



SANGRE DE CRISTO SENTINEL^{® TM}

A Different View from the Same Mountains!

Vol. 2, Issue 6 50¢ The Voice of The Community! Friday, August 15, 2014

Gymkhana Closes Out Season at the Wild West Cowboy Church



See more on page 8

Sentinel photos
by Anne Crewdson



Development Corporation Seeks Taxpayer Funds

by Paul Sage
At the August 4th Board of County Commissioners meeting, members of the Custer County Community Development Corporation (CCCDC) pressed the commissioners to pay out the \$4,060 the corporation needs to participate in a state-sponsored, long-term broadband study for Custer and the four other counties that make up the Upper Arkansas Area Regional Council of Governments (UAACOG).

The grant for the study in question was written by the Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments and would use up to \$75,000 of state money to determine the long-term broadband capabilities and needs of the five counties participating over the next number of years. The \$4,060 brought up here is the amount required of the Development Corporation to cover Custer County's part of the matching funds for the grant.

When the Corporation first brought this proposal to the commissioners on March 3rd of this year, they unanimously approved the CCCDC's efforts to move forward with the study but specifically pointed out that the motion did not commit the county to providing the matching funds. There are a few reasons for this, including that it is not a budgeted item in the current year's budget. Also, going back to the formation of the CCCDC, Commissioners Attebery, Butler, and then Commissioner Austin were not comfortable with giving taxpayer money to a private corporation. "The BOCC said that the county is able to extend support to non-profit organizations but expressed concern with providing monetary support for a LLC," according to the min-

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Custer County School Board Meeting

by Candi Sage

The regular school board meeting was held on August 12 and called to order by President Brenda Gaide followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. With minor modifications to the agenda, the meeting proceeded with a unanimous vote to approve the school district legal counsel, the district financial auditor, and the minutes of both the regular board meeting on June 10 and the special board meeting on July 23.

Board member Terre Davis gave a brief overview of the changes in BOCES indicating that the changes coming in Special Education will affect Custer County; they have replaced three staff members and that the changes in BOCES are positive.

Approval of personnel hires for the 2014-15 coaching assignments, custodian, kindergarten paraprofessional and one substitute teacher was met with unanimous votes. The board also approved the check vouchers, financial reports, the Bond Refunding Resolution and the annual appointment of the Secretary to the Board. Superintendent Chris Selle commented that the resolution is basically refinancing at a lower interest rate which will save the district \$80,000 over the course which results to about \$13,000 a year.

The board discussed a few format-

ting issues with the student handbook which will be posted on the school website, handed to each high school student on the first day, covered during the first week, and all seniors will be tested on the content according to Secondary Principal, Barb Jones. The board also approved bids for milk and propane with Mr. Selle stating that every opportunity is made to purchase local if in the financial interest of the district to do so.

The board unanimously approved the Custer County School District Strategic Plan and recognized community member Gary Taylor for donating his time and energy spent in facilitating the committees involved with writing the plan. It was mentioned that a quarterly progress report on the Strategic Plan will be made public for the community.

Following the reports from the Elementary Principal Holly Anderson, and Secondary Principal Barb Jones, Mr. Selle gave the Superintendent's report. He stated that while 50 students have withdrawn, 49 new students have registered, so the student count is relatively the same.

Mr. Selle reported that while revenue is better, (but not great) the negative factor estimated at \$496,000 is subject to changes in

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**PATRIOT
ALERT!**
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Answering
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page 20



*The Lord
is on my side;
I will not fear.
What can man
do to me?*

Psalms 118:6,
NKJV

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the same mountains!

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

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

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

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Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

THE WORLD IS A MESS



Trouble everywhere. And the one man most of the world looks to maintain stability is the leader of the free world – the President of the United States. But currently that position is largely unfilled. The occupant of that office is AWOL – absent without leave. He is currently vacationing again, this time in Martha's Vineyard. How nice. And why not? Congress is on vacation too so why shouldn't he be gone at the same time. Actually, there is a lot we should be happy about when all the politicians are gone and not meddling with our lives and our fortunes. But, there are certain things that require their attention, especially the President's. How did the world get into such a terrible state you might wonder? It seems, to most honest observers, due to the lack of leadership. And that leadership usually comes from the President of the United States. Without that leadership the bad guys in the world act up. This is exactly what is happening. President Obama is not up to this job. He doesn't have the experience

to lead, he doesn't have the wisdom to lead and he doesn't even seem to want to lead. He loves the office and all its glamor. He loves the fun stuff. He loves to host all the sports teams. He loves to talk. He loves to campaign. He loves to raise money. And he loves to play golf. He just doesn't like to govern or lead. His confusing actions in Libya coined the phrase "lead from behind." This concept doesn't work when one is responsible for guiding the nations of the world. Obama is a thinker, not a doer. He is not sure of his actions, so he waits, overthinks and then when he is absolutely pushed into action it is usually a little too late and a little too little. A brush fire needs attention immediately and then it doesn't become a raging forest fire. Once it's a forest fire the squirt gun approach doesn't work. President Obama has failed to act in dozens of instances and the world is a mess because of it. His spokesman just recently told us that the president has created tranquility in the world. That is laughable. Obama tells us

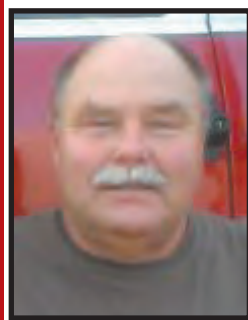
he and his team are monitoring the situation, analyzing the situation and working with other world leaders to solve the problem. The problem is that usually that is all he does for far too long. Look at the Ukraine. Putin has seized the Crimean Peninsula because he wants it. What did the free world do? A few sanctions and some "meals ready to eat" (MREs)? When asked recently about whether or not the sanctions are working President Obama contradicted himself in 2 consecutive sentences. First he said "we don't know if the sanctions are working" and then he immediately said "The sanctions are working just like they were intended to." We're confused, which is it? He is a master of not answering the question. He will filibuster for 8-12 minutes rather than simply answer the question. Why? We believe because he doesn't know what he is going to do so he usually tries to give a distorted history lesson. He has no vision. He can only see the world the way he would like it to be, not the way it is. Remember he told us

the world needed to give Putin an "off ramp" from his bold taking of Crimea. This is Obama's problem. He is in way over his head. The world, led by a strong American president needed to give Putin a "stop" sign before he even got started. Instead he might go even further because he feels no risk or retribution. And let's look at the latest bad guys – ISIS. These evil terrorists are maybe the worst ever. They are even beheading children. According to the world press they have driven 40,000 people to the top of mountains and will let them starve and die of thirst there. The USA is finally doing something to help. But why did it take so long? A few months ago, when the world was taking note of these guys and the Intelligence Community was sounding the alarm, President Obama called them the Junior Varsity? When asked on network TV about ISIS, he said "just because you put a JV team in Lakers Jerseys doesn't make them Kobe Bryant." Oh, how he wishes he hadn't said that. But that is vintage Obama. He can't recognize reality

until it has engulfed him. He is far too unqualified and inexperienced to hold this powerful office. Hopefully those that were fooled are finally beginning to see that. Americans need to elect someone for more than their popularity and the gift of gab. The latest polls are revealing this dissatisfaction. 70% of Americans think we are on the wrong path. Only 36% believe Obama is doing a good job on Foreign Policy. Honestly we wonder who those 36% could possibly be. They are certainly the uninformed. Those "talking heads" that like to support him are always quick to point out how Congress has even lower numbers. The problem with that is that is not relevant to the problem we and the world face. It's the President of the United States that is supposed to "make things happen" by being a strong leader and the current one is not capable of that. Election Day is about 10 weeks away. We hope you plan to participate and vote.



The Sentinel's Patriot of the Week:



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Decker**
of Rural
Custer County

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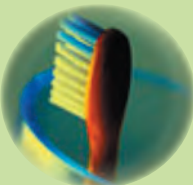
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"We the People" Speak

Guns and the Independence Day Parade

Joe Cascarelli
Westcliffe, Colorado

Aaah, the sixties. I was 16 when Kennedy was elected. I was 19 when he was killed. I do remember all the anti-gun hysteria which resulted in over-reaction following that fateful November day in 1963. After all, government does two things well...nothing and over react. Back in the sixties, Sears, Roebuck & Co. and Montgomery Ward had guns in their catalog. Many a 16-year-old ordered their first gun through one of these catalogs. Every hardware store in the city where I was born and raised, Jersey City, sold guns and ammunition. One could order a rifle and ship via U.S. Mail in the 60s. My high school, William L. Dickenson H.S., had a gun club. Some of my classmates brought their .22 caliber rifles (unloaded and in a case) to school once per week. They left them in the principal's office until the formal school day ended and then they went to the shooting range in the school basement to practice. This was the inner city. Jersey City is the most densely populated city in the most densely populated state in the union. On weekends, some of my friends went to the city dump to shoot rats. They were encouraged to do so by the city dump supervisor. They would ride their bikes with their .22 caliber rifles across their handlebars.

There were no school shootings, no gang shootings like there are today in Chicago and few, if any, accidental shootings at least not in my neighborhood. Sure, these were the kinder and gen-

tlar 1950s, the Ozzie and Harriet era. If I seem insensitive to the hullabaloo about legal open carry in the Independence Day parade, these are the reasons why. I have shot hundreds of guns of all kinds in my life and I have never seen a gun that shoots all by itself. If no one pulls the trigger, the gun just doesn't do anything. Here is what I do know about private ownership of firearms. It is the most important symbol of a free society. Societies which prohibit private ownership of guns are not free.

I attended the entire Town of Westcliffe meeting on Tuesday. I, too, am delighted that Mattie Burt made the comments she made. Roland and his colleagues were so very careful not to mention guns during their presentation of why the Custer County Democrats should be the sponsor of the 2015 Independence Day Parade. There were several aspects of the meeting that were fascinating to me:

- The town has no authority to select parade sponsors, yet they were treated to a full blown presentation
- Everyone at the meeting and all those who attended either the Chamber's Special meeting or the Town Hall meeting last summer know that guns are the real issue
- Mattie Burt let the cat out of the bag and no one had anything further to say about the guns issue...amazing
- Despite two fabulously successful parades and two very successful retail days for the town, there are some in the community who actually believe

that they can do better.

"Do better;" it interests me that a group not yet formed can do better despite the fact that they've never run a parade

When I asked Roland, "What was wrong with the last two parades?"; his answer was simple and true, "Nothing."

This puts a lot of pressure on the CC Democrats. At least the Cowboy Church/Sentinel co-sponsors have a track record of success. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Here is what Mattie and the other anti-Second Amendment folks are forgetting. America, unlike Canada, Australia and India, fought a war (with guns) for its freedom from England. Guns have been an integral part of American culture since the 1600s. Both the Jamestown settlers and the Pilgrims were armed. There is not a more recognizable symbol of the West than the 1873 Colt Single Action Army and I saw plenty of them in the last two Independence Day Parades. Both Bill Clinton and Al Gore can tell you what the consequences are for politicians that come between Americans and their guns. John Hickenlooper will soon learn that lesson and three Colorado State Senators lost their jobs over gun control. All early settlers to the Wet Mountain Valley were armed and that goes back to the Zebulon Pike visit.

Can a small but determined group of liberals change the affection that local residents have for their guns? I doubt it. They should find a different cause.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you, from Debbie Livengood

I would like to "Thank" everyone for all the cards, prayers, visits, phone calls, get well wishes, food, flowers and gifts while I was home recovering from my accident. A big "Thank You" to the sheriff's department, fire department, EMS and to those individuals that stopped and called in the accident and stayed with me until help arrived. I am so blessed to live in such a

wonderful, caring, and loving community, I would also like to "Thank" the wonderful women I am blessed to work with. Kelley, Marilyn, Lori and Kris I appreciate each of you so much. Thank you for all the extra time and work you did while I was gone. May God Bless and watch over each of you always.

Debbie Livengood

National Night Out

Let me first say thank you to everyone that came out on Tuesday, August 5, 2014 to the Pavilion at Hermit Park for the Custer County Sheriff's Office 4th Annual National Night Out. I hope everyone had a great time. Thank you to Iris Supan for the loan of the golf cart, the kids had a great time trying to drive it through the cones with the drunk goggles on. Thank you to Peggy Lepper for all the cookies and beans that you and Linda Elliott brought they were fantastic.....oh and the

slaw. Thank you to Charles Cox for hooking us up with such a great deal on the inflatable slide, bounce house and cotton candy machine. I would like to thank the Ranchers Roost for the donation of the twenty dollar gift card, D&W Services for the T-Shirts, Take a Hike for the ball cap, The Loan A Ranger LLC for the remote control helicopter, Somewhere Saloon for the two twenty five dollar gift certificates, Donavan's Studios for the two CD's, The Mane Attraction for

the twenty five dollar gift certificate. Thank you to the EMT's that came and the members of Search and rescue. Thank you to the community because without you we can't do what we do on National Night Out.

P.S. Thank You to my fellow employees for coming out and helping with this event.

Carl Dryer,
Custer County
Sheriff's Office

The Tyranny of the Minority Left

I have read both papers and I am in total disbelief. The few Libtards we have want to have a democrat sponsor take over the parade after the Cowboy Church did such an excellent job. Well, good luck with that. You people can't even have a get-together at the Beckwith Ranch due to LACK of interest. I think Mr. Williams needs to go to Detroit and see how they do it since the democrats ruined that city. You have some good people on your side Mr. Williams. You have Mr. Bruser who is on the clinic board taking that down the tubes.

And Mr. Printz, you know dang well that the Republican and Democrat parties will never ever see eye to eye. Just look at what we

have in the White House: a semi golf pro. And Mattie Burt, you heard of hundreds of people complaining. Really! The only ones I saw was the 6 people with signs among the thousands cheering.

I served in the military, Vietnam Era on the Russian front Cold War and I come home and have to listen to all you whinny little pip squeak democrats protesting the war and I am not going to take you whinny Libtards here either trying to ruin our Second Amendment rights.

I know very well that Ms. Veltrie was being nice because I know what she really would have said. Also the council members need to find there cojones and

take a stand for once in your careers. There is nothing wrong with the Cowboy Church sponsoring these events. OH my bad! Democrats don't want religion involved, only atheist and Muslims that kill Christians and to strip our Second Amendment rights.

So, yes, I am a Tea Bagger, Reagan conservative, Oath Keeper, and I believe in God and I believe in the Constitution of the United States of America. That's why it was written so idiots like you all can be kept in check. So now you all know where I stand with my rifle and pistol because my gun is used for fun. GOD BLESS

John G Decker Retired FD
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Local Mountain News & Notices

First Day of School Has A New Look

by Candi Sage

On Tuesday, August 19, Custer County Elementary parents will have an opportunity for greater participation and information as their child's first day of school has a new look. Instead of a Back-to-School Night, the structure is designed to provide parents with important information to support their child's success. Elementary Principal Mrs. Anderson, will conduct an assembly and will speak of changes for the 2014-15 school year as well as school-wide expectations followed by a two hour classroom session with their children's teacher.

A letter went out to parents in late July asking for them to sign up for one of the three assembly and classroom sessions. Mrs. Anderson reports that 95% of parents have responded that they will be in attendance with their children.

The cafeteria rules and process for breakfast and lunch will also be discussed and during the sessions there will be opportunity for t-shirt purchases, information on PTSO, accountability, and other information about school opportunities.

Once in the classroom, parents and students will learn of specific classroom expectations, attendance, homework, grading policies, the daily schedule, sample lessons, grade level curriculum and assessments, volunteer procedures, and opportunities for questions and discussions with staff.

Also new this year, Ruth Mitchell, Director of Custer County Community Sharing Center, is providing donated and laundered elementary school size clothes free to families to select from and will be located in the west parking lot at various times during these sessions:

First Assembly and K-5 Session - 11:40 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Second Assembly and K-5 Session - 2:10 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Third Assembly and K-5 Session - 5:10 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Preschool Parent Orientation will be held in the School Library from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon on August 19, with their first day of school on August 25. Kindergarten parents and students will attend one of the assemblies listed and also start their first day on August 25. Grades 6-12 will have already had their open house dates to attend with parents prior to August 19th, so this will be a normal first day of school for those students.

For questions regarding this information or the first day of school for all students, please contact Custer County Schools 783-2291.

Why Any Kind of Healthcare Merger Will Cost You More



by Paul Sage,
Analysis and
Commentary

One of the things that anyone following the story of the West Custer County Hospital District for any amount of time will pick up on is that they have been pursuing some kind of merger or affiliation with a larger entity "for a year-and-a-half now," according to Board Chairman Joe Arbuckle. Nationally, this 'circling of the wagons' philosophy has been a response to tighter economic conditions and lower healthcare reimbursement rates brought on by the imposition of Obamacare to the industry.

The motivations for this trend have been two-fold. For the small rural clinic, it means higher reimbursement rates for the services they provide. The government, and therefore, also private insurance agencies have allowed for higher reimbursement rates for hospitals and larger entities because they have higher overhead so the cost of providing services is higher for them. For the hospital or larger healthcare entity, responding to Obamacare's pressures on the system to steer patients away from these higher cost providers, has an interest in acquiring these small entities to increase their patient base through what had traditionally been classified as lower cost providers. According to Bloomberg Businessweek, "hospitals have long charged more than free-standing medical offices for similar services."

Locally, Clinic Director Delwin Lester recently quoted numbers showing that the clinic's current Medicaid reimbursement

rate is less than half of the billed amount, but if they could place themselves under the umbrella of a larger hospital, that rate would go to nearly two-thirds of the billed rate.

After the recent failure of attempts by the Clinic Director to form such a partnership with Heart of the Rockies Medical Center in Salida, he has turned to talks with Centura Health and St. Thomas Moore in Cañon City. The Clinic Director explained to his Board that "since Centura is large – they're about a 3 billion dollar healthcare corporation – they have bigger pockets and they can take on a little more risk than maybe somebody like Heart of the Rockies or unaffiliated type of hospitals."

Hospital District Chairman Joe Arbuckle pressed the Clinic Director to keep his efforts "on the fast track" to come up with some kind of a partnership with a larger entity. The urgency of the move was made clear by Ethan Lipkind, the CEO and President of Michigan Rural Healthcare Preservation and the Michigan Clinic quoted in Capital News Service as saying, "Overall, I would say it's a declining industry. There are a lot of rural healthcare providers that are closing their doors." He pointed out that, "About 470 rural hospitals across the U.S. have closed in the past 25 years, according to the National Rural Health Association," and continued by adding that in his estimation "we're going to see more rural hospitals closing in the next two years than the last 20 combined."

The merger and acquisition mania has become so popular that the California

Healthcare Foundation has posted an on-line workbook for the "Strategic Restructuring for California Clinics" complete with case studies and recommendations to smooth out the process.

The concept is not without problems, however. The increased numbers resulting from such associations go across the board, not just with Medicare and Medicaid. This increases the billed amount to private payers as well as private insurance, and, of course, this translates into higher out of pocket and insurance rates for everyone. In addition, according to Bloomberg Businessweek, the cat is now out of the bag on this fix for lower returns for small healthcare entities. "Watchdogs, including the Medicare Advisory Commission, which advises Congress, are sounding the alarm. In May, Med PAC Executive Director Mark Miller testified before a house panel that these price differences 'need immediate attention.'"

The merger and affiliation efforts of the West Custer County Hospital District could very well result in higher patient fees for all users/payer of services of the clinic: private payers, private insurance companies (which will raise your premium rates), and Medicaid and Medicare (which are "funded" by taxpayers). Thus, an affiliation with a hospital should increase the income rate to the clinic, but the users/payers will be paying higher fees for services subsidizing this through higher premiums and taxes. And one thought to ponder, will the higher fee-rate schedule associated with a hospital association cause a drop in patients?

Vesicular Stomatitis Virus Outbreak Update

from the Colorado State
Veterinarian's Office

There are currently 104 confirmed VSV-positive premises in Colorado; the quarantines are located in Adams, Boulder, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld Counties. There are still many investigations being conducted on livestock that are exhibiting clinical signs consistent with VSV and samples on those cases are still pending. All of the positive VSV cases have been in horses except for one VSV-positive bovine case in Weld County and one VS-positive cow in Boulder County.

Owners should know the signs of what the virus looks like. Excessive salivation is the usually the first sign possibly followed by lameness, severe weight loss, and fever that may occur before or

at the same time that lesions appear. A close look inside the mouth will show lesions on the inner surfaces of the gums, lips, and tongue, but they can also be found on the nostrils, coronary band, prepuce, vulva, and teats. The blisters fester, which causes pain in the mouth prohibiting the animal to eat or drink. If you think your horse or livestock has vesicular stomatitis virus should contact your vet immediately.

Most animals recover well with supportive care by a veterinarian, but some lesions can be painful. It is thought that insects are an important vector in the transmission of the disease.

For more information, contact your veterinarian or the Colorado State Veterinarian's office at 303.869.9132

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It was your plan but, you're not in the contracting business. Your contractor was a yes-man; he never offered you the benefit of his experience. Being a good

salesman, he knows that can kill a sale. I guess that's why some say I'm hard to get along with; I offer potential customers the benefit of 30 plus years experience.

A good experienced contractor save\$. Living year around in the valley is much easier when you don't have to fight Mother Nature. Proper planning can save you a lot of grief and even more money. -David Nequette /Lic. 1043

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Elementary School Changes for 2014-15

by Candi Sage

At the School Board meeting held August 12, Elementary Principal Holly Anderson, reported on the new pilot report card for K-5 giving details to the board that this new report card will give the parents a better picture of where their child is successful and where the child is needing more instruction. The pilot report card will give grades A-F and N/A (Not Assessed at this time) in all academic areas including Art, Music, P.E. and Library/Technology. Mrs. Anderson stated she hopes that by January the teachers and parents will have feedback as to how well the report card is working and what changes may be needed. The board approved the use of the pilot report card for this school year.

Mrs. Anderson also reported on other changes and goals for this school year that included monthly team meetings; primary, intermediate, and special education for the purpose of examining and planning for the progress of specific students and to examine the effectiveness of the instructional processes. Continu-

ing work on the Curriculum Maps for each grade level will also be a focus.

Secondly, Mrs. Anderson outlined the new school environment plan with four specific school rules: Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Productive, and Be Safe and that all students will receive regular instruction on how to carry out and follow the rules in all settings in the school environment. With a play on 'positive' the new "Pawsitive Bobcats" rules included a way to recognize students who do follow the rules with incentives including positive reinforcements by their teacher, a chance of enjoying lunch with the Principals each month and bulletin board recognition. Additionally, students will also receive additional instruction and consequences if they struggle with demonstrating the four rules. She indicated that school environment is linked to achievement and it will be a way to lessen the interference of learning and the continuance of teaching.

Due to the state not viewing the 2014 TCAP test results until after noon

on Thursday, districts are "embargoed" and prevented from reporting results. Mrs. Anderson did state what they will be focusing on once the staff does look at the scores: 1) What standards did the students do well with - including identifying who and the gender specifics? 2) What areas did they perform poorly? 3) How do we change our curriculum to ensure teaching what students need to know? 4) How do we change our teaching strategies to ensure that students are able to perform at high levels? 5) Identify what is happening with student growth scores, and 6) How effective are we with the students who have stayed over time and how effective with the students who are new?

Lastly, Mrs. Anderson reported that preschool is now accepting names for a wait list. Kindergarten has 31 students formally enrolled and a second kindergarten teacher may need to be considered. She indicated that the grant received for seven E-Care slots in kindergarten will help offset costs if a second teacher is hired.

Secondary Principal Report

by Candi Sage

At the Custer County School Board meeting held on August 12, Secondary Principal Barb Jones reported that goals for high school and middle school teachers will be for data teams to look at the test scores and for all subject areas to have a 'buy in' for increasing those scores. As an example, art will have a reading and a math goal within the curriculum. At the time of this article, the TCAP test scores are "embargoed" until noon on August 14, which will be after the state has had an opportunity to look at them.

Another goal Mrs. Jones set is for the RtI (Response to Intervention) team to have

regularly scheduled meetings, and that the staff will look at curriculum and effective practices to meet the needs of the students and increase the scores. Mrs. Jones briefly discussed the new discipline plan; in that, the students will have positive or negative choices that will result in positive or negative consequences, teachers will take more time to teach the plan, and staff will be consistent in enforcing the plan.

Mrs. Jones also reported the changes in the testing of formerly known TCAP, now termed CMAS and how it affected the changes of courses offered juniors and seniors including offering AP classes. She shared the AP five-year school score summary which in-

cluded a lower percent of students taking AP exams, yet a higher percent of students with a score of 3 (passing) or greater. Due to the CMAS changes, all juniors and seniors will both be taking Government and Economics to better prepare them for the required testing. Mrs. Jones also discussed the ACT scores and the free on-line helps for students as well as purchasable plans that help increase ACT scores.

Mrs. Jones introduced the schedule for college intern, Mr. Alex Falciani, from Western State to the board. He will work with Mr. Bistodeau, Mr. Holycross, and Mrs. Selle during his year internship with Custer County Schools.



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Custer County Drivers – age 15 - 24

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When: Friday, September 19, 2014

Time: 9:00 A.M – 1:30 P.M.

Must register on-line at <https://aliveat25.us>

After registering online voluntary (not court ordered) students living in Custer County can call 720-269-4046 to receive a Scholarship provided by the WIA Program that serves Custer County.

Be sure to bring a photo ID to the class & Be on time: late arrivals will not be allowed to attend.

The **Alive at 25** Class is sponsored by Custer County Drive Smart Coalition in cooperation with the Colorado State Patrol (CSP), the CSP Family Foundation, and the WIA (Workforce Investment Act) Program of the Canon City Workforce Center..



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for without Me you can do nothing.”**

John 15:5,NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices



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WIA Adult & Dislocated Worker Programs

The WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs are federally-funded and designed to help job seekers prepare for employment, find and keep a job, and increase earnings. All WIA program services can be accessed by contacting your local workforce center.

Who is eligible for the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs?

- Adults – Individuals who are 18 or older, and need assistance with finding and keeping employment
- Dislocated Workers - Workers 18 or older, who were recently laid off through no fault of their own and do not have the occupational skills needed to compete for jobs
- Displaced Homemakers - Unemployed spouses who have lost their source of income because of a layoff, divorce, legal separation, or death of a spouse
- All program participants must be a U.S. citizen or authorized to work in the U.S.

- Selective Service registration is a requirement for males 18 or older
- Military veterans get first priority for enrollment in these programs

What services can I receive through the workforce centers?

- Assistance with job leads and labor market information
- Resume assistance and critiques
- Education and career assessments
- Employment readiness and job search workshops
- Career counseling and career planning
- Supportive services

What training assistance is available?

Training assistance is for short-term training programs that lead directly to jobs that are “in demand” in the local labor market. Training programs can take the form of classroom training, on-the-job training, internships, or apprenticeships. Please Note: Workforce centers have limited funding for training and may not be able to provide training assistance to all those who are eligible for the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs.

How do I qualify for training assistance?

To qualify for training assistance, a WIA program participant must: Find labor market information or contact employers for information showing that your chosen occupational training will prepare you for a job that is “in demand”. Participate in an assessment process to determine that you lack marketable skills or possess outdated skills to compete for jobs in your identified occupation. Comply with other training application requirements

Please Note: WIA program enrollment is required along with completing the WIA assessment. WIA will only assist with intensive job search services during and after training, or pay for a training session that starts after program enrollment.

WIA Youth Program

The WIA Youth Program helps low income at-risk youth and young adults to achieve their education and employment goals. Eligible youth enrolled in the program work with a counselor to create a plan for success, and can take advantage of a variety of services that can be accessed by contacting a local workforce center.

Who is eligible for the WIA Youth Program?

- Participants must be between 14-21-years-old, live in a low income family and have one or more

challenges to success in education or employment, including:

- o Deficient in math or reading skills
- o Misdemeanor or felony record
- o Documented disability
- o School drop out
- o Homeless/runaway
- o Pregnant/parenting
- o In foster care

• All program participants must be a U.S. citizen or authorized to work in the U.S.

• Selective Service registration is a requirement for males 18 or older

• Military veterans (18–21-years-old) get first priority for enrollment in this program

What youth services can I get through the workforce centers?

- GED Preparation/Support to achieve a high school diploma
- Tutoring Assistance
- Summer Employment Opportunities
- Paid or Unpaid Internships
- Tuition Assistance
- Leadership Activities
- Supportive Services
- Adult Mentoring

• Learning work search and workplace success skills

• Referrals to jobs and educational opportunities

• 12 months of follow-up assistance after program participation is completed

Youth program participants must be motivated to improve their reading and math skills and learn job readiness and occupational skills. They should also expect to participate in skills assessment testing both before they start the program and after program completion.

Local Mountain News & Notices

The Garden; Hybrid vs. Open Pollinated

by Jean Canterbury

I have been growing a summer garden for as long as I can remember. Our garden is completely "Plein Air" grown outside without a greenhouse. We have onions, garlic, turnips, potatoes, beets, radishes, brassicas, and carrots as root crops and bush beans, peas, several kinds of squash, tomatoes, Swiss chard, spinach, lettuce, and one lone jalapeno pepper. The garden also contains blackberries, raspberries, rhubarb, horseradish, Jerusalem artichokes, sage, chives, thyme, valerian, and asparagus that are perennials and take care of themselves. The dill reseeds itself – there's a reason it used to be called dillweed.

It takes superhuman effort, even for experienced gardeners, to choose the best varieties of seed for the summer garden. Every catalog description includes only the positive information, so each one sounds wonderful. That's why it's

brid. Its opposite, usually not noted unless it is corn, is open pollinated (abbreviated OP).

For the past few years, gardeners have been overwhelmed with information and misinformation regarding the plusses and minuses of hybrid and or OP varieties. With some people the distinctions feed a passionate debate, and of course, each point of view has its merits. Various discussions are involved, but in almost every controversy one issue inevitably arises: which type of plant is better suited to our mountain climate's garden, hybrids or OPs? Although, this is a good question, it presupposes that one of these huge, catchall groups is either completely superior or completely inferior to the other. In reality, both hybrids and OPs have their good qualities, and both deserve space in your garden.

Open-pollinated vegetable varieties reproduce themselves in one of two ways: cross-pollination between



Garden in July

courtesy photo by Jean Canterbury

kept isolated from different plants with which they can cross, they will produce seed that will come true to type. In other words, the plants in the following generation will resemble the parent plants. Keep in mind that in our area your garden may be miles from another veggie garden, so

and actually ripens here in Westcliffe. sometimes. He picked up the seed at a seedsaver's exchange over in the San Luis Valley several years ago and has been adapting it to his high altitude garden. I have planted it for the last three years.

A hybrid vegetable seed results from the cross be-



Blackberries

courtesy photo by Jean Canterbury

you don't generally have too much to worry about. If you plant one variety of cauliflower, chances are really good that there is not another variety around to cross with as long as another brassica is not in bloom at the same time as your cauliflower. However, tomatoes, beans, lettuce and peas are self-pollinating, so they don't have issues with cross pollination and are the easiest for seed-saving home gardeners to keep true from year to year.

Many of the older strains of OPs, often referred to as "heirlooms," are not so much varieties as they are populations. In other words, individual plants within an older named variety can possess a great deal of genetic variability and may even vary in size, shape, and date of maturity. You can develop your own "Family Heirlooms" I call them, by planting the seeds from the best producing individuals in your garden year after year. A friend of mine, Clawed, who lives north of Gardner has a wonderful heirloom squash that looks like a blue hubbard, but has only about 85 days to maturity,

tween two different varieties or "parents" of the same plant species. In the broadest sense, nearly all vegetables are hybrids, the only exceptions being plants such as beans, peas, lettuce and tomatoes that cross-pollinate only with great difficulty.

But today, hybrid has a narrower, legal definition: To advertise and sell a vegetable variety as a hybrid (often designated "F1,") the parents must be known and its pollination controlled. Significantly, for home gardeners, hybrid seeds cost more, and the seeds hybrid plants produce will not come true to type, therefore, if you are trying to develop your won "Family Heirlooms", they are not what you want to start with. If, however, you are planting for specific qualities such as early maturity and ability to withstand our mountain climate your best bet could be a Hybrid.

I would enjoy everyone's input on favorite varieties, garden practices, etc. that I can share, and next we can discuss the varieties you will find in my garden and gardens around the valley.



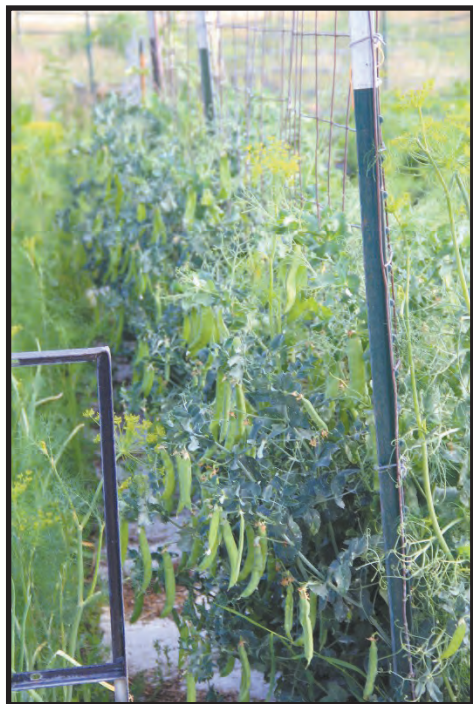
The carpeted garden

courtesy photo by Jean Canterbury

important to read between the lines, and to do that you must be familiar with the terminology. One of the most common words in seed catalogs today is hy-

two plants (via wind, insects, or water) or self-pollination (between male and female flower parts contained within the same

flower or separate flowers on the same plant). Cabbage, cauliflower, and their family members, carrots, corn, beets, turnips, and squash are cross-pollinating, and so require isolation in the field to keep varieties true. So long as plants of an OP variety are



Peas & dill

courtesy photo by Jean Canterbury



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Local Mountain News & Notices



Wild West Cowboy Church Gymkhana

Last Saturday was the summer's last Gymkhana at the Cowboy Church, and was well attended! Pictured above are the buckle winners (L to R): Roxanne Koch, Novalle Koch, Sierra Devaney, Michelle Koch, Marci Wommack, Katlyn Freeburg, Brylee Shy (center). Upper and Lower Left are Triston Linza and his friend; and pictured immediately left is Brylee Shy.

Sentinel photos by Anne Crewdson

Free Alive at 25 Class is Coming to Westcliffe

Custer County Drive Smart Coalition in co-operation with the Colorado State Patrol, the Colorado State Patrol Family Foundation, and the WIA (Workforce Investment Act) Program of the Cañon City Workforce Center is sponsoring a "Alive at 25" Class at the Custer County School on Friday, September 19, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Alive at 25 is a 4½ hour driver's awareness course

designed by the National Safety Council for young drivers ages 15 – 24. In this defensive driving class students will gain awareness skills and develop strategies to keep safe on the road through interactive media, workbook exercises, role-playing, and class discussion.

Students must register online at <https://aliveat25.us>.

Scholarships are available to Custer County residents

through WIA Program funds thanks to Vicky Casey, WIA Program Director in Cañon City. After registering online voluntary (not court ordered) students living in Custer County can call 720-269-4046 to receive the WIA Scholarship.

Be sure to bring a photo ID to the class. Come early as late arrivals will not be allowed to attend. More information is on the <https://aliveat25.us> website.

Attention: All Home School Families!

Sangre de Cristo Home Schoolers will be having a meet and greet on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in Veteran's Park. This will be our first meeting of the new school year. Please join us for fun, fellowship, and to support each other on this wonderful journey we are on.

This will be a great opportunity for us

to find out how we can encourage one another, plan field trips for the year, let the kiddos meet one another, and run off excess energy. Bring along sack lunches and join us!

Any questions, please call Tracy at 783-2359, or email: captainswife40@yahoo.com

4-H County Fair Horse Show Results

With all the rain the valley has had recently, the county tried to have the Horse Show on Tuesday, July 15th. But, first, the arena was a soupy mess and they moved some parts of the show to the grounds around the Saddle

Club building. However, that was too small for the next competition and they moved the horse show to the Cowboy Church arena. Things were going well... until the afternoon downpour and hail! So the gymkhana portion of the horse

show was postponed until this past Saturday, August 10th. The 4-H exhibitors finally finished their gymkhana show with their competition in the Buckle Series Competition held at the Cowboy Church. The winners are:

- Sr. Barrels – Katlyn Freeburg-1st.
- Jr. Barrels – Dalton Wommack-1st; Kaya Huffman-2nd.
- Sr. Flags – Katlyn Freeburg-1st.
- Jr. Flags – Dalton Wommack-1st; Kaya Huffman-2nd.
- Sr. Poles – Katlyn Freeburg-1st.
- Jr. Poles – Dalton Wommack-1st; Kaya Huffman-2nd.
- Sr. 75 Up & Back – Katlyn Freeburg-1st.
- Jr. 75 Up & Back – Dalton Wommack-1st; Kaya Huffman-2nd.
- Sr. Grand Champion Gymkhana – Katlyn Freeburg
- Jr. Grand Champion Gymkhana – Dalton Wommack
- Jr. Reserve Grand Champion Gymkhana – Kaya Huffman



Wet Mountain Valley Saddle Club

Calling all girls ages 9-19 for the 2015 Rodeo Royalty Court!

Queen- Ages 16-19
Miss Stampede- Ages 13-15
Princess- Ages 9-12

Information session and practices will be Saturday September 6th and 20th both at 10 am, held at the Saddle Club. Please bring horses and be ready to ride.

Pageant will be Saturday October 11th at 1pm at the Saddle Club.

Please contact Stephanie at 763-923-3606 or email Royalty.WMVSC@gmail.com.

Local Mountain News & Notices

2014-2015 Custer County School Supply Lists

All Students K-12: 3 boxes of tissues

All students, K-5th Grade, will need a pair of rubber sole, non-marking tennis shoes for physical education.

Middle School students will need tennis shoes and gym clothing.

When 3-ring binders are requested, please do not purchase Trapper Keepers.

Backpacks are suggested for all students (appropriately sized)

Kindergarten

- 1 box Crayola brand crayons (16)
- 1 box Crayola brand washable markers
- 1 package dry erase markers
- 1 Elmer's white glue
- 2 pocket folders
- 1 box Ziploc sandwich bags
- 1 backpack- no wheels
- 1 pair non-marking tennis shoes



First Grade

- 1 box Crayola brand crayons
- 10 glue sticks
- 1 eraser (large pink)
- 4 pocket folders
- 4 fine point dry erase Expo markers
- 1 pair non-marking tennis shoes



Second Grade

- #2 pencils (24)
- 1 box Crayola brand crayons
- 1 box 24 count colored pencils
- 1 (4 pack) dry erase Expo markers
- 4 glue sticks and 1 Elmer's glue
- 4 erasers (large pink)
- 20 pencil top erasers
- 1 spiral notebook (1 subject)
- 4 pocket folders (no brads)
- 1 pair non-marking tennis shoes

Third Grade

- #2 pencils (36)
- 1 box Crayola brand crayons
- 1 box colored pencils
- 1 box markers
- 5 glue sticks
- 1 package dry erase markers
- 1 package pencil top erasers
- Pencil box/container for loose supplies
- 2 highlighters
- 4 pocket folder
- 2 spiral notebooks
- 2 packages loose-leaf notebook paper (wide rule)
- 1 pair non-marking tennis shoes

Fourth Grade

- #2 pencils
- Markers
- 1 Elmer's glue
- 2 erasers (large pink)
- 2 Composition Notebooks
- 6 pocket folders (different colors)
- 2 spiral notebooks (wide rule)
- 2 packages loose-leaf notebook paper (wide rule)
- 1 pair non-marking tennis shoes

Fifth Grade

- #2 pencils (48)
- crayons, colored pencils, markers
- 2 highlighters
- 4 glue sticks
- 2 erasers (large pink)
- 1 small pencil sharpener (with shaving holder)
- 4 pocket folders
- 1 pocket folder (with brads)
- 2 spiral notebooks
- 2 composition notebooks (not spiral - 200 pages)
- 1 pair non-marking tennis shoes

Middle School

- Blue, black, and red pens
- 1 box #2 pencils and colored pencils
- College-rule loose-leaf notebook paper
- 1 eraser (large pink)
- 7 pocket folders
- 7 spiral notebooks (1 subject)
- 2 Composition notebooks (reading & writing workshop)
- 2" 3-ring binder (writing workshop)
- 2 packages of ruled 3x5 index cards
- 3-ring zippered trapper keeper binder (optional)
- 1 3-ring binder with dividers (science)
- calculator
- Math**
- 1 box #2 pencils
- 1 subject notebook graph paper
- 1 package black dry-erase markers (chisel tip)

Algebra
calculator T1-83 graphing calculator (recommended for Algebra Students)

Physical Education
T-shirt with sleeves (no tank tops)
Non-marking tennis shoes,
Mid-thigh shorts or sweat pants

High School

- #2 pencils
- blue, black, and red pens
- colored pencils
- index cards
- notebook paper
- Art & Music Students**
- 9"x12" spiral sketchbook
- package #2 pencils
- package erasers
- English**
- 1 3-ring binder
- 4 dividers
- Yearbook**
- 3-ring binder
- Math**
- calculator T1-83 graphing calculator (optional)
- graph paper
- compass
- protractor
- 3-ring notebook with paper



Bobcat Menu • Aug. 18 - Aug. 21, 2014

Monday
NO
SCHOOL

Tuesday
breakfast
Cheese Quesadilla
Juice
Milk
lunch
Rib-BQ Sandwich
Choice of Fruit
Choice of Veg.
Milk

Wednesday
breakfast
Scrambled Eggs
W.W. Toast
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Hot Dog
Choice of Fruit
Choice of Veg.
Milk

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

Elementary - Main dish, bread, milk, choice of 1 veg. & 1 fruit • No salad bar this week.

KIDS

Friday, August 15, 2014

The History of Custer County Schools Part 1

"The fate of empires depends upon the education of youth"

-Aristotle

by Joanne Silver

Let's take a look back at the history of Custer County Schools.

The first German settlers arrived in the Wet Mountain Valley in 1870 and by 1879 Custer County had elected the first superintendent, D.M. Parker. He organized the county into 26 school districts and school structures were soon built. They were placed about 5 miles apart so each student would be within walking distance to a schoolhouse.

Silver Cliff and Rosita were part of the gold and silver boom, and Westcliffe was at the end of a railroad line and had a terminal. Population was booming. The 1881 Census showed a school enrollment of 1,400 children from the ages of 6 through 12, all attending one-room schools.

After the Silver Crash of 1893, men left the mines and took their families elsewhere to find work. Some of the schools closed and five schools could only hold classes in the spring and summer because of the poor conditions of their buildings for the winter months.

In those days, 8th grade was the last grade to be taught in Custer County. After that, boys helped their fathers on the ranch and the girls helped their moms with domestic duties. If families wanted to send their children to high school, they had to send them to a larger town that offered additional education and also find boarding for them.

Part 2 next week.

Source: "One-Room Schoolhouses, Custer County, Colorado"
by Irene Francis

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

Corner

Local Mountain News & Notices

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FUNDS

From page 1

utes from the September 28, 2012 Commissioner's meeting.

It was suggested at the March meeting that the private development corporation should seek private funding for the amount needed for their match for the grant. Several offers were verbalized by audience members willing to contribute sums up to \$1,000, but the corporation has apparently not pursued collecting this money, instead counting on the county government to pay it.

At the August 4th meeting

Commissioner Shy recalled that "we had voted to support it and all or our discussion was in terms of asking you to find private support for it. We did not approve funding for it." CCCDC representative Dale Mullen challenged that "the expectation is that when you agree to support something that means you're going to write a check for \$4,060." Commissioner Shy responded to Mr. Mullen's conclusion with "that's not my understanding at all."

The "strategic broadband study" itself, has been described by development corporation director Charles Bogle as "the cost to play in that sandbox." He said that he has "been

told by DOLA (Colorado Department of Local Affairs) that if we don't participate in this strategic plan, we can't expect eligibility for any funds that would come through the state; meaning federal monies or DOLA (state) monies to support anything in the future as far as broadband is concerned." On the other hand, it does not assure that any funds would be made available to comply with study results either.

Two meetings will be held on the broadband issue on Wednesday, August 13th. The first is a private by invitation only meeting in the morning, and the second is a public meeting in the afternoon.

SCHOOL

From page 1

enrollment. The \$50,000 donation has been deposited in the general fund and marked for salary increases. In the area of Technology, the computer lab has been redesigned, the new computers have been formatted and the new furniture installed; all funded through Adopt a Class. The board also recognized community member, Walter van Woudenberg for his efforts with this improvement.

Mr. Selle also reported that Custer County will not likely see a change in the PARCC Assessments and anticipate a drop in scores as these tests are

designed to be more rigorous. His involvement in the CASE workgroup and the recommendations suggest a reduction in assessments to federal minimums which will help increase the amount of instruction time. Mr. Selle discussed the board looking over the preliminary school bus bids and the need to purchase a new school car as the current one is 18 years old and has high mileage.

Mr. Selle presented the board with a list of the certified staff information requested at the special board meeting in July and a list of substitutes for the district. He also introduced the new process selected for evaluating teachers, RANDA, which will be less cumbersome and more intuitive for use by the staff.

Mr. Selle also discussed the draft for IT services and needed details for an applicant. He announced that the 'Alive at 25' class is being offered for Custer County drivers in September and information will be shared with students of driving age.

The board agreed on the location of their Board of Education Retreat to be held on September 5 at Cuerno Verde Clubhouse (provided specifically and circumstantially for the Board Retreat) at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in the form of a work session. The next board meeting will be held on September 9 at 4:30 p.m. in the Great Room.

Silver Cliff History Museum Awareness

Open House

August 29th 2-4 p.m.

Refreshments will be served.
Guides will be on hand to take you
through the Museum.

Regular Museum Hours:

Friday 2-4 p.m.

Sat. & Sun. 1-4 p.m.

August 31 is the final day of the summer.

Special Private Tours Available beginning in
September by calling Dorothy Urban, Curator,
at 719-783-2837

Colorado State News

SLEAZY: Udall's Campaign Plumbs New Depths Of Tactlessness In Attack Ad

by ColoradoPeakPolitics,
ColoradPeakPolitics.com

Old and tired apply to more than just Udall himself nowadays when it comes to his campaign. It now also applies to the ads he uses to attack his opponent, Rep. Cory Gardner. Udall and his outside money have now released a sixth ad attacking Gardner over the so-called women's issues; as if, a stagnant economy, a bureaucratic take-over of health care, and six years of rubber stamping President Barack Obama's failed policies doesn't affect women at all.

Needless to say, after six ads attacking on the same theme (a theme not even in the top ten for what concerns voters this election cycle), to keep it fresh, Udall's campaign decided to add a little girl to an attack ad. Udall's campaign know they have strayed beyond good taste here, as they try to play it off to CBS4's Shaun Boyd, that this whole ad just happened to be more of a happy coincidence:

The Udall campaign says Garza's daughter was not deliberately included in the ad [PeakQuestion: As if the ad went on the air without Udall and his campaign's approval?].

In fact, they say her mom just happened to bring her

to the shoot, and at the last minute ask if she could sit on her lap.

As if these ads aren't focus-tested to hell and back. Are these the same Democrats who claim Karl Rove was planting subliminal messages way back in 2000 with the Al Gore "Rat" commercial, but now, nearly 14 years later, a little girl just happens to end up on the lap of her mother as her mother is talking about her daughter and abortion? It's not like they could only do one take for the commercial. Udall's campaign very deliberately left a shot of the mother just by herself on the editing floor. How many times did Udall see this ad when he signed on for it? He says he directly approves this ad at the end of it; that means, he watched it however many number of times and decided it was no big deal for a young girl to be dragged into this ad and his campaign.

Women around Colorado are starting to take notice of being pigeon-holed by Udall and his campaign. Krista Kafer had this to say in *The Denver Post*:

Most independent Colorado women (72 percent) believe the "War on Women" message is a worn out tactic. In other words, the straw man has lost his stuffing and is

looking a little limp...

... Udall should stop treating us as single-issue voters. His narrow perception of women's concerns is insulting. Surely there is something in his record regarding health care, foreign policy, environmental health, or the economy that he is proud of and can feature in an ad. Or perhaps he is planning on discussing these issues with just the guys.

While Amy Stephens wrote this in *The Colorado Statesman*:

If I could give some advice to my Democratic colleagues, reconsider your War on Women tactics. While there is a diversity of opinion about these issues among women, one thing is clear: We are not one-issue voters. Stop treating us that way.

The new lows Udall's campaign is willing to go to force its tired, old, staid attacks on Coloradans is despicable. The fact that they try to play off a very calculated, cynical, political decision as just happenstance shows just how seedy of a race they are now running.

Reprinted with Permission. Please see: coloradopeak-politics.com/2014/08/11/sleazy-udalls-campaign-plumbs-new-depths-of-tactlessness-in-attack-ad/

INCONSISTENT MESSAGE:

What is Hick's Real Goal for the Oil and Gas Commission?

by ColoradoPeakPolitics,
ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

For Gov. John Hickenlooper sticking his foot in his mouth comes as naturally as breathing. It's almost like he couldn't survive if he didn't do it at least once a week.

His latest misstep comes on the heels of his announcement about yet another commission that will focus on oil and gas issues. In an AP story August 6, Hickenlooper clearly states that the commission's "success is dependent upon it ending in regulation."

Now, Hick is trying to say he actually never said that. Even though he said it on-the-record and in a room full of reporters.

Hick's comments didn't go over well with folks who

believe that Colorado already has the most robust oil and gas regulations in the state. Or with House Minority Leader Brian DelGrosso, R-Loveland, who believes that the commission should ask whether more regulations are even the answer in the first place.

Maybe that's why Hick is trying to back track or flip flop or whatever you want to call it these days. Colorado Community Media explains:

According to the Associated Press, Hickenlooper said the task force's "success is dependent upon it ending in regulation..."

Hickenlooper, in an interview with Colorado Community Media, insisted that's not what he said, even though he made his comments in front of a

group of reporters.

"What I said was legislation," the governor said. "Go back and look at the quotes. I never said we needed more regulation. Now, we might. Again, this is the whole point of getting people from all the different viewpoints in the same room and letting them have a discussion in such a way to try to figure out: 'Is there a compromise here?'"

Come on, man, just own it already. Didn't your mother ever teach you that lying makes it so much worse in the end?

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For All Your Spring Projects

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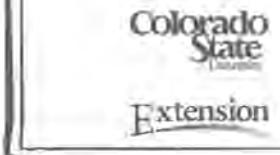
The Joy of Homebrewing Beer and Wine



An Evening with Renown Home Brewer, Bruce Bosley
August 22nd, 2014 All Aboard Westcliffe 5-7pm. Cost is \$20

Come sample unique homebrews made with many different spices, grains, and fruit.

- Participants will learn to create great home brew at home
- Learn a little history of beer and wine making
- Experience a kettle of wort brewing



Call or come to the Custer County CSU Extension office to register
719-783-2514/ 205 S. 6th Street (top floor of the Court House in Westcliffe)
CSU Extension programs are open to all without discrimination. If you need special accommodations, please let the office know by August 15th.

Main Street Restaurants - Part 2



Campstyle Cookin'

Campstyle Cookin', located at 108 S. 2nd Street, was opened by Mike and Sharon Hirst on April 1 of this year. They feature breakfast and are also open for lunch.



Dawg Haus

The Dawg Haus, located at 510 1/2 Main Street in Silver Cliff, is owned by Ken Wisecup and Shannon Fluet. They have been open for 8 years and feature hot dogs, brats, tamales, sloppy joes, and kielbasa.



Have A Nice Day Cafe

Have A Nice Day Cafe, located at 104 Main Street, is owned by Debbie Spatziani. Open for the last year and a half, she offers grab-and-go breakfasts, specialty sandwiches and burgers, ice cream, fudge, and donuts.



Silver Dome Saloon and Music Hall

The Silver Dome Saloon and Music Hall, located at 110 Main Street in Silver Cliff, is owned by Charlie Behrendt. They opened 30 years ago on July 4th and have never been closed a day.



Nacho Mama's

Nacho Mama's, located at 404 Main Street in Silver Cliff, will be temporarily closed. They will open under new management with a grand opening blow out on Labor Day. Peggi Collins and Steve Cocks, who have owned the establishment since February of 2012, are taking over management. They will offer traditional Mexican food, steaks and American food.



Candy's

Candy's, located at 103 S. 2nd Street, is a coffee shop owned by Candy Austin since 2000. She offers specialty coffees, baked goods, sandwiches and breakfast items.



The Spare Tire

The Spare Tire, located at 103 S. 2nd Street, was opened this summer by Becky and Eric Thompson. They offer gourmet cupcakes, cheesecake and donuts and are a coffee shop in the evening offering espresso and lattes. Pictured above is employee Corina Davis.



Rancher's Roost Cafe

Rancher's Roost Cafe, located at 25 Main Street, has been managed by Brenda Platcek for the past year. The restaurant, which offers diner style food, has been open since 2001.



Sangrita

Located at 212 Main Street

Photo Feature by Barbara Napolitan

Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

For Sale

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

Kennel Help: Mornings 4 - 5 days a week, 2 miles southeast of Oak Creek Grade General Store. 783-2955

Services

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

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!
Looking for a few good men, women, or youth interested in volunteering their writing/reporting skills and talents. Please contact the Sentinel by calling 783-3360 to arrange an appointment or submit intent of interest to submittals@sdcsentinel.com.

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

Help Wanted

Mechanical hands-on type person; Machining experience a plus. Applications in tan mailbox at Cimarron Mfg., 113 N. Mill St., Silver Cliff.

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

CONCRETE FLATWORK
Roofing. Decks. Over 25 years experience. Licensed. Bonded, Insured. Call (719) 429-0219 or (719) 543-0235

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

HIGH PEAKS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Who: Chuck Pyle, Acoustic Eidolon, Harry Tuft, Dakota Blonde, Smythe & Taylor, and Gadbaw & Krimmel.

What: Acoustic, Folk and Americana

When: Saturday, September 13th, Noon to 7 PM

Where: Feed Store Amphitheater and Park, 116 N. Second Street, Westcliffe, CO.

Why: Fundraiser for Wet Mountain Broadcasting Corp and KWMV 95.9FM the Voice of The Wet Mtn. Valley

Cost: Adult early bird pricing thru Aug 31st - \$20 for adults and \$25 thereafter. \$10 for youth ages 12 to 18. Children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult.

Tickets: Purchase online at www.highpeaksmusicfestival.org or at Candy's Coffee in Westcliffe.

Event Contact: Joanie Liebman: joanie@kwmv.org or leave a message at 719-783-0987.

Event Web/Email: www.highpeaksmusicfestival.org or events@kwmv.org

Additional Information: Bring a chair or blanket for seating and protective clothing, a hat and sunscreen as the park is partially covered, but is mostly open air. It is cool during the evening performances, so a sweater or light jacket is advisable. Pets are allowed. Food and beverage vendors will be on site. No coolers or smoking allowed. This is a rain or shine event.

Come and Worship

Christian Science
9:30 a.m. Worship
8 Bassick Place
Westcliffe
719/783-4601

Church of Christ
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
1:30 p.m. Worship
Wed., 6 p.m.
818 Ohio Street
Silver Cliff
719/783-4601

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.
12:10 p.m. Sunday School
240 Ridgeline Drive
Westcliffe
719/783-9356
719/404-4585

Community United Methodist Church
8 a.m. Worship
10 a.m. Worship
202 S. 6th Street
Westcliffe
719/783-2511

Cody Park Community Church
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
517 County Rd. 27A
Cotopaxi
719/942-3462
719/942-3526

Cotopaxi Community Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Worship
20326 Hwy. 50
Cotopaxi
719/942-4185

First Baptist Church of Westcliffe
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:45 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Worship
417 S. 6th Street
Westcliffe
719/783-2498

High Country Mennonite Church
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
110 Rosita Avenue
All Aboard Westcliffe Bldg.
Westcliffe
719/783-9045

Hope Lutheran Church
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship
3rd & Powell Streets
Westcliffe
719/783-9773

Oak Creek Grade General Store
4 p.m. Worship
Followed by Potluck
12 miles north on Cty. Rd. 255
719/783-2245

Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church
Diocese of Pueblo
11 a.m. Sunday Mass
10 a.m. Tuesday Mass
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday Adoration
109 S. 5th Street
Westcliffe
719/783-3507

Our Lady of Mt. Zion Catholic Church
11 a.m. Mass
3rd Sunday of each month
210 S. 2nd Street
Westcliffe
719/783-2491

Sangre de Cristo Mennonite Church
9 a.m. Worship
120 Jerry Drive
Westcliffe
719/783-0903

Sangre de Cristo Seminary Chapel
10 a.m. Worship
6160 County Rd. 130
Westcliffe
719/783-2447

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
10:30 a.m. Worship & Eucharist
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
3rd & Rosita Streets
Westcliffe
719/783-2477

St. Patrick's Anglican Church
11 a.m. Worship
401 2nd Street
Westcliffe
719/783-2500

Valley Bible Fellowship
10 a.m. Worship
116 Hermit Lane
Silver Cliff
719/783-9050

Westcliffe Community Church
10 a.m. Worship
103 N. Adams St.
Westcliffe
719/429-4256

Wetmore Baptist Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Worship
Wetmore
719/784-4197

Wetmore Community Church
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship
County Rd. 395
Wetmore
719/784-0596

Wild West Cowboy Church
4 p.m. Worship
Followed by Potluck
60260 Hwy. 69 North
Westcliffe
719/783-2676

Eateries

Alpine Lodge
6848 Cty. Rd. 140 • Westcliffe
719/783-2660
Thurs. - Sun. 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Reservations recommended

Campstyle Cookin'
108 S. 2nd St. • Westcliffe
719/783-0533
Mon. - Sat., 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sun. Brunch & Omelet Bar

Candy's Coffee
106 S. 2nd St. • Westcliffe
719/783-9516
Mon. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Chappy's Mountain View Bar & Grill
213 Main St. • Westcliffe
719/783-0813
Mon. - Sat., 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sundays 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Have a Nice Day Cafe
104 Main St. • Westcliffe
719/783-2313
Mon., Tues., Fri., & Sat., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Grill closes at 2 p.m.

Hunger Buster
824 Main St. • Westcliffe
719/783-9228
Call for hours

Letter Drop Inn
6654 Cty. Rd. 328 • Rosita
719/783-9430
MAY: Thur. - Sun., Open at 5 p.m.
JUNE: Wed. - Sun., Open at 5 p.m.

The Lodge at San Isabel
59 Cty. Rd. 371 • San Isabel
719/489-2280
May 26 - Oct. 15
Wed. - Mon., 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Mining Company Restaurant
60 Main St. • Westcliffe
719/783-9144
Daily 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tues. 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Nacho Mama's
(Formerly Mavericks)
404 Main St. • Silver Cliff
719/783-3333
Mon. - Thurs., 11:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Fri. & Sat., 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Open Sundays after Memorial Day

Oak Creek Grade General Store
12 miles north on Cty. Rd. 255
719/783-2245
Fri. and Sat., 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Rancher's Roost at Cliff Lanes
25 Main St. • Westcliffe
719/783-2147
Mon. - Sat., 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sun. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

St. Andrews Golf Course Café
801 Copper Gulch Rd. • Westcliffe
719/783-9410
May 16 - October
Lunch Daily 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Patio Happy Hours
Thurs. - Sat., 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Sangrita
212 Main St. • Westcliffe
719/783-4054
Reservations recommended
Thurs. - Sat., 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sun., 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday Brunch 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Schlabach's Marketplace & Deli
120 N. 3rd St. • Westcliffe
719/783-9010
Monday - Friday
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Silver Cliff Mountain Inn
700 Ohio Street • Silver Cliff
719/783-2688
Wed. - Sat., 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sun. - Tues., 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Silver Cliff Pizza Company upstairs in the Silver Dome Saloon
110 Main St. • Silver Cliff
719/783-9499
Call for hours

SomeWhere Saloon
215 Main St. • Westcliffe
719/783-4900
Monday-Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. - Midnight

Subway
(inside JR's Fuel Stop)
425 S. 6th St. • Westcliffe
719/783-2748
Mon.-Sat., 6:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sundays 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sugar & Spice Mtn. Bakery
411 Main St. B • Westcliffe
719/783-4045
Mon. - Sat., 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tony's Mountain Pizza
630 Main St. • Silver Cliff
719/783-9300
Tues.: 4 - 9 p.m.
Wed. - Sat., 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Westcliffe Wine Mine
109 N. 3rd St. • Westcliffe
719/783-2490
Fri. - Sat., 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Don't love the world
and what it offers.
Those who love the world don't
have the Father's love in them.
Not everything that the world
offers-- physical gratification,
greed, and extravagant lifestyles--
comes from the Father.
1 John 2:15 - 16 GW

Local Mountain News & Notices

Events Calendar

Friday, August 15
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.: Middle School Girls Volleyball Pre-Season Practice, East Gym
3:30 p.m.: Open House at the Lighthouse Pregnancy Resources facility at 407 Cliff Street in Silver Cliff
7 p.m.: Jones Theater: "The Big Bad Musical!"

Saturday, August 16
8 a.m. & 1 p.m.: WMV Rotary Foundation Golf Tournament at St. Andrews Golf Course; Contact Patrick Lynch at 783-3414 for more information.
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Trail Obstacle Clinic at WMV Saddle Club; Fee; Contact Tiffani (719) 371-5313
7 p.m.: Jones Theater: "The Big Bad Musical!" Play

Sunday, August 17
1 p.m.: Mutton Busting at Wild West Cowboy Church, 60260 Hwy 69; See you there!
2 p.m.: Jones Theater: "The Big Bad Musical!" Play

Tuesday, August 19
8 a.m.: First Day of Custer County Schools
10 a.m. - 12: Preschool Parent Orientation

Friday, August 22
7:30 p.m.: Jones Theater: "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" Movie

Saturday, August 23
8 a.m. - 12 noon: Westcliffe Small Animal Swap Meet at 1 Hermit Lane (south of Solar Solutions); Buy, Sell, Trade; Contact Howard at (719) 269-2650 or Roger at (719) 320-3092
7:30 p.m.: Jones Theater: "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" Movie

Sunday, August 24
2 p.m.: Jones Theater: Matinee movie: "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes"

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 open to assist young mothers and families in need. Free pregnancy tests and counseling to pregnant women and more. Call 783-4357

Tuesday
12:30 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. at Hope Lutheran Church, Post 170

Auxiliary monthly meeting (March-October).

Tuesday through Friday
10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Library open in downtown Westcliffe

Wednesday
Line dancers meet at the Saddle Club Building from 9:30 to 11 a.m. thru the summer starting June 6. 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

Thursday
5:30 p.m.: Weight Watchers meeting in the Hope Lutheran Church basement. Call 783-4144
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

Friday and Saturday
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Share Center adjacent to Hope Lutheran Church in Westcliffe

Saturday
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.: Library open in Westcliffe

Commodities Distribution

The 'Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program' (TEFAP) Commodities will be distributed on 08/20/2014.

Rules will require person show verification they live in Custer County. Types of valid verification would include ID, utility bills or mail received at your current address. Distribution to the eligible public will start shortly after 8:00 a.m. as soon as volunteer staff are prepared. Distribution will take place at the south end of the scale house behind the court house.

Consumers should have access to freezer space as some of the items need to be kept frozen until used.

Commodities will be handed out on a first come basis and include: UHT 1% Milk, Canned Salmon, Frozen Blueberries, Raisins, Spaghetti Sauce, Orange Juice, Whole Grain Spaghetti, Refried Beans.

Other non TEFAP product may be available depending on availability.

Sheriff's Report...

As of Tuesday, August 12, there were seven men in jail.

OFFENSES

August 11 Shawn Trujillo, age 29, of Silver Cliff, arrested in Silver Cliff off of an arrest warrant for unlawful possession and use of methamphetamines. Trujillo was booked into the Custer County jail under a \$10,000 bond.

August 11 Joseph Trujillo, age 31, of Silver Cliff, and arrested in Westcliffe off of an arrest warrant for unlawful possession and use of methamphetamines. Trujillo was also charged with driving while his driver's license is under suspension. He was booked into the Custer County jail and held on a \$10,000 bond.

WARRANTS

From the July 5 motorcycle/tourist altercation: Four arrest warrants have been issued in the case where a group of motorcyclists, a gang known as the Valiants, beat an individual who was driving a car they had stopped. This assault on Hardscrabble was reported in the Sangre de Cristo Sentinel on Friday, July 11. The victim was assaulted, the motorcyclists and vehicles traveling with the motorcyclists left the scene, and the victim was later transported to St. Thomas More Hospital in Cañon City by Florence First Aid.

assault in the third degree, criminal mischief, harassment, unlawful conduct on public property, theft, disorderly conduct, cruelty to animals, criminal attempt, and violation of a protection order because he was prohibited from having a weapon. His bond is set for \$100,000.

An arrest warrant for the following three persons include all of the above charges except for violation of a protection order: Ryan McNeil, age 30, with bond set at \$50,000; Milissa Boedigheimer, age 27, with bond set at \$50,000; and Matthew Graham, age 30, with bond set at \$50,000.

Sheriff Jobe stated that "they are using a gang task force to track them down. Once found, the Sheriff's Office will bring them back to Custer County."

AMBULANCE CALLS

There were seven ambulance calls as of August 12.

August 11 At 1619 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the courthouse for a 15-year-old male who has passed out. He was treated at the scene. No transport.

August 10 At 1951 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the clinic for an 18-year-old female with an asthma attack. She was transported to Parkview Hospital.

August 9 At 1911 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the Cliff Lanes bowling alley where a 17-year-old male had hurt his leg. He was transported to Parkview Hospital in Pueblo.

August 9 At 0751 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to Westcliffe Super Market for a 56-year-old male who had fallen out of his delivery truck as he was unloading a delivery. He hurt his back and knee and was transported to Parkview Hospital.

August 8 At 1354 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the clinic for a five-year-old male with possible seizures. He was transported to Parkview Hospital.

August 7 At 2113 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the 700 block of South Street in Silver Cliff for a 31-year-old male who overdosed on drugs. He was transported to St. Mary Corwin Hospital in Pueblo.

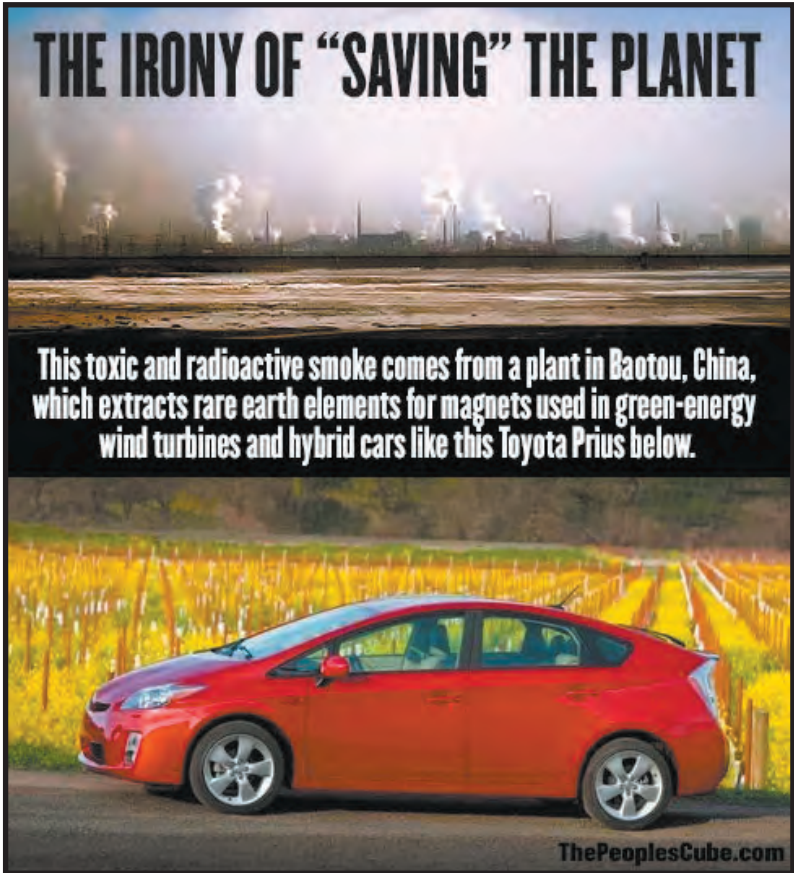
August 6 At 1504 hours, an ambulance was dispatched to the clinic for a 67-year-old male with possible heart problems. He was transported to Parkview.

FIRE CALLS

There were two fire calls as of August 12.

August 10 At 1639 hours, a fire truck was dispatched to the former Conquistador ski area for a lightning strike. A tree was on fire and extinguished.

August 9 At 1030 hours, a fire truck was dispatched to the intersection of Highway 96 and County Road 328 for a lightning strike. A tree was on fire and quickly extinguished.



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**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
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**Southern
Colorado
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1st Sat at 8:30 a.m.
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Pay Attention When Voting

by Edward Whitcraft
Royal Gorge Tea Party

There is an alarming trend occurring here in our state as well as all over this great land of ours. We hear people complaining about what is going on in our country and how dissatisfied they are with everything. Looking at the polls we see that none of our elected representatives, senate, house, or president is above 40% in approval of job performance. Here in Colorado it’s not any better. The house, senate, and governor are all dominated by the democrats and they will not allow any bill the republicans present to pass regardless if it’s good for Colorado or not. It is absolutely maddening to watch what is happening to our nation. We see an absence of leadership at every level of government and to be sure it is affecting the rest of the world as the most powerful nation in the world is void of leaders. Yet, when we have an opportunity to change things at the voting booth we keep nominating and voting for the same people. Why is this happening? Is it because We The People, even though we are dis-satisfied, we are not paying attention to what is going on, or are we too busy with our daily lives to worry about the election except to cast our vote on election day?

Let’s look at what our elected officials should be doing at the city and county level. We elect a mayor, city council, and county commissioners so they can provide local government control of our cities and countries. We expect them to oversee our basic needs of water, sewer, street and road repair, law enforcement, fire protection, and other services as required. We also expect them to protect us from big government sending unfunded mandates or implementing fees and taxes on we the people. Take a good look at the job your city council and county commissioners are doing. Are they in fact watching out for the interests of their constituents? I

have not heard nor seen one councilman or commissioner stand up to our state officials or bureaucrats and tell them the tax or fee they are imposing is unnecessary and we will not enforce or implement it. It should be the responsibility of the state representatives and our governor to do the same thing. Protect us from big government. Yet they do the same thing by implementing whatever comes down. The feds constantly force their will, in the form of fees and taxes, on We The People, through never ending rules and regulations that are developed by bureaucrats and special interest groups. And, yes, our representatives at the federal level should be watching our backs but, alas, they are the ones making the laws that tumble all the way down to We The People. And the real sad thing is most of these laws are never read by those doing the voting.

Now, I am not advocating anarchy but I am saying it is time to start paying attention to what our elected officials are or are not doing. All regulations that are made affect your life one way or another and certainly they take our freedom one regulation at a time. When you ask an elected official why they would allow a new fee or tax to be imposed on us and they tell you it is from the state so we must do it, then you need to question why that person is representing you. Each one takes an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign or domestic. That also is true of our state Constitution. Compare their voting record against the constitution. It will certainly be an eye opener. We absolutely need to be informed and get involved during this election cycle. Voting is the way our forefathers envisioned for us to control our government of the people and for the people. Why would you want to re-elect someone who is not looking out for your interest? That is your question to answer.

Royal Gorge Bridge and Park Slated to Re-Open by Month End

by Barbara Penezic

A little more than one year ago we watched in astonished disbelief as flames shot into the air and thick clouds of smoke darkened historic downtown Cañon City. Residents watched the advancing fire as they prayed their homes would not be consumed. One gentleman at my church was heard to remark, “the flames were being blown straight towards my home, I just bowed my head and said, ‘Please God change the direction of the wind.’” With tears in his eyes he finished, “I looked back up and the flames were being blown away from my property.” Emotional, heartfelt testimonies such as his could be heard all over our city and county. Thankfully no human lives were claimed by this destructive fire but losses were substantial to wildlife and financial concerns. Volunteers and professionals have worked

Now like the proverbial phoenix rising out of the ashes a new beginning is about to dawn. The new Visitors Center fills the horizon ready to welcome new tourists as it beckons the return of the faithful residents and old friends who return year after year. This will, of course, be welcome news to those who have been unemployed since the fire and the overall economy of Fremont County.

The Royal Gorge Park and Bridge is nearly ready to re-open and the public is more than ready to visit a favorite get away once more. A new trail connecting the Royal Gorge Park to Tunnel Drive is

ready for use. The two-mile trail will be open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic offering a breath taking view of the Royal Gorge. The project was undertaken by members of the Mile High Youth Corps. Rex Brady, City Parks Foreman, supervised the workers and says, “It’s really spectacular, it takes you out on the edge of the gorge and you have these incredible vistas.” The hope is to eventually extend to the top of Fremont Peak, and find a route to Tunnel Drive. Brady added, “Potentially, we could walk all the way from Pathfinder Park.”

Park officials are busy putting the final touches in place and Fremont County residents are hoping for some great Colorado weather. Rain or shine, however, make plans to be among the many residents and visitors to help celebrate the long awaited grand re-opening of the Royal Gorge Park and Bridge.



Pictured top: The Royal Gorge fire that burned in the spring of 2013. Middle: The Visitors Center, still smoldering. Bottom: The newly constructed Visitors Center, almost ready for business!

Photos by John Penezic

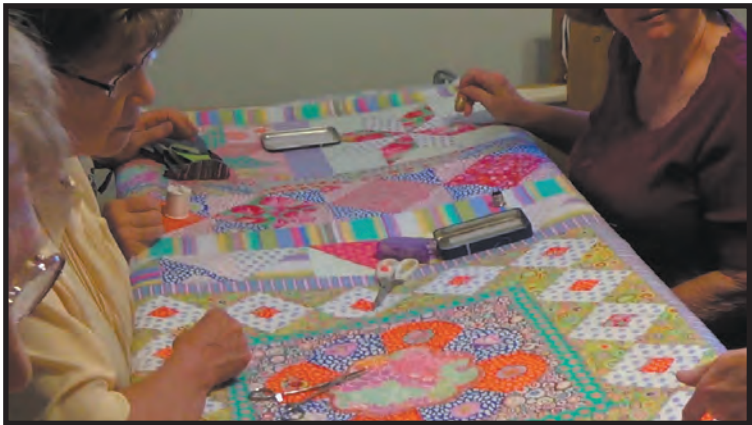
Circle Beth Sponsors Quilt Show

by Barbara Penezic

Circle Beth invites you to come to their quilt show at The United Presbyterian Church, (Fellowship Hall) 701 Macon Avenue, Cañon City, Colorado. This event will be open to the public Saturday and Sunday, August 23 and 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Many quilts, hand-tied, hand-quilted, colorfully designed and made by loving hands will be displayed. This group meets

at Kissinger house, right next door to the church office every Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon and every Thursday from 7:30 am. until 11.00 a.m. They donate beautiful quilts to various community organizations, including area nursing homes, Pregnancy Center, Habitat for Humanity, and many others. If you are a quilter looking for a place to practice your skill, or if you can simply tie a knot, the ladies of Circle Beth would love to

have you join them. You do not have to be a member of the Presbyterian Church, everyone is welcome. Tuesday morning around 10 a.m. is coffee and snack time so please stop by for some refreshments and see what great work is being done.



Wisdom piecing together love, hope, and charity.

Sentinel photo by Barbara Penezic

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.

A Man Who Won't Look You In The Eyes

Television programming was interrupted last night by a news bulletin from the occupant of the Oval Office. The "president" announced that he was sending humanitarian aid and selected air strikes to help the people displaced by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's genocidal march to Baghdad. Interesting that this man did not once look the camera head on. He addressed the American people, but he did not look at them. His announcement was full of demagoguery and arrogance, as if he had nothing to do with creating and managing the crisis he is now having to address, as he explained, "That's a hallmark of American leadership. That's who we are."

The situation in Iraq with the onset of the caliphate crusading ISIL, whose leader this "president's" administration released from prison and assisted in training many of its chief lieutenants, is grave. While it is not for the United States to be the police force for the world, it is important that our word is our bond. We made a commitment to the innocents in Iraq that we would stabilize the nation and protect the citizens from the actions of the bloodthirsty and the slavers--in essence, from the Islamic religion. Since the current "president" took office, the US has abandoned them--meaning that Christians and other minority religions were left on their own to die and be enslaved by Muslims.

Now the "president" thinks he needs to intervene because "we do whatever is

necessary to protect our people. We support our allies when they're in danger." He said, "But, when the lives of American citizens are at risk, we will take action. That's my responsibility as Commander-in-Chief. And when many thousands of innocent civilians are faced with the danger of being wiped out, and we have the capacity to do something about it, we will take action. That is our responsibility as Americans." I wonder how the parents of those men who died in Benghazi feel about this commitment the "president" made without looking the American people in the eyes.

Moreover, this "president" has done more to empower the ruthless barbarism of Islam more than any in history. By siding with the Muslim Brotherhood and America's enemies in Israel, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia, and other countries, he has created an atmosphere of death and destruction. This is also a testimony to Islam--a system that uses religion to violate the lives, freedoms, and human rights of anyone who disagrees with them. The Bible says in James 1:8, "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." There is no credibility in saying you protect innocent lives and American citizens as a matter of policy when your policies are destructive to them. No wonder he won't look us in the eyes.

*Have a Blessed and Powerful Day,
Bill Wilson*

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Please see: DailyJot.com

Thousands of Iraqi Children Face Death After ISIS Advance; Where's the Liberal Hashtag Campaign?

by Allen West,
AllenBWest.com

I just love liberal progressive hypocrisy. Leftists want to monitor Christian sermons but radical Islamic imams and mullahs are ok. It is a human rights violation to defend itself against an Islamic terrorist organization but then again the terrorists are actually humanitarians. And it is tragic that Gazans used as human shields are killed, but you hear not a peep about Christians in Mosul being told to convert, pay a jizya submission tax, or die.

Americans against the illegal immigrant invasion are told they are not compassionate — after all, the "children" are trying to escape crime and violence. So I wonder if we'll hear anything from the liberal progressive media about this report from CNS News: "A humanitarian tragedy is looming in northwestern Iraq, where up to 25,000 children, mostly from the minority Yazidi community, are among those who fled ahead of advancing Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) jihadists and are now stranded without water or supplies in arid, mountainous terrain."

The U.N. Children's Fund in Iraq said Tuesday at least 40 children were already

reported to have died "as a direct consequence of violence, displacement, and dehydration over the past two days."

I'm just waiting for the #campaign from the First Lady and all the Hollywood types. Maybe Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz will write a letter to Emir Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and accuse him of genocide — since they feel Israel was guilty of it. Do any of you think America doesn't have the capability to find where these Yazidi children are and get them safe passage into Kurdish controlled areas — namely Kirkuk?

Nah, you see, for liberal progressives, compassion is tied to their political agenda. That agenda extends only to illegal aliens that they want in America, since they don't believe in sovereign borders anyway. Or their agenda allies with Islamic terrorists and the propaganda spewed forth with pictures of hurt little Palestinian children — who were intentionally placed in harm's way as human shields.

CNS reports that tens of thousands of people fled as ISIS seized control of the town and district of Sinjar west of Mosul at the weekend, pushing back Kurdish "peshmerga" forces who had been providing securi-

ty there. "Families who fled the area are in immediate need of urgent assistance, including up to 25,000 children who are now stranded in mountains surrounding Sinjar and are in dire need of humanitarian aid including drinking water and sanitation services," said UNICEF's Iraq director, Marzio Babbile.

Sorry, it's not politically advantageous for liberal progressives to care about what happens to Iraqi children — after all, Iraq was George W. Bush's fault. And since they hate Bush so much, then by default you Yazidis must suffer and die so that it can all be blamed on George W. Bush.

As the progressive trolls blather on at this site, "so you want to go back and fight in Iraq" — no, I want to destroy an Islamist army. And that's not something for which I feel compelled to apologize. As a matter of fact, I would be more than happy to "strap on the gear" and personally go back.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power on Tuesday condemned ISIS (also known as ISIL), for its recent attacks and voiced concern about the situation in the Sinjar region, according to CNS News. "ISIL's reported abuse, kidnapping, torture, and exe-

cutions of Iraq's religious and ethnic minorities, and its systematic destruction of religious and cultural sites are appalling," she said.

However, the authorities in Baghdad have been appealing to the U.S. for months — since last August, according to House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Rep. Ed Royce (R-Calif.) — to carry out airstrikes against ISIS forces. The appeals were repeated in recent weeks by the Iraqi ambassador to Washington — but of course President Obama has not obliged — after all, it's Bush's fault.

The hypocrisy never ceases to amaze me, and I know my brothers and sisters in the military — they want to eliminate this enemy. They just want to be able to do it without having one arm tied behind their backs.

When I was in Afghanistan, nothing pleased us more than seeing little girls going to school. We are compassionate, just not selectively so.

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Liberals React When Asked To House An Illegal Immigrant Child In Their Homes

by Tim Brown,
FreedomOutPost.com

(Editor/GG: This is liberalism at its core. Liberals want to use everybody else's money to do their do-goody social programs, but when it comes down to THEIR money, no, no, no. Every study on conservative versus liberal charitable donations clearly show the libs giving just a fraction of what conservatives give. Remember Hillary itemizing donated used underwear on their tax returns?)

Dan Joseph of MRC TV visited Oldtown Alexandria, Virginia, whose demographics are largely liberal, and asked residents to sign a petition supporting bringing illegal immigrant children to their city.

The ones who agreed were also asked to sign another petition agreeing to house an illegal immigrant child in their own home or apartment.

As you can imagine, their ideology did not go over well with their practice.

There were several people that were not interested in the first petition, though there were several who were.

When it came to the second petition, there didn't seem to be anyone that wanted to take in illegal aliens.

One of the funnier spots was around the 1:20 mark where Dan said that the illegals didn't eat that much, but "were members of gangs." That was not con-

vincing enough to house any of them according to the young woman who signed the first petition.

One gentleman who signed the first petition was asked to house an illegal alien and he said, "No, no, I live at home with mom."

One lady said that "in spirit" she agreed with the petition, but that it was "a little too vague." You think? At least she was attempting to think, though I don't know about that whole "spirit" thing.

Not one of the people that signed the petition, which would cost them an enormous amount in tax dollars, were willing to take care of one of the illegals coming across the border.... not one!

This is the bleeding hearts that we hear about. I'll bet if you took those petitions to Congress or the White House for that matter, you would find liberals of all stripes willing to bring illegals into town at tax payer expense, but you wouldn't find one socialist who would open up their home, not someone else's, to care for those same illegals. This would demonstrate their utter hypocrisy in the matter.

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ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

One of Gov. John Hickenlooper's current, favorite sound bites is the one where he talks about how crappy of a hand he was dealt as governor with 13 federally declared disasters happening since he took office. Yet, from what we can gather, a majority of those federal disasters have been wildfires; and, when given a chance to really confront preventing future wildfires— and not just be Colorado's crier-in-chief, what were once catastrophes for Colorado suddenly became mere math problems for Hickenlooper.

Now, he never quite spells out what those 13 federally declared disasters were, which, don't get us wrong, technically he's probably correct. But oddly enough, it's been a little hard to nail down the 13 exactly. Using

FEMA's website, it's easy enough to see Colorado has had four major disaster declarations during Hick's term. But, this is where things get really odd. Of the four, three of them are wildfires.

Hick is a man who admits far more children will die from swimming pool accidents than in shootings, but that didn't stop him from going ahead and passing stringent gun laws, one of which, he now himself admits is unenforceable. Yet, such sentimentality does not extend to those who have had their lives destroyed by wild fires.

Earlier this year, when a bill was introduced in the legislature for Colorado to have its own air fleet to combat wildfires, Hickenlooper balked at the initial proposition. As he said during a press conference at the end of January

(courtesy of KDVR):

The governor also said he's not ready to support a Republican proposal to create a state-owned fleet of air tankers to respond more quickly to wildfires across the state.

"The benefit doesn't justify the cost," Hickenlooper said. [the Peak's emphasis]

A man who will infringe upon millions of Coloradans second amendment rights because he is sentimental over something that causes less harm than swimming pools, can't get beyond his abacus when it comes to something so severe it resulted in a majority of the major federal disasters declared under his watch? Disingenuous much, Hick?

If Hickenlooper wishes to continue the poor-me, sob story of 13 federally declared disasters during his

term, he needs to own up to the fact that given the chance to do whatever he could to prevent those disasters from being repeated, he'd rather pull out his calculator than stand up for Coloradans.

Hick is fine at delivering speeches right after a disaster happens, but when it comes time to lead Colorado months later to real solutions, his leadership fails, and, everything Colorado has suffered through under his watch becomes nothing more than a talking point he uses to get himself reelected.

Thanks, Hick, at least someone is benefiting from Colorado's misery.

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Immigrant Camp Worker: People Won't Believe What is Going on in America

by Allen West,
AllenBWest.com

(Editor/GG: Just a preview of what is to come, folks. This is the democrats "dream" world: everybody under control, complete dependency on the government. When you "scratch" a democrat, you always find a fascist underneath.)

Obama has stated he will use his executive authority to "fix" the immigration problem in America. In fact, he recently stated these illegal immigrant kids who have flooded across our southern border must go back home. We shall wait and see if rhetoric meets action.

In the meantime, we could be facing a serious health crisis at the immigrant border camps. It's so bad, staff have been threatened with arrest if they reveal the truth.

According to a report by Todd Starnes at Foxnews.com, "A government-contracted security force threatened to arrest doctors and nurses if they divulged any information about the contagion threat at a refugee camp housing illegal alien children at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio."

Starnes says, "In spite of the threat, several former camp workers broke their confidentiality agreements and shared exclusive de-

tails with me about the dangerous conditions at the camp. They said taxpayers deserve to know about the contagious diseases and the risks the children pose to Americans."

The fact that we have a situation where Americans are being threatened for telling the truth is in itself disturbing — but is sadly reflective of the progressive socialist, Chicago way of political thuggery, intimidation and coercion.

"There were several of us who wanted to talk about the camps, but the agents made it clear we would be arrested," a psychiatric counselor told Starnes. "We were under orders not to say anything." Starnes reports that the sources said workers were guarded by a security force from the Baptist Family & Children's Services, which the Department of Health and Human Services hired to run the Lackland Camp.

At the immigrant camp, Starnes say "workers were stripped of their cellphones and other communication devices. Anyone caught with a phone was immediately fired. "Everyone was paranoid," a worker said. "The children had more rights than the workers." She said children in the camp had measles, scabies, chicken pox, and strep throat as well as mental and emotional issues. "It was not a good atmosphere in

terms of health," she said. "I would be talking to children and lice would just be climbing down their hair. You could see the bugs crawling through their hair," she said. "After we would rinse out their hair, the sink would be loaded with black bugs."

Of course, all of this may seem inconsequential to some folks — like Nancy Pelosi who said there's not a crisis but an opportunity in all of this. However, we do know our federal government and its Department of Homeland Security has been transporting these illegal immigrants across the country in commercial buses and airplanes. The question is, were the aliens transported before or after delousing, and will the buses and planes now be used to transport the general American public?

Starnes says, "a former nurse at the camp addressed how she was horrified by what she saw. "We have so many kids coming in that there was no way to control all of the sickness — all this stuff coming into the country," she said. "We were very concerned at one point about strep going around the base." Both the counselor and the nurse said their superiors tried to cover up the extent of the illnesses. "When they found out the kids had scabies, the charge nurse was adamant — 'Don't mention that. Don't say scabies,'"

the nurse recounted. "But everybody knew they had scabies. Some of the workers were very concerned about touching things and picking things up. They asked if they should be concerned, but they were told don't worry about it."

The counselor, who wishes to remain anonymous, told Starnes she kept a detailed journal about what happened during her tenure at the facility. "When people read that journal they are going to be astonished," she said. 'I don't think they will believe what is going on in America.'

The counselor received a call from federal agents demanding that she return to the military base and hand over her journal but she refused.

So what happened to the "most transparent administration?" The last thing we need in America is a health crisis, a sort of biological assault on the country.

However, in the world of liberal progressives, the ends justify the means. Apparently, the goal of fundamentally transforming America must happen "by any means necessary."

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Rutherford Institute Defends Florida Mom Arrested, Handcuffed, Searched & Jailed for Allowing Her 7-Year-Old Son to Visit Playground Alone

PORT ST. LUCIE, Florida.

Attorneys for The Rutherford Institute have come to the defense of a Florida mother who was arrested and charged with child neglect for allowing her 7-year-old son to visit a neighborhood playground located a half mile from their house. For the so-called “crime” of allowing her son to play at the park unsupervised, Nicole Gainey was interrogated, arrested, and handcuffed in front of her son, and transported to the local jail where she was physically searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and held for seven hours and then forced to pay almost \$4,000 in bond in order to return to her family. Gainey’s family and friends were subsequently questioned by the Department of Child Services. Gainey now faces a third-degree criminal felony charge that carries with it a fine of up to \$5,000 and 5 years in jail.

Insisting that parents have a fundamental right to direct the upbringing of their children, which includes determining when their children are mature enough to play outside or walk to a neighborhood park by themselves, Rutherford Institute attorneys plan to demand that the charges against Gainey be dropped.

“What this incident and others like it taking place across the country make clear is that the theater of the absurd that passes for life in the American police

state grows more tragic and incomprehensible by the day,” said John W. Whitehead, president of The Rutherford Institute and author of *A Government of Wolves: The Emerging American Police State*. “While we all want to ensure that our young people are safe and protected, the government cannot usurp a parent’s right to determine what is appropriate for their children. Unless we put a stop to this ‘government-knows-best’ nanny state mindset now, we may soon find that we have no rights whatsoever in a society that is increasingly bureaucratic, legalistic, politically correct, self-righteous and unconcerned about individual rights.”

Nicole Gainey, a resident of Port St. Lucie, Florida, was arrested on Saturday, July 26, 2014, after allowing her 7-year-old son Dominic to walk by himself from their house to a popular neighborhood playground located a half mile away. According to Gainey, Dominic normally rides his bike (which was out of commission that day due to a flat tire) to Sportsman’s Park which is located along the same stretch of road as a fire station, community pool, library, church, and a daycare. Dominic also rides his bike along that same route when going to school, which is two miles away, without anyone raising any concerns. As usual, Dominic carried a cell phone with him in order to check in with his mom.

According to the 7-year-old, someone asked him where his mom was when he was walking past the pool. Police officers were called, went to the park, questioned Dominic, and then drove him home in their car, without alerting his mother that there was a concern or that they had picked up her son.

Upon arriving at Gainey’s home, officers questioned the single mother about her son’s whereabouts, without informing her that they had picked him up. The police then arrested Gainey, charged her with neglect, and took her to the local jail. Gainey’s son was allowed to stay with her boyfriend in lieu of going to foster care.

In coming to Gainey’s defense, Rutherford Institute attorneys plan to challenge the arrest and charges, in light of the fact that there is no law specifying how old a child has to be before he or she can go somewhere unsupervised. State officials are allowed discretion to determine what is appropriate on a case-by-case basis. Institute attorneys argue that parents have every right to make their own determinations about when their children are mature enough and responsible enough to be permitted to safely play outside by themselves, wait in the car by themselves or walk to a neighborhood park unsupervised.

Press Release from the Rutherford Institute.

The Mystery Behind Strong Auto “Sales”: Soaring Car Leases

by Tyler Durden, ZeroHedge.com

(Editor/GG: The Obama administration has been bragging about car sales for quite some time. However, as noted below, the increase in car sales is due to a dramatic increase in leasing. After the typical three-year lease the car is returned to the dealer and auto company which then must get rid of them. Not good economics.)

When it comes to signs of a U.S. “recovery” nothing has been hyped up more than U.S. auto companies reporting improving, in fact soaring, monthly car sales. On the surface this would be great news: with an aging car fleet, US consumers are surely eager to get in the latest and greatest product offering by your favorite bailed out car maker (at least until the recall comes). The only missing link has been consumer disposable income. So with car sales through the roof, the U.S. consumer must be alive and well, right? Wrong, because there is one problem: it is car “sales” not sales. As the chart below from Bank of America proves, virtually all the growth in the U.S. automotive sector in recent years has been the result of a near record surge in car leasing (where as we know subprime rules, so one’s

credit rating is no longer an issue) not outright buying.

From BofA:

Leasing soars: Household outlays on leasing are booming at a 20% year-on-year (yoy) pace - a clear sign that demand for vehicles is alive and kicking. With average lease payments lower than typical monthly ownership costs and with a down-payment not typically required to enter into a lease, the surge in vehicle leasing is likely a sign that financial restraints are still holding back some would-be buyers. Thus, as the economy improves, bottled-up household demand for vehicles could translate to higher sales.

Chart 1: Households go for the low capital option: leasing soars (yoy growth rate, inflation-adjusted)



It could also translate into even higher leases, which in turn bottlenecks real, actual sales.

Of course, the problem is

that leasing isn’t buying at all. It is renting, usually for a period of about 3 years. Which means that at the end of said period, an avalanche of cars is returned to the dealer and thus carmaker, who then has to dump it in the market at liquidation prices, which in turn skews the ROA calculation massively. However, what it does do is give the impression that there is a surge in activity here and now... all the expense of a massive inventory writedowns three years from now.

Which is precisely what will happen to all the carmakers as the leased cars come home to roost. But what CEOs know and investors prefer to forget, is that by then it will be some other management team’s problem. In the meantime, enjoy the ZIRP buying, pardon leasing, frenzy.

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WIMPY HICK: Hickenlooper Refuses To Fight D.C. To Put Colorado First

by ColoradoPeakPolitics

(Editor/GG: Chickenlooper is simply a sorry excuse for a leader even for a democrat. Pathetic excuses and lies about signing the gun laws last year, granting a “pardon” to the mass killer, signing the bills that will dramatically raise electric rates; it goes on and on. Below is just the latest example. Get rid of this incompetent in November, folks.)

PeakNation™, we swear we don’t have a string that makes Gov. John Hickenlooper speak our talking points when pulled, he just does that on his own. Over these past four years, the two biggest areas in which Hickenlooper has failed Colorado are: his complete

and utter lack of any sort of ability to be a leader and his willingness to listen to everyone but average Coloradans, the very people for whom he is supposed to advocate. In Hick’s latest chapter, Hick told an energy summit that his refusal to make a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline is because he doesn’t want to piss off people in Washington, D.C., Hick knows he is the Governor of Colorado, right? And, not, say, the Governor of Washington, D.C. (Spoiler: D.C. doesn’t have one). As Peter Marcus at The Durango Herald writes:

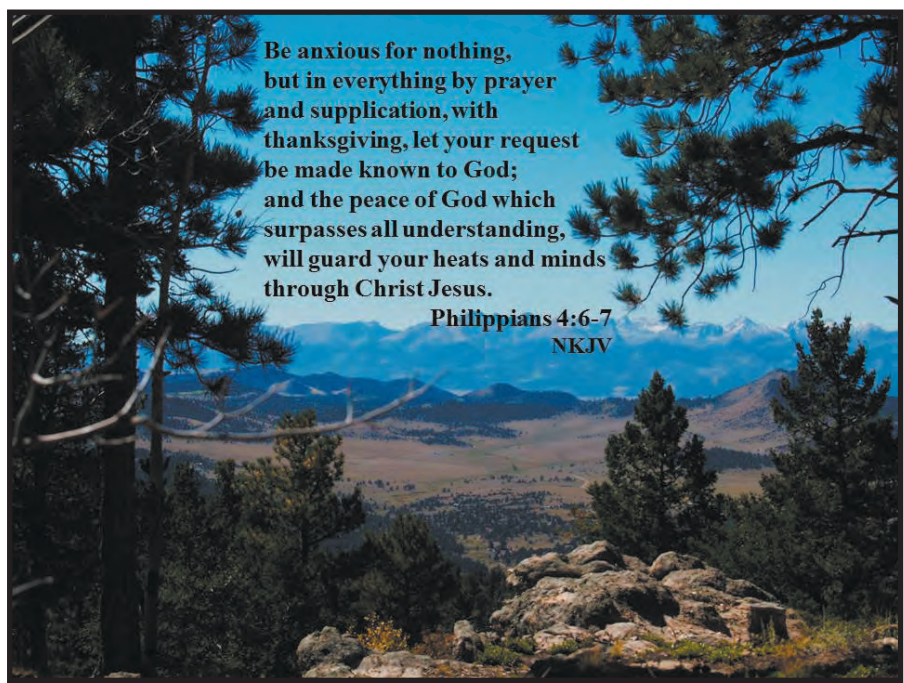
Gov. John Hickenlooper on Wednesday told a room full of Western gas and oil executives that he hasn’t taken a position on the proposed

Keystone XL pipeline because he hasn’t wanted to “piss off” the powers that be in Washington, D.C.

“I’ve avoided taking a position (on the Keystone pipeline) because it’s just going to piss off a lot of people in Washington that I don’t need to piss off, and my opinion is not going to change anybody’s opinion there,” Hickenlooper said during a panel discussion at the Rocky Mountain Energy Summit at the Colorado Convention Center. [the Peak’s emphasis]

Good to know we now also have a fraidy-cat as a Governor who cares more about

See WIMPY on page 22



Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV



The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand



The People of Missouri Have Spoken About the Right to Keep and Bear Arms: Amendment 5 Passes

by Lorri Anderson,
FreedomOutPost.com

On August 5, 2014 the citizens of Missouri spoke loud and clear in support of their unalienable right to bear arms. Amendment 5 was/is an extremely important amendment that will change the "Inalienable" rights of Missouri citizens to "Unalienable" rights. The "Unofficial" vote has shown that the people of Missouri voted overwhelmingly in favor of this amendment by over half of their voting population.

Constitutional Amendment 5

1. 3,898 of 3,898 Precincts Reported
2. YES - 602,076 - 60.970%
3. NO - 385,422 - 39.030%
4. Total Votes: 987,498

Why is this so important? Why is this a major move in the right direction for liberty? What is the difference? Let us look back in history, into the definitions, and see why this is so important to all citizens.

Inalienable rights: Rights which are not capable of being surrendered or transferred without the consent of the one possessing such rights. Morrison v. State, Mo. App., 252 S.W.2d 97, 101.

You can surrender, sell, or transfer inalienable rights if you consent either actually or constructively. Inalienable rights are not inherent in man and can be alienated by government. Persons have inalienable rights. Most state constitutions recognize only inalienable rights.

Unalienable rights: incapable of being alienated, that is, sold and trans-

ferred." Black's Law Dictionary, Sixth Edition, page 1523: You can not surrender, sell or transfer unalienable rights, they are a gift from the creator to the individual and cannot under any circumstances be surrendered or taken. All individual's have unalienable rights.

Now that we have covered the definitions lets cover the historic significance.

The Declaration of Independence states:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain UNALIENABLE (emphasis mine) rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

Why is that so important? Our founding fathers recognized our rights were given to us by God. No man is above God, and no man can take away what God has freely given every individual soul. This is why our founders chose the wording they did. Our founding fathers were very aware of tyranny, oppression, and how the British crown had used their power and influence to steal unalienable rights from their people. Our founders wanted to confirm on paper that these rights

could never be touched or altered by any man. They were very wise men, wouldn't you say?

As you can see "Inalienable" rights can be given away as long as you consent. Ex: Consenting to "gun control" laws via vote by politicians. Because we voted these politicians into office, their vote is considered to be our vote (even when they vote against our wishes). Thus we inadvertently gave consent to take away our "inalienable" rights by voting those politicians into office. This is why politicians always "claim" they are voting for the people, or they are doing what the people are demanding of them. **When your rights are "Unalienable" these rights are unable to be "voted" on because they are not transferable in any form or fashion. Unalienable rights are inherently yours from the time you take your first breath until the day you die.** Most politicians do not want you to realize that you have "Unalienable" rights. When the people recognize their "Unalienable rights", the politicians loose their right to control the people via illegal laws, codes, or ordinances they pass. Any "law" that is contrary to your "Unalienable right" is no law at all for they can not be transferred, nor given away.

Good for Missouri. I salute all who stood and fought for liberty. A great victory was won on behalf of the people yesterday. Enjoy your "Unalienable right" to bear arms responsibly as the founding fathers intended.

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Pennsylvania: Why People Carry a Gun When Answering the Door

by Dean Weingarten,
GunWatch.BlogSpot.com

Numerous people have criticized homeowners for having a gun in their hand or on their person when answering a door. I have always maintained that it is only prudent to do so. Home security systems can be very useful, of course. A standoff barrier, such as my old friend, Tex Ferguson, the highly decorated combat vet and intelligence operative used, works very well, as do surveillance cameras. Not everyone has such a system in place, or working, all the time. In any case, surveillance and standoff systems work best when backed up by armed force. I have reported numerous cases where armed homeowners prevailed against criminal attackers; and even a few cases where armed homeowners prevailed in court against police invaders. There are even a couple of rare cases where police officers have shot and killed homeowners, simply because the homeowner was armed.

The following incident resulted in the death of a criminal home invader. From the pottsmmerc.com:

The incident occurred around 1:27 a.m., July 28, when Daryl Marquis Evans, 22, knocked on the door of the home and displayed a handgun when

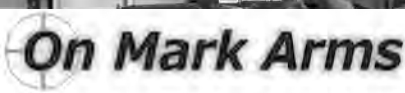
the front door was opened by a 29-year-old resident, according to the press release. Police later determined Evans was carrying a Taurus PT 911 9mm handgun. The resident was also armed, with a .40-caliber Smith and Wesson in his waistband which he brought with him to answer the door due to the late hour, the district attorney's office said.

The homeowner made the evaluation that defense instructors suggest. "Does this attacker intend to kill or severely injure me, even if I comply?"

"Based on Evans' appearance and actions, the resident feared that Evans was going to kill him. The resident pulled his .40 caliber, Smith & Wesson semi-automatic handgun from beneath his shirt and fired (6) shots striking Evans in the chest, pelvis, and the leg," the press release states.

Action beats reaction. Evans already had a long criminal history at age 22. One has to wonder how many crimes the homeowner prevented by acting to preserve his own life.

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But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15b, NKJV

Armed Citizens Save Lives

by The Common
Constitutionalist,
FreedomOutPost.com

Recently, Garen Wintemute, director of the UC Davis Violence Prevention Research Program, was quoted saying, “I think most people don’t want to be in a society where people have arms everywhere, particularly since there is no evidence that being armed is a benefit.”

Well, possibly to the surprise of some, I agree with Mr. Wintemute – that is, I agree with half of his statement.

I, too, as most Americans, certainly would prefer a country where no one has the need or even desire to arm themselves – beyond weapons for hunting. That would be wonderful and there is a place that has achieved this level of civility, peace, and love for one another.

It’s called Heaven and its inhabi-

tants are angels.

Unfortunately, this isn’t heaven, and none of us are angels, so we do what we must to try to assure that our loved ones and neighbors don’t get there prematurely.

Mr. Wintemute goes on to say, “There is evidence of good guys with guns stopping mass shootings, but it happens rarely.”

Yes, sir – you are correct – it does rarely happen, because “mass shootings” rarely happen. It seems they occur frequently due to the overwhelming press coverage – but they are actually quite rare.

What isn’t rare is the “benefit” of the armed citizen who more often than not is the one we always hear or read about, foiling the lunatic’s plans.

Take the latest “would be” mass killing. It happened just last week at Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital in Darby, Pennsylvania, where

a man with a history of mental illness snuck a revolver into the hospital and shot dead a caseworker.

A doctor, Lee Silverman, who police think may have been the killer’s eventual target, shot and wounded the killer.

Dr. Silverman carries a weapon regularly for protection. Smart move, doc!

As an aside, the report of the incident also mentioned that the killer, who was not himself killed, is facing not only murder charges but weapons charges for not having a license for the gun he used to murder the caseworker. Really?!

That’s like citing me for a faulty taillight after I just purposely ran someone down. Ridiculous!

Anyway, the good doctor shot 10 times at the assailant, hitting him twice in the chest and once in the arm. Surprisingly, the lunatic did

not go down. Another caseworker wrestled him to the ground as he attempted to reload. Silverman was hit in the hand and a bullet grazed his head, but he kept firing.

I don’t know what the doctor’s level of training or experience is, but considering the circumstance, the fear factor, and the fact that the target was shooting back, that’s pretty good in my book.

Silverman carries his gun despite the hospital rule that no one except “on duty” law enforcement be armed. So far, no weapons charges have been filed against the doctor, but given time, some wacky leftist will demand it.

Meanwhile, Chief of Police Donald Molineaux said, “Without a doubt, I believe the doctor saved lives. Without that firearm, this guy [the killer] could have went out in the hallway and just walked down the offices until he ran out of ammunition.”

Now, I’m all for calling 911 and allowing the police, who train for this, to handle it, but as is demonstrated time and again, they can’t be everywhere, nor can they respond instantly.

So despite what Mr. Wintemute says, this is just one more of a string of armed private citizens saving the day.

Maybe someday, one of us “armed citizens” may have to come to Mr. Wintemute’s rescue and despite possibly not wanting to save a pacifist weenie such as him – we would do so every time and without hesitation.

That’s what sets us apart from the cold-blooded killers the Mr. Wintemutes of the world think we are.

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North Carolina Sheriff's Response to Explosion in Violent Crime Will Likely Infuriate One Side of the Gun Debate

by Jason Howerton,
TheBlaze.com

Responding to an explosion in violent crime in Harnett County, North Carolina, Sheriff Larry Rollins told about 130 residents at a community meeting on Monday that they need to “be able to take care of business” until police arrive.

To put it bluntly, Rollins wants his residents to be armed and ready to protect themselves and their families.

“I do not go anywhere without a gun,” the sheriff told residents at Spring Hill Methodist Church in Lillington, North Carolina, on Monday.

“I want my deputies to be

at your house just as fast as they possibly can when you have a problem,” he added. “But you better be able to take care of business before we get there if you need to protect your family.”

As WRAL-TV reports, a number of alarming violent crimes were addressed at the meeting:

- Raquan Shynell Hooker, 18, Maurice Shaquan Williams, 23, and Maurice Kollis Cox, 27, were shot outside a Kangaroo gas station on N.C. Highway 87 in Cameron Friday afternoon. No arrests were announced as of Monday.

- Hours later, Jeffrey George, 21, was seriously injured after crashing while fleeing from police. George led authorities on a vehicle

pursuit after selling drugs to an undercover officer, officials said. He crashed on U.S. Highway 421 near Marners Road.

- The body of Eric Kentrell Staten, 18, was found behind dumpsters on Saturday at a business at 6761 Ray Road in Spring Lake. No arrests were announced as of Monday.

The spike in violent crime has left the community fearing for their safety, concerns that their sheriff is clearly taking seriously.

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She's a Law-Abiding Single Mom With a Concealed Carry Permit The Reason She Faces Over 11 Years in Jail Is Almost Unbelievable

by Jason Howerton,
TheBlaze.com

(Editor/GG: From the democrat kingdom of New Jersey. The slight variation here is that the king of N.J. is a RINO, and a big one, Chris Christie.)

A hard-working, single mom from Philadelphia reportedly now faces more than 11 years in prison on multiple gun charges — but the details behind the charges have stunned people across the nation.

Shaneen Allen, a single mother to two young boys, is a legal, concealed carry permit holder. She reportedly obtained her permit to protect herself and her kids after she was robbed twice. Allen has no prior criminal record and everything about her gun and concealed carry permit is legal.

However, her nightmare began when she traveled to New Jersey from Philadelphia.

Allen was reportedly pulled over by a New Jersey cop for an “unsafe lane change” back in October 2013. Doing what she had been trained to do, the mother informed the officer that she is a concealed carry permit holder and armed at the time.

What she didn’t know was that her permit and firearm became instantly illegal once she crossed into New Jersey, a state with extremely strict gun laws. As TheBlaze previously reported, the mother was arrested and, at first, faced about 3 years in prison.

Allen reportedly appeared in court this week and, to many people’s surprise, the case wasn’t dismissed by the judge. In fact, she now reportedly faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison for possession of a concealed weapon and another potential 18 months for possession of hollow-point bullets — more

than 11.5 years in total.

My9NJ.com reports that the prosecutor wouldn’t even allow Allen to accept a pretrial deal in order to avoid jail time. Instead, the prosecutor reportedly offered her a plea bargain that includes five years in prison with no option of parole for 3.5 years.

Evan Nappen, Allen’s attorney, told the website that “New Jersey’s gun law is as unforgiving as a prosecutor or judge wants to make it.”

“Either of those two, the judge or the prosecutor could have taken steps to relieve Shaneen from this situation, but it didn’t happen,” he added.

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Mike Vanderbaugh
of the Sipsey Street Irregulars
Somewhere in Custer County, Colorado, secret training is carried out on Abenaki Tribal Lands.

courtesy photo

*Grow in the grace and knowledge
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

2 Peter 3:18



The Woodpile Report by Ol' Remus

Good Citizenship

Elections are coming up. What should the good citizen do?

Participate in local elections—sheriff, councilman, mayor, and state elections. It isn't "game over" if your guy loses, the point is to prevent the process from falling further into the hands of madmen and extremists. Support the guy who changes his own oil, knows even a thousand bucks is a lot of somebody else's money, and thinks "green space" is a stupid way to say "empty lot". Extra points if he leaves meetings early to punch in for his real job, or because his livestock needs 'tending. Find the right people. It matters. Do it right and they'll find you. Remember the primaries, too. Turnouts are light. This is how you get your own people nominated.

City and state governments have come to be federal field offices to one degree or another. Vote 'em out. One by one. Zero tolerance. No mercy. If they've ever said the word collectively without a spittle-flecked sneer, if they've ever appeared in a grip-and-grin photo with a regulatory agency, if they've ever forced us to fund their hobby disease, or if they've ever displayed a check from D.C. the size of a drywall panel, vote 'em out.

Stay well away from federal elections. That Obama has yet to step aside pending immediate impeachment, conviction, and imprisonment—all on the same day, says all that needs saying. There will come a time when the full truth is pieced together, and a day when students ask their teachers how he ever held any office. The answer will be more unpleasant than the question. He and his co-conspirators in the

legislature are all the evidence a person should need that voting doesn't work, not for the citizenry. If voting worked it would have worked by now. When the process hints at working it's savaged as terrorist activity. National elections are a pump-and-dump fraud, voting merely endorses the check.

There is only one legitimate schema for national government and that is the Constitution. We can vote all we wish, but as long as the power-plumbing of government is unlawful we have no access to real power. Until Constitutional government is restored the people are no more free than any other third-world peasantry living in any other strongman's pest-hole. Until Constitutional government is restored, those who vote in elections for national office are participating in an ongoing criminal enterprise and knowingly so.

People don't form governments to be threatened, defrauded, lied to, defamed, robbed, and abused. This stuff will stop only with a repeat of the transformation that rocked the world in 1789, on the first day of Constitutional government. Voting hasn't worked for a very long time and it doesn't work now. Unless the serial treachery of the past is undone, it isn't going to work in the future. Stop collaborating. Resist. Not voting is an act of resistance and resistance works. Collaborating with your abusers doesn't work; it makes you a useful idiot. Change begins with resistance. It ends not with change we can believe in, rather change they can believe in, the kind of change that makes toxic twits run from office rather than for it. Serious change.

The fact is clear and obvious, national elections are bogus. The corruption has congealed in place. There's no way voting significantly influences government at those levels, much less changes it. Their elections are their elections, not ours. Nothing of consequence can be changed this way. Elections are a roadblock, not a road. For instance, congressional districting ensures fewer seats are at risk than were in the Politburo of their beloved and lamented USSR. Another for instance, their federal judges routinely set aside state referendums that conflict with their personal sensibilities, one more legitimate avenue of redress criminally denied. Nobody should expect D.C. to change when they control the means to prevent it.

Rebuilding the republic has to begin at lower levels, down where we actually live. It has to be an economic and political insurgency. Discount anybody in national politics. Anybody. They can't possibly help. The better ones are merely imperfectly dissolved bits of the toxic broth. Some are admirable, sure, but that's all they are, those few that don't roll over get used in other ways. Forget them. Resistance is the way and non-participation in their elections is resistance. Non-participation withholds even a suggestion of endorsement. It denies them the appearance of legitimacy, the one thing they can't do without. The patriot's hand should shake with shame when signing the voting register. It's a stain on our honor that turnout for national elections isn't where it rightfully belongs—zero.

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is a man above politics who only goes where the facts lead him. The fact that he says he is still on the fence about the Keystone XL pipeline completely blows up that image. Not only has President Obama's very own State Department signed off on the pipeline, but even the hugely-Democratic unions are for it. With such strong bipartisan support for it, it is only Obama's determination to play politics with the pipeline that is preventing it from going through. Hickenlooper's refusal to side with the facts on the Keystone XL pipeline shows

he is just as politically calculating as all those politicians he claims to be above.

This whole episode just reinforces what we already know: Hickenlooper's inability to lead has created a vacuum of power that out-of-staters are more than willing to fill to the detriment of Coloradans. It is time to have a Governor again who isn't afraid to fight for Colorado.

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A Sheepdog Barks!

WOOF! There goes the sheepdog alarm sound once again. Our most famous LPSD community organizer is again showing his complete lack of vision, understanding, and leadership in how the world works. Obama is a man that just wishes all these dirty little problems would go away so he can enjoy his last 2 years in the White House. He is a classic "stick-your-head-in-the-sand" kind of guy. Ignore what you don't like and don't want to deal with and it will just go away. He knows how he wants the world to be and, by golly, no one is going to change his mind. We should all understand that Obama has important things to do. He needs to campaign, fly around on Air Force One, fundraise, play golf, vacation, and blame the Republicans and George W. Bush for everything wrong here in America and around the world. I mean this crazy stuff gets in his way. When he belongs in the White House situation room he just insists on going to some preplanned event where he can raise money and play the role of the most important and powerful man in the world to some adoring audience. WOW! This guy really has his stuff together. He can always find time to attend those types of events but can't seem to find time to sit down and work out the real problems facing us and the world. The intelligence community knew about this evil band of terrorists known as ISIS or ISIL for many months. They were born in the Syrian uprising and those that pay attention to these kinds of things tried to warn Obama. He doesn't listen because he doesn't care. He was told by everyone that pulling out of a stable Iraq without a residual stay-behind force would lead to a vacuum that would waste all the efforts and lives sacrificed there. The USA had achieved a level of stability and helped birth a young democracy. It needed nurturing. We have always stayed behind and in some places we are still there. We could have had military bases and overflight rights to help maintain stability in the whole region which protects America at

the same time. But, NO, Obama had made a campaign promise, and, by golly, he was going to keep it. He promptly turned over the critical oversight to Joe Biden. Joe's mission was to make sure that no Status of Forces Agreement (aka SOFA) would be signed thereby allowing Obama to say he had no choice but to get out. This is an insult to our intelligence. This is what is known as a self-fulfilling prophesy. Obama wanted out at all costs, wouldn't listen to anyone and created the environment for what is being dealt with today. We've all seen the reports. ISIS is probably 10 times worse than Al-Qaeda, and Al-Qaeda is bad. ISIS is a radical cancer and Obama is applying Neosporin and Band-Aids! Two months ago ISIS was a sitting duck paddling along the highway. Obama could have stopped them dead in their tracks coming out of Syria. It would have been another "Highway of Death" like the earlier one leading to Baghdad. But Obama would not act. He knew full well Iraq was splintered and Al-Maliki wasn't up to the job but he persisted in his decision to do nothing. We learned this week many advisors wanted to directly arm the Kurds, but Obama would have none of that. The Kurds have been one of the few populations in that region we could rely on. It was reported that in July the Kurds were running out of small arms ammo and RPGs. They requested immediate help. Obama said NO. Towns fell and ISIS began to threaten Christians and other religious minorities. They were on the way towards Baghdad after capturing every town and the strategic Mosul Dam along the way. Still Obama did nothing. Surely the band-aid and Neosporin would begin to kill the radical, lethal cancer. Right? Wrong! When you are faced with a deadly cancer you don't mess around. You take it on with massive surgery or a full blown chemotherapy treatment or both! This situation called for both. It was critical to stop the spread. Again Obama did nothing. Finally, when the world reported that as many as 40,000 innocents were stranded



on a mountain top and being left to die and that ISIS was chopping off the heads of children, Obama was forced to speak out. "OK, OK. We'll drop some MREs and water to them. And we'll bomb a few pieces of equipment but mind you we will not get involved." When he does have a press conference he spends more time telling us all what "we" won't do rather than what "we" will do. "America cannot stand by and 'maybe' watch 10,000 Libyans die," he said. But it is OK with Obama, and his America, to watch while over 170,000 die in Syria. Figure that one out. In 2011 he said Iraq was stable. He knew, however, that would not continue without a U.S. presence and he didn't care. He had promised his base, and by golly, he was going to make sure that happened. Once again he is being disingenuous or clueless. A few airstrikes will do nothing to stop ISIS. A complete air campaign is necessary. The U.S. needs to arm the Kurds with heavy weapons that can stop the U.S. tanks and APCs that ISIS now has. Wake up, Obama! Destroy ISIS. Do it now, do it right (unleash our military air power), and do it completely. Stop with the band-aids and Neosporin. Obama apparently cannot see that the most evil people on the earth are winning this battle. A well-known commentator (George Will) on Fox said it best. "This is the most frivolous use of American power since the Bay of Pigs." WOOF! And I love this development. Even Hillary Clinton is throwing Obama under the bus. She blasted his strategy of "don't do anything stupid." WOW! What leadership! What vision! What Bull Poop! WOOF!

May God Have Mercy on America! JMH

WIMPY From page 19

what people in Washington, D.C. think about him than his very own constituents here in Colorado. Good to know Hickenlooper would rather have bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., think highly of him than create more jobs here in Colorado. Good to know that if there is ever a fight between Colorado and Washington, D.C., we have a Governor that is equivalent to France—"Je surrender!"

The caricature Hickenlooper likes to push of himself



Border Crisis Killing: Released Illegal Arrested for Alleged Murder

by Dean Garrison, FreedomOutPost.com

On Monday it was reported that Pedro Alberto Monterroso-Navas, a Honduran living in Louisiana, was arrested on charges of murder and kidnapping. He is now facing 2nd-degree murder charges in the violent death of his girlfriend, Heidi Monroy, who was also the mother of his youngest child.

The Associated Press reported the arrest on Monday:

A man faces a second-degree murder charge in the death of his girlfriend, who was found bludgeoned in her suburban New Orleans apartment over the weekend, officials said Monday.

Pedro Alberto Monterroso-Navas, 43, was arrested early Monday with his three children in a trailer park in Katy, Texas, Jefferson Parish sheriff's Col. John Fortunato said.

"Unless he fights extradition to Jefferson Parish, he will be returned here and face a second-degree murder charge" in the death of Heidi Monroy, 24, Fortunato said.

Fortunato said Monterroso-Navas' three children were with him at the time of his arrest and are safe. Monroy was the mother of the youngest, age 2.

No mention was made of Monterroso-Navas' ILLEGAL immigration status by the AP. It was reported that he was "a Honduran living in Metairie."

However, Breitbart.com has learned that Monterroso-Navas entered the country illegally, in the midst of the current immigration crisis, and was a beneficiary of Obama's "catch and release" policies.

The man, Pedro Alberto Monterroso-Navas, entered the U.S. illegally with children and turned himself in to U.S. Border Patrol agents. He was processed and released, as are all illegal immigrants who come as unaccompanied minors or incomplete family units from Central America. The alien is from Honduras.

The arrest was first reported by the Associated Press (AP), but Breitbart, Texas, has exclusively confirmed that the man was part of the Obama Administration's catch and release policy for family groups from Central America.

A U.S. Border Patrol source who spoke with Breitbart, Texas, on the condition of anonymity provided Breitbart Texas with the alien registration number for the man, and the event number for the man's apprehension. He was processed in the McAllen station of the U.S. Border Patrol. The alien's registration number

is 202027386. The event number for his apprehension is MCS14061487. The "MCS" designates the McAllen station, the "1406" designates that the man was apprehended in June of 2014. A separate Border Patrol source confirmed that the man was apprehended on June 26, 2014 with two children he claimed were his own. He told U.S. authorities he had family in Metairie, Louisiana.

Honduras has the highest homicide rate in the world at 90.4 per 100,000 population according to a United Nations report. That rate is **roughly 5 times higher than Chicago** which recorded an 18.5 per 100,000 homicide rate as recently as 2012. Coincidentally, **El Salvador is ranked 4th and Guatemala is 5th on the list of countries with the most homicides per 100,000.**

We are taking "refugees" from 3 of the top 5 murderous countries in the world and the hypocritical leftists dare to offer their wild theories of how gun control will reduce violence at home.

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Workers 3X More Likely to Get Fired in Private Sector Than in Gov't

by Ali Meyer, CNSNews.com

(Editor/GG: Teacher tenure anyone?)

CNSNews.com

The chance of being fired from a private-sector employer is more than three times as high than being fired from a government job, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The BLS defines a layoff as "a separation of an employee from an establishment that is initiated by the employer; an involuntary separation; a period of forced unemployment."

The BLS provides two metrics to explain layoffs and discharges: by either counting the number of layoffs and discharges, or calculating the layoff and discharge rate which is simply the number of terminations as a percentage of the total number of employees.

As of May 2014, the latest date available for the BLS data, the layoff and discharge rate in the private sector was seasonally adjusted at 1.3 percent. This is more than three times as high as the layoff and discharge rate in the government of 0.4 percent, seasonally adjusted.

When looking at the

raw number of discharges and layoffs, the distinction between the private sector and government layoffs is much larger.

In May 2014, there were 1,491,000 layoffs and discharges in the private sector and 84,000 layoffs and discharges in government, meaning layoffs and discharges in the private sector were more than 17 times more likely than in government.

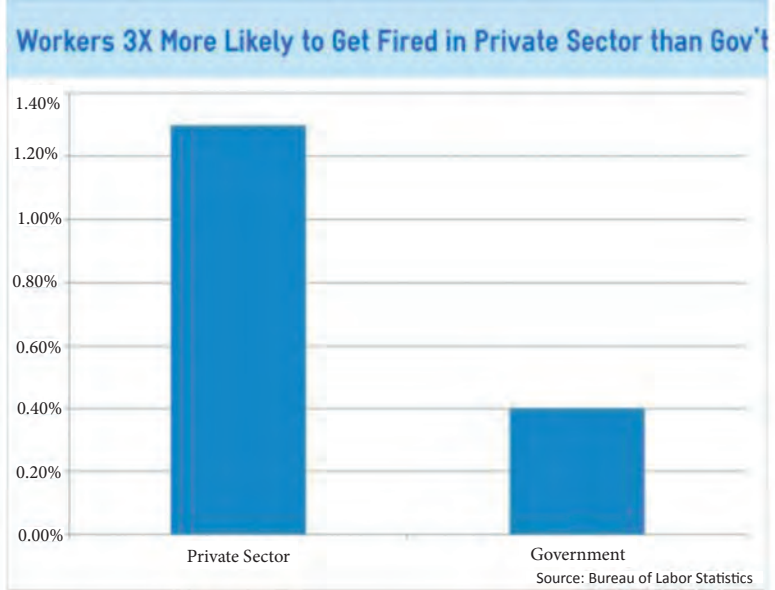
The concern that terminations are less likely to happen in the federal government was highlighted at an IRS hearing with the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on July 30, 2014, "IRS Abuses: Ensuring that Targeting Never Happens Again."

James Sherk, a senior policy analyst in Labor Economics at the Heritage Foundation, said that federal law makes it difficult to fire federal employees from their jobs, and IRS officials who may have wanted to fire employees engaging in misconduct would have had trouble doing so.

"The federal government very rarely fires its employees, even when their performance or conduct justifies it," Sherk said. "In fiscal year (FY) 2013, the federal government terminated the employment of just 0.26 percent of its tenured workforce for performance or misconduct – a rate of one-fifth that of monthly private-sector layoffs."

"The system shelters employees who engage in misconduct," he said. "IRS officials who wanted to fire employees engaging in misconduct would have had great difficulty doing so. Most federal managers find letting all but the most egregious misconduct slide the path of least resistance. Congress should streamline the firing process in the federal government. The system should serve the interests of the public, not the civil service itself," he said.

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Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.

~Ronald Reagan

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.

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Deadline for display ad copy is Friday Noon 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 submittals@sdcsentinel.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.

Garage/Yard sales are printed free, however verbiage is limited to date, time and address.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Our Elected Officials: From Local to National

"We the People"...

The phrase is used commonly enough, but it is vital to maintaining our Republic that we take those words to heart. Every elected government official works for you - the voter and taxpayer. We encourage you to contact your government representatives about issues that are important to you.

Custer County has a great website, making it easy to get answers and contact info: www.custercountygov.com

On the page for the County Commissioners, you'll find minutes from previous meetings and a schedule of upcoming meetings and the agenda.

Custer County Commissioners are:

Lynn Attebery, 719-371-4887, Email: lynn@custercountygov.com

Allen Butler, 719-371-1586, Email: allen@custercountygov.com

Kit Shy, 719-371-1105, Email: kit@custercountygov.com

In the Westcliffe/Silver Cliff area, here are some important officials to stay in touch with:

Colorado Senator Kevin Grantham, 303-866-4877, <http://kevingrantham.com/>

Colorado Senator Larry W. Crowder, 303-866-4877, <http://senatorlarrycrowder.com/>

Colorado Representative James 'Jim' D. Wilson, 719-539-4452, wilsonforhd60@gmail.com

U.S. Senator Mark Udall, 719-589-2101, <http://markudall.senate.gov/>

U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, 719-328-1100, <http://bennet.senate.gov/>

U.S. Representative Scott Tipton, 719-542-1073, <http://tipton.house.gov/>

For a listing of all of the Colorado Legislators, please go to: www.leg.state.co.us

To contact anyone in the U.S. House of Representatives, please go to: www.house.gov

To contact anyone in the U.S. Senate, please go to: www.senate.gov

And, for the Office of the President, go to: www.whitehouse.gov

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