



by George Gramlich

Eagles Summit Ranch in Custer County, Colorado, (ESR-CO), was founded by Pastor Dave Roeber in 2007 to provide rehabilitation services for our active duty soldiers, veterans, and spouses. Dave, an evangelical Christian, was horribly wounded in Vietnam when a phosphorous grenade exploded in his hand. The majority of his body was badly burned. After years of healing, Dave began his own ministry

Help a Fort Carson Wounded Warrior Fund Drive

paying special attention to our wounded soldiers. God guided him to the little valley where ESR sits today and the rest is history. There he, his family, friends, and followers (many from Custer County) built this great complex of hope and healing. The week-long counseling sessions that Dave and his staff run have turned around the lives of literally hundreds of our wounded, brave soldiers. (For more info on Dave's mission, please see: www.roeber-foundation.org).

The "graduation" dinners on Friday nights, where the soldiers get up and

speak before a packed house of local citizens, truly demonstrate the power of faith and will. Each soldier gives a short speech about himself, his problems, and, inevitably, how he or she has changed for the better in the last week. Folks, at EVERY ESR session, miracles occur. I have never seen anything like it. It is hallowed ground.

Dave recently built a similar ranch in Texas and is spending most of his time there but comes to ESR with his whole counseling team for ev-

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Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Termain, of Ft. Carson's Warrior Transition Battalion.

Sentinel photo by George Gramlich

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Colorado Health Exchange Board Orders Audit Retention Numbers Way Below Expectations

by Katie Kerwin McCrimmon, HealthNewsColorado.Org

Millions in new cost overruns and escalating finger-pointing between Colorado's Medicaid bosses and health exchange managers spurred the exchange board on Monday to vote for its own "end-to-end" audit, while the governor's office is launching a new round of talks between top officials.

Medicaid and exchange managers need to map out solutions for the problems that could cost an additional \$2 million to \$7 million. That's on top of \$6.2 million in cost overruns for the exchange call center this year. It's unclear who will pay for the new fixes — the state, the exchange or both. Exchange board members plan to meet again on March 23 to vote on solutions.

On top of the new self-imposed audit, Colorado lawmakers tomorrow will consider a bill that would require an additional state audit of Colorado's exchange.

Quarreling between the two entities in charge of sign-ups for public and private insurance in Colorado has escalated in recent months because thousands of people struggled this year to sign up through Colorado's exchange, Connect for Health Colorado.

When Colorado lawmakers established the state's exchange in 2011, they set it up as an independent

entity and said it had to support itself. So far, the exchange has been funded with nearly \$200 million in federal start-up funds.

While the exchange operates outside of the state government, everyone who wants to try to get tax credits must first get rejected for the state-run Medicaid program. A shared system between Medicaid and the exchange that was supposed to be simple, instead has snagged thousands of potential customers. On Monday, exchange officials acknowledged that they had 8,000 to 10,000 problematic "incidents." They said one person could have reported multiple incidents, so it's unclear exactly how many thousands of people struggled to sign up. Some people's applications remained hung up for a full four months. Exchange managers said 700 of them are still stuck without health coverage well after open enrollment ended on Feb. 15.

"The technology stinks," said John Luhman, a health insurance broker who attended Monday's exchange board meeting to summarize troubles he and his clients have been having.

"Let's get the truth on the table. We have technology that's horrible," Luhman told exchange board members and the head of Colorado's Medicaid department, whom he blames for all the trouble.

He said he, alone, has 38 families

who remain stuck without insurance and he believes many more than 700 people are still having trouble getting covered.

Luhman described customers with dire health needs and one widower who mistakenly was identified as "deceased" in the state system and couldn't qualify for health insurance until he was able to convince officials that he was, in fact, alive. Luhman said the process of being killed off in the system was traumatic for the man who had recently lost his wife.

The glitches have been costly. Last week, managers told board members that their call center would cost a total of about \$21.14 million this year, \$6.2 million over budget. The previous exchange CEO, Patty Fontneau, and her CFO, Cammie Blais, repeatedly estimated that the entire cost of the exchange per year would be \$26 million.

"Our \$26 million budget is laughable," said exchange board member, Dr. Mike Fallon.

He blasted the IT system that is shared with the state's Medicaid department for not working properly, and said the exchange can no longer subsidize the state's \$7 billion Medicaid behemoth.

Exchange officials estimate that 40 percent of the calls they are getting at the exchange call center relate to people on Medicaid, rather than

to those buying private insurance. On top of that, they estimate that an expensive network of in-person health coverage guides is dealing with Medicaid questions about 60 percent of the time.

Exchange officials said about \$10 million out of \$16.8 million in costs for the assistance network are attributable to Medicaid clients, not people buying private health insurance.

Sue Birch, head of the state's Medicaid program, pushed back against the exchange data, saying it was anecdotal, not based on actual numbers.

She said that if the exchange can prove that Medicaid clients are costing the exchange significant sums of money, the state can pay its "fair share" and try to get reimbursements from the federal government.

"What I don't feel confident about is that I don't have estimates on how much this is going to cost," Birch said.

Connect for Health is supposed to serve people who are buying private insurance. At the same time, federal law requires a "no wrong door" approach, meaning that any person in need of health coverage

PATRIOT ALERT!
Homeland Security Confirms Need for Concealed Carry
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But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matt. 6:33
NIV



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

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

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

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Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

THOSE PESKY LITTLE GOVERNMENT EMAILS



Hillary Clinton is involved in yet another controversy. This time it is about possibly hiding and destroying official government emails she sent and received while she was Secretary of State for Obama's first term. She has been embroiled in one controversy or scandal after another starting back when she was the First Lady of Arkansas until now. First, imagine if you can a big, big government of the people, by the people, and for the people which permits its highest officials to conduct its business secretly and possibly without any official records of that business. That's the real issue here. Most of us would say that is not even possible. We might say that's only possible in places like Russia and China where the people have little or no rights. A great argument is now taking form whether or not Hillary broke any rules or laws. Some are saying that she did absolutely nothing wrong. We find that argument ridiculous. Of course she did something wrong. The question should be more like "why" she did nothing in violation of any

rules or laws. That's the hard part to understand. Once again our big leviathan, out-of-control government is part of the problem. How is that possible? Does anyone really believe our government officials should be able to operate in such secrecy and control? This is not about personal emails of wedding plans, funerals and yoga routines. This is about the very serious and most likely classified business of the United States Government. This is about Benghazi and other foreign policy business. It is rather unbelievable that we are even having this conversation. Yet, Hillary told us on Tuesday that she did nothing wrong, broke no rules, and even that the State Department allowed her to conduct all official business on her personal BlackBerry. Think about that. If that's the case, why do we have any government records or accountability of any elected or appointed official? Why then record and produce the Congressional Record? Yes, our technology has evolved to a point that makes this all possible but doesn't make it right. This con-

trovery shouldn't have even been possible. It's like our forefathers conducting America's affairs and business on personal stationary and then being able to decide which letters to burn in the fireplace. Is that acceptable to the citizens? We think not. Those that love Hillary, and many do, will look past this like they have for all her other controversies and scandals. They will not let this corrupt behavior get in the way of the "first woman president." Those that don't love her will want accountability and some justice. Both sides have to admit that this little caper was premeditated and calculated from her first day as the Secretary of State. This decision was clearly made so that Hillary and her staff could make the ultimate decisions on what the public would know or not know. It is being reported that "others" in similar positions have used personal emails. Of course the fact the "Johnny" did something also is never a legitimate defense. It's either right or wrong. This situation is wrong. If, in fact, there are not air-tight rules and laws about this sort of thing our Congress needs to fix that immediately. That fact has yet to be completely determined and we shall see what comes of this latest Clinton scandal. The one big difference between Hillary and "Johnny" is that Hillary had her very own personal server set up in her house. How convenient. This fact, in our opinion, sheds a completely different light on the use of personal emails for official business. Hillary wants us to be-

lieve it was only for convenience. She wants us to accept that she and her personal staff did a thorough review of separating official and personal emails and that the 30,000 emails they destroyed were only the personal ones. Trust me, she says. Sorry Hillary, we can't do that. It's not up to you and your staff to decide. Tuesday's explanations are insulting. The "smoking gun" here is the personal server which she says will remain private. We'll see about that. Maybe it will and maybe it won't. American citizens need answers. Has that server been hacked? Have foreign governments been reading all of Hillary's official emails? What kind of high-level, security safeguards were available? Hillary told us she never sent classified emails to anyone. How is that possible in four years as the secretary of state? This insults the intelligence of "we the people." Sadly the answers to these questions will not matter to the liberal progressives that want a female Clinton in the White House. It should, but it won't. We ask all the Hillary supporters to imagine how they would feel about these same circumstances if it had been discovered that Dick Cheney did this same thing for eight years as the vice president. Can you imagine the uproar? The Cheney-haters would have been demanding prison time. Let's judge our next president on their character, not the color of their skin or their gender. Hillary's character is suspect. Let's see how the Democrats deal with this and the foreign money issues.



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Rules: We will print, at our discretion, the thoughts and ideas of our fellow citizen-patriots. Please limit your offerings to 500 words or less. No profanity or vulgarity, no personal attacks, and please sign your name and give us the general location of your residence. Also please provide your phone number or email - for confirmation only. *The opinions expressed here are solely those of the author; they do not reflect the opinions held or endorsed by the Sentinel.*

Thank you...

To all my family and friends near and far.

I would like to thank all of you for the loving support and prayers through this difficult time.

May God Bless,
Kathy Lundstedt
Silver Cliff, CO

Constitutional Convention Issues

From time to time a driver will run a red light. Because that driver has not adhered to the law, does that mean the law is outdated and no longer functional? No, usually a nice fat ticket will teach that driver to stop when he sees a red light, and the law remains quite effective! Right now, in our country, and specifically in our state, a movement to change the supreme law of the land through a Constitutional Convention (Con-Con) is being considered. The reasons for changing the Constitution are as foolish and more dangerous than changing our red-light traffic law would be.

Promoters of a (Con-Con) of the states give the following phony reasons for their motion:

1. A Balanced Budget Amendment — If a simple majority in Congress would be made to adhere to the Constitution and limit federal spending to only those things allowed in the Constitution, we would immediately have a balanced budget. So, if congress is not currently forced to follow the Constitution to balance the budget by “we the people,” what force is going to make them adhere to a Balanced Budget Amendment?
2. Term Limits for Congress and the Supreme Court — Yes, term limits already exist for Congress. It’s called the ballot box! Educating other voters and sending in your ballots is the only safe and effective way to have your voice heard in Congress. If our elected officials did not have to come to the people each election year for another vote of approval in order to keep their jobs, there would be no incentive to honor the wishes of “we the people.”

How frightening!

Term limits for a supreme court justice also already exist in the Constitution in the form of impeachment. Just because a justice is rarely impeached doesn’t mean that the option doesn’t exist! Most of us just haven’t educated ourselves on this option. If you are concerned about disallowing the supreme court from legislating moral issues such as abortion and school prayer, then tell your congressmen. They have the power to limit the appellate jurisdiction of the supreme court, so that the court can never even hear these cases. Congress can also control, change, or abolish abusive federal district courts, which are a creation of Congress in the first place.

3. Redefining the treaty clause — Some people are under the misconception that the Constitution’s “Supremacy Clause” allows treaties with other nations to trump our Constitution. This notion is simply incorrect. Instead, it makes United States treaties valid instead of the individual state treaties that existed before our country was fully organized. All U.S. treaties made must be “in pursuance” of the Constitution. No problem there!

4. Redefining the General Welfare Clause — Many Americans are rightfully concerned about socialistic redistribution of wealth. But, the Founders never intended for the federal government to have anything to do with charity or handouts. Government charity is not one of the duties or powers specifically provided for in the federal Constitution. The 10th Amendment explains that powers not enumerated in the U.S. Constitution are to be handled by the states,

local governments, and the people. Once again, the law doesn’t need to be changed; it needs to be obeyed.

5. Redefining the Commerce Clause — The Commerce Clause authorizes congress to regulate commerce to ensure that the flow of interstate commerce is free from local restraints imposed by various states. An abuse of this clause can be overturned by a simple majority in congress. No need to tamper with the Constitution over that. Instead, use your vote to eliminate congressmen who support measures abusing this clause.

6. Limitations on Executive Orders — Nothing in the Constitution authorizes “executive orders.” In fact, ALL legislative power is vested in congress. The Constitution can’t be amended to eliminate something it already doesn’t allow. Congress, get a backbone and stand up to the President! He is not our dictator.

That’s it, folks. Promoters of a Con-Con do not have a single valid reason to tamper with the Constitution. So, if all the given reasons for a Con-Con are fraudulent, then I believe the only unspoken reason that exists is to destroy the law that has protected our God-given rights for more than two centuries. I can think of nothing more frightening! I implore our state legislators to turn down this dangerous movement without hesitation. I encourage all Americans to educate themselves on the Constitution, so they can utilize it to get our country back on track.

Sincerely,
Mary Smith,
Cañon City

EPA: Stop Eating Meat Cow Flatulence is Destroying the World!

Let’s forget for a moment that with every breath, every mammal on the face of the earth exhales CO₂. Let’s forget that every plant on the face of the earth uses CO₂ as food to grow and that pure oxygen (O₂) is a by-product that is produced. This process is called photosynthesis. Maybe those over 50 will remember drawing pictures of plant leaves in science class to illustrate the process. Striking out with scaring people with CO₂ concerns, the EPA’s sights are now targeting methane, specifically cow flatulence. True, methane is a more powerful greenhouse gas than CO₂, but it exists in much lower quantities in the atmosphere. For the record, the number one source of methane on earth is ter-

mites. Rotting vegetation also generates a lot of methane. We have been drilling wells in old landfills for many years for this valuable source of energy. For the uninformed, natural gas, which seems to be the darling of environmentalists these days given the number of gas fired electricity plants being built, is methane.

So, now the environmental elite at the EPA want Americans to stop eating meat to save the planet. To frame the argument another way, let’s look at relatively recent natural history. Today, there are about 100,000,000 cows in America. The majority are beef cattle, but there are a good number of milk cows, too. Due to their digestive systems, cows create a lot of methane in the form of

flatulence. Two hundred years ago, there were an estimated 60,000,000 bison running wild in North America. A buffalo, under its skin, is virtually identical to a cow, except, buffalo are about one-third larger. For ten thousand years, buffaloes have been flatulating and it is reasonable to assume due to their large size that they produced one-third more methane than a cow. Somehow, good, old Mother Earth seems to have dealt pretty well with all that gas.

Frankly, I can’t think of a reason why I or any American should stop eating meat to “save the world.” Excuse me while I make a hamburger for lunch.

Joe Cascarelli
Westcliffe, CO

Period = Don’t Count On It

“The U.S.A. will not allow Iran to get a nuclear weapon, PERIOD.” said Susan Rice recently at the AIPAC meeting. It reminds me of Obama saying, “If you like your doctor you can keep your doctor, PERIOD.” When will these people learn we don’t believe you. And wasn’t it Susan Rice who went out on five Sunday liberal media outlets to state it was an anti Islam video that caused a spontaneous riot in Benghazi? And recently Jeh Johnson, head of the Department of Homeland Security, went on five Sunday shows saying how DHS

needed to be funded or the sky would fall? So that’s all the president’s men trying to put Humpty Dumpty back together again. But, Boehner is joining them. Wait a minute, I thought Boehner was a Republican, on our side, elected to do our will and oppose the liberal democrats. Not so fast, grasshopper. Who in Washington, D.C., understands and represents American conservatives? We need a new House Speaker, a new Senate leader, and new President.

Bill Bailey,
Westcliffe, CO

Public Notices: A Dead Issue

We are sick and tired of all the negative letters concerning the public notices and other small issues.

Yes the *Sentinel* is a very conservative newspaper! And yes, the *Tribune* is a very liberal newspaper! We have no in-between. So they ruffle each others feathers on a weekly basis.

Seeing that about 80% of this county is conservative, that leaves the few liberals unhappy. This country has always been run by the majority, and within the laws of our Constitution. Yet all we hear from

are these few liberals. How about ALL us conservatives standing up and being heard?

The process to print the Public Notices was out to bid, and it is normal for a county or city to approve the low bid. No other factors should be involved, especially with the cost to be about one third the price of the other.

Please, let this issue lie! The commissioners did the right thing.

Chris Ueberroth
Rural Westcliffe



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Westcliffe Parents Group Update

by Christy Morell

The Parent Group met Saturday, March 7th, at 2 p.m. We're excited to share a few things that are now scheduled and will start the ball rolling!

We have many adults who have expressed interest in training to assist our community in crisis situations. Our first class will be offered on Tuesday, April 7th, at 6:30 p.m. The class is expected to run approximately two hours and will take place at Lange Hall, at 312 S. 3rd Street in Westcliffe. We've chosen suicide/recognition signs of suicide potential as our initial course. Numerous courses will be offered over the next few months covering a variety of crisis situations and appropriate response/intervention for each. Snacks and beverages will be available during this session. You must be 18 or older to participate and the class is open to ANY and ALL community members.

The first "Compassionate Friends" meeting will be held on March 16th, at 6 p.m. in the Library Community Room. Compassionate Friends is a support group for those who have experienced the loss of a child. The first meeting will focus on evaluating ability to meet National Charter requirements, so we urge any parent who has experienced the heartbreaking loss

of a child to attend!

A bread baking class will be held on Saturday, April 25th, immediately following our "Parent Group" meeting at Lange Hall. Parent Group meets at 2 p.m., so bread making will begin right around 3 p.m. This class is open to adults and teens 13 and older. You will learn to create homemade, Artisan bread from start to finish.

Peggi Collins has been hard at work getting the legal/business end of our group organized. Now we need to choose a name for our group. We'd like to ask our community to offer ideas! We also need executive board members. If you would like to help us come up with a name or are interested in this board please attend our next meeting.

Our next Parent Group meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21st, 2 p.m. at Lange Hall. Now that we've waded thru some of the red tape, had time to ask what our community is interested in, and gather appropriate information, we're very anxious to move forward with some really great plans! Our next meeting will be full of information, so we encourage everyone to join us and learn more!

Thank you so much for your community support.

Two Colorado Towns Come Together as Colorado's First International Dark Sky Community

Press Release
TUCSON, Arizona, and
WESTCLIFFE / SILVER
CLIFF, Colorado
(9 March 2015)

The bordering towns of Westcliffe and Silver Cliff in southern Colorado have come together to protect a shared natural resource – their dark night skies. In the first effort of its kind, the towns worked side by side to ensure preservation of dark nights for the benefit of future residents. As a result of their efforts, the towns have earned Colorado's first International Dark Sky Community designation from the International Dark-Sky Association.

"We're truly inspired by the dedicated cooperation of Westcliffe and Silver Cliff to preserve their night skies, and hope it inspires similar successful collaborations," IDA Executive Director J. Scott Feierabend said.

Dark Mountain Valley Nights

With a population of less than 1,200 people, Westcliffe and Silver Cliff are the only incorporated settlements in the Wet Mountain Valley of southern central Colorado. The area was once a

bustling population center. At the 1880 Census, Silver Cliff was the third most populous municipality in the state and was considered for the site of the Colorado capital before statehood in 1876. The towns' early prosperity was driven by commercial mining, but is now heavily dependent on agriculture and ranching.

In recent years, the dark night skies over the towns have come to be recognized by locals as a natural resource worth preserving. Situated between the Wet Mountain and Sangre de Cristo mountain ranges, the towns are protected from the most significant source of light pollution in the region coming from cities along the Interstate 25 to the east. The small population, largely rural setting, and limited outdoor lighting have kept the night skies over Westcliffe and Silver Cliff in relatively pristine condition. To keep it this way, each town council adopted a comprehensive outdoor lighting ordinance.

"Viewing this nightscape from a dark location like these Colorado towns is a magical experience of unparalleled beauty and awe that the founding pioneers of this area had as part of their lives," Larry Weber, mayor of Silver Cliff, ex-

plained. "It deserves protection so that far into the future, both residents and visitors can continue to enjoy it."

Concerned Citizens Engage Community

In 1998, a group of citizens concerned about the protection of this resource formed Dark Skies of the Wet Mountain Valley, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. In the years since it was founded, Dark Skies has drawn attention to the threat of light pollution, offered solutions, and engaged residents in protecting the area's night skies. The results equally benefit those who appreciate astronomy and those interested in promoting regional eco- and astro-tourism.

"I've seen the mindset of lifelong locals come to the realization that the Valley's nightscape has real economic value and is worth preserving," Jim Bradburn, president of Dark Skies, said. "That businesses and individuals routinely contact us for guidance in dealing with their own lighting issues is most gratifying."

See DARK SKY
on page 8



A strong body makes the mind strong. As to the species of exercises, I advise the gun. While this gives moderate exercise to the body, it gives boldness, enterprise and independence to the mind. Games played with the ball, and others of that nature, are too violent for the body and stamp no character on the mind. Let your gun therefore be your constant companion of your walks.

Thomas Jefferson

Founding Father and Third President of the United States

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Local Mountain News & Notices

A New Host for Paca Peace Ranch; Openings for Other Volunteers

The twelve alpacas that befriend 5th graders at Paca Peace Ranch have a new home. Bob and Holly Wenger of Westcliffe will be hosting the non-profit's animals by the end of March.

Bob Wenger has been a long-time supporter of the organization after having two daughters participate during their 5th-grade years.

"The Paca Peace Program has truly been a blessing to my family," Bob says. "I feel that working through the program helped Audrey significantly in her transition from home school to public school, and Holly still has the biggest smile when she gets around the alpacas."

This physical move is only part of the changes afoot at Paca Peace Ranch. According to Kristen Maher, president of the nonprofit's Board of Directors, the organization is in a growth phase and needs additional volunteers to help build their capacity to serve the community.

Most importantly, they are seeking a new program manager for the coming year who will run the youth programs and coordinate with schools and families. The program manager is a part-time, volunteer role requiring about 6-10 hours per week for 10 months of the year with a lot of schedule control.



Holly Wenger in 2012 with her alpaca. Now in 8th grade, Holly will be helping host all the Paca Peace Ranch animals.

Courtesy photo

Maher says, "The person in this role should enjoy being with young people, be relaxed and fun-loving, be able to see the good in others, and have the ability to affirm and reframe. Ideally, we would like someone with some background in teaching, counseling, social work, or other previous mentorship with youth. And of course, animal lovers are especially welcome to apply!"

The Board of Directors does not expect that the person in this role would have previous experience working with alpacas. They have a well-developed existing curriculum and other support available.

Maher adds, "This is a wonderful opportunity for someone who loves kids and animals and wants to do something that makes

a difference."

In addition to this leadership role, the organization has volunteer openings for those who have other talents to lend. For instance, they need someone to keep financial records, another person to coordinate events, and others to mentor kids. More information about each of these roles is available at their website, www.pacapeace.org.

Over the past 13 years, Paca Peace Ranch has served many local kids, building confidence as well as skills in decision-making and peaceful conflict resolution. The program helps ensure that kids enter their teens ready to thrive.

Anyone interested in learning more about the program manager position or any other volunteer roles may contact Sue Hill at 719-371-6100.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

WARRIOR

From page 1

ery session. Needing new directors for ESR, Dave hired Beverly and Jerry Shoemaker last year to run ESR-CO.

Many of the wounded warriors who go through the ESR program are from our very own Fort Carson in Colorado Springs where the 4th Inafantry Division is headquartered. The U.S. Army has established Warrior Transition Battalions (“WTB”) at major forts across the country to provide rehabilitation services for their wounded, injured, or ill soldiers. Recently, Beverly, Jerry, and I traveled to the WTB unit at Fort Carson and met with its commander, Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Aaron M. Termain to find out what the WTB was all about and how Eagles Summit could further help our warriors.

To put it succinctly, the WTB at Fort Carson is simply “top notch”. They have a large, three-building, state-of-the-art complex where LTC Termain commands a staff of 149 (90 military and 59 civilian) with approximately 200 soldiers currently in the

accompanied a group of Fort Carson soldiers last year to a week-long session at ESR with a group from the WTB. He stated that EVERY single soldier that went to that session improved dramatically! We also met two soldiers that went to an ESR session last year and they both said that it changed their lives.

You can feel the aura of new hope over the men and women. God’s work is plain to see during these wonderful dinners. It is truly inspiring.

So, the ESR program works, and works extremely well. The problem is that it costs money to run the program and that funding (donations, grants, etc.) for the effort has become increasingly hard to obtain in the last few years. So, fewer of our wounded warriors are getting a chance at rehabilitation at ESR. So, folks, we’ve got to do something about that.

week of June 8 for the Fort Carson soldiers’ session with the graduation dinner being on Friday, June 12.

Folks, if you have ever been to an ESR graduation dinner, you know that this is money well spent. The program WORKS. You can tell by just hearing the soldiers tell their stories about their week at ESR. Their graduation dinner speeches are deeply moving. You can feel the aura of new hope over the men and women. God’s work is plain to see during these wonderful dinners. It is truly inspiring.

So, we are asking you to dig deep. We need \$12,000 in the next two months to make this happen. It’s the least we can do. These soldiers have given everything for us and America and it’s time to give something back to them.

Let’s make this happen. Please send your checks directly to the *Sentinel* (610 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252) made out to EAGLES SUMMIT RANCH. We will make a record of them and immediately forward them to ESR. All amounts are welcome. We will periodically list the names of the contributors (not the amounts) in the *Sentinel*.



Eagles Summit Ranch, where the Wounded Warriors stay during their transformative week.

Sentinel photo by George Gramlich

program (at one point it was around 600). The soldiers are from Army active duty, Army National Guard, and the Army Reserve. You can see the fierce determination of LTC Termain and all the staff we met to provide the absolute best care for these soldiers and the staff’s dedication to the goal of each soldier having a successful outcome, whether the soldier returns to service or enters the civilian world. LTC Termain noted that the core of the WTB program is built along six “pillars”: Spiritual, Career, Emotional, Family, Physical, and Social. (For more information on Fort Carson’s WTB, please go to www.evans.amedd.army.mil/wtu.)

During our tour of the WTB by LTC Termain, we met Sergeant Brown, one of the staff/cadre. SGT. Brown

OUR SOLDIERS, RIGHT HERE AT FORT CARSON, NEED OUR HELP.

The *Sentinel* asked Beverly and Jerry how much it costs to send a soldier through the week-long program. Answer: About One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) per soldier. Then we asked them how many soldiers it takes to make a good sized class. Answer: 12 soldiers. That comes to only twelve thousand dollars to send twelve OF OUR OWN FORT CARSON SOLDIERS to ESR for a chance at turning their lives around.

After much prayer, the *Sentinel* staff and owners decided to start a fund drive to raise that amount of money for a week long session at ESR for 12 of our local soldiers. ESR has chosen the

If you do not wish to be listed, just indicate that when you send in your contribution.. We will let you know when we hit our goal (any amount over our goal will be dedicated for additional sessions for Fort Carson soldiers). Any questions, please email us at sdcsentinel@gmail.com or call at 719-783-3360.

Also, please make plans to attend the graduation dinner on June 12. The soldiers often can’t believe how many local residents show up just for them. It is an integral part of the healing process to show these warriors that America cares for them. When you see the face on each soldier after his/her speech as he/she gets a standing ovation, you will know what I mean. God Bless our American Soldiers.

9 Health Fair Saturday, April 18th

The 9 Health Fair will be held on Saturday April 18th from 7 am until noon at the Custer County School at 709 Main Street in Westcliffe. Free pap smears, breast exams, and testicular exams are offered by appointment only by calling 783-3369. Check out the web site for other low cost screenings available and early online registration at www.9healthfair.org. Adults sixty and

older may contact the Upper Arkansas Area Agency on Aging at 877-610-3341 to see if they qualify for a blood chemistry voucher. The health fair is open to all adults. New tables will be added this year including the Alzheimer’s Association of Southern Colorado. If you are interested in volunteering for the health fair please call Rhonda Martin at 783-3369.

Legal Pot Challenges Hard Pressed Educational System

by Paul Sage

Colorado school districts, already challenged by budget constraints and academic performance shortfalls, find themselves fighting another battle they didn’t sign up for and are ill equipped and resourced for.

The enemy in this battle is none other than the parents of the students they are charged to educate and the citizens of the state who voted to legalize the recreational use of marijuana while demanding that the schools deliver improved academic performance from their students.

A recent press release from Join Together Staff (Partnership for Drug Free Kids) quoted Odette Edbrooke, the health education coordinator for the Boulder Valley School District pointing out the challenge. “She says the phrase ‘recreational marijuana’ sends students a message that the drug is ‘fun and it’s something to do in your spare time’”.

The marijuana industry, following tried-and-true methods of the tobacco industry of old, concentrate on addicting young people to their product to create lifelong customers. Anybody remember the advertising campaigns of the 40’s and 50’s featuring baseball greats selling Chesterfield cigarettes, or the young girl splashing on a tropical beach in a risqué two piece bathing suit, smoke in hand, ex-

tolling the virtues of Lucky Strikes?

Statistics show that one in seven young people who start using marijuana will become addicted. The ideal target customer for the marijuana industry are young people in their middle school years who are the least likely to think through the long term consequences of their actions, most likely to want to become ‘grown up’, and most likely to become addicted long-term consumers of their products, similar to the marketing approach taken by tobacco companies decades ago.

People have likely forgotten or were never exposed to the 40’s tobacco advertising like that for Lucky Strikes that stated “Luckies’ fine tobacco picks you up when you’re low... calms you down when you’re tense,” or the 1948 Camel add that states that “Out of 113,597 doctors who were asked recently to name the brand of cigarette they preferred to smoke, more doctors named Camel than any other brand.”

And the campaign is working – even without the ongoing five million dollar state taxpayer sponsored advertising campaign for the ‘safe use’ of marijuana.

The Colorado Springs Gazette this past Saturday quoted Colorado Springs District 11 spokeswoman Devra Ashby as saying “All three grades – sixth, seventh, and eighth – are

showing steady increases in marijuana use.” Dr. Kenneth Finn, one of Colorado Springs leading researchers on the subject and owner of Springs Rehabilitation, was quoted in the same article as saying “Cannabis is now the No. 1 admission diagnosis for psychiatric treatment in Colorado.”

While Colorado Springs is a community which, like Custer County, has opted out of the marijuana industry, the effects of the statewide approval of the drug has created the additional burden on the community. “Kids are using, they’re using it regularly, and they’re having problems associated with using it,” Dr. Finn was quoted as saying. He continued, “And 23 percent of the kids being treated for marijuana addiction in Colorado got the drug from their parents or another adult.”

Statistics show that drug policy violations in Colorado middle schools increased 24% during the 2013-14 school year. Overall statewide reporting of all drug use in all high schools reached “a decade-high last year of 5,377,” according to the Gazette.

Custer County and our school are far from immune from the problem, and it will require a concerted effort by responsible parents, the school, the towns, and the county government to consistently educate and resist the negative influence of this drug on our kids locally.

***Peace I leave with you,
My peace I give to you; not as the world
gives do I give to you. Let not your heart
be troubles, neither let it be afraid.***

John 14:27, NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

Ride The Rockies: Volunteers Needed

Chandler Smith, Tour Director, and Renee Wheelock, Community Relations Manager, of Ride the Rockies were in Westcliffe on Friday, February 27th, and met with the Westcliffe Committee for the Finish Town.



Ride The Rockies Core Committee, front row from left to right: Christy Veltrie, Mayor; Donna Hood, Community Coordinator; Gail Perkins, Volunteer Coordinator; Jerry Keffer, Streets and Parks Supervisor; Kathy Reis, Town Clerk; Rene Smith, Chamber of Commerce; back row, Ileen Squire, Silvercliff Town Clerk; Renee Wheelock, RTR; Chandler Smith, RTR; and Dalton Bowman, Streets and Parks Assistant.

Others that were present at the meeting were Sheriff Byerly, Christie Coleman, Roger Camper, Karen Loucks Rinedollar, James Gearhart, Gary Taylor, and Mike Wolking.

Courtesy photo

Volunteer Coordinator Gail Perkins is still needing volunteers for the event in the following categories:

Green Team Crew: composting & recycling attendants -

Volunteers will be trained the day of the event. Volunteers will be asked to do some heavy lifting. A Zerohero representative will connect with volunteer lead prior to the tour to coordinate a meeting time and location.

Finish line volunteers -

People to staff community information booth at the finish line site, serve as ambassadors, and cheer on cyclists as they finish the tour.

Security personnel for bike corral -

The bike corral area must be guarded throughout the entire day, however two-hour shifts are available. Adult supervision is mandatory if a youth or school group is providing

this service. Each registered rider will be wearing a numbered wristband and have a matching bike tag on their bicycle that must be checked before leaving the bike corral.

Traffic direction and parking -

There will be a lot of vehicles needing direction to certain parking areas and, due to congestion, it is necessary to limit access to parts of the parking areas at the tour finish line site and possibly traffic in the immediate vicinity. Security and traffic direction should be provided by adult volunteers. Secured lot must be roped off the day before arrival.

Setup/Breakdown

Assist in setting up tents, fencing, and barriers two days prior to the event. This will require physical labor, including pounding stakes, lifting, bending, and walking.

Clean Up/Trash Detail

Picking up trash throughout the event and at event close. To keep the event area, streets, and sidewalks clean and clear of any trash during the event and at the close of the event. Possible day after the event if needed.

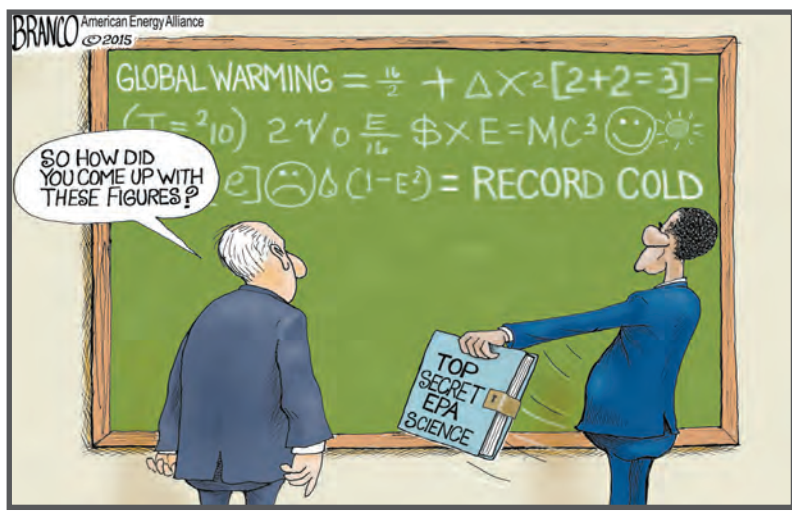
For more information, contact Gail at Town of Westcliffe, phone 783-2282, e-mail: gail@townofwestcliffe.com

Rotary Club Update

For three days last week, Rotary President-elect Monty Lee was in Denver at the High Country Training Seminar. Over 560 future presidents and governors gathered from the western region to learn about governing a club in ways that provide maximum benefit to the community and to the world. Rotary is an international organization of 1.2 million members in more than 33,000 clubs spread across 200 countries. All Rotary members are volunteers who serve the needs of communities worldwide. The training was to help the leaders in the 2015-16 maximize their impact in their communities and abroad,

while making Rotary service fun for all involved. There was also a focus on growing membership, especially young business owners and workers in the community. Since the Wet Mountain Valley Rotary serves the students as well as the adults of the community, additional training looked at opening a club at the school (called Interact). Interact gives students ages 12-18 the chance to make a real difference while having fun.

To learn more about your local Rotary Club, visit www.WetMountainValleyRotary.org or stop by their weekly meeting at noon on Monday at The Mining Company.

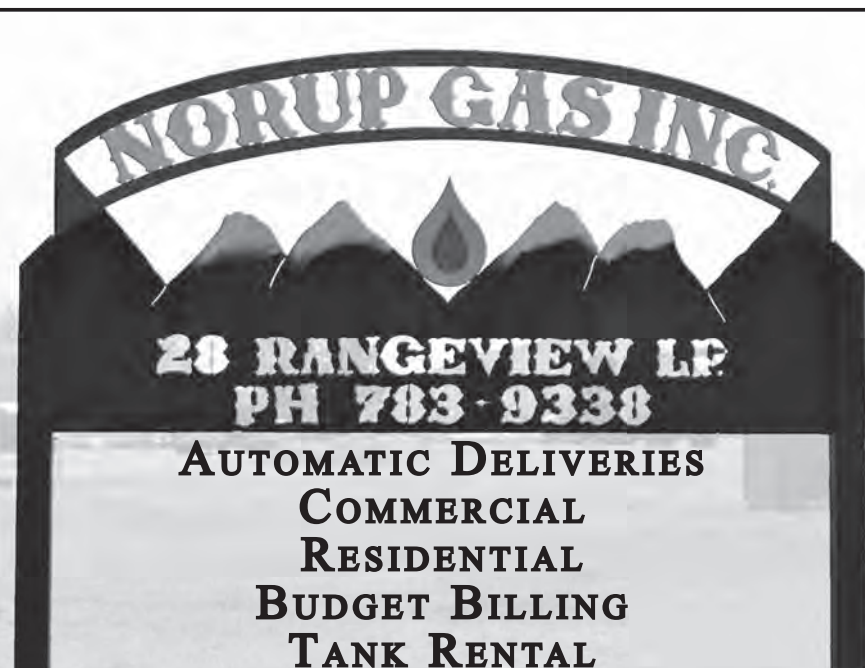


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We love Him because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19, NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

“Takin’ It To The House...” A Calendar And Commentary From The Golden Dome

From: Representative
Jim Wilson – HD 60
March 8, 2015

It was a long time coming this year, but halfway through the session the House experienced its first major floor drama. The incident put the spotlight directly upon how difficult it is for party members to vote their conscience rather than the “party line”. The bill prompting the floor fight was HB 15-1031: “Concerning A Ban On Powdered Alcohol”. The bill passed the House and was sent to the Senate where it was amended, passed, and returned to the House for final passage. On the day the bill was scheduled to be heard in the House, 2 Dems were absent, leaving 63 reps present – 32 D’s and 31 R’s. Now the drama unfolds...

A long and contentious floor debate ensued over the amended bill. The D’s argued that the amended bill was no longer a ban on powdered alcohol but rather a means to tax the product if and when the Federal government ever legalized it. The R’s countered that the amendment allowed the state to regulate the product in the event it was legalized. When the smoke cleared, the Speaker moved to have the bill laid over to delay a final vote being taken. The Speaker had planned on all her 32 D’s voting with her on the motion. Surprise...one of the D’s liked the amended bill and voted with the R’s against laying the bill over! When the final tally showed the Speaker’s motion being defeated by a vote of 32 – 31, the silence in the chamber was ominous. For a brief moment, nothing was said and no one moved – but

that soon changed.

Instead of the Speaker closing the machine and declaring the motion dead, she left the machines open. Immediately, Democrat floor leaders descended upon their “straying” member like a pride of lions on a gazelle! When the dust settled and the “lions” returned to their seats, the wayward representative changed his vote, the Speaker closed the machine and laid the bill over. So much for voting your conscience...

I wanted to give all of the readers that are members of the Public Employees’ Retirement Association (PERA) a heads up on what happened this week. Rep. Court (D-Denver) and I co-sponsored HB 15-1251 dealing with the mandated 5-year adjustment of Denver Public Schools’ Retirement System combining with PERA. PERA’s actuarial staff conducted their study and made recommendations. The solution in our bill was based on PERA’s own actuarial study. The next day, the following statement was issued by the PERA Board of Trustees: “...the Board of Trustees is therefore neutral on the bill, but continues to oppose the actuarial deterioration of the funded status of the Denver Public Schools Division and urges the General Assembly to adopt an employer contribution rate for Denver Public Schools Division of 12.6 percent which is projected to bring the Division to 100 percent funding at the end of the true-up period.” What is going on?



The news flash was not the fact that the PERA Board of Trustees made their recommendation – the headline was that they rejected their OWN actuarial study in doing so! All the calculations of PERA’s “financial stability” have been based on their own actuarial studies. The critics of PERA’s “unfunded liability” were quick to see the irony of: “If PERA does not trust their own actuarial studies, why should we?” This debate has been smoldering for a long time – the Board of Trustees’ statement caused the flames to fire up again!

The next “flames” you see will come from the March Revenue Forecast. All the financial planning for the next budget year will depend on those figures. The “battle over bucks” is about to begin... Stay in touch with us at 303-866-2747 or e-mail us at wilsonforhd60@gmail.com or james.wilson.house@state.co.us .

Yours for HD 60 --
Representative Jim Wilson

DARK SKY From page 4

In partnership with the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation, Dark Skies has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support retrofitting or replacement of outdoor lighting in both towns. Their projects have improved lighting at a number of sites including public works facilities, school district buildings, and the Custer County courthouse. These efforts have helped reduce light pollution and create public awareness.

To gain the cooperation of the towns’ residents, Dark Skies organized a variety of community activities including star parties, public lectures, and sponsoring a dark-skies-themed student art contest in local schools. The group realized that empowering property owners was key to ensuring compliance with the towns’ lighting ordinances. In response, they produced a publication for builders and homeowners on selecting dark-sky-friendly light fixtures.

Keeping the public focused on outdoor lighting issues has helped establish “dark skies” as a community value.

Dr. Bob Stencel, coordinator of the Colorado chapter of IDA, applauds the towns’ achievements and wel-

comes the Dark Sky Community designation. “It will reduce the impact of light pollution and I consider it as a transcendently valuable example to all communities in Colorado to follow this path of light pollution solutions,” Stencel said.

About the IDA Dark Sky Places Program

IDA established the International Dark Sky Places conservation program in 2001 to recognize excellent stewardship of the night sky. Designations are based on stringent outdoor lighting standards and innovative community outreach. Since the program began, nine Communities, 20 Parks and 9 Reserves have received International Dark Sky designations. For more information about the International Dark Sky Places Program, visit: <http://darksky.org/night-sky-conservation/dark-sky-places>.

About IDA

The International Dark Sky Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Tucson, Arizona, advocates for the protection of the nighttime environment and dark night skies by educating policymakers and the public about night sky conservation and promoting environmentally responsible outdoor lighting. More information about IDA and its mission may be found at <http://darksky.org>.

Bobcats Sport Schedule

BASEBALL

Friday, March 20

TBA: SWL Bash at Pueblo

Saturday, March 21

TBA: SWL Bash at Pueblo

Tuesday, March 31

3 p.m.: Double Header at Salida

TRACK

Saturday, March 14

8 a.m.: Harrison Invitational at Harrison High School in Colorado Springs

Friday, March 20

8 a.m.: Center Invitational at Center

Saturday, April 4

8:30 a.m.: Warren Mitchell Invitational at Limon

Custer County School District Community Forum

Who: All community members invited

What: Informational meeting regarding changes in graduation requirements for Custer County High School students.

Where: Multi-purpose room (cafeteria)

When: Monday, March 16 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Please attend and have an active voice in setting expectations for our high school students!

Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcats Track is Under Way

by Coach Jack Swartz

The spring season is upon us and the Custer County Girls and Boys Track and Field team traveled to CSU - Pueblo for the Early Bird Meet on Saturday, March 7th. The Bobcats competed against multiple 5a and 4a schools.

Leading the girls was Katlyn Freeburg with a 6th place finish in the 300 meter hurdles. Emily Crossley ran a personal best in the 800 meter placing 13th. Also competing for the Lady Bobcats was Audrey Hellinger (26th in the Shot Put) and

Kirsten Benoit (35th in the 200 meter).

As for the boys, Dillon Wommack led the way with a 1st place finish in the 300 meter hurdles. Also running well for the boys was Corey Lewenkamp placing 6th in the mile and Michael Franta placing 23rd in the 800 meter. In the field events, Denver Mullet took 13th in both the high jump and the triple jump while Casey Brandon took 29th in the long jump.

The team travels to Harrison High School in Colorado Springs on March 14th.

Custer County School Board Votes Three to Two to Retain Both Principals

by Larry "Lockdown" Luikart

The Custer County School Board meeting opened at 4:30 p.m. March 10, 2015, with Chairman Gaide leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Three items were quickly added to the Agenda receiving approval.

During the Public Comments session, Ron Rodriguez questioned the over testing of the students. His remarks centered around a decision by the State Board of Education which permitted the individual school districts to limit some of the current required testing. Mr. Selle informed Mr. Rodriguez that a very recent attorney general's opinion overturned the State Board of Education. The attorney general ruled the State Board of Education did not have the authority to make such a ruling.

Jenny Stone commented regarding adding cameras, metal detectors, and more armed security to protect the students. Mr. Selle indicated these ideas were being seriously considered. The Custer County Sheriff and the Posse have been extremely helpful in adding more security to the school according to Mr. Selle. The issue is complex and it requires some thoughtful inquiry and real planning before a new plan can be implemented. The security issue is a priority.

Peggi Collins questioned the program to send pencils to Africa when there are many students here in the United States who need help.

The Junior Class reported the Senior Prom is April 26th with a theme of The Roaring Twenties. There will be chaperons. Two charming second graders, Jenna Ingram and William

Clince, gave very detailed and persuasive essays on the use of a padded and inflatable cushion to help improve concentration while in the classroom.

The Board Committee Reports included some comments by Dr. Davis regarding BOCES. She indicated there is a BOCES Budget meeting April 8, 2015. All the superintendents in the Southern BOCES area have been asked to submit salary increases for staff, not the administration. This issue was raised at a previous meeting when Dr. Davis indicated that the BOCES personnel have a very low pay rate. She also indicated the Interim Director Dr. Henry Rolman received a contract through 2016. She indicated this decision added needed stability and administrative skills to BOCES.

Mark Button was approved as a custodian, (pending a background check.) The Check Vouchers, Financial Reports, and many policy statements received approval for second readings. Mr. Jolley requested the Final Fiscal 2014 Audit report be tabled until he had more time to study it. Approved.

The Board heard a succinct report from Dr. Davis on the continued employment of two principals in the district. Her argument centered around the idea that continuing to do the same things while expecting different results is a misnomer. She made it clear in her comments she was discussing the positions not the current individuals who fill those positions. Chairman Gaide objected, indicating she felt changing from two principals to one would be disruptive to the students and not be in the best interests of the students. Mr. Lee indicated there was no backup plan

and that made him very uneasy. He indicated he had real issues if all three administrators decided to leave. The district would be in a real mess. Mr. Jolley indicated that would be a breach of contract if they made such a decision. In the end the vote to renew the two principals contracts were approved by a vote of three to two with Dr. Davis and Mr. Jolley voting No.

The contract for the Business Manager, Ms. Perschbacher, was approved with the Board taking a couple of technical issues regarding beginning and ending dates into consideration.

The Board approved the Custer County School District Accountability Bylaws, Compulsory Attendance, and Goals for the Superintendent.

Elementary School Principal Anderson reported there are fourteen students on the READ plans. Four students are receiving intensive reading instruction. The remaining nine are composed of five students from last year and four new ones this year. CMAS testing is underway in grades three to eleven. Spring preschool planning is underway with a date of May 1, 2015.

Ms. Anderson offered her thanks to Club America and all the volunteers who work so diligently to provide swimming lessons to the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. The lessons culminate in the May triathlon. Teachers are working hard to make sure they have every parent participate in a parent / teacher conference.

Dr. Davis raised a question regarding the testing of the students. She asked

Lady Bobcats Fall to Hoehne Farmers

by Jim Silver

The 2014-15 basketball season is over for the Custer County teams with the loss posted by the girls team on Friday, March 6th. The Lady Bobcats made it into the playoffs, and where we left them in the last issue of the *Sentinel* was looking toward a match-up against the formidable Hoehne Farmers that Friday. This game was played at Otero Junior College in La Junta, noted as "Region 1 Site 1." The girls lost to Hoehne 26-65. As previously noted, the Farmers were undefeated this season, and still are (24-0). They moved on after the win over the Bobcats to be named Region 1 Site 1 Champion by defeating Sanford. The Lady Bobcats and their coaching staff Head Coach Gary Fischer and Assistant Coach Laura Kinsey are to be congratulated for making it into the playoffs, showing themselves to be competitive and capable of winning against any team in their league. These girls will show up next season and be a team to watch!



Lady Bobcats - Great season, ladies!
Courtesy photo by Coach Gary Fischer



Bobcat Menu • March 16 - March 19, 2015

Monday breakfast
Waffles
Sausage Patty
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Cream Chicken & Rice
W.W. Roll
Choice of Veg. & Fruit
Milk

Tuesday breakfast
Scrambled Eggs
W. W. Toast
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Cheese Pizza
Choice of Veg.
Choice of Fruit
Milk

Wednesday breakfast
Bagels, Cream Cheese
Sausage Links
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Fish Sticks
Corn Bread
Choice of Veg. & Fruit
Milk

Thursday breakfast
Sausage Gravy
Biscuits
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Chicken Patty Sandwich
Choice of Veg.
Choice of Fruit
Milk

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

KIDS

Friday, March 13, 2015

U.S. Army Goes to the Dogs

During WWI many dogs served on both sides of the battle, caring messages along the trenches, and boosting moral among the troops. But soon after that war, training dogs for military purposes was mostly abandoned. When we entered WWII in 1941, the American Kennel Association and other dog-loving civilians formed a group called Dogs for Defense. This began a program for dog owners to donate healthy, capable dogs to the U.S. Army. Major General Edmund Gregory gave his approval of the program and training began on March 13, 1942, for the newly formed K-9 Corps.

Originally, 32 breeds of dogs were accepted. That list was soon narrowed to seven breeds: German Shepherds, Belgian sheep dogs, Doberman Pinschers, Collies, Siberian Huskies, Malamutes, and Eskimo dogs. The K-9 members were trained for 8 - 12 weeks. After basic obedience, they were sent through one of four specialized programs of training: sentry, scout or patrol, messenger, or mine-detecting dogs.

A WWII canine hero, Chips, a German Shepherd, was serving with the Army's 3rd Infantry Division in Italy when he broke away from his handlers and attacked an enemy machine gun nest. Though wounded in action, he forced the entire crew to surrender. A present day canine hero, Gabe, now retired, completed over 200 combat missions in Iraq and was named American Hero Dog of 2012.

This program continues today and is used by all branches of service. These four-legged heroes are known to be well trained and are admired for their loyalty and bravery. By tradition, every military dog is considered a non-commissioned officer. There are three cemeteries in the U.S. that allow burial of military working dogs with full military honors and a War Dog Memorial in Michigan.

Source: www.armylive.dod and www.history.com

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

Corner

See BOARD
on page 10

Local Mountain News & Notices



CUSTER COUNTY

LEGAL NOTICES



PUBLIC NOTICE

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

First Published March 6, 2015
Last Published March 13, 2015
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Custer County Board
of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2015
9:00 AM
Wetmore Fire Station**
Agenda

Call meeting to order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Amend agenda

Audience introduction
Approval of minutes
Executive session
Public comments
Commissioner items
Attorney items
New/Old Business
- Liquor License Renewal – Lodge at San Isabel, Rye, CO
- Liquor License premise modification – Letter Drop Inn, Rosita CO
- Wetmore Community Center/ Library Project

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

Published March 13, 2015
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, Colorado

Classifieds

For Sale

New 09 - 2013 - Refurbished - hp All-in-One. PC. - Windows 8: \$350. Call 783-9464



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

For Rent

Apartment with one bedroom and loft in downtown Westcliffe. W/D, remodeled, water/sewer & electric paid. No pets. Deposit required. \$595/mth. 783-3533

Help Wanted

The Custer County Board of County Commissioners are seeking applicants for a part-time (18 hours per week, no benefits) position of **Veterans Service Officer/Administrative Assistant**. Duties include providing quality customer service to Veterans and their families seeking access to resources provided. Successful applicant must be a Veteran, Veteran’s spouse or widow/widower, obtain and maintain

State Certification as a County Veterans Service Officer, and have the ability to regularly move or lift up to 10 pounds, and frequently move or lift up to 25 pounds. A copy of the Veteran’s discharge form (DD214) must be provided. Applicants should be self-motivated and able to work with little supervision after an initial training period. Accuracy and ability to interact with the public are essential. A pre-employment physical and drug and alcohol screening and background check (at county’s expense) are required. Custer County is an equal opportunity employer. Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource/Finance Office at 205 South 6th Street between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM and must be returned by the close of business on March 18, 2015.

Real Estate

**Lori Kastendieck
Independent Broker**
Real Estate
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Serving buyers & sellers since 1982

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Your local contact for a Nationalwide Company. Jeff Holmberg, 719-429-3008



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



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NORDYKE SANITATION

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.

Events Calendar

Saturday, March 14
CANCELED: U.S. Law Shield Seminar, at the Cowboy Church, 783-3360
5 p.m.: Pueblo Friends of NRA Annual Banquet at Pueblo Convention Center; Contact Pueblo FNRA at (719) 546-3609
Sunday, March 15
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: Chamber Member Event - All Aboard Westcliffe Fundraising Dinner at 110 Rosita Avenue, Westcliffe; Details call 783-0945
Monday, March 16
4 p.m.: Sustainable Ways Board Meeting at Library Community Room (sustainablewaysorg@gmail.com)

Wednesday, March 18
9 a.m.: BOCC meeting at Wetmore fire station
Friday, March 20
Spring Break Begins for C-1 students
Tuesday, March 24
5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.: “Knosh & Know E-mail training at West Custer County Library Community Room at 209 Main Street, Westcliffe; sponsored by Custer County Chamber of Commerce; Free; Details 783-9138 or send e-mail to info@custercountycoco.com
Saturday, March 28
10 a.m.: U.S. Law Seminar, 783-3360

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

BOARD From page 9

Mr. Selle, “Are we doing CMAS (Colorado Measures of Academic Success or PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers?)” Mr. Selle answered, “Yes.” He explained PARCC is part of CMAS. Dr. Davis indicated PARCC is Common Core and Mr. Selle responded, “Yeah.”

Barb Jones clarified the textbook situation. The school district abandoned the textbook replacement rotation five years ago. The previous rotation replaced textbooks every four years. Currently, a serious discussion must take place in regard to the best way to use available funds for curriculum needs. Today, the electronic age has brought about E-books, tablets, and other electronic media as alternatives to old paper books. Therefore, it is imperative to study how to spend the limited dollars available for replacement.

Ms. Jones discussed the fact that participation in Parent / Teacher Conferences for the secondary area are not as high as elementary because parents have electronic access to their child’s grades and school work on a daily basis thorough on-line blog-

ging and other electronic media.

Mr. Selle reported the student enrollment has dropped thirteen students since October. Most of the decrease has been due to parents moving for job opportunities. Three students did withdraw due to school climate issues. Mr. Selle offered thanks and appreciation for the dedicated work by Mr. Bomgardner and Ms. Jones during the recent tragic situation involving the recent suicide.

A recent development will affect the district funding for 2014-15. The Secure Rural Schools Act enacted by Congress to cover those districts with large federal land holdings has been approved every year since inception except for this year. This loss of funding could impact the district between \$75,000 and \$90,000. The differential will be determined at the county level. There will about \$15,000 this year but it must either be allocated for Road and Bridge or the school District. Mr. Selle is meet with the County Commissioners to discuss the situation soon.

There is some cushion as the Reserve and the Specific Ownership Tax revenues are up so this will soften the loss from the Rural Schools Act somewhat.

Mr. Selle discussed the continued implementation of the Strategic Plan goals and he discussed the school safety issues at length. The school safety issues were discussed in last Friday’s paper as part of the Working Group article.

Mr. Selle indicated he expected a change in the results of the testing going on this year as compared to last year. He proctored the geometry test and without actually looking at the questions, he observed a more rigorous treatment of the material.

A work session was scheduled for the Board on March 20, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. to discuss budget priorities. Dr. Davis asked for an additional discussion topic regarding probationary teacher discussions. She indicated new requirements regarding this issue have been formulated and the Board needed to look into them.

Finally, a concerned parent discussed her feelings that students are being expected to perform in a certain way at school. They are being boxed into certain categories and the students are being left out of the process. She indicated the students are frustrated and angry at being treated in this manner.

"Your Home Town Discount Center"

Bobcat Youth Basketball Ends An Amazing Season



Local Mountain News & Notices



The Sheriff's Corner from Sheriff Byerly



Greetings from the Sheriff's Office! I hope this day finds you all well and enjoying the beautiful sunshine we are experiencing here in Custer County. I would like to remind everyone that the first Community Accountability Group Meeting will be on Thursday, March 19th at the Search and Rescue building here on Rosita Ave behind the Sheriff's Office. I hope everyone that would like to participate has an opportunity to come by and say hello. This week's question was posed from the Wet Mountain Tribune:

What has been the most unexpected challenge you've faced since taking office?

This is a great question I could probably answer several different ways. There have been quite a few areas where I was not expecting a situation to be what it was and it has taken some thought to work through. If I were to point to one specific area where I simply didn't expect it to be a challenge, it would probably be the overall lack of technology utilization within the entire county. I came into office believing governmental organizations operated at a certain level and technology was a given at this point in time. I took it for granted the county would have a unified e-mail system, we would have a county calendar so everyone would be on the same page and meetings could be scheduled accordingly. I thought we would all use the same phone system for both cost-effectiveness and ease of use. I could go on, but you understand where I am coming from. We have county employees who do not use e-mail. I find this utterly astounding in the year 2015. I understand there are some things that need to be done face to face, but to maximize time and efficiency; e-mail is a standard in the work environment of today. Honestly, this has been a challenge for me to overcome. I am used to the entire governmental agency working towards one common goal and everyone working to accomplish this as one.

Some may think I am being critical and am used to big government and a big agency, and compared to Custer County, that is not true. Overall, the county has more employees and more areas of responsibility than where I used to

work. But the reality is, if you want to be taken seriously as a professional, you have to act and conduct yourself in a professional manner. Part of this is moving forward and keeping up with other professionals. This is a mental state of mind which originates from always striving to better yourself and those around you. We have a technology guru in Chuck Ippolito who can move us forward, but he has to know where we want to go. I know he is capable of whatever we need as I have seen his awesome work. He has helped me with some challenges we faced here at the office and we are definitely moving forward.

The great thing about this challenge, as well as others, is they can be solved! We have the people and knowledge to move forward and I am anxious to work with everyone in making some changes to help all of us. The ideas I brought to the Sheriff's Office were greeted with reservation at first, but as the employees begin to see how technology can make them more productive and their jobs simpler, they are more acceptable to this type of working environment. I hope we as a county government can move in that direction as well.

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

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

Sheriff's Report...

There were 131 calls for service on the days noted below. As of March 8th, there were six males and one female in the county jail.

03/04/15
10:12 AM: A deputy posted civil papers to a party on CR 255 in rural Westcliffe.

03/04/15 I-15-1246
12:52 PM: Custer County School K-5 Principal Holly Anderson called the Sheriff's Office to report a case of possible child neglect involving a kindergarden student. The school nurse had alerted her to an unacceptable health condition of the student. A deputy was dispatched to the school to investigate the matter.

03/05/15 15-1263
A deputy responded to the high school upon request, over concerns of a suicidal 15-year-old male student. After speaking with the student, he was transported to Parkview Hospital in Pueblo where he was placed on a 72 hour mental health hold.

03/07/15 T-15-166
8:32 AM - Party (Clingaman, Jon - DOB in 1976) was cited, in the area of HWY 69 - MM 56, for speeding (17 MPH

over the posted limit).

03/07/15 T-15-167
12:50 PM - During a routine traffic stop, on the 3200 block of CR 215, a party (Bogges, Burt Lee - DOB in 1986) of Florida and Cotopaxi was apprehended on a felony warrant out of Florida. Party is currently being held at the Custer County Detention Facility awaiting extradition.

03/09/15 T-15-172
11:05 AM - Citation issued to party (Donovan, Walter - DOB in 1991), in the area of HWY 69 - MM 57.5, for traveling in excess of the posted speed limit (10-19 over).

03/09/15 T-15-173
12:00 PM - Vehicle (2009 Mazda Miata) red-tagged (48 hrs) for potential removal at HWY 165 - MM 10.

03/09/15 T-15-174
3:05 PM - Citation issued to party (Fallon, Jamie - DOB in 1979), in the area of Hermit and 6th Street, for traveling in excess of the posted speed limit (10-19 over).

03/09/15 I-15-1341
9:30 AM - Party dropped off a found wallet at the Custer County Sheriff's Office. Officers were

able to make contact and return the wallet to its rightful owner. All items in the wallet were accounted for.

03/09/15 O-15-33
1:27 PM - Officers took a report of vandalism/trespass on a vacant house at 599 Crystal Falls Drive. Incident is under investigation.

03/10/15 I-15-1361
10:46 AM: A deputy served civil papers to a party at 325 E. Main Street at the Valley View Mobile and RV Park in Silver Cliff.

03/10/15 I-15-1363
12:41 PM: A deputy attempted to serve civil papers to a party on Little Horn Drive in Silver Cliff Heights. Negative contact was made.

03/10/15 T-15-179
6:26 PM / Highway 69 and CR 170 / Traffic Summons: Stoltzus, John (DOB 19561112) of Hillside, Colorado, was issued a summons for speeding, 10 to 19 over the limit.

03/10/15 T-15-181
7:37 PM / CR 255 / Traffic Summons: White, Orland (DOB 19690628) of Fort Worth, Texas, was issued a summons for speeding, 10 to 19 over the limit.

**He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your
shield and rampart.
You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day.**

Psalm 91:4-5, NIV

Court Report...

Hirschberg, Ryan Charles - Charged with marijuana cultivation/30 plants or more -Dismissed by DA. Charge of Marijuana/distribution - Dismissed by DA. Marijuana possession - Guilty. Fine - \$1562.50 plus \$250 donation.

Baldwin, Joseph Daniel - Charged with marijuana cultivation/30 plants or more - Dismissed by DA. Charge of Marijuana possession with intent - Dismissed by DA. Charge of Marijuana distribution - Dismissed by DA. Charge of marijuana possession 2-6 oz. - Guilty. Fine - \$1,497.50 plus \$250 donation.

Veitch, Mark - Charged - Two charges of theft under \$500.00. Defendant was originally sentenced on 10/03/2014 to probation which is now revoked on 3/6/2015. After admission of violation prior judgment/sentenced revoked. Restitution open for 30 days in the amount of \$696 payable to Trina Everhart. Probation on 3/6/2015 revoked. Sentenced to jail term. Assessed \$1,149.50.

Baturin, Joshua David - Charged with felony menacing with a real/simulated weapon - dismissed. Charge of Assault 3/know/reckless cause injury - dismissed. Charge of Harassment -Guilty. Charges

of Disorderly conduct, offensive gestures, and unreasonable noise - Dismissed by DA. Fine \$311.50.

Baturin, Joshua - Charged with violation of bail bond conditions - Guilty. Fine \$1,673 with community service for 1.5 years, complete substance abuse evaluation and treatment, monitored sobriety.

Baturin, Joshua - Charged with violation of a protection order-criminal PO/2nd offense - Guilty. Fine - 60hours community service with supervised probation for 24 months.

Sherman, Richard James - Charged with failed to display

lamps when required and operating a vehicle while under to influence of alcohol or drugs or both. Defendant refused blood alcohol test. Fine - 24 hours community service. Restitution to remain open with \$200 suspended. Supervised probation for 12 months. Remaining charged dismissed. Paid \$31.25.

Sherman, Richard James - Charged with driving while impaired - Guilty/Nolo Contendere. Charge of driving while under the influence - dismissed. Charges of violating bail bond conditions, license plate unlawfully displayed, operationg an unregistered ve-

hicle, and operating a defective/unsafe vehicle - all charges dismissed. Fine \$1,411.25 and complete level 2 education with 68 hours of therapy. May posses guns.

Bishop, James - Charged with felony menacing - Guilty/Nolo Contendere. Charge of menacing with real/simulated weapon - dismissed. Charge of resisting arrest - dismissed. Charge of obstructing a peace officer - dismissed. Fine \$488.98. Must forfeit all firearms. Shall not possess any firearms, mandatory protection order remains in effect. Defendant must remove all firearms within a week.

Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

IMPORTANT DATES IN FREMONT

School Board Meetings:

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

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

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

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

**Royal Gorge
Tea Party**
2nd & 4th Thursday
of each month
6:30 p.m.

**Core Knowledge
School Gymnasium,**
890 Fields Ave.
Cañon City
www.royalgorgetea-party.com
or find them on
Facebook

**Southern
Colorado
Survivors**
1st Sat at 8:30 a.m.
Mugs

1520 Royal Gorge Blvd
Cañon City
Find them on
Facebook

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

sdc.sentinel@gmail.com



Florence City Council Appoints New Council Member

by Charlotte Burrous

During the March 2nd Florence City Council meeting, Richard “Dick” Upton was appointed as council member to replace Svetlana Piltingsrud, who resigned earlier this year.

Since moving to Florence nine years ago, Upton has been involved with many aspects of Florence, including working on the original kiosks, the Information Center at Pikes Peak and Main Streets, the East and West Portals, and a new display at the Price Pioneer Museum. He currently serves on the Planning Commission, chairman of the Florence Merchants Car Show, and is involved with the Gold Belt Tour.

“We have a vibrant downtown and we need to continue to promote (the businesses) and restaurants,” he said.

During the visitors’ section, Florence Chamber of Commerce member Alan Knisley requested the use of Pioneer Park on June 3, July 4, August 5, and September 2 for the Music of the Park events. In addition, he requested the street closure of the 100 block of N. Santa Fe for Junktique and a craft fair in Pioneer Park during Pioneer Days in September. In addition, he asked that Main Street be closed for Halloween Trick or Treat activities in October. In conjunction, Knisley requested the city become a partner so it could use its insurance during these events.

During the discussion, Councilman Paul Villagrana said he wanted advance notice before voting on street closures.

“I am a little bit leery because none of this appears on the agenda, but yet we’re asked to vote on it,” Villagrana said.

Agreeing, Councilman Mel Edwards said he also would feel better if he knew what streets would be closed and what times.

“It’s hard to have something come up and not have notice (when)



Richard “Dick” Upton stands by his 1929 Ford Model A in front of the carriage house on his Tanner property in Florence.

Courtesy photo by Charlotte Burrous

somebody (might have a problem with that), he said. “My outcry is not to the council or to the staff, it’s for the (public). If somebody is new here, they might not know about these things.”

Mayor Keith Ore said many of these activities have happened for years and years.

Nevertheless, City Manager Mike Patterson said the chamber could come to the next council meeting after going through the necessary steps.

“We should put some rules in place so people would know (what is happening),” he said.

Councilwoman Charlette Henager said when she planned the Americana Festival several years ago, she had to notify all the residents when streets would be closed and notify the residents that it would affect.

Since these are ongoing events, Knisley said he didn’t think he needed to do anything special.

“I think if we’re going to set a precedent, we should start it now,” Henager said. “We should (go through the steps) and make everyone do the same thing.”

She also suggested the proposer request a simple map and notify the residents before the streets are closed for any event.

In the same vein, the Florence City Council approved the street closure for Steampunk, who had worked through the various conditions so the city would use its insurance to cover Steampunk on April 11-12. The council also set a public hearing at 7 p.m., March 16, during the regular council meeting.

by Barbara Penezic

The long awaited Apple Shed hearings began at exactly 10 a.m. and as was expected residents of Penrose and Fremont County turned out in force. This issue has united the citizens of Fremont County in a way that has rarely been seen. The county residents who are opposed to the Historic Apple Shed property being used for marijuana definitely outnumber those in favor of the usage. If this issue could be settled by majority rules, it would be a “Done Deal.”

Item (1) Request approval of a Special Review Use Permit. Department file SRU 14-004 Thressor LLC Medical Marijuana Infused Product Manufacturing and possibly a Marijuana Optional Premises Cultivation grow facility. The property is located on the east side of Highway 115, east of Fremont Street, bounded by 7th Street on the north side and 4th Avenue on the south and Grant Street on the east side, in the Penrose area. The SRU permit property is owned by Ali Abrahamia and is zoned Business. It contains 9.82 acres. Representatives are: Matt Koch, Cornerstone Land Surveying, Inc. /Chris Haight.

Item (2) Request MIP14-001 Thressor, LLC (Marijuana Infused Products-Industry, Light) This property is owned by Big Rocker LLC and is located on the east side of Highway 115 and east of Fremont Street, bounded by 7th Street on the north side, 4th Avenue on the south and Grant Street on the east side, in the Penrose area. The property is zoned Business and contains 9.82 acres. Representatives: Matt Koch, Cornerstone Land Surveying, Inc. / Chris Haight.

Item (3) Request OPC 14-004 Thressor LLC, (Optional Premises Cultivation-Commercial Greenhouse) request for issuance of an Optional Premises Cultivation license, Department file #OPC 14-004 Thressor, LLC (Optional Premise Cultivation (OPC) –Commercial, Greenhouse. Property owner is Big Rocker, LLC. Property addressed as 708 Fremont Street, this is east of Highway 115 and east of Fremont Street. The property is zoned as Business and contains approx. 10 acres. Representatives: Matt Koch, Cornerstone Surveying, Inc. / Chris Haight.

Apple Shed Hearing Tabled



Chris Haight of the Apple Shed.

Courtesy photo by John Penezic, Jr.

Fremont County Commissioners and citizens of Fremont County.

Mr. Haight showed a video pointing out the benefits he feels medical marijuana brings to those in need. He also spoke at length saying his only desire was to be “a good neighbor” and bring relief to those who suffer and are unable to help themselves. The residents listened patiently, but none were swayed. Chris endeavored to assure the residents that his operations would not pose a danger to near-by residences. He told the crowd that they will use be using much less butane than the average person in the area who is barbecuing. Most of the residents were unmoved by his assurances. It should be noted that no spokesperson were present from the Penrose Fire Department.

Eighteen speakers addressed the commission. Fourteen against approval of the requests, four in favor. It should be noted that at least one of the speakers, La Donna Green, in favor of pot at the Apple Shed was in a position to increase her bank account if the business were to be approved. Of the four who spoke for marijuana the thread seemed much the same. They felt the industry would bring jobs to the area and help to fill some empty buildings. Donald Taton said he was tired of hearing pot villanized and Marsha Cox added that she felt that in 20 years people would recognize the benefits of pot and it would be considered the ‘cutting edge’ in medicine.

Those who spoke against approval of the Apple Shed requests also had a main theme. Location, Location, Location, and Enough is Enough, Penrose has had enough. Already 80% percent of the marijuana facilities are located in this small rural township. The very quality of their lives is what is now being decided. “We do not wish to be known as the pot capital of Colorado,” said Keith Bates, Pastor of the Baptist Church.

He pointed out that Penrose is losing much more than it can ever gain by having yet another pot business.

All three requests were heard by the

See HEARING on page 16

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

Appreciation Breakfast for First Responders

by Charlotte Burrous

It's their way to show appreciation to those who go out day and night, helping people in all kinds of situations and serving the public in a sacrificial way.

The Cañon City Noon Lions will serve a free breakfast from 6-11 a.m. March 21st at the Golden Age Center at 728 Main St. in Cañon City. The public is invited and donations are appreciated.

"It's in conjunction with the Florence Lions, who are volunteering to help," said Tina Rowe, Lions member. "It's for all of our first responders and their families in the area. There will be an expedited line for anyone who is on shift."

The idea began with the unusual situations that have occurred in the past year.

"We really wanted to be able to say thank you to them," Rowe said. "They've had a really, really rough year. This is a small way to thank them for how much time and effort they put out for us and their families for not having them so often."

She also thanked the businesses for their contributions for the event, including Cañon City WIN O. Nelson, P&Z Mini Mart, Aaron Furniture, Keller Williams, Daily Record, KRLN, Chili's, the new I-Hop and many more.

Cañon City Hosts Legislative Hour

by Barbara Penezic

The third in a series of four Legislative Hours hosted by the Cañon City Chamber of Commerce was well attended. Fremont County residents turned out in force for the opportunity to speak with our elected officials. This is a great forum for those people who have questions about what is being accomplished by our local legislators.

Senator Grantham told the group that this has been an extremely busy two weeks. "We are doing a lot of figure setting right now." At this time it is mainly to do with jobs for the Governor, a little with the Department of Human Services, Public Safety, and higher education as well. We will be seeing bigger ones this week with the Department of Health Care and Regulatory Agencies. There will not be much news concerning the Department of Education until we get the March forecast and the Long Bill.

Representative Jim Wilson explained that the Long Bill is the budget for the entire state of Colorado. The schools receive a little under 40%. K-12 schools take up roughly 5.8 or 5.9 billion dollars of that. Since 2009 our General Fund Bud-

get has increased 42%. The dollars have been there but it is a question of how we choose to use them. The expansion of Health Care increased 271%. We have gotten away from vocational training even though 2/3 of our students will not go to college. These students need training that will make it possible for them to go to work after graduation. House Bill 1165 - Career Manufacturing Pathway would allow schools to get credit for students who choose to go into careers rather than college. The bill needs to be amended to include credit for those who choose a career in the military.

Senator Grantham added that House Bill 1230 will emphasize the development of the work force for those who graduate and don't wish to go to college. "We've been on such a kick of 'everyone has to go to college'; it's the square peg in a round hole syndrome." The Democrats priority has been to increase Medicaid not education. We need to reverse that trend and it will not be done overnight. We need to work hard to shift the balance.

Representative Clarice Navarro-Ratzlaff spoke next telling us that her education bill allowing teachers to deduct \$250.00 off their income

tax has passed out of appropriations with a 12/01 vote and will be moving onto the floor. The other bill she is sponsoring is still waiting to be heard. Clarice also responded to a question on Senate Bill 14. The question was how will this bill assist law enforcement officers in monitoring marijuana operations that violate the medical grow rates? She told us the bill really addresses the Denver area and will probably not have much impact in our rural area.

In conclusion Representative Clarice Navarro-Ratzlaff thanked the audience and asked that they continue to e-mail her their concerns. Senator Grantham also thanked everyone and asked that they continue to support HB 46. This is an effort to roll back stringent requirements on Co-ops. This affects many of our Fremont County residents. Representative Jim Wilson urged us not to give up the fight. I've learned we must do things incrementally. "It's kinda like boiling a bull-frog," he quipped. "Just turn the heat up a little bit, the frog thinks he's in a sauna and next thing he knows he's on a plate." Just keep chopping away, we can make a difference. When you can't slay the whole dragon, just keep poking at him. Eventually he'll die from lost blood.

HEARING

From page 15

The Pastor said Penrose losses include water, safety, and reputation, adding, "There is no way Mr. Haight can make up the losses." Pastor Bates sees marijuana as an erosion of our future and reminded everyone, "Some things are priceless." Three gentlemen who have worked with the prison for a number of years spoke of the lives they have seen ruined due to drug usage that began with the use of pot. The residents of Fremont County overwhelmingly do not want yet another pot business in Penrose, legal or otherwise. Especially not at this location, much to close to schools, churches, family homes, and the local park.

Of course, the deciding factor

will be based on many things. Hopefully the needs of the folks who live in Penrose will be among those factors. The dangers posed from having a pot operation at the Apple Shed location, so close to the park that will be filled with playing children this summer, must certainly

need time to step back and take a beat. They will sift through all the information they have been provided with. Hopefully, prayer will guide them as they decide the final outcome of the Apple Shed; a decision that will impact the lives of so many residents for a long time into the future. We



Fremont County Board of Commissioners

Courtesy photo by John Penezic, Jr.

have an impact on the impending decision. The frustration of the Penrose residents was mirrored in the Commissioners eyes as they voted to table the decision after hearing two and half hours of discussion. This issue will be re-scheduled for Thursday, April 2nd at 9:30 a.m. As Commissioner Bell pointed out they

should all be reminded of Pastor Keith Bates scripture: "For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul." Final word to our commissioners, Use wise Moral Judgment.

Be informed

Get involved

First United Methodist Church Presents "The Confessions of Patrick"

by Charlotte Burrous

It's been said when he arrived in Ireland, there were no Christians. But by the time he left, there were no heathens. Find out more about Saint Patrick when the First United Methodist Church Adult Education Team presents "The Confession of St. Patrick" at 6 p.m., March 15th, at 801 Main Street in Cañon City.

Portrayed by actor Roger Nelson, this play is presented in St. Patrick's own words, a press release said. "Nelson inspires the audience as he speaks of St. Patrick's life and the enfolding dynamic ministry his life had upon the people of Ireland," the release said. "Born into a wealthy Roman family in Britain about 400 A.D., St. Patrick tells of his kidnapping by pirates at age 16 and his subsequent encounter with Christ. Transformed through his faith in Jesus, St. Patrick went on to minister as a frontier missionary to the very people who had

enslaved him."

According to history, he served as a slave in Ireland for six years before escaping and returning to his family in the United Kingdom, where he was not content to stay. As soon as he became a cleric, he returned to northern and western Ireland to minister to the natives. Later, St. Patrick served as an ordained bishop.

Nelson is a world renowned actor, performing for the debut concert of John Michael Talbot in the 1992 "The Master Musician" tour, as well as on stage in Toronto, Canada; London, England; Paris, France; San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, and numerous other cities around the world.

After the performance, tea and cookies will be served. Although admission is free, a freewill love offering will be taken. Childcare is available. Contact the church at 275-0681 for more information.



The Liberty Tree

Religion, The Constitution & Culture State, National, & World

The Daily Jot

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

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

NBC News Interview Iran says Israel Should be Annihilated

While NBC News' Ann Curry seemingly conducted a timely interview with Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, the purpose from the Iranian side was to paint Israeli Prime Minister as a child killer and an obstacle to peace. The spin was in full motion for Iran to look reasonable and to discount concerns that Iran was developing a nuclear weapon. It was full of denials from the man known to shout at those negotiating with him, including Secretary of State John Kerry. Breitbart, however, reportedly found buried in the transcript of the interview that Zarif once again, at Curry's persistent questioning, said that Israel "should be annihilated. That this regime is a threat." Zarif at first denied that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Hosseini Khamenei had tweeted that Israel should be annihilated. Then Zarif admitted to that and went on to say that the Netanyahu regime is a threat that should be annihilated. This is the story that didn't make the headlines at a time when the U.S. "president" is trying to convince Americans that it is all right to allow Iran to enrich uranium for nuclear purposes because the terrorist sponsoring state has given its word that it will not develop a nuclear bomb. Netanyahu says otherwise, pointing out that the deal being cooked up by the White House and negotiated by Kerry, is the very path for a nuclear Iran. This is an example of how the fourth estate, the free press, is not doing its job. NBC has been long considered

a shill for this Islamist Marxist White House, and once again is proven its reputation. All week, Iran and the U.S. "president" have done their best to discredit the leader of the primary state at risk if Iran gets the bomb--Israel. Iran has repeatedly, along with its terrorist allies-- Hamas, Hezbollah, al Qaeda, and a host of other Islamic terrorist arms both Shiite and Sunni, said that Israel must be annihilated. Yet the American White House chimes in with virtually the same rhetoric trying to discredit the leader that says Iran is lying. So who is lying? The Apostle Paul writes about the coming end times in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 say, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God: Having the form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." Does this not describe the players in this Iranian nuclear deal? It is insane to think that a terrorist-sponsoring state would tell the truth, or that an Islamist Marxist "president" would know the truth. The last four words of verse 5 are: "from such turn away."

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!
Bill Wilson
www.dailyjot.com
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**Humble yourselves
in the sight of the Lord,
and He shall lift you up.**

James 4:10, NKJV

"Why the Left Loves Islam"

by Matt Bracken,
www.enemiesforeignanddomestic.com
via ZeroHedge.com

(Editor/GG: More and more analyses and commentary is finally coming out about the unholy alliance between liberalism and Islam. Just look at Nobama's failed foreign policy regarding militant Islam (Libya, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt....). He has allowed the nut cases to reestablish themselves all over the world since the beginning of his reign. America and freedom has been severely weakened and our soldiers put at risk by his actions. Not by accident folks. Nobody is that incompetent.)

Both socialism and Islam are parasitical fascist systems where the elite bosses feed as vampires upon the productive citizenry under their control. Under totalitarian Islamic Sharia Law, productive "people of the book" (Christians and Jews) are tolerated as "dhimmis" (officially subjugated second class citizens) to the degree that the local emirs and sultans decree they should be tolerated. This allows the Muslim bosses to ease their grip or tighten it at will. In socialism this relationship finds many parallels.

For example, Lenin himself, during the disastrous "war Communism" period following the revolution and civil war, allowed the "New Economic

Policy" or NEP, where a limited form of capitalism was permitted in order to get the flat-lining economy moving again. Once it was moving, the Communist bosses mass-murdered the successful NEPers, namely the so-called "Kulak class." The Castros in Cuba have made similar moves over the decades, with Cuban NEPs cycling with harsh Communist crackdowns. Today in Venezuela the productive are tolerated in order to exploit their economic vigor, or they are rounded up and imprisoned, purely at the whim of the elite socialist bosses.

Under Islam, the local Muslim bosses can decide in one place and era to tolerate the dhimmis and exploit their economic vitality (Spain during "Al-Andalus" post 711AD), or wipe them out in a genocide (many examples, the Turkish genocide of the Armenians and other Christians during the early 20th century is just one). But the degree of freedom permitted to the subjugated dhimmis is totally up to the local Muslim power structure. From tolerance to genocide, all is permitted when it comes to Muslims dealing with infidels. The Muslim is always the master, the infidel is always the subjugated dhimmi.

This also is seen in Muslim marital relationships and in their ownership of slaves. A Muslim husband or slave master can be a wonderful, enlightened and tolerant man, or he can be a ruthless exploiter, brutal rapist, and

even a killer. It is totally up to the master how he disposes of a slave or a wife. That is the fate of the dhimmi under Islam. Your Muslim masters will hold your complete fate in their hands.

And leading elite Leftists are totally fine with that power structure. It's very similar to how they see the world. In the view of the Left, the productive class consists of greedy exploiters who should be taxed heavily in order to redistribute their ill-gotten wealth to the needy, poor, and oppressed. In doling out this stolen largess, the elite bosses of socialism attain all power, and live like sultans and pashas.

In coming years, expect that leading progressive socialist leaders, who today mysteriously promote tolerance for and approval of massive Muslim immigration, will suddenly announce that they have discovered that Mohammed is the last messenger of world socialism, raise their right index fingers, and repeat the Shahada oath declaring their submission to Islam, while dreaming of both Marx and Mohammed.

And that is why the Left loves Islam. They both hate freedom and worship pure power.

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UC Students Ban Old Glory



by Will Swaim,
Watchdog.Org

IRVINE, CALIF.

Declaring the American flag a symbol of "colonialism and imperialism," student council members on the campus of UC Irvine this week voted to prohibit its public display.

Resolution 50-70 passed on a 6-4 vote (with two abstentions), and applies only to the Associated Students of UCI main lobby. ASUCI President Reza Zomorrodian said he's called a special Saturday meeting to overturn the resolution.

The resolution also seemed to condemn the First Amendment.

Aiming to create "a space that aims to be as inclusive

as possible," the student governors said even freedom of speech was probably too dangerous for their offices — because free speech "can be interpreted as hate speech," said the resolution.

The student officials concluded, "Let it be further be resolved [sic] that if a decorative item is in the Associate Student lobby space and issues arise, the solution will be to remove the item if there is considerable request to do so."

The resolution did not define "considerable."

Most of the resolution is given over to a list of grievances about the American flag. American flags are, the students declared, "often associated with government and military," "weapons for nationalism," and a symbol to some of "American exceptionalism and superiority."

"What an embarrassment for the university and our students," said Mark Petracca, UC Irvine's associate dean for undergraduate

[T]he student governors said even freedom of speech was probably too dangerous for their offices — because free speech "can be interpreted as hate speech."

studies and former chair of the school's political science department. "Only George Orwell might be able to understand how the desire to pursue an inclusive environment at the ASUCI offices requires the exclusion of the American — or any other — flag. This is truly baffling and

unfortunate. Hopefully, wiser heads will prevail when the Executive Council meets (Saturday) to consider this proposed legislative action. It's a shame that with so many truly important things going on in higher education right now, never mind the world, that the ASUCI Legislative Council decided to spend its time on such an obviously misguided initiative."

"I stand firmly against this piece of legislation," Zomorrodian, the ASUCI president, said in a news release Friday. "Though I understand the author's intent and supporters' intent, I disagree with the solution the council has come to. I speak for myself about my feelings on this piece of legislation. However, as chair of the Executive Cabinet, we will be having a conversation about this piece of legislation and deciding what course of action the cabinet will take collectively."

Please see: watchdog.org/204579/uc-students-flags/

U.S. Muslim Leaders Silent on Christian Beheadings; Christian Leaders Must Not Be

by Allen West,
AllenBWest.com

I just finished reading Graeme Wood’s piece in *The Atlantic* entitled, “What ISIS Really Wants.” It’s a long and comprehensive essay intended to intellectually define an enemy who has already by its actions expressed who it is

and what it wants. Wood does seem to realize who this enemy is as he writes, “The reality is that the Islamic State is Islamic. Very Islamic. Yes, it has attracted psychopaths and adventure seekers, drawn largely from the disaffected populations of the Middle East and Europe. But

the religion preached by its most ardent followers derives from coherent and even learned interpretations of Islam.” Then why does it seem the official policy of the Obama administration — as well as Islamapologists — is to dismiss any aspect of religion being a part of the ISIS equation? Even the White House statement after the horrific beheading of twenty-one Egyptian Christian men referred to them only as “citizens” and “victims.”

However, it didn’t take the administration very long to speak out against the killing of three Muslim college students in North Carolina as being inspired by religion — something local law enforcement has not stated.

Why does it seem we are so recalcitrant to see this enemy in the terms they use — and accept their reality? When the Coptic Christian men were beheaded, the ISIS savages made reference to “people of the cross” and spoke of Rome.

Some say we shouldn’t refer to this as being rooted in religion because that will inflame the situation — just as we hear that GITMO is a major recruiting tool (and those orange jumpsuits used in ISIS videos are intentional).

So, I’m struggling to understand how, if the enemy firmly declares this is about killing Christians i.e. “We will conquer your Rome, break your crosses, and enslave your women” our words could “inflame” the situation even more?

It seems to me the only ones running around speaking of the Crusades are the Islamic terrorists — and, well, our own president. I find it perplexing how we in the West

struggle not to confront this enemy while finding every excuse for why we shouldn’t. The fundamental premise of warfare as articulated by Sun Tzu many centuries ago is to “know the enemy.” If we refuse to comprehend and accept the driving motivation behind this enemy and its ideology — which is the REAL recruiting tool — we only increase our apparent weakness.

Even the Danish Prime Minister who just witnessed an Islamic jihadist attack in her capital refuses to accept this as militant Islam — then again, she was taking selfies with President Obama a few months back.

Do these Western leaders realize the message they’re sending to Islamic terrorists? Why don’t they follow the example of leaders such as King Abdullah of Jordan and Egyptian President al-Sisi? There are intimations that Jordan and Egypt requested targeting intelligence support from the U.S. and were denied — boy, I hope that’s the case. It’s well known that the U.S. has cut off military support and aid to Egypt since the ousting of the Muslim Brotherhood.

But if these leaders of Muslim nations can take to the air to engage ISIS with no restrictions — why can’t we? They see ISIS as an enemy and fully embrace the concept of its defeat and destruction — it is a dark specter over Muslims. It shouldn’t be that hard to organize a dedicated coalition — U.S., Jordan, Egypt, UAE, and the Kurdish Regional Government.

Consider the message being sent to the enemy with our Congress on recess and the president returning from the west coast doing fundraisers and playing golf. If I were the enemy,

I’d see a lack of leadership and direction. The enemy sees no sense of urgency — and Congress should reject Obama’s AUMF and craft one for a vote themselves. They should be in Washington, D.C., developing this resolution in concert with uniform leaders, both active and retired, which is specific and addresses something missing from our lexicon of late: victory.

Those twenty-one Christian men cried out to Jesus. The least we can do is honor their martyred sacrifice and let the Christian community in America realize this threat.

I appreciate Mr. Woods article in *The Atlantic*, but any student of history and the jihad well recognizes who ISIS is and what they want. ISIS seeks to follow the example of Mohammad after his departure from Mecca, circa 622 AD. I would love to see Islam return to its early peaceful designs — but that has not defined the existence of Islam on earth for nearly 1400 years.

And ISIS is just another chapter in this belief of violent jihadist conquest — the restoration of the Caliphate. The time may be coming when we may find ourselves facing an unacceptable existence, which represents the most savage and barbaric of our times. How do we explain this to our children and grandchildren? How do we tell them this clear and present evil in our times is allowed to thrive?

Pastors, reverends, ministers, when will you take a stance and from the pulpit explain to your congregations what is happening? When will you be as God

spoke to Joshua, “strong and of good courage, for the Lord your God shall not leave you nor forsake you?” Those twenty-one Christian men cried out to Jesus. The least we can do is honor their martyred sacrifice and let the Christian community in America realize this threat. When will we see a dedicated Sunday when our Christian leaders band together and educate

their congregants? Reverend Franklin Graham and the Pope have both spoken out, but the leaders in our local communities must join the chorus.

I can almost bet there are some people going to church who have no idea who or what ISIS is. If ISIS can somehow rally sick individuals to its cause, who is rallying for our cause?

Somewhere the spirit of Charles Martel has to be found — he was called “The Hammer” for a reason. And folks, I am concerned about our debt, deficit, unemployment, economic growth, better education opportunities, illegal immigration, unconstitutional actions...but we can rectify all of that. However, it will mean nothing if we don’t defeat this evident scourge — Islamo-fascism, jihadism, and terrorism.

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Colorado Democrats Want 50% Renewable Energy Standard

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Another day and another glaring example of the Democrats’ cognitive dissonance under the Gold Dome. The party that claimed it wanted to focus on middle-class pocketbooks as the 2015 session kicked off (that would be the Democrats) just killed a bill that would have saved the middle class money. The state senate bill would have reduced the expensive renewable energy standards – now 30% by 2020 – jammed through by a hyper-partisan legislature in 2013. The House killed it on near-party-line vote.

Perhaps we shouldn’t be surprised – the Dems actually wanted more. According to the Colorado Democratic Party 2014 Platform, the Democrats actually want a staggering 50% of the Colorado’s energy to come from renewable sources by 2020. That’s almost double the percent that left many Coloradans agape in 2013. This realization comes on the heels of news that electric prices are the highest they have ever been. This hits the middle class where it hurts – their wallets.

So, while Democrats continue to toy with expensive experiments to

benefit their donors’ investments at the behest of Big Solar, and try to create electricity by burning “biosolids derived from the treatment of wastewater” (a crappy plan for sure), the adults in the room are going to continue to focus on creating a more free, more prosperous, and more accountable government working for all Coloradans.

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UN Executive Secretary: Climate Alarmism is About Economics not the Environment!

by Onan Coca,
FreedomOutPost.com

(Editor/GG: Liberals lying? Oh, my. Not around here.)

Well, at least we finally have a liberal willing to admit that they've been lying to us all this time. Christiana Figueres is the executive secretary of the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change, and she recently made a devastating admission... the goal of environmental activism is not to save the world from terrifying environmental calamity, but to end capitalism.

From Investors Business Daily

"This is the first time in the history of mankind that we are setting ourselves the task of intentionally, within a defined period of time, to change the economic development model that has been reigning for at least 150 years, since the Industrial Revolution," she said.

Referring to a new international treaty environmentalists hope will be adopted at the Paris climate change conference later this year, she added: ***"This is probably the most difficult task we have ever given ourselves, which is to intentionally transform the economic development model for the first time in human history."***

For conservatives this isn't news. We've been pointing out the inconsistency in liberal arguments about climate change for years, and we've also been pointing out that it seems to have more to do with power than with saving the environment. The liberal

dead-eyed focus on climate change is simply because it has been a "winning" hand in the media for more than 20 years. However, time is growing short for the climate change alarmists, because all of their terrible benchmarks have come and gone without bringing about the scary things that liberals warned us about.

Remember any of these?

Al Gore accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007

Last September 21, as the Northern Hemisphere tilted away from the sun, scientists reported with unprecedented distress that the North Polar ice cap is "falling off a cliff." One study estimated that it could be completely gone during summer in less than 22 years. Another new study, to be presented by U.S. Navy researchers later this week, warns it could happen in as little as 7 years.

Seven years from now.

Yeah... um, the polar ice caps are still here and they are actually as expansive as they've been in decades.

Or how about back in 2000 when the "climate experts" were telling us that snow might disappear forever?

"Winters with strong frost and lots of snow like we had 20 years ago will cease to exist at our latitudes."

Mojib Latif, Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, 1 April 2000

"Good bye winter. Never again snow?" Spiegel, 1 April 2000

This one was particularly disturb-

ing...

"Within a few years winter snowfall will become a very rare and exciting event. ... Children just aren't going to know what snow is."

David Viner, Climatic Research Unit, University of East Anglia, 20 March 2000

How about all of those many predictions that the weather would just continue to get warmer and warmer? I wonder what these same climate scientists would think if we told them back then that global temperatures would actually stop rising somewhere around 1997 - 98?

"Computer models predict that the temperature rise will continue at that accelerated pace if emissions of heat-trapping gases are not reduced, and also predict that warming will be especially pronounced in the winter-time."

Star News, William K. Stevens, New York Times, 11 Mar 2000

Climate Change Alarmism is not about the environment or saving the world, folks. It's all about power, and liberals want to make sure that, when everything is said and done, it's liberal governments who end up holding the reins of power. That is what climate change fear mongering is all about.

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Top Dem On The House Veterans Affairs Committee Is Actually Skipping Out On The Big American Legion Conference

by Jonah Bennett,
DailyCaller.com

(Editor/GG: Veterans, read this. You won't believe it. Read what she says about the VA. Liberals sure love our veterans.)

The top Democratic member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee is skipping the American Legion's national conference in Washington, D.C. this week.

Hosted annually, the conference usually brings in top elected officials and, especially, the chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate veterans affairs committees. But Florida Democratic Rep. Corrine Brown has other plans, according to her director of communications, David Simon.

"She won't be in town for that meeting, but she will be participating in the luncheon at the Legion event for the Florida delegation where member priorities are discussed and Florida

members are briefed on some of the region's priorities," Simon told The Daily Caller News Foundation. "She is meeting with the Legion in her office on Wednesday, and is, of course, attending the joint hearing on Wednesday."

Brown entered the discussion of veterans' issues in late November, when she was tapped as ranking member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee amid protests from veterans, who wanted Rep. Tim Walz. A Democrat from Minnesota, Walz served with the Army National Guard for 24 years and is the highest-ranking veteran from Iraq.

That didn't prevent the Democrats from temporarily booting him out of the committee on a technicality. The move enraged veterans because according to them, Brown hardly ever attends committee hearings and is otherwise complacent about reform.

In May 2014, for example, she testified that she had done her "reconnaissance in Florida."

"I can tell you that we're doing fine in Florida," she said. But the Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida, is notorious for blocking attempts by state health inspectors to determine whether the center really is providing adequate health care, since veterans have reported the precisely the opposite. At the time, the center was also under investigation by the VA.

As if nothing had happened, Brown reaffirmed at a hearing in July of 2014 that "the VA system is one of the best systems in the United States. That is what I'm saying."

After significant pushback, Brown added, "I personally think the VA system is an 'A' or a 10."

Emphasizing the importance of the American Legion, a few days ago

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald paid the organization a visit at its office in Washington. McDonald spoke for over two hours with National Commander Michael D. Helm and other staff on the importance of the relationship between the two organizations, as well as the progress the VA has made toward reform.

"Without the American Legion there would be no VA," McDonald stated. "All along America's history of wars it's been the American Legion that had led in the creation of [the VA]."

The American Legion did not respond to a request for comment before publication.

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The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand

2015



Homeland Security Confirms Need for Regular Concealed Carry

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

(Editor/GG: Time to think about upgrading your heater and mags. We ARE being invaded and the lone mugger scenario you planned for might be a bit bigger than you originally thought. As the old timers say, "Bring Enough Gun".)

The Al Shabaab terror group has released a video calling for a terrorist attack on the Mall of America:

A new video from Al Shabaab purportedly shows the terror group calling for an attack on Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnisota.

According to Fox 9, the mall is one of three similar targets the terror group specifically names, including West Edmonton Mall in Canada and the Oxford Street shopping area in London.

The video purportedly shows 6 minutes of graphic images and the terrorists celebrating the 2013 Westgate Mall attack in Nairobi, Kenya, that killed more than 60 people.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson confirmed the threat:

Shoppers at the Mall of America need to be "particularly careful" after a terror group singled out the Minnesota super-mall for attacks, Homeland Security

Secretary Jeh Johnson says.

During an interview Sunday with CNN "State of the Union" host Gloria Borger, he cautioned shoppers who plan to visit the mall that Al-Shabaab included on a list of targets in a video released this weekend.

"If anyone is planning to go to the Mall of America today, they've got to be particularly careful," Johnson said. "There will be enhanced security there, but public vigilance, public awareness, and public caution in situations like this is particularly important, and it's the environment we're in, frankly."

Counter-terrorism experts have long expected an attack on soft targets in the United States. It's simply a matter of where and when and how bad it is going to be before the terrorists are wiped out. We have the ability—and I would argue, the responsibility—to make such an attack as difficult as possible.

There are more than 11 million concealed carriers in the United States, but only a very small percentage of concealed carriers carry a significant portion of the time. Typically, concealed carriers leave their handguns in their gun safes until they anticipate going somewhere out of their normal "safe" areas,

or out at night.

As we now live under the increased threat of Islamic domestic terrorism, it is my belief that more citizens should get quality handgun training and obtain their concealed carry permits. Concealed carriers who already have their permits should begin carrying with more regularity, and may want to consider upgrading what they carry on a daily basis.

In my case, I decided that the Kahr 9mm that I'd been carrying simply wasn't enough gun. While it might be effective against a lone mugger inside seven yards, I wanted to have a firearm with a greater sight radius and a higher magazine capacity, a handgun that I felt confident that I could make hits with out to 25 or 35 yards (from prone).

I already had the Walther PPQ that I became very familiar with in my Gun-site 250 Pistol course, so my upgrade was simply a matter of choosing to walk out of the house with a different handgun. I've also started carrying a second spare magazine, and added a quality lightweight flash-



I upgraded my everyday carry from a "pocket nine" to a more capable configuration. I've added a M18 Maverick Olight, and swapped out the single-stack Kahr with one spare magazine for a Walther PPQ 5" with two spare double-column magazines. The pistol and magazines are carried concealed under a winter coat.

Courtesy photo

light to my everyday carry.

Do I have any illusions that I'd be well equipped to take on and defeat a team of Islamic terrorists armed with rifles or shotguns and IEDs if I'm armed with just a handgun? No, I don't.

But I do think that I stand a slightly better chance of making their day a little more difficult. If they run into a couple of concealed carriers, off-duty law enforcement officers, and the armed police patrols in and near so many malls these days, time can be bought for families to escape.

Al Shabaab wants to create another Westgate Mall

Attack. I'm hoping that if such an attack does happen, that another hero like the off-duty SAS officer with a handgun will emerge to save lives that might otherwise be lost.

The terrorists have made their intentions quite clear. You have the choice of gambling that it won't affect you—and you'll probably be right—but I've never been much of a gambler.

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Number of Shots Not Valid Reason for First Degree Murder Charge

by Dean Weingarten,
GunWatch.Blogspot.com

There is a joke that goes around the gun culture. After a defensive shooting, an attorney asks the person who was defending themselves, "Why did you shoot him six times?" The stock punch line is: Because I ran out of ammunition.

The best humor has a lot of truth in it. In the highly charged atmosphere of a life and death defensive shooting, few people are able to count their shots. It is extremely common for people to empty their guns while attempting to stop a threat.

There is a phenomena that commonly occurs in life and death situations called tachypsychia. You perceive that time slows down, even though things are happening very fast.

An expert can empty a fully loaded .45 in less than a second. A person who is hit in the chest, even with a shot that hits the heart, often has hit the heart, can easily have 10-20 seconds of active life, just on adrenaline and the oxygen that is already in the

blood supply. Hunters of big game, such as deer can easily understand this. It is common for a deer shot through the heart to run a hundred yards before they fall over. I have seen this phenomena many times.

It is common for people to be hit multiple times, very fast, before they fall down. They may be dead with the first shot; but they do not know it yet, and it is easy for a person to empty their gun before their assailant falls down. I doubt that Ann Baskervill has spent much time considering the finer points of the dynamics of defensive use of firearms. I say this with some confidence because of her recent statements. From progress-index.com:

Ann Baskervill, the Dinwiddie County commonwealth's attorney, said 18-year-old James Faison fired eight rounds at his father with a .45-caliber handgun, with six shots hitting the victim.

"He emptied the gun, the only reason he stopped shooting is because it didn't have anymore ammo," Baskervill said.

It is for this reason that she has charged Faison with first-degree murder, which could land the young man in prison for the rest of his life plus three years.

The case is in process. The father, Irvine Faison, was a big man, 6'4" and 250 lbs. He had a history of domestic violence charges, and was once sentenced to 11 months in jail, of which he served one month before being released on parole. The brother or half-brother of the shooter made this claim:

"It was senseless, that's it overall," Baumgras said. "If you were going to try and claim self-defense or something, why did you have to unload the clip in him? You could've just shot one time and that would have been enough."

The concern with James Faison emptying the gun on his father is exactly why the Dinwiddie Sheriff's Office and Dinwiddie Commonwealth's

See CHARGE
on page 23

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Colorado Big Green Game: Enviros are Masquerading as Hunters and Anglers

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Colorado “hunters” and “anglers” are out in force doing what they love to do best, hunting and fishing, holding political rallies to support radical environmental causes.

Honestly, who knew that big game guys shared the same anti-energy passions as Big Green? Could it be because some groups that claim to represent hunters are actually fronts for environmental groups?

Because, yes.

Meet the Green Decoys; Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and Trout Unlimited — camouflage for today’s activists with controversial environmental agendas.

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) gets their funding from groups like the Western Conservation Foundation (WCF), which according to GreenDecoys.com donated more than \$278,000 in 2011 and 2012.

WCF has given handsomely over the years to notorious environmentalists and animal rights activists, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Audubon Society, Earthjustice (the self-proclaimed “law firm of the environment”), and Climate Solutions, a major proponent of “global warming.” It has also contributed large sums to the Tides Center, funder of all things leftist.

It’s hard to imagine Western Conservation Foundation would donate over a quarter of a million dollars to Backcountry Hunters and Anglers if it wasn’t an organization that shared those same ideological beliefs.

PEAK NATION™ would remember Backcountry Hunters and Anglers from such great hits as: stop oil and gas development in Thompson Divide, don’t do it in the White River National Forest either, Roan Plateau is a big NO, stop it Grand Junction, and close the roads in the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area.

Their mission statement, according to IRS records, has nothing to do with hunting or fishing, “but to ensure America’s outdoor heritage in a natural setting, through education and work on behalf of clean water and wilderness.”

Not hunters, wilderness.

The great thing about hunting in a wilderness area, there are hardly any hunters there and if you do bag some game, you either have to hike it out or pack it out by horse. No motorized vehicles allowed.

So, what exactly does BHA do besides support restrictive land policies and block energy development, which of course had NOTHING to do with their funding from environmental groups?

Last week they were at the Capitol in Denver along with Trout Unlimited, and

the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership to protest a Republican bill that would give the state flexibility to deal with wildfires and other natural disasters on federal land.

Because, hunting.

By the way, the Teddy Roosevelt group, an anti-energy, anti-gun, pro-union group gets their funding from Ted Turner’s foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, and a bunch of other foundations one normally hears listed on National Public Radio.

Trout Unlimited (we know, we used to like them, too), has also gone to the dark green side to get funding.

Trout Unlimited’s financial supporters have helped drive a more aggressive environmentalist stance that includes opposition to hydraulic fracturing for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale deposits and support for carbon taxation through a “cap-and-trade” program. The organization receives millions of dollars per year from environmentalist foundations...

These groups are not your father’s hunting and fishing organizations, and they shouldn’t be yours, either.

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Study Reveals Major Impact of Church Attendance and Religious Activity on Youth Suicide Risk

by Billy Hallowell, TheBlaze.com

A recently released study found that increased family and religious involvement could help lower the risk of suicide for youths.

The report, produced by Utah Department of Health, examined children between the ages of 10 and 19, finding that “a lower risk of suicide ideation was found among students who regularly attended religious services or activities and regularly ate a meal with their family.”

Religious activities are particularly helpful to preventing suicide, the study found, with kids who attend services or partake in faith-based activities once per week or more, are half as likely to have considered suicide. Religious involvement was even an effective buffer among those who had experienced “depressive symptoms” in the past as well.

The same went for kids who had at least one meal with their family five days or more during the week, with these individuals also half as likely to consider suicide.

“If that family has good, strong relationships, if they have good communication skills, if the children feel valued and they’re part of the decision-making process with their family ... that protects them from other risk factors they may have,” said Jenny Johnson, spokeswoman for the Utah Department of Health, according to *Deseret News*.

Suicide is an important issue to unpack in Utah, where it was the leading cause of death in 2013 for kids between ages 10 and 19, causing the state health department to explore for the first time the protective factors that could help youths avoid thinking about suicide or attempting to take their own lives, the outlet reported.

The health department analysis was based on the Prevention Needs Assessment, a biennially conducted survey of kids in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12, which assesses health-related behaviors. The report measures “suicide ideation” — one’s propensity to think about or attempt suicide.

Kids who experienced intense bullying or who overused technology were found to be more likely to experience “suicide ideation.”

“Those who had been bullied electronically (15.9% of respondents) were 4.4 times more likely to have considered suicide,” the study read. “Students who had been bullied both at school and electronically (7.7% of sample) two or more days out of the past year were at especially high risk, being 5.8 times more likely to have considered suicide.”

The Utah study can be found here: health.utah.gov/opha/publications/hsu/1502_Suicide.pdf

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Disability: A Problem We Refuse to Address

by Karl Denninger, Market-Ticker.Org

Once again Congress is likely to do something stupid. Really, really stupid.

“Sometime next year Social Security’s \$150 billion disability-insurance program will become insolvent. The program, which offers income supplements to those who cannot work full time due to physical or mental disabilities, has buckled as the number of beneficiaries has soared to more than 11 million in 2014, from 3.8 million in 1984. The bipartisan Social Security Advisory Board has urged reforms.” (Editor/GG: see www.wsj.com/articles/andrew-g-biggs-averting-the-disability-insurance-meltdown-1424733559)

You can’t explain this away as “demographics” (e.g. people getting older); that’s not the answer at all. Further, not only have the self-reported rates of work-limiting disability not changed materially in 30 years but the reported rate of on-the-job injuries has come down materially. Whatever you may think of OSHA, the fact is that “the job is getting done” in that regard.

But congressional loosening of benefit requirements, and more-importantly allowing people to remain on disability effectively for life once they gain it (less than 1% of the people on disability return to the workforce in any

given year) make the problem one that is utterly intractable without major changes.

In addition we must consider those who become disabled through either intentional personal conduct or willful refusal to follow through on a rehabilitation program. Today you can literally smoke meth or suck down bottles of booze for decades, utterly destroy your health, and then go on disability, receiving what amounts to a \$24,000 a year income between your SSDI payments and eligibility for Medicare at zero cost. **That’s not bad, and you can then turn around and make up to about \$13,000 on the side without losing any of those benefits!**

I will note that these gimmes are also non-taxable, meaning that we’re talking about a **middle-class living** for which you need do exactly nothing. There are a whole host of people making \$30,000 a year that take home **less** than the person on “disability.”

There are, in fact, people who, through just bad luck or otherwise no fault of their own, find themselves unable to work. Then there are those who legitimately are hurt on the job. Part of your Social Security taxes that are paid in by you every pay period is supposed to go toward the possibility that one of these things will happen to you.

But it is utterly outrageous for you to

be able to buy fire insurance on your house and then intentionally burn it down to collect the money. That is considered arson and a crime.

But that is, in effect, what we permit with this program when we allow disability claims for people who are unable to work due to *self-inflicted and intentional injury*, such as disability caused by the ingestion of drugs or alcohol.

Cutting that off alone would not resolve all the problems but it sure would go a long way toward helping. So would requiring medical exams **on an annual basis** by physicians **paid for by the government** instead of “private physicians” who have **every** incentive to find someone “disabled.” Indeed, independent studies have found that a very material percentage of the people on disability have the ability to perform **some** sort of remunerative work.

If we shift funds to the Social Security disability fund from the Social Security retirement fund, it will simply will hasten the day on which the retirement fund goes broke and is unable to pay promised benefits. Shifting money around from one bankrupt program to another is not only bad policy it’s an act of fraud and one we must not tolerate as a society.

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Politics & The Bible

From Pastor Jim

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

Southern Colorado natives, Jim and his wife, Linda, were happy to return to their home state in 2006. They started the Huerfano Community Bible Church in Walsenburg in 2008, 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.



Holy Ground

One fine wilderness day a Bedouin shepherd on the backside of a desert saw something that modern historians and scholars are convinced that he really didn't see. This man with forty years of experience in living outdoors (that the critics never had), approached a burning bush and then had the fire scared out of him. The bush was on fire, but it wasn't burning up! The shepherd then heard an audible voice from the God who was responsible for the creation of the entire solar system. The first thing this "Lord of Glory" told him was: "Draw not hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." (Exodus 3:5) This must be one of the most staggering passages in the entire Bible, for this is the first time the word "holy" occurs in the Scriptures. Along with it is the first mention of God calling Israel "my people." (vs. 7)

The problem is obvious to a farmer but eludes most Ivy leaguers. The word "holy" has been applied to a piece of dirt by the One who made the dirt! The word was directed by the Creator to a portion of the ground surface of this planet before it was used to describe the Godhead, God's Word, God's nature, God's NAME or God's people. So why shouldn't all wars (4000 B.C. to present) be over real estate? That explains why Karl Marx thought the abolition of private property would do away with wars.

God cursed the ground because of sin (Genesis 3:17) but years later for some peculiar reason, He designated that one particular piece is holy and went so far as to declare who the legal resi-

dents would be. That, my friends, is an international bear trap. Anything that God has ever specified to be "holy" finds itself under perpetual attack. It is impossible to provide another explanation for the constant controversy over this tiny strip of soil. The legal heirs are a mere 15 million people worldwide which is a proverbial drip in the bucket of mankind. So why all the hatred, anger, hostility and threatened annihilation?" God said it was "holy."

God repeatedly warned Israel that their disobedience would result in them being scattered from this "holy land" (Jeremiah 30:11), but the plethora of passages indicate an eventual return are too numerous to mention. As one might expect, this new Exodus will generate trouble we are only beginning to see develop.

A brief detour into history may be beneficial. For several hundred years Spain had been a refuge for Jews fleeing the Medieval Inquisition, but in 1478 Ferdinand and Isabella instituted the Spanish Inquisition at the intimidation of a Dominican priest, Thomas de Torquemada. In 1492 Spain expelled all Jews who would not convert. The rapid decline of Spain is well documented for they expelled the middle class that carried the economy and had no one to replace them.

Because of the work of Oliver Cromwell, England opened its doors as a safe haven to the Jews in 1655 and offered them citizenship and equal privileges with English people. As a result, the sun began to rise on the horizon of the English Empire. It reached its zenith during the reign of Queen Victoria when the sun never set on the

Union Jack.

In the late 19th century, England allowed the Zionist idea to be born. Dr. Chaim Weizman made a huge contribution in securing a victory in World War I, and, in gratitude, Britain firmly pledged its support of a Jewish homeland in Palestine with the Balfour Declaration. In 1923 Britain acquired a mandate over Palestine from the League of Nations. The result was rapid Jewish colonization and hostilities from Arabs. By 1928 Britain began to "interpret" the Balfour Declaration and sought to limit the numbers of Jews and their purchase of land from Arabs.

For the first time in hundreds of years, Britain had made a decision detrimental to the Jews; this marked the beginning of the decline. In 1939 the British released a public document, the White Paper, which announced British intentions to create Palestine as a predominantly Arab state. This was followed by an Irish civil war, bad economics, loss of colonies, the World War II bombing of London, and a present encroaching Muslim population.

Is it remotely possible that God was serious when He said to Abraham, "I will bless them that bless thee and curse them that curse thee..." (Genesis 12:3). Three chapters later God awarded to Abraham's seed a king's land grant that far exceeds their present occupation. Surely Rev. Wright knew and preached these basic truths. Perhaps Mr. Obama missed those services or else one would think he would be highly interested in receiving Israel's prime minister with all hospitality.

A Sheepdog Barks!

Last week in the paper I called the Republican leaders in Congress, and some of their followers, "straw lions." That is because they don't "roar" they "mew." They remind me of a combination of the lion in search of courage and the scarecrow in search of a brain that accompanied Dorothy to see the Wizard, thus the term "straw lion." Boehner and McConnell are in the lion pride leadership roles but are the weakest. When they were campaigning this last time they "roared." Made us feel good about seizing control of the zoo we all know as Washington, D.C., (aka Congress). But right out of the chute they failed to pass a veto-proof XL Keystone pipeline bill. This was a "no-brainer." Boehner "roared" for about a month and then rolled over and passed a clean DHS bill in support of Obama's unconstitutional amnesty. MEEOW! McConnell couldn't convince 12 Democrat Senators that it was in America's interest to support the XL Keystone pipeline bill or stop the illegal and costly amnesty. MEEOW!

Sunday on the talk shows I heard McConnell "mew" about the possibilities of working with Obama on a few trivial issues. Big Deal! MEEOW! Another "straw lion" in the pride is Ron Johnson, Republican Senator from Wisconsin. When asked if the Senate would have to approve any deal with Iran on their nuclear weapon programs his answer was a very soft and very meek "I hope so." MEEOW! His answer should have been something like this: "We do not have an Imperial President. All previous Nuclear Arms agreements have been approved by Congress. This one will also need to be approved. We will not let these inept negotiators (Obama & Kerry) agree to a bad deal that allows Iran to develop a nuclear weapon and which jeopardizes the Middle East, Israel, and the United States, PERIOD!" Instead we get "mewing." We have some sheepdogs in Washington, just not enough, and none are in power positions.

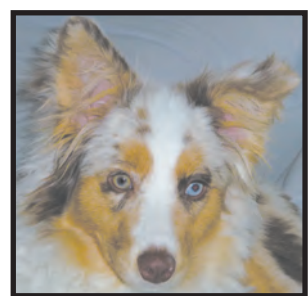
This is the problem. We have these kittens in search of some courage and some smarts. I'm not sure they are up to the job. The wolves are still howling and our "straw lions" are hiding under their desks. WOOF! Make no mistake; the time to "roar" about this deal is before it is agreed to. There is no trust when it comes to Obama and Kerry. The LPSDs are saying we should be patient and shouldn't assume what's in or not in the deal. I guess they want us to be quiet once again until it's too late. Reminds one of Nancy Pelosi and Obamacare doesn't it: "We have to pass it before we can know what's in it." Will we ever learn? Never, ever trust an LPSD. NEVER! WOOF!

For some more examples check out these "Only In A Liberal Progressive America" (OIALPA) reports:

OIALPA: Washington, D.C. The latest FBI National Threat Assessment makes NO reference to Islamic Terror. Sounds to me like we need a new FBI. We ignore this threat at our own peril. Actually we need a new president and soon and not the completion of a father-son-brother team OR a husband-wife team. WOOF!

OIALPA: Oklahoma. Ninth graders were asked this multiple choice question to "promote thinking." If you knew your baby was going to be a dwarf would you, A-have the baby, B-do gene therapy or C-have an abortion? This, my fellow sheepdogs, is an outrage. The LPSDs have "stolen" our schools and universities away from conservative, family-oriented Americans. This is not appropriate for teachers to be discussing. This is for parents. Maybe science and morality have gone too far in the wrong direction. WOOF!

OIALPA: Washington, D.C. Obama throws out more "red meat" to the LPSDs-FREE COLLEGE! Utter and complete insanity from this incompetent president. He's crossed over the Rubicon. It cannot get any more bizarre. Of course, he says, "only if they work



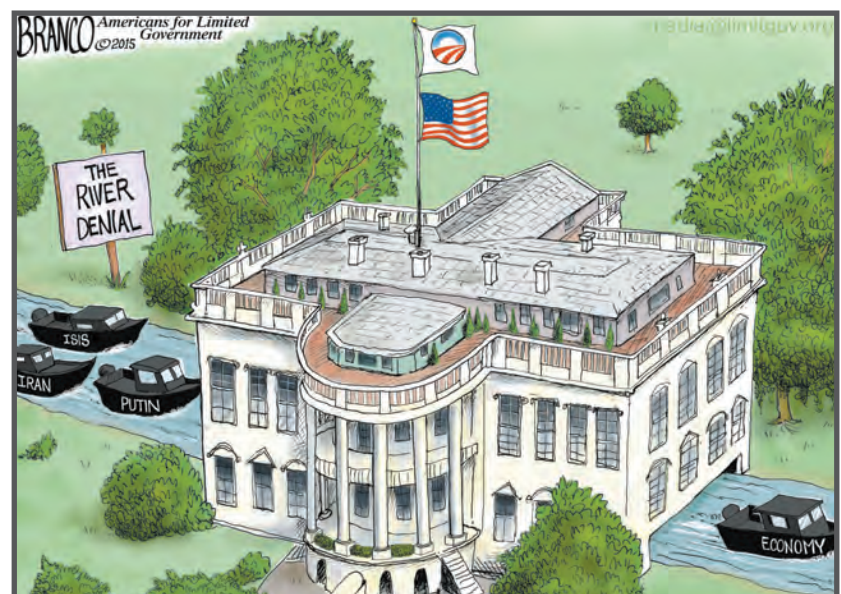
hard for it." Work hard for it? FREE? He knows nothing is Free, ever. What he means is "hey, all you real hard working dudes & dudesses should pay for these entitled millennials to party, smoke pot, and get another useless degree on your dimes." That's what he really means. WOOF!

OIALPA: Washington, D.C. Obama and his Department of Homeland Security (DHS) set up a "hotline" for illegal immigrants to report violations of their civil rights while being arrested or confronted by Border Agents and other DHS personnel. You cannot make this stuff up. The current leaders of this country are absolutely destroying it from the inside. Who need real enemies when we have the LPSDs. WOOF!

OIALPA: University of Minnesota. Campus police cannot use race in a description of a suspect in a crime "alert." Gender, tattoos, clothing and accent are sufficient and "safe" words. They will, however, allow race to be used when they "know" who the suspect is. WHAT? Can some LPSD explain this one to us? This is one of the worst examples of politically correct non-profiling we have ever heard of. Boy, do we need some sheepdogs in Minnesota. WOOF!

Right at press time I learned that Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) and 46 other Senators sent a letter directly to the Iranians telling them there will be no deal with the United States that isn't acceptable to the Congress, not just Obama & Kerry. Finally, a sheepdog barks in Washington D.C. and the wolves are howling. Congrats to them for standing up for the sheep! WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!

May God Have Mercy On



**For if you forgive men their trespasses,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you.**

**But if you do not forgive men their trespasses,
neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

Mathew 6:14-15, NKJV

IRS 'Kinda Sorta' Apologizes For Seizing Small Business Accounts Without Warrants

by Simon Black,
Sovereign Man Blog,
via ZeroHedge.com

Twenty-seven years ago at the 1988 Republican National Convention in New Orleans, George H. W. Bush accepted his party's nomination to run for President of the United States.

(This was when he announced Dan Quayle as his running mate, to which Senator John McCain later remarked, "I can't believe a guy that handsome wouldn't have some impact.")

In his acceptance speech, the elder Bush famously told America that he wanted a "kinder, gentler nation."

It took nearly three decades, but it seems that his wish has finally come true. Sort of.

Last week, the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service appeared in front of the House Way and Means Oversight Subcommittee... and apologized to taxpayers, specifically those who have had their assets seized and bank accounts wrongfully frozen.

He actually used that word.

"To anyone who is not treated fairly under the [tax] code, I apologize."

This is pretty astounding.

You see, in the Land of the Free, the Internal Revenue Service, along with hundreds of other state and federal agencies, have the power to seize your assets and freeze your bank accounts, almost instantly in many cases.

You don't need to be convicted of a crime. You don't even need to be doing anything illegal.

If you (or your assets) are simply at the wrong place at the wrong time... or if someone so much as suspects that maybe, just maybe, you might be doing something wrong, your assets can be frozen.

Bear in mind, this isn't anything that goes to court. No one puts you on trial or gives you the opportunity to defend yourself.

It's a purely administrative action. They just go and do it. And they're not shy about using their authority.

One case highlighted in front of the subcommittee was of Mr. Andrew Clyde, a gun-shop owner in Athens, Georgia.

Mr. Clyde is an obvious criminal terrorist whose heinous, immoral act against society was making a series of deposits into his bank that were all less than \$10,000.

His bank viewed this as potentially suspicious activity; U.S. law requires banks to report deposits of more than \$10,000. But if they see customers routinely depositing amounts less than that, they assume that customers are doing this deliberately to avoid reporting requirements.

This assumption alone can cause many banks to snitch on their customers, tipping off the IRS that something 'suspicious' is happening.

This is all the IRS needs to seize people's assets. And, once frozen, citizens must go through lengthy and expensive battles to get back their money.

In many cases, it's not even worth the fight. There's no guarantee of success. And even if someone gets robbed of \$100,000 or more, it might not be worth spending 2-3 years away from running his/her business to get the money back.

The cost of doing so would be greater than the reward of recouping the lost cash.

But here's the even bigger irony: the IRS believes that if people don't step forward and fight them, then it is a de facto admission of guilt.

In other words, only criminals

don't fight to get their money back. Only the guilty make a rational cost/benefit analysis in determining whether they should indefinitely neglect their businesses and wage an expensive and uncertain legal battle against the most intimidating organization in U.S. history.

So, despite the rather hollow apology from the IRS, it's clear these guys still need a reality check.

One key lesson to highlight here:

If you hold savings at a bank in the United States, you need to understand that your bank is an unpaid spy of the federal government. They WILL report you for anything you do that they view as potentially suspicious.

Moreover, they are required by law to file a certain number of 'Suspicious Activity Reports' each year. So, even if you're not doing anything suspicious, if you simply stand out a bit more than the next guy, you're going to get reported.

Oh, yeah, they won't tell you about it either.

Bottom line, even if you've never broken the law, you could potentially be frozen out of your savings. No one ever believes it will happen to them... until it does.

So make sure you have at least some form of savings somewhere else. Establish a foreign bank account. Hold some gold at a private, non-bank facility. Or even build up a small stash of cash savings.

This way, should the worst happen, you'll at least have access to some emergency savings to tide you over.

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CHARGE

From page 20

Attorney's Office are pursuing first-degree murder charge.

There may be more forensic evidence that is not being released. Perhaps the statement by the prosecutor was more nuanced than is being reported. If the report is accurate, and the prosecution is basing their first-degree murder charge on the number of shots fired, they are basing their case on a very frail reed. Their ignorance of the dynamics of real world self-defense is showing.

The common wisdom among people teaching self-defense is to keep shooting until the threat is down and no longer a threat. I was not at the shooting scene. I do not know the people involved. But I do know that a .45 can be emptied with great rapidity, easily far faster than many people will react to being shot.

The prosecutor, Baskerville, shows another misunderstanding of the meaning of vigilantism and self defense:

"It's sympathetic when anyone is a victim of abuse, but you can't just take it into your own hands and be a vigilante," Baskerville said.

"Vigilante" is a word that has been egregiously abused. It is often invoked in self-defense shootings, to imply that only government sanctioned force is legitimate. Of course, that has never been correct. The right to self-defense is one of the most fundamental rights of a human being, perhaps of any living creature.

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Update: ATF Caves on AR 15 Ammo Ban!!!!

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

(Editor/GG: A LOT of citizen and Federal legislature pressure caused these out-of-control anti-2nd Amendment bureaucrats to back down on the proposed ban on a commonly used AR15 ammo (M855). At least for now. Definitely a win folks against the liberal agenda of disarming America.)

We just love it when a plan comes together to thwart governmental interference in our constitutional rights.

The ATF announced that after receiving 80,000 comments criticizing their attempted end-run around Congress, they have changed their collective minds about banning ammo for the AR-15 rifle.

Although ATF endeavored to create a proposal that reflected a good faith interpretation of the law and balanced the

interests of law enforcement, industry, and sportsmen, the vast majority of the comments received to date are critical of the framework, and include issues that deserve further study. Accordingly, ATF will not at this time seek to issue a final framework. After the close of the comment period, ATF will process the comments received, further evaluate the issues raised therein, and provide additional open and transparent process (for example, through additional proposals and opportunities for comment) before proceeding with any framework.

Allow us to translate: Busted! Our bad. But give us some time and then we'll try it again.

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FYI... for your information...

The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel is published every Friday.

Our office hours are Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday.

Deadline for classified ad copy is Monday by 5:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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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America's Lunch Ladies Call For an End to Michelle Obama's School Lunch Tyranny

by Eric Owens, DailyCaller.com

The School Nutrition Association, a professional organization representing about 55,000 school food-service employees nationwide, has called on Congress to make dramatic changes to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, the deeply unpopular 2010 legislation that restricts school lunches.

The School Nutrition Association released a position paper last week on the complex body of meal regulations long championed by Michelle Obama, EAGnews.org reports.

The group's "2015 Position Paper" criticizes the complex legislation under which participating schools take federal money but must stringently limit the amount of sugar, fat, and sodium in every morsel of food sold at schools. Also, in what presumably falls outside the hunger-free aspect of the act, there are unforgiving calorie caps.

The paper is d***ing.

"USDA data shows that since the new rules were implemented, 1.4 million fewer children choose school lunch each day," the School

Nutrition Association explains. "Declining student participation reduces meal program revenue for schools already stressed by higher food and labor costs under the new regulations."

The first lady's signature program is a huge, embarrassing waste of national and local resources, the group argues.

"USDA estimates the new rules add \$1.2 billion to the cost of preparing school meals in Fiscal Year 2015 alone," the group also says. "As a result, only half of school meal program operators anticipate their programs will break even at the end of this school year, according to a recent SNA survey."

"SNA supports strong federal nutrition standards for school meals, including calorie caps and mandates to offer a greater quantity and variety of fruits and vegetables," School Nutrition Association CEO Patricia Montague said.

"However, some of the USDA's regulations under the law have unnecessarily increased costs and waste for school meal programs and caused many students to swap healthy school meals for junk food fare."

Some school districts — particularly wealthier ones — have opted out of the healthy-lunch regime and the federal dollars that come with it.

Fancypants private schools, such as Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C., which first daughters Malia and Sasha attend, are not affected by the federal school lunch regime.

The School Nutrition Association has several proposals for Congress. Among them are calls for Congress to revert back to 2010 standards in certain aspects and for more leeway for allowing kids to consume a la carte food items.

The healthy school lunches touted by the first lady have never been popular.

Congress is expected to reauthorize the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act — or not — later this year.

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AUDIT

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can call the exchange or Medicaid to try to sign up.

The exchange's interim CEO, Gary Drews, urged board members to decide whether they want to keep subsidizing Medicaid patients and, if so, to consider how to pay for that expensive work.

"We're experiencing a good deal of volume related to serving this (Medicaid) population for the folks that come through our shop," Drews said. "We don't do the kind of job that we'd like to do. We're not trained to do that and we can't access their (IT) systems."

If the state exchange is going to take care of large numbers of Medicaid clients — about 76,000 of whom qualified for coverage during the recent open enrollment season — Drews warned that that will be costly.

"We need to right-size and right-fund this entity," he said.

Finding solutions is urgent since the next open enrollment season begins on November 1.

Other data that exchange officials announced on Monday included:

- About 141,639 signed up

for private health plans;

- Connect for Health retained about 94,385 of its 2014 customers, or about 67 percent. (That was below projections. Connect officials had predicted that they would start the 2015 enrollment season with a baseline of about 114,000 customers.);
- About 54 percent qualified for tax credits, which averaged \$229 per month;
- About 26 percent of those who signed up were between ages 18 and 34;
- Half of people who signed up were individuals (rather than families);
- About 10 percent of people who bought plans lived in rural Colorado;
- Brokers signed up about 40 percent of customers, while workers in the assistance network brought in 6 percent; and
- The small business exchange has covered just 339 businesses and covers about 3,716 people.

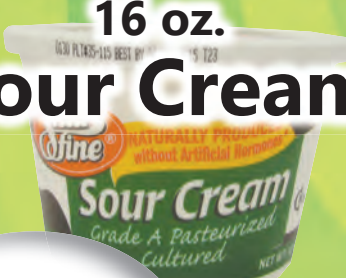
Please see: www.healthnews-colorado.org/2015/03/09/exchange-board-orders-audit-while-governor-launches-talks-between-exchange-medicare-managers/

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