal" students.

"These are the same students who almost surely all vote for Democrats and support redistributionist, big government policies," Breznick noted, "but when it comes to their own pocket books they are suddenly outraged."

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Colorado: State Board Told Prior Parent Consent Required for Health Survey

by Todd Engdahl,
Co.Chalkbeat.Org

Parents have to approve their children's participation in the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, and schools can't merely offer parents the opportunity to opt out, an assistant attorney general told the State Board of Education Friday. "I conclude that prior written parental consent is required before any Colorado public school students can be administered" the survey, Senior Assistant Attorney General Tony Dyl wrote in a memo to the board.

The survey has been criticized by some parents who are offended by questions on student drug use, sexual practices, drinking, and other sensitive issues.

Board members started asking questions about the survey at their February 19 meeting. They asked Dyl to write the memo, which he presented to them at Friday's session.

"Merely affording parents notice and an opportunity to 'opt-out' of the [survey] is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the law," Dyl wrote. "Read together, these two statutes are not ambiguous."

Dyl concluded that consent is valid only if a school district has given written notice of the survey, made a copy of the survey available for viewing, and given parents two weeks to respond.

The way most schools currently administer the survey appears to be at odds with Dyl's opinion. Some 92 percent of schools use a "passive consent" let-

ter, which allows parents to opt out if they choose, according to Sarah Nickels, the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey lead at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Another 8 percent of schools use "active consent" letters, which require a parent signature for any student who participates in the survey.

The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey is given every other year to students in randomly selected schools that agree to participate. More than 220 schools and 40,000 youth took the 2013 survey.

Dyl cited federal and state law that say that parents must consent to any survey required of students that touches on certain topics. A recent version of the survey specifies that students' participation is voluntary.

Dyl's memo is what's known in state government as an "informal opinion," meaning it represents the legal opinion of the lawyer who wrote it and is not a formal ruling of the attorney general. Such formal opinions have the force of law. (See full memo below.)

The board considered passing a motion directing education Commissioner Robert Hammond to distribute the memo to school districts and

provide advice on the issue. But members decided to delay any action until the next regular meeting on March 11-12.

Angelika Schroeder, a Democrat from Boulder, said it's important that the board be able to hear public testimony on the issue.

While no action was taken, some board members made their views on the issue clear.

"The whole thing just seems really poorly handled. ... Why is it so hidden?" said board member Deb Scheffel, a Republican from Douglas County. "I feel like I'm flat-footed; I don't have any information" when questioned by parents.

Schroeder questioned whether parents are in the dark about the survey. "We're generalizing that parents were the last to know, and that's not true." Schroeder is a former Boulder Valley school board member and said, "Parents certainly in my school district were notified."

Pam Mazanec, a Republi-

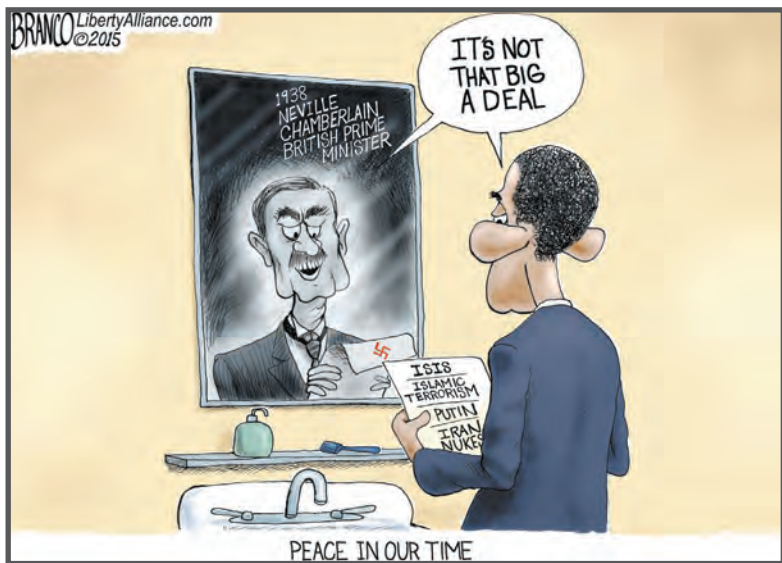
can from Douglas County, said the survey "strikes me as exploitive of children. ... I think it's inappropriate. It's repulsive to me."

Both Scheffel and Mazanec said they believe the survey has become more intrusive in recent years.

Rebecca Holmes, a Department of Education associate commissioner, said the origins of the survey go back to 1991 and while questions have been added over time, sensitive questions "have been asked for most of the 24 years of the survey."

The survey is the Colorado version of a federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey and is supervised by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Department of Human Services and CDE. The public health school at the University of Colorado Denver does the survey work.

Please see: co.chalkbeat.org/2015/02/27/state-board-told-prior-parent-consent-required-for-health-survey/#.VPH-KUeDd7Hg



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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.



Some Things Remain The Same

The polls (for whatever useful purpose they serve) indicate that Wisconsin’s Governor Scott Walker is among the front runners of the GOP hopefuls for president. It would be useless to prognosticate at this time who will actually secure the nomination but one thing is very predictable....every attempt will be made by the liberal media to bushwhack Walker with irrelevant questions. As one of the leaders, he will be in the constant cross-hairs, but irrational antagonism will be severely compounded by virtue of the governor’s brand of Christianity. Being the son of a Baptist preacher, a regular church goer, and a social conservative provides enough raw meat for the junkyard dogs to bear their fangs.

It would be inappropriate to compare any politician to Jesus Christ (i.e. Chris Matthews afflicted with the Messiah complex), but the Lord did indicate that the world would hate his followers because the world hated Him. (John 17:14) Therefore, in the spirit of anticipation, it would be beneficial to observe the methods utilized by Jesus’ adversaries for history is determined to repeat itself.

In John 8 the scribes and Pharisees drag a woman in front of Jesus and declare that she was “taken in adultery, in the very act.” They continue...” now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned, but what sayest thou?” The next verse adds... “this they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him.” The trap has been baited and set.

If the Saviour agrees to a stoning, He will be ridiculed for compromising his own words... “and him that cometh to me, I will in no way cast out.” (John 6:37) On the other hand, if he recommends forgiveness and liberty, he stands in violation of Moses’ law. It seemed so perfect, but in their zeal to trip the Lord, their intellectual poverty was glaring. If the woman was caught in the act, where was the man? The law demanded the judgment on both violators. The chicanery was so obvious Jesus didn’t even bother to answer the idiots but rather wrote on the ground. He undoubtedly referenced Leviticus 20:10 and Deuteronomy 22:22 that document equal opportunity sentence. When the Great Lawgiver finally spoke, His only comment was, “He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.” In less than five seconds, the snare had been reversed, and the dummies are speechless. If anyone picks up a rock, they automatically declare themselves to be sinless which is extremely difficult when standing in the presence of “God manifest in the flesh.” (I Timothy 3:16)

It really is not a mystery why the Scribes of CBS and ABC join ranks with the Pharisees of NBC, CNN, etc., to pepper conservative candidates with questions about moral issues. That is the best leverage they have to place the target on the defensive. Occasionally, defense scores points, but not often. Jesus refused to occupy that position but rather when chal-

lenged He moved forward, often answering the question with one of His own. Those on the right would do well to spend more time in the Book observing how the real Answer Man dealt with the critics. Wouldn’t it be refreshing to hear a challenged pro-life candidate respond with: “When you bring me documentation that you have asked several Democrats about their position on infant rights, I will reply.”

The Pharisees left the Lord with the woman but quickly regrouped and returned with reinforcements. The remainder of the chapter records a running verbal gun battle between Jesus and His opponents who claim privilege due to Abrahamic ancestry. Jesus discounted their authenticity with “If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill Me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.”

A reporter recently asked Scott Walker if he thought Barack Obama is a Christian. In the light of the Lord’s analysis, and appropriate answer could be....only God knows the heart but, if he is, why has he spent six years attempting to verbally assassinate George Bush; if he is, why does he speak of Muslims in flattering terms but Christians in a derogatory manner; if he is, why is he by all appearances more interested in a warmer relationship with Iran than Israel? Those of us who cling to our Bibles and guns have serious reservations.

A Sheepdog Barks!

So, let’s see if I have this correct. We can all sleep better and relax more because Secretary of State John Kerry said we are safer today and face “less daily threats” than ever before in our history. He said that even though the FBI Director said he is investigating terrorist suspects in ALL 50 states and the Director of National Intelligence said 2014 was the most lethal for terror in 45 years or more. HOWL! This false assurance comes from a man that is a known pathological liar. Kerry lied about our troops in Vietnam. He lied about his service in Vietnam. He lied about throwing his medals over the White House wall, (but proudly “wore” them when running for president.) He lied about being in Cambodia. He lied about his residence so he could “park” his yacht where he could avoid taxes. He lied about who was responsible for the “Iron Dome” in Israel. He lied about the good relations with Obama and Israel and he lied about Netanyahu being welcome in this liberal progressive America. He lied about supporting and then not supporting the war in Iraq and he has lied to Congress every time he has testified in the last two years. But

mock-up U.S. aircraft carrier, conducting long range, missile tests and developing a drone program. They don’t seem to be too concerned about “poking us in the eye!” WOOF! Obama wants ANY deal he can get just so he gets a “deal” for his legacy. Information has been leaked about a provision that allows Iran to go nuclear in 10 years. Obama doesn’t care. He just wants to get out of his last term. Kerry wants any kind of a deal, good, bad, or ugly, so he can get the next Nobel Peace Prize. What a spectacle that would be! The O&K Twins and their twin gold medals. That thought is enough to give a sheepdog a “bad hair day.” Think about that – the pretense of progress. Obama got his medal before he had done anything to deserve it. Kerry might get one for negotiating a sham of an agreement while Iran builds and tests ICBMs which are not part of the talks. ICBM-Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. Do you get that? Why would a nation need a missile that can reach another continent? To deliver Halloween Candy? You know why! The O&K Twins – out to help destroy America for their egos and legacies. Wake up, America! WOOF!



OIALPA: Florida. High school educators are requiring the students to learn prayers from the Koran. The students were taught the 5 pillars of Islam. Parents found out when their kids came home with a homework assignment to make a prayer rug. When confronted by angry parents, the educators said it was no different than teaching kids the Ten Commandments. When has that happened in school lately? Further explanations went something like this: Teaching about religions is different than teaching religion and “21st Century Citizens” needed to understand Islam. Further investigation by the parents revealed that the 100 pages in the text book on Judaism and Christianity had been removed. You can’t trust LPSDs. WOOF!

OIALPA: Hollywood, CA. Al Sharpton calls for an emergency meeting because no blacks were nominated for an Oscar. WOW! Talk about wearing “race-colored glasses”. I suggest those actors and actresses will impose an affirmative action plan for the Oscars – you know what I mean. At least 15% of all nominees must be black whether they can “act” worth a darn or not. Yes, that will make things right. Better yet why don’t they just have the Black Oscars and then all of nominees and winners would be black. Even better - give everyone in Hollywood an Oscar, then nobody can feel hurt or left out. Even Kanye should go for that. Beyoncé would get some more trophies every year. Reverend Sharpton – a Tinsletown Shakedown? Really? WOOF!

OIALPA: University of California-Davis. Students supported a pro-Hamas vote on campus. Hamas members are terrorists. Jewish students were taunted with pro-Hamas chants and Jewish fraternities had swastikas painted on them. These were clearly anti-Jewish and anti-Semitic actions right here in America and on another college campus run by LPSDs. Wake up, America! WOOF!

May God Have Mercy on America! JMH

While Obama and Kerry blindly “fiddle and pluck” their way to “a deal” while not wanting to upset the Iranians, the Iranians are supplying the Yemeni rebels, shooting missiles at a mock-up U.S. aircraft carrier, conducting long range, missile tests and developing a drone program.

all that pales as we watch him perpetuate the biggest lie of all in these so-called negotiations with Iran. He recently said we stopped Iran dead in their tracks from developing a nuclear weapon. HOGWASH! He and Obama have done nothing but ease the sanctions and give them more time and space to deceive us while they rush their efforts to become a nuclear weapon power. The reason Prime Minister Netanyahu came over this week and spoke the truth, against the intense pressure by Obama and Kerry not to, was testimony to how important this situation is. Allowing the development of a nuclear warhead by Iran may turn out to be the single, biggest mistake ever made in the history of the U.S. While Obama and Kerry blindly “fiddle and pluck” their way to “a deal” while not wanting to upset the Iranians, the Iranians are supplying the Yemeni rebels, shooting missiles at a

Let’s end today with a few more “Only In A Liberal Progressive America:”

OIALPA: Paris, France. What an embarrassment. Secretary of State John Kerry was a day late and a dollar short. AFTER He and Obama neither one showed up to support France when they should have, Kerry shows up a week or so later with a singer – James Taylor. Taylor then sang a song on behalf of America to the people of France while Kerry swayed to and fro. Ridiculous! It was stupid and embarrassing. Kerry also looked stupid and awkward when he “over hugged” and then clasped both hands of the French President. A real man alright. Musical Diplomacy at its best. Maybe Kerry will take another singer to the Iran nuclear talks and sing to the bomb makers. We suggest Ted Nugent. That should do the trick with those sentimental ole terrorists. WOOF!



Shouldn't Employers be Able to Reward Good Work?

by Connard D. Wolf

(Editor/GG: Why are liberals/unions so afraid of merit pay?)

Advocates for right-to-work policies are pushing a bill for reform of labor laws so that employers can reward employees without having to ask a union's permission.

The Rewarding Achievement and Incentivizing Successful Employees Act, which was introduced Thursday by Sen. Marco Rubio and Rep. Todd Rokita, is designed to amend the National Labor Relations Act so employers can give merit-based compensation increases to individual employees, even if those increases are not part of their collective bargaining agreement.

"Currently, if an employer wants to reward particularly hard-working employees, in almost all cases, the union can and will block any bonuses to those workers, which then makes it difficult to keep the best employees," Patrick Semmens, the vice president of the National Right to Work Foundation, told The Daily Caller News Foundation. "The bill would stop unions from being able to block such merit bonuses."

Senate labor committee Chairman Lamar Alexander, who is cosponsoring the legislation, said in a statement, "This bill will give employers the freedom to pay their employees more for a job well done, for their dedication and hard work, rather than for their time spent in a union."

Current law, which requires unionized companies to negotiate wage increases through the union, may actually bring down average wages for unionized companies. A study by Dr. Brigham Frandsen shows average wages fall for unionized companies because skilled and experience workers tend to leave for non-unionized companies.

"They suggest that union representation led to a decrease in establishment payroll, employment, and average worker earnings," the study notes. "The decrease in payroll and earnings was primarily driven by changes in

workforce composition in response to a union victory. Higher-paid workers were more likely to leave after a union victory, and younger, lower-paid workers were relatively more likely to come."

The Heritage Foundation argues that this structure discourages hard-working employees because, all too often, they are not rewarded for going above and beyond compared to their colleagues.

"When you're in a union, raises are usually all or nothing. They are not necessarily forbidden; the unions just have to sign off on them," Heritage notes on an informational page.

"Only about 20 percent of union contracts permit performance-based raises, less than half the rate in nonunion firms," they continued. "This means 80 percent of workers can't get an individual raise for doing good work—a raise must be negotiated for everyone. That certainly takes away the incentive to go above and beyond, because there are no performance-based bonuses or even merit increases."

The bill is likely to face a prominent opposition. The Raise Act was originally introduced in 2012 but was quickly defeated by 45-54 vote. At the time, Democrats had a majority in the Senate.

As the Service Employees International Union argued at the time, the Raise Act was "aimed to do one thing only – strip unionized workers of their fundamental right to bargain collectively over wages."

Semmens and the act's supporters saw this argument coming, though, and they aren't convinced.

"The fact that 'Big Labor' opposes this legislative fix shows that union bosses are interested in maintaining their iron-fisted control over workers at all costs, even if it means less money in the pockets of workers they claim to represent," Semmens concluded.

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One-Sided Education: Colorado University Ideologues Charge Arm and Leg for Indoctrination

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

(Editor/GG: The liberal progressives have DESTROYED our colleges and universities. As evidenced even here in Custer County, only one voice is to be allowed. They have turned generations of our children into mindless, government-dependent, whining robots. Che Gurvera would be proud.)

Apparently, the University of Colorado at Boulder actually does not believe in equal opportunity. Equal opportunity of perspective, that is. Stephen Hayward, the first Visiting Scholar in Conservative Thought and Policy at CU Boulder, addressed the one-track ideology he experienced after a full year in the position in an article published by National Review.

It was not all a horror story, to be fair. Hayward reflects that departments like economics, classics, and even some philosophy and political science are home to thoughtful faculty and still reasonably pursue the collegiate values of "reason,

objectivity, and truth."

The system implodes, however, in less rigorous areas of study, specifically at CU, in history, English, sociology, anthropology, and geography. To which we ask – how does one make geography ideological? Palestine vs. Israel? Hayward observes the pride, the women-and-gender studies department have for a certain activist-in-residence, which is not a professor or teacher with academic credentials of any kind, more like a Ward Churchill figurehead of insanity than an open-minded intellectual with an education and personal responsibility to actually teach students how to think for themselves.

And it's not so simple as staking an ideological claim against the current.

"To speak out alone against the relentless and insatiable demands of grievance leftism is to risk losing out on promotion and advancement, even if you already have tenure," explained Hayward.

This attitude is raising a sadly

misinformed generation here in Colorado and in liberal arts colleges across the country. The divide between unbiased, fact-based disciplines and liberal arts pursuits that look increasingly more like propaganda growing fields is widening. Hayward predicts that save for science and technology, a college education will soon produce an intellectually-handicapped radicalist with no real skills for earning a living wage.

Ultimately, he concludes that with such a lack of even-handed transparency in education, "It is doubtful that the university in its current form will survive." Ouch.

All that for the bargain price of approximately \$25,000 in-state estimated costs and \$48,000 out-of-state estimated costs per year. That really hurts.

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Please limit Letters to the Editor to 250 words and "We the People" Speak to 500 words. Please include your name, address and phone number.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

WHO'S COUNTING?

US NATIONAL DEBT
\$18,146,710,385,275

SCANDAL SCOREBOARD

FAST & FURIOUS: FIRST CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC WITH THE DEATH OF BORDER PATROL AGENT BRIAN TERRY.

NO RESPONSIBILITY YET!

NOW ON DAY #1,543

1ST AMENDMENT ATTACKS ON U.S. PRESS BEGAN WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPLIED FOR A SEARCH WARRANT AGAINST JAMES ROSEN.

NO ACCOUNTABILITY YET!

NOW ON DAY #1,215

TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI FOLLOWED BY RELENTLESS LIES AND COVERUPS.

NO ACCOUNTABILITY YET!

NOW ON DAY #896

IRS TARGETING OF CONSERVATIVE GROUPS ADMITTED BY LOIS LERNER.

NO ACCOUNTABILITY YET!

NOW ON DAY #665

OBAMACARE STARTED ON OCTOBER 1, 2013, BASED ON LIES, INCOMPETENCE AND BUDGET BREAKERS. NEEDS TO BE REPEALED.

NO ACCOUNTABILITY YET!

NOW ON DAY #522

VA NON-TREATMENT OF VETS LEADING TO EXCESSIVE WAITS AND DEATH LISTS.

NO JUSTICE YET!

NOW ON DAY #319

"Takin' It To The House..."

A Calendar And Commentary From The Golden Dome

From: Representative
Jim Wilson – HD 60
March 1, 2015

Back in January I gave you a heads up that a battle was brewing over TABOR – the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. Well, the battle is on! The D's continue to make it clear that they would like to keep the money to spend where they feel it would be best. The R's are maintaining their position of wanting to give the money back to the taxpayers in accordance with how the people voted in 1992. The D's are seizing every opportunity to demonize TABOR as the reason there is no revenue available to fund state programs. The R's are quick to point out the fact that the General Fund has increased its expenditures \$2.9 Billion (with a B!) since 2009, so there must not be a lack of dollars. The battle is beginning to infiltrate committee action in the House.

In my Finance Committee meetings, the Chair (Rep. Court: D-Denver) has unilaterally established a "policy" forcing any bill

getting through the Finance Committee to have a 3-year sunset clause. I do not believe that sunset clauses are a bad thing. In fact, I try to include a 5-year sunset clause in many of my bills. The problem with a 3-year sunset is many programs cannot be established and prove themselves (or not) in 3 years. A 3-year sunset will create a surge of "unworkable" laws to hit the legislature in 3 years. What could be the cause of the fiscal failure? Voila – TABOR! The regular lectures have reached the point where I usually ask Rep. Court, "Are we all going to get the 'TABOR Sermon' today?" Stay tuned on this one...

Three big items loom large on the horizon which will all "poke" the TABOR giant. The first item is the March Revenue Forecast for Colorado. The March forecast will give us an idea of how much revenue is available to fund the state budget. The second item is building the state budget itself (known as the Long Bill because it

is really LONG!). And, the final item, the School Finance Act. School Finance requires nearly 40% of the entire General Fund. The second half of the session will prove to be interesting...

Two bills I am co-sponsoring moved another step forward in the process this week. HB15-1170: "Increasing Postsecondary And Workforce Readiness" (co-sponsored by Rep. Kraft-Tharp: D-District 29) passed the Education Committee on a 10-1 vote. HB15-1180, another bill I am co-sponsoring with Rep. Kraft-Tharp passed the House Finance committee unanimously on Thursday. HB15-1180 would provide a tax incentive to small companies (fewer than 35 employees) in the Med Tech and Clean Tech industries. Did I mention the 3-year sunset Rep. Kraft-Tharp and I had to add to HB15-1180 to get it through the Finance Committee?

We bit the bullet and consented to the 3-year sunset. I did comment to the Chair and the Committee

on my legislative beliefs. I simply stated, "I understand your concerns over TABOR and your passion about 3-year sunsets. However, I firmly believe good legislation is good legislation. I do not believe our agenda should be driven by Chicken Little. If things go south, we will deal with it like legislatures before us – I think that is what we are supposed to do."

We are at the midpoint of the 120 day legislative session. The first half of the session has been dominated by legislators scrambling to get bi-partisan support for their bills. The second half of the session will be a "battle over bucks". When money is involved, friendships tend to dissolve... 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 to check up on how things are progressing under the Golden Dome.

Yours for HD 60 --
Representative Jim Wilson

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