



Kassi Ryff: World Champion

Custer County raised a World Champion! Kassi Ryff earned an invitation to the National Reining Cow Horse World Show in Ft. Worth this past week! And she won!

Kassi piloted Chico Flo (Howard) to a 219.5 in the rein work and a 222 in the cow work, earning a cumulative score of 441.5 to take the Non-Pro Bridle World Championship at the NRCHA Celebration of Champions!

Congratulations from all of us in Custer County. We are proud to be the home of such a World Champion!

Photo by Primo Morales Photography/ Courtesy National Reined Cow Horse Association



Eric Owen Charged with Attempted Murder

Press Release from Custer County Sheriff's Office

On February 24, 2016 at approximately 12 30 P.M. the Custer County Sheriff's Office received several 911 calls stating a party was firing a weapon at 706 Butler Street #25 in Silver Cliff. Deputies responded and located Eric Burton Owen inside his trailer. He was taken into custody and transported to the Custer County Detention Facility.

A handgun was in the immediate area of where Owen was taken into custody and several shell casing were located in the neighbor's yard. Further investigation revealed Owen shot and killed a dog in the adjacent neighbor's yard, threatened to kill a neighbor, and pointed the

handgun at another neighbor. Owen placed all residents in the area in immediate danger and is facing the following charges; Attempted 1st Degree Murder, Aggravated Cruelty to Animals, Felony Menacing, Reckless Endangerment, Prohibited use of a firearm, Disorderly Conduct, Unlawful Possession of a Controlled substance, and Unlawful Use of a Control Substance. Owen is currently being held at the Custer County Jail on a no bond hold.

The investigation is ongoing.



Trustee Resigns, Pivots to Run for Commissioner

by Fred Hernandez

Mr. John Johnston tendered his resignation as member of the Board of Trustees for the Town of Westcliffe on Monday, February 22nd. On the same day, at the regular meeting of the Rotary Club, he announced his intention to run for the office of County Commissioner in this years election. Running as an unaffiliated candidate he will go up against the winners of the primaries of both national parties.

Many will remember last summers brouhaha over the controversial murals painted on the western wall of The Courtyard Country Inn, Bed and Breakfast on Westcliffe's Main Street. The tiff between Mr. Johnston, owner of the inn, and some members of the board of trustees revolved around the procedures for obtaining an approval for public signage in accordance with town ordinances. The matter seemed to have been settled with the decision, by the board, to impose a fine, which, although suspended, was paid by Mr. Johnston as a sign of his good faith. The tussle flared up yet again when additional artwork was painted in to complete the same mural started some months earlier. This time the board was adamant in the effort to discipline one of their own, with some trustees even asking for the resignation of Mr. Johnston. The latter felt, however, that having been elected

to the position, he had an obligation to continue to represent his constituents and remained on the board. Last week the plot thickened and, indeed, came to a boil when Mr. Johnston was formally notified that there would be a notice circulated seeking his recall. If successful the recall would, potentially, trigger a special election, one that would mean costly additional expenses for the town. This was neither expected nor was it acceptable to Mr. Johnston who, at that point, decided, for the sake of the town, to resign, and turn towards his other personal goal/objective: a run for the office of County Commissioner.

His decision to run for the office of County Commissioner is based mainly on his seventeen years of residence in Custer County where he has not only owned and operated businesses but also served as Westcliffe board trustee for six years. He is convinced that these days people are looking for real leaders. Gone are the days when party loyalty was the paramount condition in the political universe. Voters today want leaders who represent them and their values, who are intimately familiar with their problems, their challenges and their needs. Citizens want candidates who will stand up in favor of their

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And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.
Romans 5:5, NIV

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*The Voice
of Conservative
Colorado!*

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 ART OF OFFENDING AND BEING OFFENDED

It seems that no matter what is said by one person some other person must feel offended. Politicians, in particular, cannot say anything without it being twisted into some offensive phrase to someone or some group. In short, everyone gets offended in America by almost anything. Four years ago Mitt Romney mentioned something about "binders" full of women candidates and liberal feminists screamed "war on women." He was simply referring to a book holding resumes of women. How could anyone be offended? Last week John Kasich said women came "out of the kitchen" to support him and put up yard signs. He was simply making a point that housewives (not a derogative term unless you are overly sensitive) felt strongly about his campaign and went out of their way (many years

ago by the way) to help him get elected. Harmless comment, but some women were offended. Really, the kitchen? More recently on a local Facebook group there was a video of a young woman named Chelsea who was crying and having a complete meltdown because she was shocked and offended. How? It seems that she was hired to make phone calls for Bernie and while making those bothersome calls some Trump supporters made rude remarks. She was distraught and cried. That is indicative of our overreacting and oversensitive society today exacerbated because of social media. Young people today are too easily offended. This is really evident in our colleges and universities. Like Chelsea, today's students can't deal with anyone making a remark that doesn't support their views. Students called for

the resignation of a professor that held a Mexican-themed party with sombreros and maracas. What in the world is going on? They have demanded safe zones where 1st Amendment rights are curtailed. They have "banned" words that they consider offensive. They won't allow speakers to make presentations that might be different from what their professors tell them. This has gone too far. Politicians are now getting in on the act even more so. Politics has always been a tough game. Many a politician has said "Running for a high office is not beanbag." We are particularly concerned with the personal slurs and accusations being thrown around by the candidates for the Republican presidential nominee. The debates have been embarrassing. One caustic comment after another.

Insulting each other and arguing like children. Candidates uttering incorrect things about other candidates. Nasty TV ads. They all do it. It's time to quit being offended and stop the petty bickering. They need to grow up, act like adults and tell us why they are the best, most qualified candidate. They need to QUIT telling us about why the other guy isn't. There were five Republican candidates left in the race before the Nevada caucuses. There are now essentially three. They need to quit fighting and insulting each other (and then striking back) and get down to explaining how they will fix America after eight years of Obama. We can only hope that Friday night's Republican debate will be different. There is no more time for the "food fights" we have been watching. We need serious discussions about

issues. The sudden death of Justice Antonin Scalia has changed everything. It is now possible that the next president can change the balance of the Supreme Court for the next 30 years or more. A liberal progressive court will be the beginning of the end of our republic. The Constitution would become irrelevant. We need to focus on which candidate left in the race is best qualified to select and nominate the best conservative judge(s) in our country. Other than our national security this is the single most important issue for our future. Stop the bickering, the name calling and the untruthful innuendos. They need to speak to the issues so conservatives can make the very best choice to represent them in America. Conservatives cannot afford to let another liberal and socialist move into the White House.



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Custer County Republican Caucus

March 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.



Precinct 1
Custer County Courthouse - Courtroom

Precinct 2
Firehouse in Wetmore - 200 CR 290

Precinct 3
Multi Purpose Room - Custer County School

All Registered Republicans and visitors welcome.

Sangre de Cristo Electric Association is seeking director candidates from Custer and Fremont Counties

*Are you interested in the governance of your electric cooperative?
Do you have leadership qualities and want to make a difference?
Consider running for a seat on the Sangre de Cristo Electric board of directors!*

If you're interested in running for a director seat, you'll have to meet certain basic qualifications. Among those are the requirements that you are a member of Sangre de Cristo Electric and that you live in either Custer or Fremont County. Once you've certified that you meet those and other qualifications, you'll be provided with a nomination petition that requires the signatures of 15 members. Nomination petitions must be submitted to the cooperative by 5:00 p.m. on April 26.

Contact CEO Paul Erickson at ceo@mvelectric.coop or by phone at 719-395-2412 or 1-800-933-3823 if you are interested in running for the board.

Directors must live within the director district, but all members vote on all director candidates and directors represent the entire membership of the cooperative.

Fremont County incumbent director Howard Eggleston is running for re-election for his seat. Custer County incumbent Arlie Riggs will not seek re-election.

Director terms run for three years.

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An Explanation of Special Access Programs and Why, at this Point, It Does Make a Difference

My name is Ed Coet. I am a retired U.S. Army Intelligence Officer. In my last job in the army I was the Chief of the Human Intelligence Branch for the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. In that capacity I was also the Designated Program Manager for a Special Access Program (SAP) like the SAP that Hillary Clinton is alleged to have compromised in the most recent State Department Inspector General report to congress and which has been widely reported in the news. Here is what I personally know about SAP's and what I can attest to in an unclassified forum:

1. The names of each SAP are themselves classified Top Secret because the information within the SAP are far and above Top Secret.
2. SAP's are so sensitive that even people who have security clearances giving them access to Top Secret Sensitive Compartment Information (TS SCI), an enormously high security clearance level, cannot have accesses to a SAP's

unless they receive a special indoctrination into the SAP based on an operational “must know” that exceeds all other “need to know” standards.

3. Being “read on” for a SAP is far more than acknowledging in writing that you have been briefed on the SAP. It is an in-depth “indoctrination” into the given SAP, and each SAP is itself compartmented separately from other SAPs. Having access to one SAP does not give you access to another SAP, and in fact rarely does. Only a tiny handful of people have knowledge of all SAP's. SAP's are the most stringently compartmented and protected information in the entire U.S. government.

4. Unlike Top Secret SCI which is maintained in highly secure Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilitates (SCIF's) managed by specially trained Special Security Officers (SSO's) at various levels of command, every single SAP is managed by an individually designated Program Manager for each individual SAP covering an entire theater of opera-

tions. In other words, SAP Program Managers are far fewer in number than there is SSO's. SSO's are not cleared to even know about SAP's or to maintain information about them in their already enormously secure SCIF's. How SAP's are secured cannot be discussed because of the sensitive beyond Top Secret nature in which it is done.

5. Unlike individuals with the highest Top Secret SCI access security clearances, who must undergo a special background information with periodic “bring-up” background investigation, those tiny few who have access to SAP's must also endure periodic polygraph tests in addition to the most comprehensive of special background investigations. I used to have to schedule four-star generals and admirals to be polygraphed in order for them to maintain their access to my SAP. Many generals and admirals who obviously have the highest security clearances still did not rate being indoctrinated into my SAP. In fact, they didn't even know the SAP existed.

6. Compromise of a SAP is

the single most dangerous security violation that can ever happen to the USA. Even the enormously damaging revelations of the Edward Snowden's TOP Secret SCI security compromise does not reach the level of a SAP compromise.

7. To put SAP information in to an unsecure sever like Hillary Clinton's unsecure server is a class one felony that could, in some cases, result in life in prison. That is because such a compromise is so dangerous that it could and likely will result in the death of people protected by and within the scope of the SAP.

As a former SAP Program Manager I believe it is inconceivable that if it is verified that Hillary Clinton's server actually had SAP information on it that she could possibly escape indictment and criminal prosecution. As hard as it is to imagine, that would even be worse than electing to not prosecute a mass murdering serial killer because even they could not inflict as much damage on our country as the compromise of a SAP. Compromise of a SAP not only could -- but without doubt would -- cause serious damage to our national security.

If it is true that Hillary Clinton had SAP information on her unsecure serv-

er, whether it was marked or not, you can be sure that the FBI will strongly recommend that charges be brought against Hillary Clinton and continue in an exhaustive investigation to trace back to every single person that had even the tiniest role in this unbelievable security compromise.

If the Attorney General, through “prosecutorial discretion,” elected not to prosecute this crime, I believe congress would have no alternative but to impeach her, and the FBI would then have no choice but to conduct a criminal investigation of her for a deliberate cover up -- so grave is this security violation.

If President Obama were to pardon Hillary Clinton for a compromise of this magnitude he would render himself in the historical record as an “enemy of the state,” and could himself face criminal prosecution -- so grave is such a security compromise. Nobody, not even the POTUS could get away with something like this in our system of government.

If anyone could escape persecution for compromising a SAP, we are in deep trouble as a nation. No president who loves this country and is true to his oath would ever allow anyone,

not even his or her closest and most loved relative, to get away with a SAP compromise. It is simply unimaginable that this could ever happen.

If the ongoing investigation finds that Hillary Clinton compromised a SAP, then we all should know with certainty, regardless of political persuasion, that she is entirely unfit to hold public office of any kind let alone President of the USA -- and ALL Americans should never tolerate it. Compromising a SAP is an absolute “disqualifier” for public office and access to our nations most sensitive information - period.

ED COET
Major, US Army (Retired)

P.S. It is my sincere hope that each of you will share this article, to help other Americans understand how grave Hillary Clinton's alleged SAP compromise is. We can't allow anyone so careless with this level of information to have access to any classified information ever again for as long as she lives. This would surely render her unqualified and unfit to hold any public office let alone POTUS if this allegation proves to be true.

Editor: Please see “The Sheepdog Barks” on page 22 for more on this important topic.

Black Patriots of the American Revolution

February is Black History month and I have a question, what were you taught and what is now being taught concerning Black Patriots of the American Revolutionary War?

Who were these Black Patriots? By 1770, one fifth of the population of the thirteen colonies were of African ancestry and almost 95% of the African descendents were slaves. Black Patriots were African Americans who sided with those of the American Revolution and numbered anywhere from 5000 and more. Beginning with the Boston Massacre in 1770 and lasting the duration of the war, African Americans played a major part in the struggle for our independence. They fought with the Continental Army in places like Bunker Hill, Concord, Saratoga and

Stony Point.

Black Patriots were men like:

Crispus Attucks; considered being the first Black Patriot for his death in the Boston Massacre and the first death in the American Revolutionary War.

Peter Salem: born a slave in Massachusetts, and about 1770 enlisted the Massachusetts Minutemen. He is given credit for the slaying of British Major Pitcarin at Bunker Hill. Pitcarin had ordered the colonists to surrender, Salem shot him in answer. Major Pitcarin later died of this wound. The gun attributed to Salem's deed is now part of the museum collection at Bunker Hill. In 1882 a monument was erected by the town of Farmington Massachusetts at the Old Burying Ground to honor Salem.

Salem Poor: purchased his freedom in 1769 and in 1775 enlisted in the Continental Army. He fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill and was formally written up for commendation by his comrades in arms for his acts of heroism.

William Lee: was a slave and valet who served with the Continental Army and fought with George Washington.

We are the Sons of Freedom and the Daughters of the Revolution. Men and women who fought for our freedoms should be honored with our knowledge of what they accomplished. Take time to be informed, it might be a surprise what there is to learn about our heritage. Great reading.

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Letters to the Editor



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John Johnston Resigns from Westcliffe Town Board An Open Letter

John G. Johnston
410 Main Street
Westcliffe, CO
81252

February 22, 2016

Dear Mayor Patterson and Board of Trustees:

Please accept this letter as my resignation as Trustee to the Town of Westcliffe effective immediately.

While it has been my honor and pleasure to serve our wonderful Town for the past six years, recent actions by the board have made it impossible to effectively serve the community. Because of the recent animosity the board has for me, I can no longer assist in my sworn duty to help Westcliffe. My only desire has been to effectively and impartially assist our Town make the best possible decisions effecting Westcliffe. Since I was elected to this Board in April 2010 I have never missed a board or committee meeting and always came to those meetings prepared to address the issues. Now my suggestions and motions at recent board meetings and during committee meetings

are either scoffed at, ignored, or relegated to being insignificant and not worthy of consideration. Therefore, I am rendered totally impotent and unable to perform the duties as Trustee to which I was sworn. The Town suffers when this type of action occurs. Therefore, so that the Town can move past the issues headlining the local papers, my last action, for the betterment of the Town, is to step aside and allow someone whose voice will be heard take my place.

I admit that I made a mistake regarding the murals painted on the side of my Inn. During the process of painting the first four murals over the Fourth of July weekend, while the paint was literally still wet, I was reminded that our Town ordinance required prior approval. I immediately requested a variance, since the artist came from another state to paint the murals for me. Realizing that timing was everything, and a special board meeting could not be convened in a timely manner, I agreed to pay the maximum municipal fine. At a subsequent board meeting, the

Trustees assessed the fine (which, incidentally I had already paid). As I said then, I was wrong. Had I remembered that the Town had such an ordinance, I, of course, would have followed the law to the letter. I paid the \$300 municipal fine, even though the trustees waived the fine after I left the July meeting. After I paid the fine, I thought the incident was over. I had erred and paid for my mistake.

The artist who painted the first four murals was to come back to paint the remaining murals that currently are on my building. I gave renderings to the Town Clerk and requested to address the regularly held monthly Town Board Meeting to present my request for the additional murals. Due to a miscommunication, the renderings I supplied to the Town Clerk were not available at the meeting. Without prior approval (renderings of what was to be painted), the board failed to grant me authority to add the remaining murals. I want to make it very clear - I COMPLIED WITH THE ORDINANCE to the best of my ability. A special meeting of the board of trustees to approve my request was called by the Mayor and I appreciate this effort. This special meet-

ing was boycotted by EVERY board member. The Mayor, the Town Clerk, and Town attorney were the only ones who attended the specially called meeting. All the board members who boycotted were given proper notice of the meeting, but knew that if they didn't attend, a quorum would not be met, and my request to abide by the law could not be approved. Again, I tried to comply with our law, but the boycotting trustees forced me into a position I had no intention of being in. I was forced to violate the law again by having the artist who traveled here to finish the paintings finish the job without board approval. The Town trustees let me down by playing these childish games, forcing me to violate the municipal code.

At the subsequent October board meeting, I was again assessed a fine; I paid it. Should that not have ended the incident? At that same meeting, I was then asked to resign, and when I refused, two trustees made a statement that they would not serve with me and promptly, during a regular board of trustee meeting, walked out. Since we were left without a quorum after they left, no further actionable business was presented or approved by the board and a special board meeting had to be called a few days later to handle urgent town business. These two trustees failed to attend subsequent legally called commit-

tee meetings, including budget meetings, and board meetings. They both indicated their intention to resign, without officially giving written notice. Were they not derelict in their duty to the Town by deserting their duty to the Town during these regularly called Town meetings?

Henry Ward Beecher wrote: "Hold yourself responsible to a higher standard than anyone else expects of you. Never excuse yourself, never pity yourself, be a hard master to yourself and be lenient to everyone else." I have held to my integrity and refused to allow this discord to influence my votes for the best of this community and have endeavored to work diligently as a trustee for the Town of Westcliffe to this date.

Because of my love for this community, I will not put the Town through a recall election. My fear is that this will just split the Town, and I will do my best not to allow this to happen. With my resignation prior to the recall election, my hope is that citizens with high levels of integrity, temperament and a desire to serve our community will be elected at the upcoming April election, and the business of running the Town will continue for the benefit of the whole community.

*Sincerely yours,
John G. Johnston*

Many Thanks to Quick Thinking Neighbor

Dear Members of Custer County,

I thought it would be appropriate to let everyone know that our neighbor, Chris, became a hero today, February 18, 2016. Martha, his wife, looked out her window and noticed smoke and orange flames to the east of our neighborhood and promptly called the Fire Department. Thinking quickly, Chris grabbed his ax and sprinted up the hill and hacked at trees and whatever else he did and put the fire out. He is not a trained fire fighter but if not for his quick thinking he was told that the fire, which was started by an arc from elec-

tric wires due to the wind, could very well have burned down at least two of the homes in the area. He was checked for smoke inhalation, which has given him a cough, and he is taking it easy for the rest of the day. Martha said that Chris was frightened and felt very alone but, you know what? What he did is what makes a man a hero. Thank you, Chris!

I feel very safe knowing that our neighbors, all of us, keep an eye open and watch out for each other.

*Linda Anderson
Rural Custer County*

9Health Fair is Saturday, April 2nd

Free women's health appointments, including breast exams and pap screenings are offered during the fair. Men's testicular screenings are also available. All these exams must be scheduled in advance of the fair. Openings still available. Please call 783-3369 to schedule.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Community Members Needed for High School Principal Search Committee

Custer County School District is inviting the public to be involved in the interview process for the selection process for the high school principal/athletic director position for the 2016-17 school year. Barb Jones, the current principal, announced her retirement at the January 2016 board meeting and the search is underway for a new high school principal/athletic director.

The vacancy is currently posted on school-spring.com and the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) website and applications will close on Monday, March 28th. On Tuesday, March 29th, the administration will meet to review applications and narrow the applicant pool down to three to six qualified candidates.

As a part of the interview process, to be conducted in early April, the district would like to involve five to seven community members and is extending the opportunity to interview candidates as a part of the community/student interview team. If more than seven citizens are interested in serving on the committee, names will be drawn out of a hat and committee members

will be notified of their acceptance on the committee.

In order to be a part of the high school principal interview process, committee members must be present at all interviews, to take place on one day in early April, and attend a brief training and question selection meeting prior to the first applicant interview. This committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the superintendent. Ultimately, this committee, along with a staff/faculty committee, will make a recommendation to the superintendent as to their top applicants choice(s). The superintendent will consider the recommendation(s), and recommend the position to the board in April.

If you are interested in serving on the high school principal interview committee as a community member, please contact Kathy Schickling at 783-4950 by Monday, March 28, 2016. If you have to leave a message, please leave your name and telephone number, along with an e-mail address, so we may contact you. Thank you!

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constituents no matter the opposing pressures. He will be that leader.

Born and raised in the Fort Worth area of the Lone Star State of Texas, Mr. Johnston was a self-employed businessman all his adult life. When he came to Custer County he was enchanted not only by the natural beauty of the area but also by the warmth of the community. Over the years he has grown in his affection for Westcliffe and Custer County. He feels deeply that he can make a positive contribution and improve the way things run in the community. As a town trustee he saw his job as promoting the town, improving conditions for commerce and generating tax revenues. Quite different from the way he views the tasks of commissioners which he feels is to conserve the available resources, employing them for optimum cost to benefit of the county residents, and preserving county assets.

If elected, Mr. Johnston

feels he will make a good commissioner based on his lifetime of self employment and success in the various enterprises he has owned and managed. He gives just one example of an area for improvement in the day to day operations of the county by relating about a sale made recently of a seven acre parcel abutting BLM land. The buyer wanted a well and so contracted with a company which filed for a permit and was denied. That company then had to apply for a variance at the county office. Based on the current procedures, the request for a variance has to go through the Planning Commission which may, or may not, have a scheduled meeting for a period of time. In short, the process in this case took three months. In this age of high tech equipment, cell phones, and computers it is unacceptable and this simple request should have taken no more than ten days. There is a need to speed up the process within government.

When asked about his personal beliefs, as to whether he leans left or right, towards being a liberal or a conservative, he laughs out

loud as he recalls having been accused of being a liberal just because he sports a pony tail and, at times, has a penchant for donning a poncho. Of course he is conservative at least in the basics of life: food, education and healthcare should be a matter for the management of local communities and big government should have limited involvement. Local communities must take care of themselves. On the question of the marijuana issue in Custer County, he believes that growing it locally will not benefit the community. For those who want it there is no impediment to getting it from the neighboring areas. It is not necessary to establish it here and risk negative elements that will affect the entire county. As far as the twin towns of Silver Cliff and Westcliffe are concerned he feels strongly that they can be ONE in SPIRIT as the slogan says on the CART coffee mugs. We look forward to a website under construction that will detail all the platforms and plans of Mr. Johnston. In the meantime, we wish him all the best as he eyes a higher office in Custer County.

Cotopaxi Community Church Annual Auction

Saturday March 12th will be a free breakfast at 8 a.m., with auction to follow, at the Cotopaxi High School cafeteria. This effort is to support the Cotopaxi Community Church's Annual Mission Week, which is from April 18-22.

They use the money from the auction to buy materials (paint, lumber, cement, nails, etc.) and then church members donate their

time to go to homes or wherever (in Salida, Cotopaxi, Westcliffe and surrounding areas) and help with projects folks have. They have helped folks from Custer County move, put up sheet-rock, paint, dig post holes, cut and deliver firewood, clean up, etc. Almost anything someone needs done, the church has helped with. Please donate to the auction and join them on March 12th to show your support!





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*No man shall be able to stand before you
all the days of your life;
as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.
I will not leave you nor forsake you.*

Joshua 1:5, NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

County Commissioners Meeting: Economic Development Issues Dominate

by Michael R. Kienbusch (MR K)

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. The meeting agenda can be found on the Custer County Commissioner’s website. The Board requested the audience to introduce themselves and opened the floor to public comments. The only public comment came from a Wetmore Library representative, thanking the Chairman for his work on the Wetmore Library Project.

The Board approved minutes from the last meetings (1/29, 2/2, and 2/3). No one expressed a need to conduct an executive session.

The Commissioners had the following items to report: From Commissioner Kattnig – Search and Rescue (SAR) conducted a successful Bubonic Plague Exercise and Training event; the Commissioner met with the CCHS to discuss affordable housing available for new teachers, there are potential property donors from

Denver that could assist in grant funding; the SAR has a critical need for meeting space; Economic Development is no longer an option but a necessity, the Board will continue to be involved with that program as it moves forward; the Annex is in critical need for meeting space and office space and there are several infrastructures in need of attention; with regard to our workforce, a virtual workforce office is being established in the Westcliffe Library to look for jobs on-line. From Commissioner Shy – he attended the Colorado Counties Incorporated steering committee meetings and learned that a Pioneer Trails Bill will benefit Custer County Economic Development interests, more on this as it develops; the Custer County Landfill is holding a workshop on 2/29 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss regulatory permit requirements; the Commissioner would like to re-activate summit meetings between Westcliffe and Silver Cliff, he will draft a letter to each of the towns; he attended the Transportation Planning Region (TPR) meeting discussing

upcoming road work and noted that CC was not mentioned on their three-year plan, except for bridge work on Hermit Road. CDOT will be performing an inventory of laid conduit along roads in CC.

Attorney Smith reported he is working with Mr. Jay Prince on an inter-governmental agreement between Silver Cliff and the County to use the court house court room on the third Thursday of each month. He is reviewing notification requirements for opening a gravel pit in town of Silver Cliff. He is also dealing with a confidential matter with a county employee that will require an executive meeting held at the next meeting. He will assist with discussions between Jay Prince and the County to define/ensure the proper means to approve and file zoning variance records.

Under Old/New Business – The Board approved a motion to add Barkley Westfield to the Airport Advisory Board; the County received a \$40K grant to design/plan an amendment to the cur-

rent court house, requests for contractor bids is forthcoming; the Colorado Rural Philanthropy Days Listening Tour is holding a meeting on 2/18, a Commissioner will attend and get back with the Board; under the Clerk and Recording Record Retention Resolution – the CC clerk is researching the proper amount of storage time for county records and will return recommendations to the Board; the Board approved the transfer of funds (\$56.17) from the County General Fund to the Conservation Trust; the Board approved the Liquor License Renewal for San Isabel Restaurant and Lodge; with respect to defining the proper point of contact for the Office Emergency Management, there was much discussion, ending with Commissioner Shy requesting the Board obtain input from the OEM Director, more to come on following meetings; the next Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting was delayed from the planned 2/15 date and will be re-scheduled; the Board approved the Emergency Management Performance Grant for 2016;

the Board will submit a letter of recommendation supporting the USDA Cool Connect Pilot Program (broad band program); the Landfill Supervisor briefed the Board on the Landfill Engineering Documentation for Drilling, he presented a proposal to coordinate drilling of a sampling well at the county landfill. The Board approved the proposal, drilling a sampling well is being driven by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; the Board reviewed and approved the SAR Roof Repair solicitation for contractors. The contractors must have proof of insurance to be responsive; the Board approved reimbursement of \$431.10 to Tim Swartz for out of pocket expenses he paid for the renovation of the VSO/Resource Center Annex; and the Board agreed that Custer County is accountable for the costs for the Wetmore Library Project. Plans are 75% complete, and the county will seek a contractor by 3/31.

The meeting ended at approximately 10:40 a.m.



Jean & Jack Canterbury
719.783.9052
217 Main Street
www.westcliffecolorado.com





Reduced!
Colorado Mountain Retreat in the Aspen Trees!
\$225,000

Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright who the owners knew personally and built by a family of artists, the Alpenhaus shows the architectural influence of the most important American architect of his time. These angular spaces which revolve around an interior central core help to create the illusion of space. With 2 bedrooms and 1.75 baths, this home is an ideal getaway from city living. On 3.6 acres, there is enough space to give you room in between neighbors and/or have a yard for animals. Large windows throughout the home bring the aspen forest that surrounds the home into the visual living area, and provide a spectacular view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Collegiate Peaks to the West, and rocky cliffs to the East.



New!
Colorado Mountain Luxury Retreat
\$687,375

This luxury home starts with huge Western Cedars logs that have been used for the post and beam framework of the home. With 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, there is plenty of room to have guests over in this 3,156 sq ft house. A dry stacked natural stone fireplace and sky lights accent the open living of the kitchen, dining, living room area. The gourmet kitchen features granite countertops, custom cabinets, a “hammered copper” farmers sink, and top of the line appliances. A jetted jacuzzi tub, dual copper sinks on granite counter tops, and a large glass shower stall finish the master suite. On top of everything else, the house sits on 35.18 acres making it an ideal horse property with a corral already in place!



Norup Gas Inc.
28 Rangeview Loop
(Rangeview Industrial Park)

Located
one mile north of Westcliffe
on Highway 69.

Office hours:
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
719-783-9338

Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcats Wrestlers at State Tournament, February 18-20!

by Head Coach Mike Ham

The Bobcats wrestling team took four to State this year, but had a hard go of it. The weight classes were tough, with returning State champs and placers in all brackets. Dalton Wommack, 106 pound freshman, wrestled very well for his weight class and first trip to State. After losing two matches, Dalton was out of the competition.

Next up was Andy Feldmann at 152 pounds. This was Andy's second trip to State, and he ended his season winning one and losing two matches. This is only Andy's second year of wrestling, and I'm sure he will return to State next year. My hope is that he will become a State Champion!

Then came our only senior, Cody Koble at 160 pounds—probably one of the toughest weight classes this year. Cody has wrestled all four years and improved every year in one of those weights where the competition is unbelievable. He is planning on joining the United States Navy to serve his country. I'm sure he will make Custer County proud with his service. THANKS CODY!

Finally came sophomore Edgar Pedigo at 170 pounds. And what a surprise his first match was! He wrestled the number 5 seat at the tournament from Eads who was projected to be in the championship match against the three-time returning State champ

from Meeker. Edgar went out on the mat with a mission, and he wrestled the best match I've ever seen him in. After honing in on the head and heel he took his opponent down three times, and then in the final period he pinned him with a half-nelson. This was one of the major upsets of the State Tournament, and Edgar will return to State next year to have his shot at a State title.

I would like to thank again all who helped me this year: Assistant Coaches Manny Pedigo and Sterling Hinson, and Sarah Gerringer, our Manager. And a special thanks to our new A.D., Eric Prins, for all his help this wrestling season.

Track Team Looks to Make it Twelve Years in a Row

by Coach Jack Swartz

The Custer County Track and Field team kicks off its 2016 season on Monday, February 29th. The team looks to add to its dynasty of 11 straight seasons of sending at least one Custer County athlete to the State Championships. Head Boys Coach Bruce May and Head Girls Coach look to build on the success of seven State qualifiers last year.

Returning qualifiers for the Bobcats include Senior Emily Crossley in the Discus, Senior Katlyn Freeburg in the 300

meter Hurdles, and Junior Serenity Ham in the 100, 300 meter Hurdles and the High Jump. Assistant Coach Jack Swartz looks to replace Corey Lewenkamp and Michael Franta with Junior Jerald Taylor and Freshman Kayla Carter as State Qualifiers in the Distance events. Both Taylor and Carter qualified for the State Championships in Cross Country this past fall.

Any athletes in the county looking to compete in Track and Field should talk to one of the coaches as soon as possible. Practice begins Monday [February 29th] at 4:15 p.m. in the High School commons."



Bobcat Menu • Feb. 29 - March 3, 2016

Monday Breakfast Choice of Cereal Fruit Milk lunch Mac 'n' Cheese Veg. Fruit Milk	Tuesday Breakfast Choice of Cereal Fruit Milk lunch Hamburger Veg. Fruit Milk	Wednesday Breakfast Choice of Cereal Fruit Milk lunch Italian Dunkers Bread sticks Veg. & Fruit Milk	Thursday Breakfast Sausage Gravy W.G. Biscuit Fruit, Milk lunch Fish Patty Corn Bread Fruit Milk
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Elementary: Main Dish, Grain Product, Veg., Fruit, and Milk
Middle & High: Main Dish, (or Pre-made Chef Salad) Grain Product, Veg., Fruit, and Milk

March Computer Help on Wednesday

The free computer help series at the library will be held on a different day of the week for the March session. The upcoming program will take place on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 from 4:15 p.m. to 6 p.m. Local teens will be available to consult, demonstrate and offer step-by-step instructions. Those with a computer or computer-like device, can

bring it along. If the device is not portable, the library has a variety of devices available on which to learn.

Next month's session will return to the usual first Thursday of the month on April 7, 2016. The library also offers other computer help during regular library hours. For more information, please call the library at 783-9138.

Party Caucuses Tuesday, March 1

by George Gramlich

Hey registered Republicans and Democrats: your delegate selection caucuses are happening next week, Tuesday, March 1st. The primary function of the caucuses is to elect delegates from each county precinct who will then, in turn, select the respective parties candidates (at their party assemblies) for local office in the general election in November.

There are multiple candidates running for two county commissioner slots, and if these candidates are using the caucuses to get on the ballot, this is where YOUR vote will count. It is important, before or during the actual caucus itself, to find out if the delegate you are voting for has indicated that he will vote for the candidate you are backing. (Note: It is often not apparent during the delegate selection process at the caucus who the proposed delegate will support. So, you might have to flat out ask them before

the vote!)

To further muddle the waters, people in Colorado who want to run for local offices can also use the petition process to get on the November ballot. Based on the number of registered voters in the district, the state determines how many district signatures are required and if you get the threshold, you get on the ballot. So, many politicians use the petition process to get on the ballot to avoid the sometimes murky workings of the party caucus process. Fair enough.

The 7 p.m. Republican caucus sites are: Precinct 1 - County Courthouse Court Room, Precinct 2 - Wetmore Fire Station, and Precinct 3 - Custer County Central School Multi-Purpose Room.

The March 1st, 6 p.m. Democrat caucuses are at: Precinct 1 - County Courthouse Commissioners Room, Precinct 2 - the Wetmore Community Library in Wetmore, and Precinct 3 - West Custer County Library Community Room.

KIDS

Friday, February 26, 2016

Leap Year What and Why Is It

It's a year with 366 days instead of 365. The extra day is added to February, our shortest month. Leap year occurs, usually, every four years, in years that are divisible by four.

Julius Caesar is considered the "Father" of the Leap year. The ancient Roman calendar contained only 355 days in a year, a whole 10 ¼ days shorter than the solar year which is the length of time it takes the earth to make a complete orbit around the sun. Roman officials were supposed to insert an extra month every so often, but by the time Caesar began to rule Rome, the calendar was seriously out of whack, so Caesar consulted with the top astronomers of the day. In 46 B.C. they decided to add one day every four years to make up the discrepancy in the calendar. Leap year took effect in 46 B.C. after a year where three months had to be added to make up for the shortfall.

There is one exception. Since the year is slightly less than 365.25 days long, adding an extra day every four years results in about three extra days being added over a period of 400 years. For this reason, only one out of every four century years is considered as a leap year. Century years (such as 1800, 1900, etc.) are only considered as leap years if they are evenly divisible by 400.

Leap year trivia:

In Britain a leap day is the only day of the year a woman can propose marriage to a man. The tradition became the basis for Sadie Hawkins Day in the United States.

Greek superstition holds that marrying in a leap year brings bad luck, so about every five Greek couples avoid planning their weddings in a leap year.

The first warrants for arrest in the Salem witchcraft trials were issued on February 29, 1692.

People born on Leap Day are known as "leapers". Since they don't actually have a birthday but only every four years most of them celebrate their birthdays a day early or a day late. Chances of having a leap day birthday are one in 1,461.

by Audrey Slater, Sources:inventors.about.com, history.com

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

Corner

Local Mountain News & Notices

Veterans Who Need a Hand: Please Apply

The Custer County Veterans Service Office will be accepting applications from Veterans for the Veterans Trust Fund Grant on Monday, 29 February 2016. Any veteran in financial need for assistance with utilities, food, propane, rent or firewood should come to the VSO office (615 Rosita Ave., in Westcliffe) with a copy of a paid bill and docu-

mentation showing Veterans status from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on the 29th. The Veterans Trust Fund Grant program is a state grant program. The grant is administered here in Custer County by the American Legion Post 170. Call Tim Swartz Veterans Service Officer at 719-783-9470 for more information.



3151 E. Highway 50
Cañon City
1-866-598-3263



Jeep

DODGE



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*Be still
and know that I am God.*

Psalm 46:10, NIV

Sheriff's Report...

On the dates below, there were 200 calls for service to the Sheriff's Office, 13 to EMS, and 6 to the Fire Department. As of February 22nd, there were 2 males and 1 female in the county jail.

2/16/16:

Mischief: A deputy took a report of criminal mischief involving damage to a vehicle.

Fraud: A deputy took a report involving the fraudulent use of a credit card. The matter is currently under investigation.

2/17/16:

Traffic Arrest: Charles Babcock of Silver Cliff was arrested and issued a summons for driving a vehicle with a license under restraint (revoked), operating an unregistered and uninsured vehicle, and displaying fictitious license plates.

2/18/16:

Medical: EMS and a Sheriff's deputy were dispatched to Calcite Court West in Shadow Ridge for a 51-year-old female having a possible gall bladder attack. The patient was transported to Parkview Hospital in Pueblo.

Helicopter: EMS was dispatched to Highway 69N, Mile Marker 59, for an agency assist. A TriState CareFlight helicopter enroute to Denver Children's Hospital made an unscheduled landing due to the weather conditions. EMS transported the patient and the flight crew to the Pueblo Airport so the patient could be taken to Denver via fixed-wing aircraft.

The Sheriff's Office received a 911 call reporting large rocks blocking the roadway on Highway 165, mile marker 8. Dispatch reported the incident to CDOT.

Traffic Summons:

George Galmish of Cochran, PA., for speeding, 10 - 19 over.

2/19/16:

Traffic Summons: Linn Baker of Aguilar, Colorado, for speeding 10 -19 over.

Horse Issue: The Sheriff's Office received a 911 call for a female who had been bucked off a horse on CR 390 in Wetmore. Fremont Regional Communications was contacted to dispatch Florence EMS to the scene.

Theft: A deputy took a report regarding the theft of a generator on Gibbs Drive in Centennial Ranch.

Burglary: A deputy was dispatched to investigate a report of a burglary at a private residence on Highway 96 in Wetmore.

Arrest: Nora Sommers was arrested on an outstanding warrant for a violation of her bail bond by communicating with an unrelated minor.

2/20/16:

Mail Tampering: A deputy took a report from a party in the lobby of the Sheriff's Office indicating that someone had been tampering with the mail on CR 255.

Shoplifting: A deputy was dispatched to a merchant on Main Street in Silver

Cliff in response to a report of shoplifting.

Medical: A deputy was dispatched to Jake Road in Bull Domingo in response to a report of a female having suicidal and homicidal thoughts. EMS was also dispatched to the scene and the patient was transported to a hospital in Pueblo.

2/21/16:

Flight For Life: EMS was dispatched to Corral North in Beckwith Mountain Ranch for a female with an altered mental status. EMS requested Flight For Life. As a result, a Sheriff's deputy and the Wet Mountain Fire Department were dispatched to set up a landing zone for FFL. The patient was airlifted to a hospital in Pueblo.

Traffic Accident: A Sheriff's deputy, EMS and the Wet Mountain Fire Department were dispatched to Highway 69 South between mile markers 53 - 54. A vehicle traveling southbound swerved and lost the load in its truck bed. A second vehicle traveling north bound struck the 55 gallon barrels that had fallen from the truck causing significant front-end damage to the car. EMS processed a refusal to transport the passenger involved in the accident.

2/22/16:

Runaway: A deputy was dispatched to Adams Boulevard - North to investigate the report of a juvenile runaway. The juvenile was located at approximately 2050 hours.

Felony Sex Offenders in Custer County

According to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation's Sex Offender Registry website (located at www.colorado.gov/apps/cdps/sor/), there are currently eight felony sex offenders currently residing in Custer County. As stated on the web page, "This website does not list all convicted sex offenders in Colorado. The CBI does not post information concerning (1) sex offenders only convicted of misdemeanor sex offenses or (2) juveniles adjudicated for sex crimes."

The following are the

currently registered (as of 2/5/16) felony sex offenders residing in Custer County:

1. Adair, Christopher William, 430 Broadway, Silver Cliff (DOB: 11-15-1983)
2. Aiken, Benedict Davidson, 6013 County RD 328, Westcliffe (DOB: 11-03-1947)
3. Amos, David Michael, 731 South Street 5, Silver Cliff (DOB: 05-20-1972)
4. Hirsch, Alan, 645 Satanta Circle, Westcliffe

(DOB: 02-13-1945)

5. King, James Michael, 6013 County Road 328, Westcliffe (DOB: 01-03-1982)

6. Lawson, Randall L, 8911 County RD 255, Westcliffe (DOB: 12-08-1964) (Note: Multiple Offender)

7. Sockriter, Wayne Leon SR, 12 Bassick CIR, Westcliffe (DOB: 03-14-1960)

8. Yoder, Enos A, 502 County RD 114, Westcliffe (DOB: 07-09-1973)

Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

GOT SOMETHING TO SELL, TRADE OR WANT TO BUY? OUR CLASSIFIED SECTION CAN HELP YOU DO THAT. STOP BY AND SEE US AT 610 MAIN ST. WESTCLIFFE

cations are available online at custercountyschools.org or at the Administration office at 709 Main St. in Westcliffe Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. through 4 p.m. Position will remain open until filled.

For Kids

Provide your 3-10 yr. old with a fun after school activity based program “Kids Zone” at Club America, Tues & Thurs 4-6pm. \$5 drop in fee or \$30 per month. Instructor certified, background checked. More info at 783-0750.

For Sale

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

Help Wanted

The Custer County School District has an opening for middle school track coach for the 2015-2016 school year. Classified staff appli-

Sentinel Help Wanted: Computer Skills Needed

The Sangre de Cristo Sentinel is looking for a part-time layout person. Excellent, all round computer skills needed with expertise in Adobe products, especially InDesign a plus. This is an exciting, challenging and deadline oriented environment, and very rewarding. Creativity a must as well as being a “team” player.

If interested, please submit a written resume, with references, to the Sentinel at 610 Main Street, Westcliffe, 81252. If you have any questions, please come to the Sentinel office on Wednesdays or call 783-3360.

Real Estate

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since 1982**

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your ad!**

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

Court Report...

McIntosh, Milissa F.:
Charges of operating an
unregistered vehicle and
operating an uninsured
vehicle were **DISMISSED**.

Kniggr, Darnell K.:
Charged with illegal pos-
session of wildlife. Plead
guilty. Assessed \$1,414.50.
Deferred sentence.

Latona, Kyle: Charged
with possession/consump-
tion of alcohol by a person
under the age of 21.
**MOTION TO DISMISS
GRANTED.**

Larary, Jason Clair:
A charge of unlawful
display of license plates
DISMISSED BY DA. A
charge of non-operating
tail lamp was **DISMISSED
BY THE DA.** A charge of
operating a vehicle with
no insurance was **DIS-
MISSED BY THE DA.** A
charge of driving under
restraint was **DISMISSED
BY THE DA.** Defendant
plead guilty to a charge of
driving under the influ-
ence. Deferred sentence.
Assessed \$1,282.50. Must
complete alcohol evalua-
tion and treatment.

Jones, Aaron Merval:
Charge of disorderly
conduct: **MOTION TO
DISMISS WAS GRANT-
ED.** Charges of violation
of protection order and vi-
olation of bail conditions:
**MOTION TO DISMISS
WAS GRANTED.**

Ward, Jason: Plead guilty
to a charge of harass-
ment. Deferred sentence.
Assessed \$891.50. Must
complete domestic
violence counseling. No
alcohol, marijuana or
weapons.

McNeal, Douglas Lee Jr.:
A charge of harassment
via telephone threats was
**DISMISSED BY THE
DA.** A charge of tres-
passing was **DISMISSED
BY THE DA.** Defendant
plead guilty to a charge
of violating protection
order. Assessed \$1,193.50.
Must complete domestic
violence counseling and
comply with a protection
order.

Rodger, Andrew Stephen:
Charged with driving
under restraint, operating
a vehicle with a defective
tail lamp and failing to

present insurance upon
request. **MOTION TO
DISMISS ALL CHARGES
GRANTED.**

Lundsdtedt, Kathy Ann:
Charge of driving under
the influence was **DIS-
MISSED BY THE DA.**
Defendant plead guilty
to driving while abili-
ty impaired. Assessed
\$1,224.45.

Skinner, Jennifer Joi:
Charges of driving under
restraint, defective tail
lamps and using ex-
pired license plates were
**DISMISSED BY THE
DA.** Defendant plead
guilty to failing to present
insurance upon request.
Assessed \$509.50.

Thomas, Tanner Anison:
Charged with careless
driving. **MOTION TO
DISMISS GRANTED.**

Pringle, Tyler Lee:
Charges of driving without
a license, having an ob-
structed windshield, using
an expired license plate
and having no insurance.
**MOTION TO DIMSSS
ALL CHARGES GRANT-
ED.**

Events Calendar

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, Feb. 12, 13, & 14
7:30 p.m. on Fri & Sat, & 2 p.m. on Sun.
The Jones Theater: “*The Revenant*”

Monday February 29
9 a.m. Commissioner’s meeting in the Board-
room

Tuesday, Wednesday March 8 & 9
9 a.m. Commissioner’s meeting in the Board-
room

Tuesday March 9
4:30 p.m. School Board meeting in the Library

Friday March 11
6:30 - 10:30 p.m. Wet Mountain Valley Saddle
Club. Save the date and join us for the special
event!

Saturday March 12
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Indoor Farmer’s Market
2nd Street Kitchen/Porth Building,
103 S. 2nd St.

Recurring Events

Monday
6 p.m. Closed step study Alcoholics Anon-
ymous at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in
Westcliffe. Call Jim:783-2053 or (360)509-
9172 or Emilie: (719) 371-5974.
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Custer County Public Transit
service available to everyone - Wet Moun-
tain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343.
7:55 a.m. High Altitude Training, 9:00 a.m.
Water Aerobics, 10:15 a.m. Stretch, 11:30
a.m. Muscles, 1:00 p.m. Low Impact, 5:15
p.m. Step Aerobics, at Club America
Noon: Lunch at Custer County Senior Center,
on the first floor of Silver Cliff Town Hall.
Call 783-9508 to RSVP by 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Lighthouse Pregnancy
Resources in Silver Cliff assisting new
mothers and families. Free pregnancy tests,
ultrasound, counseling, and more. Call
783-4357.

1st and 3rd Mondays
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Writers group at the
Library. If you write or would like to start
writing, please join us in the Community
Room for peer editing, feedback, ideas,
comradery, and more.

Tuesday
9:15 a.m. Stretch, 10:30 a.m. Zumba,10:30
a.m. Chair Strength 4:00 p.m. Kids zone
after school 5:00 p.m. Core Conditioning
at Club America
12 – 4:30 p.m. Bridge Club meets in the
Library Community Room in downtown
Westcliffe,
6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Music at The Mining Compa-
ny Restaurant in Silver Cliff. Contact Barb
St. Amour at (719) 371-1051.
10 a.m. -5:30 p.m. West Custer County Li-
brary in Westcliffe is open. 783-9138.
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Custer County Public Transit
service available to everyone - Wet Moun-
tain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343.
Noon: Lunch at Custer County Senior Center
on the first floor of Silver Cliff Town Hall.
Call 783-9508 to RSVP by 9:30 a.m.

First Tuesday of the Month
6:30 p.m. at Cliff Lanes-American Legion
Post 170 monthly meeting.
6:45 p.m. Post 170 Auxiliary monthly meet-
ing (March-October) at the Saddle Club.

First Wednesday of the Month
7 p.m. ROCKY MOUNTAIN BACK COUN-
TRY HORSEMEN at the Penrose Commu-
nity Center, 401 4th Ave, Penrose.

Wednesday
7:55 a.m. High Altitude Training, 10:00 a.m.
Low Impact,5:15 p.m. Step Aerobics at
Club America
10 a.m. -5:30 p.m. West Custer County Li-
brary in Westcliffe is open. 783-9138.
9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Line dancers meet at Meth-
odist Church. Call Clem: (303) 909-7370.
6 p.m. Closed Big Book Study Alcoholics
Anonymous meeting - St. Luke’s Episcopal
Church, Westcliffe. Call Jim: 783-2053 or
(360)509-9172, or Emilie: (719) 371-5974.
6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Custer County Community
Band practice in high school band room.
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Custer County Public Transit
service available to everyone - Wet Moun-
tain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343.

Last Wednesday of the month
11 a.m. Book Club meeting at the West Custer
County Library. Open to the Public.

Thursday
9:00 a.m. Water Aerobics, 9:15 a.m. Yoga,
10:30 a.m. Zumba,10:30 a.m. Chair
Strength, 4 p.m. Kids Zone after school
program 5 p.m. Core Conditioning at Club
America
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Custer County Public Transit
service available to everyone - Wet Moun-
tain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343.
10 a.m. -5:30 p.m. West Custer County Li-
brary in Westcliffe is open. 783-9138.
Noon: Lunch at Custer County Senior Center,
on the first floor of Silver Cliff Town Hall.
Call 783-9508 to RSVP by 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Lighthouse Pregnancy
Resources in Silver Cliff assisting new
mothers and families. Free pregnancy tests,
ultrasound, counseling, and more. Call
783-4357.

First Thursday of the Month
4:15 - 6 p.m. at the West Custer County Li-
brary, Computer help for adults. Need help
using your computer or other computer-re-
lated things? Come to the library on the first
Thursday of the month and receive one-on-
one instruction from local teens, FREE!

Second Thursday of the Month
9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Veterans Service Office is
open, walk-ins are welcome but appoint-
ments recommended. 615 Rosita Ave. in
Westcliffe. Call 783-9470
10 a.m.-11 a.m. “Ask a Nurse” at the library.

Friday
7:55 a.m. High Altitude Training, 9:00 a.m.
Water Aerobics, 9:15 a.m. Stretch, 10:30
a.m. Muscles, 10:30 a.m. Kids Zone after
school program at Club America
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Custer County Public Transit
service available to everyone - Wet Moun-
tain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343.
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Lighthouse Pregnancy
Resources in Silver Cliff assisting new
mothers and families. Free pregnancy tests,
ultrasound, counseling, and more. Call
783-4357.
10 a.m. -5:30 p.m. West Custer County Li-
brary in Westcliffe is open. 783-9138.
1 p.m.-4p.m. Custer County Community
Sharing Center, Inc. 120 N. 3rd St.
(formerly Schlabach’s market)
6 p.m. Open discussion Alcoholics Anon-
ymous meeting - St. Luke’s Episcopal
Church. Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-
9172 or Emilie at (719) 371-5974.
7 p.m.-8 p.m. Bible Talks with Domenic Enri-
etta and John Hartig at the Library Commu-
nity Room. All Welcome No charge.

Saturday
10 a.m. Wet Mountain Al-Anon Family
Group meets at St. Luke’s Episcopal
Church. Call Dee (719) 404-1851 or Jean
(719) 371-1229.
10 a.m.-2 p.m. West Custer County Library in
Westcliffe is open. 783-9138.
2 p.m. Laughter Yoga at the West Custer
County Library open to the public.
3 p.m. Open Drum Circle at the West Custer
County Library. All ages welcome! If you
have a drum, please bring it. We will have
a few spares
1 p.m.-4p.m.Custer County Community Shar-
ing Center, Inc. 120 N. 3rd St.
(formerly Schlabach’s market)

*But seek first the kingdom of
God and His righteousness,
and all these things
shall be added to you.*

Matthew 6:33, NKJV



Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES



PUBLIC NOTICE COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 16-15

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:

On December 9, 2015, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Custer records.

Original Grantor(s): Julius T Vizzi
Original Beneficiary(ies): Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt: The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee (CWALT 2005-06CB)
Date of Deed of Trust: February 16, 2005
County of Recording: Custer
Recording Date of Deed of Trust: February 18, 2005
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.): 200676 Book: 517 Page: 169
Original Principal Amount: \$359,650.00
Outstanding Principal Balance: \$334,842.46

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

ASPEN VALLEY AT LOOKOUT RIDGE, COUNTY OF CUSTER, STATE OF COLORADO
Also known by street and number as: 1450 Ridge Road, Westcliffe, CO 81252.

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE

The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 04/06/2016, at the office of the Custer County Public Trustee, 205 South 6th Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication 2/12/2016

Last Publication 3/11/2016
Name of Publication Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, CO

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

IF THE BORROWER BELIEVES THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN SECTION 38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN SECTION 38-38-103.2, THE BORROWER MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE FEDERAL CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB), OR BOTH. THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS.

Colorado Attorney General
1300 Broadway, 10th Floor
Denver, Colorado 80203
(800) 222-4444
www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov

Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
P.O. Box 4503
Iowa City, Iowa 52244
(855) 411-2372
www.consumerfinance.gov

DATE: 12/09/2015
Virginia Trujillo, Public Trustee in and for the County of Custer, State of Colorado

By: Virginia Trujillo, Public Trustee

The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:
Karen J. Radakovich, Esq., #A.R. #11649
Frascona Joiner Goodman and Greenstein PC 4750 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder, CO 80305-5575 (303) 494-3000
Attorney File # 7192-7500

The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE AT TAX LIEN SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED 2012101

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having an Interest or Title of Record in or to the said Premises and To Whom It May Concern, and more especially to

E W BASSICK
E C BASSICK
EDMUND C BASSICK

You and each of you are hereby notified that on

the 16th day of November A.D. 2012, the then County Treasurer of the County of Custer, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax lien sale to Tracy C Dickson III, the following described real estate situate in the County of Custer, State of Colorado, to-wit:

AN UNDIVIDED ¾ INTEREST IN THE AUGUSTA LODGE MINING CLAIM, MINERAL SURVEY #281 EMBRACING A PORTION OF SECTIONS 16 AND 21, TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 71 WEST OF THE 6TH PM

and said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to Tracy C Dickson III;

That said tax lien sale was made to satisfy the delinquent taxes assessed against said real estate for the year 2011;

That said real estate was taxed or specially assessed in the name of E W Bassick for said year 2011;

That said Tracy C Dickson III, on the 12th day of October, 2015, the present holder of said certificate, (who) has made a request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said real estate;

That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said real estate to the said Tracy C Dickson III at 10:00 o'clock AM., on the 16th day of June, A.D. 2016, unless the same has been redeemed.

Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 22nd day of February, A.D. 2016.

Suzanne Coleman
Custer County Deputy Treasurer
For Virginia Trujillo, Treasurer

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Custer County Planning Commission will hold a public meeting on March 8, 2016 at 1:30 P.M. Custer County Courtroom. The following will be considered.

1. Hearing for Robb, Trilling and Oldendorf/Vacation of parcel lines and Replat, Custer County Colorado.
2. Hearing for Bradley/Vacation of parcel lines and Replat

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

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

Ordered published by
Vic Barnes, Chairman
Custer County Planning Commission
Publish, February 26th and March 4, 2016



Sandra Attebery

Candidate for
County Commissioner
District 2

I respectfully ask the republican voters of Custer County that will be participating in the county caucus March 1, 2016 and the county assembly March 8, 2016 for your support to place me on the ballot for County Commissioner District 2.

Paid for by the candidate.



"No matter how fantastic or great of a deal you think you've made, if you make that deal with the devil, you always end up in hell."

Anonymous

Sponsored by Critical Path Metalworks, Westcliffe, Colorado

Local Mountain News & Notices

Spotlight on Business

GP Power Systems Serving Custer County Since 1992

by Carol Clemenson

Glenn and Peggy Miller have been in this community for as long as I can remember.

They have been married for twenty-six years and have three daughters and eight grandchildren. This family is a very close knit and a very loving family.

Glenn and Peggy ran Miller Automotive, located on Main Street in Westcliffe, for twenty two years. Many of their customers became close friends of the Millers. Being Christians, their motto was always, "Treat others like you want to be treated".

Glenn had some major medical problems a few years ago and had several neck surgeries, which resulted in him having to sell their business. Working on vehicles was not easy for him to do any more. He still has severe pain with his neck, but has learned to manage the pain.

While operating Miller Automotive, the Millers also sold Kohler and Honda generators with Glenn being a certified mechan-



Glenn Miller of GP Power Systems

Sentinel photo by Carol Clemenson

ic for both brands. After the sale of Miller Automotive, Glenn started a new business specializing in just Kohler generators, GP Power Systems. (Glenn still does some small engine and ATV repairs.)

Glenn likes the Kohler line of generators, especially for home backup power. Their high quality, surge protection and easy to use diagnostics provide excellent value for the cost.

For additional information please contact Glenn at 719-371-8625.

Music Meadows Ranch

Looking for a fun winter adventure in Westcliffe? Music Meadows Ranch offers guided horseback winter tours. This winter adventure gives you, your family and friends the opportunity to ride through snow-blanketed aspen trees and valleys at the base of the Sangre De Cristo Mountains. Experienced ranch wranglers will guide your ride on the 4,000 acre working cattle ranch, family owned and operated by the Parker Family. More than an ordinary "nose to tail" trail ride, Music Meadows Ranch will tailor the ride to the experience level of the rider, from beginners to experienced. For longer excursions, overnight lodging is also available at Music Meadows Ranch. The 100-year old ranch house has recently been remodeled and comfortably sleeps nine guests. Rides are avail-



Music Meadows Ranch offers guided horseback tours.

Courtesy photo

able for 2-hours, half-day or full-day, open year-round. For all ride and lodging reservations and information, visit the website www.musicmeadows.com or call (719) 783-2222.

Film Debut, Fund Raiser a Great Success

by George Gramlich

Well over 100 people showed up at a Tony's Mountain Pizza last Saturday, February 20, to watch the western debut of Canyon Trails, a new, old fashioned, western cowboy movie that was partially filmed in Custer County. The ten dollar donation at the door was for our very own Eagles Summit Ranch where our wounded warriors receive therapy.

Sam and Carol Hepp, owners of Tony's Mountain Pizza, graciously donated their beautiful special events hall for the evening with virtually every chair taken. And special thanks to local resident, Paul Sage, who made substantial repairs and improvements to the projection system for this showing.

Three of our local actors that played in the movie, Carol Clemenson, Michael Stew-



Local actors featured prominently in Canyon Trail, including, left to right, Neal Ohmart, Carol Clemenson, and Michael Stewart.

Sentinel photo by George Gramlich

art, and Neal Ohmart gave a brief speeches before the showing and Beverly and Jerry Shoemaker, Directors of Eagles Summit Ranch gave a presentation on what the ranch does for our wounded soldiers.

The crowd came alive when scenes from The Pines Ranch, The Beckwith Ranch, Lake DeWeese and other locals were shown. It was a beautifully filmed movie.

The company that made the movie, Skeleton Creek Productions, out of Oklahoma, has indicated they will be coming back to Custer County for future productions.

Valley Ace Hardware Celebrates National Customer Satisfaction Award

via Donna Durling,
Valley Ace Hardware

Ace Hardware's J.D. Power Award Neighborhood Tour is headed to a store near you. Valley Ace Hardware of Westcliffe is celebrating Ace Hardware ranking "Highest Customer Satisfaction with Home Improvement Retail Stores" for the ninth year in a row by hosting a customer appreciation event on March 22nd from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event is part

of a cross-country tour celebrating Ace's achievement by taking all nine J.D. Power trophies on the road, visiting 28 states and more than 175 neighborhood Ace Hardware stores between September 2015 and April 2016, covering over 24,000 miles.

During the event, customers will have the opportunity to take a photo with the prestigious J.D. Power trophies, as well as have the opportunity to win prizes

and take advantage of in-store promotions in appreciation for their continued support for locally owned businesses like Valley Ace. Customers will be able to enjoy free hotdogs and drinks at the event.

For more information, please feel free to contact Donna Durling at Valley Ace Hardware at 719-783-9054 or via email at donna@valleyacehardware.com.

Ride with us to the Franklin Graham Prayer Rally at the Capitol Steps in Denver March 15, 2016

The Royal Gorge Tea Party has rented a tour bus for \$25 per person.

Slightly more if the bus is not filled.

For more information and to make a reservation contact Ed Whitcraft with the Royal Gorge Tea Party at 719-275-0987 (home), 719-640-1226 (cell), or the Crusader at 719-345-3333.



Franklin Graham is coming to Denver at the State Capital Steps on March 15, 2016 at noon. For those who can't attend, Pastor Jim Modlish will have a Prayer Rally at the Huerfano Community Bible Church, 603 Leon St. in Walsenburg on the same day starting at 12 noon. He is inviting the community to join him and all pray for the DECISION OF AMERICA. All will be praying with Pastor Graham. The State of Colorado will have prayer at both ends of the state. Please come and join Pastor Jim.

Youth Basketball

Take a Look at the Future Bobcats!





Here’s How Many Unaffiliated Voters Became Dems Before the Colorado Deadline

by Corey Hutchins,
The Colorado Independent

During a February 3 event for Bernie Sanders in Colorado Springs, field director Josh Phillips told supporters the campaign had convinced 3,000 non-Democratic voters to change their registration and become Democrats before a January 4 deadline so they could caucus for Sanders on March 1, 2016.

If true, that’s a majority of voters who made the switch— at least from being unaffiliated— across Colorado in the three months leading up to the deadline.

Between October 1 and January 4, a total of 4,402 unaffiliated voters switched over to the Democratic Party. That’s 769 more than switched from unaffiliated to the Republican side. More registered Democrats actually switched parties to become Republicans in Colorado between those dates than the other way around.

Here’s the breakdown of par-

ty affiliation changes from October 1 to the January 4 deadline, according to figures The Colorado Independent obtained from the Secretary of State’s office:

1. 4,402 unaffiliated voters became Democrats
2. 3,633 unaffiliated voters became Republicans
3. 1,707 Democrats became Republicans
4. 1,357 Republicans became Democrats
5. 5,915 voters changed to the Democratic Party from either another party or being unaffiliated
6. 5,581 voters changed to Republican from either another party or being unaffiliated

Vermont’s Sanders is the longest serving Independent U.S. senator, but is campaigning as a Democrat for president.

In December, a Sanders Western Slope organizer, Michael Gibson, told us, “A lot of the Bernie Sanders fans are independents who have registered with the

Democratic Party for the first time,” and that Sanders had “a huge following among independents.”

Gibson said there was a big push in Colorado to persuade those feeling the Bern to become Democrats so they could be part of the early process, or at least make these voters aware of that January 4 deadline to do so. He said he worried at the time if voters didn’t know they’d feel disenfranchised come the March 1 caucus day.

Dulce Saenz, state director for the Bernie Sanders campaign in Colorado, says a lot of the credit for pushing the party-switching news to non-Democratic voters before the January 4 deadline should go to volunteer grassroots organizers across the state.

Reprinted with Permission. Please see: <http://www.coloradoindependent.com/157582/heres-how-many-unaffiliated-voters-became-dems-before-the-colorado-deadline>

Bill to Remove Students’ Test Scores From Teacher Evaluations Shot Down

by Johnny Kamps,
Colorado Watchdog.Org

A bill that could have eliminated Colorado’s requirement that teachers be evaluated by how well their students fare on standardized tests was shot down Thursday.

The state’s Senate Education Committee voted 6-3 against SB 16-105. The no votes included two Republican members of the committee who originally signed on as co-sponsors — Sen. Vicki Marble, R-Fort Marble, and Sen. Laura Woods, R-Thorn-ton.

SB 16-105 would have shed a requirement that half of a teacher’s evaluation be determined by student improvement on standardized tests, but districts could use test scores to count for up to 20 percent of each teacher’s evaluation.

Colorado switched to Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers tests in 2015, now taken by all public school students, including charter school pupils. No state testing growth data is being used to evaluate teachers this year because of the change. Instead, districts are using locally chosen measures.

The legislation’s primary sponsor — Sen. Mike Merrifield, D-Colorado Springs — introduced a similar bill last year, but it also never got out of the Senate Education Committee. A retired music teacher, Merrifield served four terms in the Colorado House, including chairing the House Education Committee.

Merrifield did not respond to requests for comment, but he has cited research critical of the practice of using test scores to measure teacher effectiveness. He said other factors, such as class size, instructional time and teachers in earlier grades are more important factors.

“This is not a valid method to evaluate teachers,” Merrifield told his fellow committee members Thursday. “We are not doing away with teacher evaluation. We are trying to change it so it is more fair and useful.”

Luke Ragland, vice president of policy at Colorado Succeeds, a nonpartisan coalition of business leaders dedicated to improving the state’s education system, told Watchdog.org that his group was “strongly opposed” to the legislation and “will be working hard to ensure we don’t rollback the sensible reforms in SB-191.”

SB 10-191, passed in 2010, is the law that created the current teacher evaluation system.

In remarks to the committee Thursday, Ragland said top-performing teachers, “as measured by objective measures of student growth,” are proven to have a major impact on students’ academic performance.

He said eliminating that provision is a bad idea.

“The resulting system would take us back to a time when a teacher’s effectiveness — the most important factor for student achievement — was not measured, recorded or used to inform deci-

sion-making in any meaningful way.”

Ragland noted that a study last year found that Colorado districts rated their educators very highly when objective measures of student growth were not used. The 26 districts that participated in the study rated 97 percent of teachers and 95 percent of principals as meeting or exceeding standards. Because SB 10-191 hasn’t yet been fully implemented there is no baseline metric to which to compare that study.

Merrifield’s bill would also have allowed districts to exempt principals and teachers rated effective or highly effective from annual reviews. Those educators would have to be evaluated every three years.

Using test scores to measure teacher effectiveness is strongly opposed by most teachers and their unions. Data from the National Institute on Money in State Politics show the Colorado Education Association has given numerous contributions to the three Democratic senators on the committee who voted for the bill. Merrifield received \$18,250 from 2000-14, Sen. Nancy Todd, D-Aurora, got \$14,975 from 2004-12 and Sen. Andy Kerr, D-Lakewood, received \$20,175 from 2006-14.

(Editor/GG: Yup, another lib dem protecting incompetent teachers. The children are just a prop.)

Please see: <http://watchdog.org/257302/test-scores-teacher-evaluation/>

Expert: Reversing Clean Power Plan About ‘Keeping the Lights on’ for Colorado Economy

by Arthur Kane, *Watchdog.Org*

The Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan rules will slow the Colorado economy, raise electricity rates and barely make a dent in carbon dioxide emissions, opponents and experts on the plan told an audience at the Independence Institute on Tuesday.

“Clean power alone will add billions if not tens of billions of costs to individual consumers and the American economy,” said Gregory Conko, executive director of the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI).

Myron Ebell, CEI’s director of the Center for Energy and Environment released a state-by-state comparison showing Colorado’s 9.49 cents per kilowatt hour is lower than the national average of 10.11 cents. But he said California, which has extensive power plant regulation and has consumers paying 15.11 cents, is a warning for the rest of the country if the Clean Power Plan is instituted.

“This is about keeping the lights on for America’s economy, for Colorado’s economy,” he said, adding any additional costs for energy will take away consumer purchasing power for other goods.

Ray Gifford, a former Colorado Public Utilities Commission chairman under Republican Gov. Bill Owens and a Denver attorney, echoed those sentiments, saying hopes for the U.S. Supreme Court permanently blocking the rule may have died with Justice Antonin Scalia.

“The Supreme Court stayed the rule for now,” he said. “But we lost Justice Scalia

last weekend, and now we have a 5-4 stay deadlocked at 4-4.”

Twenty-nine state attorneys general and public utilities commissions – including Colorado’s AG – are fighting the rules in court. The Supreme Court returned the case to a lower court. It likely will not be back before the high court until the next session, at the earliest. Any new justice will probably provide the deciding vote.

The Clean Power Plan (CPP) requires energy companies to reduce CO₂ emissions by 30 percent by 2030, using cleaner energy technology, a switch from coal to natural gas and more renewable energy sources. In Colorado, the plan is to reduce emissions from 2,000 tons per megawatt hour to 1,174 – a roughly 40 percent reduction.

Conko said the rules, if fully applied, would reduce global warming only .002 of a degree over the next 100 years.

The EPA would not respond to the specific contentions from CPP opponents but pointed Watchdog.org to a fact sheet that claims electricity costs will be reduced by the new rules.

“Because the Clean Power Plan will reduce energy waste and improve efficiency, we expect average electricity bills will be cut by seven percent,” the website said. “That means that by 2030, the average American family will save \$7 on their electric bill every month.”

Please see: watchdog.org/256850/expert-reversing-clean-power-plan-keeping-lights-economy/

Lights On! Colowyo Gets Go-Ahead for New Mining Expansion

by *ColoradoPeakPolitics.com*

Good news for Colorado mining, and no, this isn’t a joke — the BLM is giving the Colowyo Coal mine the go-ahead for the Collum Area Development Project, which means 220 jobs for folks in the Northwest part of the state.

The feds say they will issue a finding of “no significant impact” on the project, but won’t give the full go-ahead until all of the Astroturf lobbying

comments submitted by environmentalists have been reviewed.

The final decision will be made before President Obama leaves office at the end of the year, which means we expect there will be a lot of additional hoops the company will have to jump through before it’s all over and done with, because grouse.

Sage grouse.

The company has agreed to provide new habitat for the bird, which is probably

why the feds are letting them move ahead with the new mining project.

The polite term, we believe, is extortion wildlife mitigation.

It’s what all those crazy kids are having to submit to nowadays in order to keep the lights on.

Reprinted with Permission. Please see: <http://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2016/02/17/lights-on-colowyo-gets-go-ahead-for-new-mining-expansion/>



Colorado State News



"Takin' It To The House..." A Calendar And Commentary From The Golden Dome

From: Representative
Jim Wilson – HD 60
February 21, 2016

It was another week of non-contentious bills making it to the House floor. Very few bills had many dissenting votes in either the 2nd or 3rd readings. The word around the Capitol (in both chambers) is that the "hand grenade" bills will start appearing in the next couple of weeks. ("Hand grenade" bills are those bills that force the other party into recorded votes on issues that can be used against vulnerable candidates in this election cycle. You know – open the door, throw in a hand grenade, close the door, let it blow up -- then open the door to see who is left standing...) Be sure to listen for the explosions under the Golden Dome in the coming weeks!

One of the contentious bills making its way through the process is HB16-1054, currently known as the "End of Life Options for Terminally Ill Individuals" bill.

A couple of weeks ago, the bill survived a LONG committee hearing on a party line (6D-5R) vote. It was scheduled to be heard on the House floor, but an interesting dilemma has occurred – the D's do not have the votes on their side of the aisle to get it through the House. Now, one of the Democrat co-sponsors wants to force a vote to get both D's and R's on record, while the other co-sponsor is saying something to the effect of, "Let's not put our side of the aisle in the bind of voting against one of our bills – it will not look good for their election efforts." Hmmm – hand grenades blow both ways...

For all you "puffers" (the name given to those of us who start our vehicles early on cold mornings), help may be on the way. Current law prohibits the idling of an unattended vehicle. HB16-1122 would allow an exception for vehicles with a remote starter system. The bill passed out of the House on Thursday – Puffers, start your engines!

I was excited that my bill (HB16-1106: "County Authority To Designate Pioneer Trail") passed out of the Local Government Committee this week on a unanimous 11-0! This bill allows counties to identify and designate pioneer trails within their area. Excellent testimony from Custer and Park Counties, as well as from a direct descendant of Zebulon Pike himself, convinced the committee members of the value of the bill. HB16-1106 will now move on to 2nd reading on the House floor.

The week ended on a high note for me, as I became a Grandpa again! Our youngest daughter gave birth Friday evening to a beautiful baby girl named Remy. She arrived early, but completely healthy – I do not think her Mom and Dad's feet have touched the ground yet! When one gets to witness the miracle of life and how much we are blessed in our lives, it puts the "chaos at the Capitol" in perspective.



Life is a precious, miraculous thing that we all too often take for granted. I am so glad that God reminded me again of what is really important each and every day. (Oh, and I do have pictures...)

As always, feel free to call my office in the Capitol at 303-866-2747 or e-mail: wilsonforhd60@gmail.com or james.wilson.house@state.co.us.

Yours for HD 60,
Representative Jim Wilson

KEVIN
GRANTHAM
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 2

Dome to Home: Day 38 Update

Here's a quick update on what's been going on here at the Colorado State Capitol.



Bills are steamrolling through the House and Senate, the JBC has passed 2015-16 Supplemental appropriations out of the House and they're nearly through the Senate. Before we know it, it'll be time for the 2016-17 Long Bill.

With the controversy that hit Canon City High School not too long ago involving students and sexting, I recently teamed up with Donald Zuckerman and the Colorado Film Commission to help to release 6 PSA's, two of which are in Spanish, set to air to warn students about the dangers of sexting. You can read the press release and view the PSA's here.

With that, I have been in the media lately to help raise awareness not only of the PSA's, but to parents and students and to try to encourage involvement to stop sexting across the state. The problem of student sexting is not limited to just Canon City High or even Colorado, it is a nationwide problem and my hope is these PSA's will help start discussions and get kids to ask "is it worth it?" I appeared on Good Day Colorado and CBS Denver and was featured in articles in the Canon City Daily Record, Denver Post, and KOAA 5 in Colorado Springs/Pueblo.

I've had a couple more of my bills heard in committee. SB55, SB73, SB124, and HB1069 all made it out of committee unanimously. SB55: Rural Electric Cooperative Election Procedures is a bill that allows rural electric cooperative elections better procedures in order to conduct their elections more fairly and efficiently and clarifies some issues regarding the election process. SB73: "State Auditor Authority Audit State Historic Fund Distribution." This bill requires the State Auditor to conduct post-audits and performance audits of the limited gaming funds that are transferred to the State Historical Fund for the preservation and restoration of the gaming cities of Central, Black Hawk, and Cripple Creek. SB124: "Machine Tools Sales Tax Exempt Recovered Material's which would extend the state sales and use tax exemption to machinery or machine tools purchased by a business to process recovered materials. And finally, HB1069: "Allow City to Set Housing Authority Commn Term Length." This bill allows city councils to determine, by resolution, the term length served by their housing authority commissioners. If a city council does not set a term length, the commissioners continue to serve five-year terms. The challenge cities have are finding persons to serve on such authorities due to length of the terms of commissioners.

My office has received many phone calls and emails from constituents like you asking me to support SB17: "Concealed Handgun Carry without Permit" or in other words, Constitutional carry. I just want to say I am in support of this bill as I am all the bills which allows Colorado citizens to exercise their Second Amendment Rights and I will be a yes vote when this bill comes to the floor.

Many of you have also inquired into the state of our Transportation infrastructure and transportation funding. Please read this recent Gazette article by Senator Baumgardner and myself that addresses this topic.

As always, please continue to share your thoughts, comments, opinions, and problems with my office. You can reach me at kevin.grantham.senate@state.co.us or call (303) 866-4877.

In Liberty,
Senator Kevin J. Grantham

Colorado Electricity Rates Skyrocket

by The Energy Policy
Center
at the Independence Institute

(Editor/GG: Below are some excerpts from their article published February 15, 2016. See the web address at the bottom of the article to see the whole, depressing picture. This is where progressive, nutcase, climate change advocates' policies hit reality - in our wallets. And with them, its always with somebody else's money.)

Across all sectors of Colorado the cost of electricity has skyrocketed more than 67 percent between 2001 and 2014, easily exceeding median income growth and the expected rate of inflation for the same period, an extended analysis of government energy records by the Independence Institute has revealed.

For all sectors between 2001 and 2014, the cost per kilowatt-hour jumped from just over 6 cents to more than 10 cents, or 67.11 percent.

Data obtained by the Independence Institute from the Energy Information Administration and the U.S. Census Bureau showed an increase in electricity rates for residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation sectors throughout the state contributing to the across-the-board growth in prices. In November, the Energy Policy Center reported a staggering increase

of 63 percent for residential customers in Colorado.

"Retail residential electricity rates increased from 7.47 cents per kilowatt-hour in 2001 to 12.18 cents per kilowatt-hour by 2014, a 63.1 percent hike. Coloradans' median income, however, went up just 24.1 percent, from \$49,397 to \$61,303. Median income in Colorado actually declined between 2008 and 2012," the report concluded. It also noted that the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics projected just a 34 percent increase in inflation for the 14 year period, using the agency's CPI inflation calculator.

Analysis from the earlier November report on residential electricity rates stands confirmed and, indeed, underscored:

It's clear from the data that Coloradans' income is not keeping pace with almost continuous electricity price increases over the past 15 years, consistently outpacing the rate of inflation. Colorado's ratepayers have had to endure two economic recessions over that period, while feeling no relief from escalating energy prices driven by onerous regulations driving energy costs ever higher.

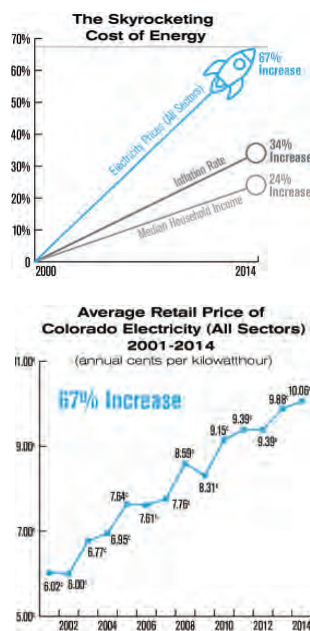
From fuel-switching and renewable mandates to other costly regulations imposed by state and federal agencies, Colorado's ratepayers and taxpayers alike have been subject to policies that

do not consider energy affordability or reliability as a primary concern. The most vulnerable communities—elderly, minorities, and the poor—are the most sensitive to even the smallest increases in energy costs.

Not to mention the state's many business owners, including small business owners, who face the same hikes in energy costs that could force decisions like layoffs or relocation to nearby states, where energy costs are lower. This reduces job growth and harms the state's economy twice, with increased business costs passed on to consumers—the same ratepayers who already are paying more at the meter.

Upshot: the data for the remaining sectors emphasizes the double impact that increased energy costs have in the form of rapidly escalating electricity rates on Colorado ratepayers, who see not only their own personal energy costs rise, but are hit a second time by commercial, industrial, and transportation charges that are "baked into" the cost of providing goods and services that are passed on to consumers.

William Yeatman, senior fellow of environmental policy and energy markets at the Competitive Enterprise Institute and author of the Independence Institute's 2012 Cost Analysis of the New Energy Economy, said in the November report that given the current regulatory



climate, things "could get much worse."

"The best explanation for this confounding upward trend in utility bills nationwide is the Obama's administration's war on coal. Colorado, alas, was well ahead of the curve on the war on coal, which explains much of why the state's rate increases are presently so much greater than the nationwide average," Yeatman said.

Part of the war on coal, the Environmental Protection Agency finalized the Clean Power Plan in August 2015.

The policy battle over the EPA's Clean Power Plan, and the future of Colorado's

See SKYROCKET
on page 16

Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

IMPORTANT DATES IN FREMONT

School Board Meetings:

**Cañon City
Fremont RE-1**
*2nd and 4th Mon
5:30 p.m.
101 N. 14th St., 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 Thursday
6:30 p.m.
Core Knowledge
School Gymnasium,
890 Fields Ave.
Cañon City
www.royalgorgetea-
party.com*

**Fremont
Republican
Central
Committee**
*4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
603 Main Street*

**Southern
Colorado
Survivors**
*1st Sat at 10 a.m.
El Alazan
Mexican Restaurant
1925 Fremont Dr.
Cañon City*

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St. Patrick's Day Ceili

by Charlotte Burrous

It's been said everybody is a little bit Irish on St. Patrick's Day. If what they say is true, individuals and couples will enjoy the Museum of Colorado Prisons' Sixth Annual St. Patrick's Day Ceili on March 12th at the Abbey Event Center.

"This is our annual fundraiser because we are a 501c3 and (it helps to) keep us open," said Museum Administrator Stacy Cline.

The festivities kick off at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. During that hour, the Serendipity Peak Players will entertain the crowd with a plethora of dulcimer songs. The crowd is in for a treat when the Celtic Steps, of Colorado Springs, take center stage to perform a variety of Irish dances. In

conjunction, the group will pull attendees from the audience to provide lessons during the event. And if that's not enough, there will be drawings for a variety of prizes.

"There will be a traditional Irish dinner," Cline said. "It's going to be corned beef and cabbage. The chef at the Abbey does such a phenomenal job. It was (so tender) last year."

Attendees are encouraged to dress up in their green attire and dust off their dancing shoes to participate in a night of frolic and fun.

Established in 1987, the Museum of Colorado Prisons has been in the planning stages since 1983.

"It took an act of the Senate to allow the Prison Foundation to run a museum out of

the old Women's Prison," Cline added. "Senate Act 100."

Opened in 1935, the facility operated as an active women's prison until 1968 when it moved to the east side of Cañon City and later to the Denver area.

"We're very unique," Cline said. "We are the only prison museum that happens to be in an old prison and shares a wall with an active prison, not just any prison; it started out as a federal territory prison so we're very unique."

Tickets are \$35 per person or \$240 for a table of eight and may be picked up at the museum at 201 N. First St., the Abbey at 2951 E. U.S. 50 or at the Dungeon's Inc. at 503 Main St. For more information, call 269-3015.

Florence City Council Lifts Ban on Marijuana and Hemp Facilities

by Charlotte Burrous

Without much ado, the Florence City Council approved an ordinance lifting the ban on marijuana and hemp testing facilities in Florence during its regular schedule meeting on February 16th.

"It is the desire of the City Council to allow licensed marijuana testing facilities in Florence to analyze and certify the safety and potency of marijuana, including the type and variety of hemp that comports with the strain and potency requirements of state statute," City Clerk Dena Lozano quoted the ordinance.

But at the same time, retail marijuana establishments would be prohibited except for testing facilities.

"The City of Florence hereby imposes a permanent moratorium on the acceptance, processing and approval of all applications for any permit or licenses or any other application pertaining to marijuana establishments, including retail marijuana shops, marijuana product, manufacturing facilities and marijuana cultivation facilities," Lozano continued.

After the reading of the ordinance, City Council-

members had an opportunity to comment.

City Councilman Paul Villagrana asked if there were locations the facilities might be.

"We might have to look at zoning code," replied City Attorney Bryan Fredrickson. "We may want to do that sooner rather than later in case we get an application for a testing facility."

"This is just the first reading," said Mayor Keith Ore. "We have a long ways to go."

"Originally we discussed hemp testing, but I'm sure marijuana testing (is necessary too)," said Councilman Dick Upton.

Fredrickson noted the regulation includes marijuana testing as well. Also, the council will discuss where they could be located and the number of testing facilities at a future date.

"It's very difficult to get into this business," said Councilman Mike Vendetti. "It requires a laboratory director. The laboratory director must be a medical doctor. This is not something Joe Blow can come downtown and open one."

The ordinance passed unanimously with a council member absent.

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Mr. Ed's
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(Hwy 50) in Cañon City

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

SKYROCKET

from page 15

electricity rates, rests upon multi-state legal challenges to the agency's authority that just last week resulted in a stay from the U.S. Supreme Court. That decision was overshadowed, however, by the subsequent death of Justice Antonin Scalia days later, leaving the legal challenge in turmoil given the SCOTUS' delicate and likely 4-4 ideological split and the contentious election year battle over nominations to replace Scalia.

Meanwhile, Governor John Hickenlooper remains committed to pushing for a "prudent" continuation of planning for Clean Power Plan implementation, with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment proceeding with its pre-stay timeline. Colorado Senate Republicans, however, called ignoring the court's stay "unacceptable." Legislation addressing CDPHE's ability to proceed with CPP planning will likely be introduced before the end of the 2016 Colorado legislative session.

Please see: energy.i2i.org/2016/02/15/energy-policy-center-report-electricity-rates-skyrocket-across-all-colorado-sectors/



The Liberty Tree

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

“All That Is Necessary for the Triumph of Evil Is That Good Men Do Nothing”

Edmund Burke

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.

Pope Declares
Trump
“not Christian”

The Pope has said that Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is not Christian because he advocates building a wall to protect the U.S. borders from illegal immigration. AP reports that Pope Francis said: “A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian. This is not in the gospel.” Apparently, Pope Francis doesn’t know his Bible. I am not aware that Jesus or the disciples built physical bridges in the gospel. There are, however, references in the Bible where God’s people rebuild the wall in Jerusalem to protect it from invaders. The Pope’s replacement theology says they don’t count. Also, have you seen the wall around the Vatican?

Politics or replacement theology, the Pope is wrong on both accounts. He is not a citizen of the U.S. and has no say in our elective process other than to sway blind followers or communist think-alike leftists who subscribe to his brand of socialist “religion.” Keep in mind that the Pope has all but admitted he is a socialist and remember that the socialist/communist manifesto bans all religion and morals. As Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.” So which is it Francis, communism or God; socialism or God; politics or God; twisted theology or the Holy scriptures; mammon or God?

To his credit, Trump didn’t hesitate to call out the Pope on his folly. AP reports that Trump shot

back within minutes, saying, “For a religious leader to question a person’s faith is disgraceful,” he said at a campaign stop in South Carolina, which holds a key primary on Saturday. “I am proud to be a Christian and as president I will not allow Christianity to be consistently attacked and weakened.” The AP reporter aboard the “Papal Plane” revealed his bias and added, “The rare back-and-forth between pontiff and presidential candidate was the latest astonishing development in a U.S. presidential race that has been roiled by Trump’s freewheeling rhetoric and controversial policy proposals, particularly on immigration.”

It seems that anyone who challenges the media’s concept of socialism or socialism’s spokesmen, is “freewheeling” and “controversial.” There is no greater controversy than the leader of an entire religion who twists God’s word into what he wants it to be and believes that allah and YHVH God are the same. On Wednesday, March 20th, 2013, Pope Francis welcomed an ecumenical group of religious leaders who attended his inauguration by saying, “I greet and thank cordially all of you, dear friends belonging to other religious traditions; firstly the Muslims, who worship the one living and merciful God, and call upon Him in prayer.” And the Pope has the audacity to say Trump is not a Christian because he wants to build a wall?

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!
Bill Wilson
www.dailyjot.com
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Sheriff Blocks Feds
From Harassing Farmer

by Mac Slavo,
SHTF.com

While many are still reeling from the outrageous shooting of La-Voy Finicum, and the aftermath of the Oregon standoff and arrest of patriots linked to it, there are other battles against the feds taking place across the country.

Much less attention was paid to Sheriff Brad Rogers, of Elkhart County in Indiana, who just successfully concluded his own showdown with federal officials from the FDA. The scenario was quite different, but the principals involved strike a similar chord – burdensome overreach and tyranny on the part of the federal government and its swarm of agents.

As activists have seen in many other cases, the FDA has gone after raw milk farmers and raw food proponents with frightening force – carrying out SWAT raids, trumped up arrests and destruction of food – all with no valid reason, and plenty of appearance of outright harassment.

Sheriff Rogers investigated a complaint from a constituent farmer and found that he sided with his case – there was no justified cause for invasive inspections happening repeatedly since 2011 every couple of weeks.

Basically, they were just looking for a reason to shut the farmer down, and Rogers put a stop to it.

Off The Grid News reports on this inspiring development, and its implications for a winning strategy against what is going on in this country:

Federal agents subjected a farmer to harassment and warrantless searches simply for producing raw milk, but a county sheriff took the farmer’s side and blocked federal agents from the property – and the sheriff is now speaking out.

The US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and Department of Justice (DOJ) took the actions four years ago simply because the farmer was providing raw milk to an organic food

co-op. The story is receiving renewed coverage because the Indiana sheriff, Elkhart County’s Brad Rogers, wrote a 600-word explanation for a local newspaper as part of his “Ask The Sheriff” series. Off The Grid News previously reported on the dispute. [...]

“Specifically, the FDA was inspecting his farm without a warrant as much as every two weeks,” Rogers wrote. “Typical inspections occur annually. The Department of Justice (DOJ) had subpoenaed him for a grand jury in Michigan in which he was to bring his production documents. The Feds wanted to make this farmer an example.

“My research,” Rogers added, “concluded that no one was getting sick from this distribution of this raw milk. It appeared to be harassment by the FDA and the DOJ, and making unconstitutional searches, in my opinion. The farmer told me that he no longer wished to cooperate with the inspections of his property.”

Reportedly, Sheriff Rogers then wrote to the Department of Justice and informed them of the actions he would take if federal inspectors did not have a signed warrant based upon probable cause over which to conduct their searches:

“I understand that you have made recent requests to (the farmer) for documents and to appear before a grand jury, and he has had a number of inspections and attempted inspections on his farm within Elkhart County. This is notice that any further attempts to inspect this farm without a warrant signed by a judge, based on probable cause, will result in federal inspectors’ removal or arrest for trespassing by my officers or I. In addition, if any further action is taken by the federal government on (the farmer), while he is in Elkhart County, I will expect that you or federal authorities contact my office prior to such action. I will expect you to forward this information to your federal associates, including the FDA.”

Shortly after the email was sent, the

farmer received a certified letter from the DOJ that said his grand jury subpoena had been cancelled. No federal inspectors have visited the farm since 2011. [...]

“Your local elected officials ... can stem the tide of federal overreach if they apply just a little backbone in supporting and defending the Constitution. Expect it! Demand it!,” Rogers wrote. “Some bloggers and natural food writers have hailed me as a hero. I’m no hero. I’m just doing my job.

The public is waking up to the tyranny of countless federal agencies with little or no transparency and enough red tape to take over everything. Many law enforcement officials are waking up, too, and there are many great examples of them standing up for the Constitution and the rights of the people.

The actions taken by Sheriff Rogers are not only legal and right, but they are what the people should expect from their local (and especially elected) officials.

This same sheriff made news a few months ago when he vowed that he would ignore any gun control executive order.

Sheriffs just happen to be the most powerful and independent locally elected official, and can be a bulwark for resistance to federal encroachment.

If they can be stopped here, they can be stopped elsewhere, too, and freedom can return to the lives of Americans.

The feds cannot take over if the people educate themselves and stand up – peacefully, but with a firm defensive posture – and take no guff from a bully.

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Please see: http://www.shtfplan.com/headline-news/sheriff-blocks-feds-from-harassing-raw-milk-farmer-stem-the-tide-of-federal-overreach_02192016



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Have We Lost Our Stinkin' Minds?

by Dave Daubenmire,
FreedomOutpost.com

Common sense. That is probably the rarest commodity in all of America. We don't even know what that means anymore.

Common sense used to mean something that even the doltish of humans could understand. You don't eat dog poop. You don't touch dead animals that are decaying along the road. And men and women are not the same.

That is, as we used to say, elementary my friend. Elementary...as in elementary school. Elementary as in "easily dealt with; straightforward and uncomplicated." Elementary as in "you'd have to be stupid to not know that."

That is what common sense used to mean. But not anymore. There is no longer something as simple as common sense.

The perverts are at it again. The thought-perverts I am referring to. To "pervert" means:

- to lead astray morally.
- to turn away from the right course.
- to lead into mental error or false judgment.
- to turn to an improper use; misapply.
- to misconstrue or misinterpret, especially deliberately; distort:
- to bring to a less excellent state; vitiate; debase.

America is being controlled by perverted thoughts being promoted by perverted people. Perverted sense has replaced common sense.

I remember back in the early 2000's when we began to hear whispers that homosexuals wanted to get "married." Most of us chuckled at the prospect of such a concept, so much so that we really never gave the demand any consideration. We still believed in "common sense" and never dreamed that such an outlandish demand would ever be considered, much less "legalized."

Common sense would prevail, we believed, not realizing that common sense was going the way of Bible-based Churches. This Christian nation, many of us assumed, would never permit such perverted behavior to be accepted.

The inmates are running the asylum and they have twerked their way into positions of authority. The asylum is the government and the inmates are the perverts who strive for nothing less than the destruction of Western Civilization and the Christian standards upon which it was founded.

From Washington D.C. to Charlotte, North Carolina, the perverts are calling the shots. If you think I am crazy, take a few minutes and check out what is happening in Tobacco Road. Here is the sto-

ry of gender neutral restrooms.

So let me get this straight. A city in the heart of the Bible belt is actually considering passing a law that would permit men and women to use the same public bathroom? Cultural perverts are doing their best to try and convince us that a man has a "constitutional" right to poop in a commode next to a stall in which a 12-year-old girl goes to tinkle?

They are pulling out all of the stops to convince all of the knuckle-dragging Neanderthals that forcing a man with male plumbing to use a restroom designed for those with male plumbing is discriminatory and demeaning? They want us to believe that this "discriminatory" behavior somehow compares to black/white restroom standards in the old South?

Let me crystallize it for you. The elected City Council of Charlotte, NC, is debating whether or not a grown man has the right to be in the restroom where an unsuspecting young girl might unknowingly wander.

The man, with male plumbing, wants to be recognized as a woman, even though there is absolutely no physical or biological evidence to support such a claim. In fact, the only "evidence" is the "personal feeling" that a man's "gender" is determined by what is in his mind rather than what is between his legs.

When my wife and I got married, it took me a couple of months to not feel embarrassed by "using the bathroom" when she was within earshot of the sounds I might emit while performing such a private bodily function.

Have we really reached the point in America where elected officials are willing to trade the protection of the modesty of young girls and boys for the perverted whims of those who think such cultural standards are discriminatory and sexist?

First, they said they just wanted to come out of the closet. Then they wanted to be tolerated. Then they fought to be included. Then they demanded special laws. Now they want to pee next to your young daughter. Soon they will want to crap in your lap. The homosexual juggernaut knows no shame.

The churches have been neutered. The pastors have become effeminized. They no longer defend the children. Some of them think that the establishment of gender-neutral restrooms is Christ-like. WWJT...Where Would Jesus Tinkle?

Where have all of the grown-ups gone? When will REAL MEN stand up to the perverts? How long before God-fearing daddies stand up and protect the innocence of their precious daughters from the alphabet deviants and their demonic agenda? Time is running out.

Have we lost our stinkin minds?

Reprinted with Permission. Read more at <http://freedomoutpost.com/2016/02/have-we-lost-our-stinkin-minds/#fuYvu8giM1z5wRro.99>

Here's Why (And How) the Government Will "Borrow" Your Retirement Savings

by Simon Black,
SovereignMan.com
via ZeroHedge.com

According to financial research firm ICI, total retirement assets in the Land of the Free now exceed \$23 trillion.

\$7.3 trillion of that is held in Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

That's an appetizing figure, especially for a government that just passed \$19 trillion in debt and is in pressing need of new funding sources.

Even when you account for all federal assets (like national parks and aircraft carriers), the government's "net financial position" according to its own accounting is negative \$17.7 trillion.

And that number doesn't include unfunded Social Security entitlements, which the government estimates is another \$42 trillion.

The U.S. national debt has increased by roughly \$1 trillion annually over the past several years.

The Federal Reserve has conjured an astonishing amount of money out of thin air in order to buy a big chunk of that debt.

But even the Fed has limitations. According to its own weekly financial statement, the Fed's solvency is at precariously low levels (with a capital base of just 0.8% of assets).

And on a mark-to-market basis, the Fed is already insolvent. So it's foolish to think they can continue to print money forever and bail out the government without consequence.

The Chinese (and other foreigners) own a big slice of U.S. debt as well.

But it's just as foolish to expect them to continue bailing out America, especially when they have such large economic problems at home.

U.S. taxpayers own the largest share of the debt, mostly through various trust funds of Social Security and Medicare.

But again, given the \$42 trillion funding gap in these programs, it's mathematically impossible for Social Security to continue funding the national debt.

This reality puts the U.S. government in rough spot.

It's not like government spending is going down anytime soon; it already takes nearly 100% of tax revenue just to pay mandatory entitlements like Social Security, and interest on the debt.

Plus the government itself estimates that the national debt will hit \$30 trillion within ten years.

Bottom line, they need more money. Lots of it. And there is perhaps no easier pool of cash to 'borrow' than Americans' retirement savings.

\$7.3 trillion in U.S. IRA accounts is too large for them to ignore.

And if you think it's inconceivable for the government to borrow your retirement savings, just consider the following:

1) Borrowing retirement funds is becoming a popular tactic.

Forced loans have been a common tactic of bankrupt governments throughout history.

Plus there's recent precedent all over the world; Hungary, France, Ireland, and Poland are among many governments that have resorted to 'borrowing' public and private pension funds.

2) The U.S. government has already done this with federal pension funds.

During the multiple debt ceiling fiascos since 2011, the Treasury Department resorted to "extraordinary measures" at least twice in order to continue funding the government.

What exactly were these extraordinary measures?

They dipped into federal retirement funds and borrowed what they needed to tide them over.

In fact, the debt ceiling debacles were only resolved because the Treasury Department had fully depleted available retirement funds.

3) They've been paving the way to borrow your retirement savings for a long time.

Two years ago the government launched a new initiative to 'help Americans save for retirement.'

It's called MyRA. And the

idea is for people to invest retirement savings 'in the safety and security of U.S. government bonds'.

Since then they've gone on a marketing offensive involving the President, Treasury Secretary, and other prominent politicians.

They've also proposed a number of legislative reforms to 'encourage' American businesses to sign their employees up for MyRA.

Just last week, Congress introduced the "Making Your Retirement Accessible", or MyRA Act, which would charge a penalty to employers whose workers don't have a retirement account.

The proposed penalty is \$100. Per worker. Per day.

Imagine a small business with, say, 10 employees who don't have retirement accounts. The penalty to Uncle Sam would be a whopping \$30,000 PER MONTH.

There's a word for this. It's called extortion.

Obviously when facing a \$30,000 monthly penalty, an employer will pick the easiest option.

Given the absurd amount of government regulation on the rest of the financial industry, MyRA is the fastest choice.

This isn't about fear or paranoia. It's about facts.

And the reality is that the government in the Land of the Free is moving in the direction of borrowing more and more of your retirement savings.

If you still remain skeptical, remember that last year the government stole more from its citizens through Civil Asset Forfeiture than thieves in the private sector.

Or that just 45-days ago a new law went into effect authorizing the government to strip you of your passport if they believe in their sole discretion that you owe them too much tax.

No judge. No jury. No trial. They just confiscate your passport.

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Obama’s Response to Marine Beaten by Black Teens is DESPICABLE

by Michelle Jesse,
Associate Editor, TheBlaze.com

The story we shared on this page yesterday about the Marine brutally assaulted by a group of black teens sparked an unbelievable outpouring of outrage that has gone mad viral. As of this writing, the story on our page alone has been shared nearly 43,000 times and garnered nearly 27,000 comments.

In case you missed it, Christopher Marquez — who received the Bronze Star for valor after serving in the Iraq war — was attempting to enjoy a meal at McDonald’s last week when a group of teenage thugs began harassing him, asking him “Do you believe Black Lives Matter?”

After Marquez attempted to mind his own business and ignore the group, the situation escalated quickly, resulting in the veteran being knocked unconscious from the back and robbed of \$400 cash plus the rest of the contents of his wallet, including IDs and credit cards. Marquez told the *Daily Caller*:

“I believe this was a hate crime, and I was targeted because of my skin color,” Marquez told the Daily Caller. “Too many of these types of attacks have been happening against white people by members of the black community and the majority of the mainstream media refuses to report on it.”

Apparently, the police had already been looking for this group after a prior incident.

Hard to argue with the victim’s sug-

“Too many of these types of attacks have been happening against white people by members of the black community and the majority of the mainstream media refuses to report on it.”

gestion that this was a hate crime — that Marquez was targeted because of his skin color.

So, given the administration’s laser focus on racially-oriented altercations, President Obama and Attorney General Loretta Lynch must be ALL OVER this, right?

I mean, we all remember President Obama bending over backwards to send not just one, but three representatives to the funeral of one Michael Brown, who was killed in the line of — trying to rob a convenience store.

And Attorney General Loretta Lynch expressing her “greatest fear” in the immediate aftermath of the San Bernardino terror attacks — that killed 14 and terrorized many more — was anti-Muslim “rhetoric,” which she vowed to prosecute. Right before she then moved on to her next priority in the aftermath of that first terror attack on U.S. soil since 9/11 — which was, of course, meeting with representatives of the Black Lives Matter movement.

So where are President Obama and Attorney General Lynch now? Surely, it couldn’t be that Obama and Lynch don’t give a rat’s patootie about certain lives — like those who are white or “white Hispanic” (as no doubt the likes of Black Lives Matter would categorize an Hispanic). Or, God forbid, our distinguished military heroes?

Right? Riiiiighhht.

Despicable.

And this is the man who’s considering this woman to be an arbiter of our Constitution on the Supreme Court. It’s abundantly clear by now that under the concept of “equal protection,” some people are “more equal” than others under the Obama administration.

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“We Fight Back”: Israeli Christian Response to Muslim Machete Attack

by Sharon Schwartz,
TheBlaze.com

(Editor/GG: Note that this attempted massacre by a muslim nutcase didn’t occur in Israel. It happened in Ohio!!! All thanks to our government’s assault on America via unlimited immigration from third world cesspools. It continues unhindered. “Shelter in place” sheep.)

The Christian Israeli owner of the Ohio restaurant attacked last week by a machete-wielding assailant shouting “Allahu akbar” says his answer to the attack is to put up an even larger flag than the one he normally has displayed from his motherland bearing the Star of David.

“Actually, I have another flag, and I am going to get a bigger flag, and I am going to get a Star of David necklace and put it on my chest, and I am going to get a tattoo,” Hany Baransi — who describes himself as an Israeli Christian Arab — told *The Tower*, a publication that covers issues related to the Middle East.

“Honest to God, I am not kidding. They don’t scare me. We are Israelis. We are Israelis. We are resilient, we fight back,” the restaurateur said. “We are used to these b*****s.”

Given what happened the night of the attack, Baransi disputes police statements suggesting his establishment was targeted at random.

Baransi told *The Tower* that the assailant, 30-year-old Mohamed Barry, at first came to the Nazareth Restaurant & Deli in Columbus — a Mediterranean-style restaurant that serves hummus and falafel — to inquire where the owner was from. After learning from a waitress that the owner was from Israel, the assailant left and returned half an hour later with a machete.

Baransi said that the assailant yelled “Allahu akbar” then hacked four people, injuring them.

Police said that diners threw chairs at Barry and that a restaurant employee used the bat kept behind the counter to chase him away.

Police shot and killed him after a car chase culminating with Barry lunging at officers with his knife and machete, police officials told local media outlets.

Columbus Police Chief Kim Jacobs said that Nazareth’s diners “were just randomly attacked, spontaneously, without warning.”

The owner had a different take.

“Is it a random attack? Yes, but it wasn’t a random attack like you’re walking in the street and there are ten shops and you pick one,” Baransi told *The Tower*. “It was a random attack [insofar] that I was one of the Israelis [picked] between all of the Israelis that are around here. It was a terrorist attack.”

Baransi told the Columbus Dispatch Sunday that FBI agents told him they believe the incident was terrorist in nature.

NBC quoted law enforcement sources who said that the FBI had investigated Barry four years ago over expressing extreme Islamist views. The news network, quoting family members, reported that the assailant was originally from Guinea in West Africa and lived in the U.S. since he was very young.

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"Don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have war let it begin here."

Captain John Parker, Lexington Gree, April 19, 1775

The Deep Gray Line

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

Economist John Lott noted that this has been a grim month for U.S. law enforcement, and that it might have been even worse if armed citizens had not stepped up in support of law enforcement officers in danger.

In the past month, criminals have murdered six police officers in the line of duty. [That number has increased since this article was printed on February 17th.] The number might have been eight if not for the actions of two concealed handgun permit holders.

At this rate, police deaths could be way up this year compared to previous years. By this time last year, only one officer had been murdered. While Republican presidential candidates such as Cruz, Rubio and Trump have spoken out forcefully about police shootings, Democrats have been silent.

You've probably heard on the news when at least one of these officers has been killed. But you almost certainly haven't heard about concealed handgun permit holders stepping forward to protect officers.

— Last month, a drunken man attacked a deputy sheriff near Austin, Texas. As the deputy relates what happened, "I remember thinking 'stay in the fight. Just keep fighting, keep fighting. Do whatever you can do, just stay alive you need to go home.'" The deputy ended up having his gun taken away from him. Fortunately, a concealed handgun permit holder pointed his gun at the attacker and ordered him to "freeze!" "I'm alive today because of [the permit holder]," said the deputy. "There are no words to explain it. He's such an outstanding citizen."

— On February 5, in Upper Darby, Pa., a police officer tried to break up a fight between two teenagers who had just gotten

out of school. Two other students then jumped on the officer. A crowd of 40 to 50 other students had been watching the fight and "all [started to] move in toward the officer." At that point, a permit holder told everyone to get away from the cop.

As the Upper Darby Police Superintendent Michael Chitwood described it: "He had the gun in his hand, but he didn't point it at the kids, he just told them to back off. If this guy didn't come out and come to the aid of the officer, this officer would have had significant problems." Fortunately, the officer only suffered "significant hand injuries."

The permit holder kept the mob at bay until other officers arrived. But that wasn't the end of it. Even one of the responding officers suffered a "major injury to a leg."

The permit holders' actions prevented these incidents from becoming national news stories. When there's no death, there seems to be no news story. And so, we don't hear about all the cases where defensive gun use has saved lives.

Dr. Lott is correct.

We do not have a formal national mechanism to report defensive gun uses. We do know, however, that they happen somewhere between a conservative

estimate of 500,000 and a very plausible estimate of 3.2 million defensive gun users a year, depending on the survey methodology used. In the vast majority of these instances—such as the two defensive gun uses of these officers noted above—the armed citizen did not need to fire a weapon to save a life.

Merely the presence of a gun tends to hold criminals at bay. This is an indisputable fact that gun control supporters must ignore at all costs... and they do.

It is typically only in those relatively rare instances that a citizen is forced to open fire that the story reaches even local news. We captured just a fraction of those incidents here at Bearing Arms. In our relatively short existence, we've documented more than 600 incidents of guns saving lives.

Despite being attacked and abandoned by President Obama, persecuted by the politically-corrupted Office of (Racial) Justice, and dragged through the mud by a mainstream media well-versed in Alinsky tactics, our Republic's 800,000 law enforcement officers are not alone.

The "thin blue line" of law enforcement officers who separate the largely unaware and pacifistic general public from the voracious and predatory criminal class are quietly being

backstopped by the vast majority of 100 million gun owners in the United States. More than 12 million of those gun owners are concealed carriers.

Neither oblivious, unaware citizens living life in "condition white," nor paralyzed by the actions of criminals in a "it-can't-be-happening-to-me" "condition black," millions of American gun owners would rise to the occasion to assist an officer in danger if push came to shove.

It's simply what good Americans do. It is what we have always done.

This millions-deep, nationwide "thick grey line" (for lack of a better phrase) uses their firearms to protect themselves, their families, and their fellow citizens, including law enforcement officers in trouble.

This self-aware class of citizens understands that rank-and-file patrol officers want nothing more than to help the innocent and put criminals behind bars so that mothers and children and elderly are not easy prey. They are not fooled by the lies of the mainstream media and a left-wing political class who use Alinsky tactics to attack the heart of civility



Courtesy Photo from BearingArms.com

itself, supporting the mythology that criminals are being unfairly treated by police.

Most gun owners know that the mainstream media lies for a living.

Most gun owners are aware of the fact that today's law enforcement officers are trained and held to a much higher standard than officers in even the recent past.

These citizens are not as gullible as the media would have us believe. We will defend civil society, and the defenders of our society. It's what we train to do. It is a burden we have taken upon ourselves after somber reflection and a reflective look at our own morality and our mortality.

Good people do not allow evil to triumph.

It really is that simple.

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In the past month, criminals have murdered [more than] six police officers in the line of duty.

Bill to Introduce Social Security Gun Grab Introduced

by Jenn Jacques,
BearingArms.com

Idaho Senator Mike Crapo has introduced legislation to protect Social Security recipient's gun rights Thursday.

"It is inappropriate for the Social Security Administration to make determinations about an individual's ability to buy or possess a firearm," said Crapo. "This bill would protect the rights of Social Security beneficiaries from

having their Constitutional rights arbitrarily revoked."

In 2013, President Obama directed all federal agency executives to "improve the availability of records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)." It aimed to prohibit gun sales to citizens whose Social Security payments are handled by others by requiring the Social Security Administration to report them to the NICS, the same process used to prevent

guns from being sold to felons, drug addicts, illegal immigrants, and others.

The process is already being used by the Department of Veteran Affairs to prohibit some veterans from owning firearms. A 2013 Senate report shows the VA has reported more than 143,000 beneficiaries, including roughly 83,000 veterans, to the "mental defective" category on NICS. According to the *Times*, more than half of the names on the VA

list are people 80 or older, and often suffering from dementia.

As many as 4.2 million adults currently receive monthly Social Security benefits that are managed by someone else, referred to as "representative payees."

Crapo's bill, cosponsored by Senators Steve Daines (R-MT), Mike Enzi (R-WY), Joni Ernst (R-IA), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Dean Heller (R-NV), Jim Inhofe (R-OK), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Pat Rob-

erts (R-KS) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK), was introduced today and will be referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Companion legislation, H.R. 3516 has been introduced in the House by Rep. Sam Johnson of Texas.

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Politics & The Bible

From Pastor Jim

Jim Modlish has been in the ministry 49 years, pastoring churches large and small from upstate New York to western Washington. He holds a doctorate in theology, but frequently states: "I have education, but I got over it."

Southern Colorado natives, Jim and his wife, Linda, were happy to return to their home state in 2006. They started the Huerfano Community Bible Church in Walsenburg seven years ago, and that work has experienced excellent growth



and the blessings of God. Pastor Modlish believes the Bible is the greatest political science textbook on earth, and that all current events should be examined under the searchlight of Scripture. All scripture taken from King James Version.

WHICH GIANT DIED?

The death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has brought renewed attention to the ideological split that exists in the country's highest judiciary. Virtually no one denies the reality of two very different approaches to decision making in the Court. Justice Scalia led the charge for the purest Constitutional position which emphasized the principle of applying the Document rather than interpreting it. The Liberal element tends to view the Constitution as a "living and breathing" canon which should be constantly subjected to social evolution. The two attitudes are contained in Luke 6:47-49 where Jesus said, "Who-soever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to who he is like; He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth: against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."

America's Constitution has provided the citizenry a solid rock upon which to build a nation capable of withstanding the storms of time. For those who wish to radically change or destroy this once great Republic, the plan of attack is obvious...the rock must be pounded into sand.

Barak Obama's refusal to attend Justice Scalia's funeral is more than a show of disdain for a guardian of true freedom...it is a demonstration of contempt for the document that Scalia fought to preserve. To be sure, Obama is a product of his education. What is occurring in law and government today is merely the fruits of the indoctrination of law students of yesteryear.

An insidious shift began with the application of Darwinism to law. Julian Huxley once noted that the evolutionary belief system encompasses the disciplines such as "law and religion...until we are enabled to see evolution as a universal, all pervading process....Our present knowledge indeed forces us to the view that the world of reality is evolution---a single process of self-transformation. There proceeded during the 19th century, under the influence of the evolutionary concept, a thorough-going transformation of older studies like History, Law, and Political Economy."

Likewise, in 1952 Fred Cahill, professor of political science at Yale University wrote: "The appearance in the mid-nineteenth century of the concept of evolution was an event of transcending importance to the development of American jurisprudence....This involved a shift from the rationalistic, deductive pattern, characteristic of the pre-Darwinian period, to the empirical, evolutionary approach that is followed today."

This alteration began in the 1870's when Christopher Langdell, dean of the Harvard Law School, began to apply Darwinian thought to legal education. Langdell believed that this evolution was taking place in the opinions written by judges. This meant that what a judge said was law, and not what the Constitution stated.

John Whitehead summarized it well when he wrote: "If the theory of evolution is true; then nature--instead of representing a perfect, stable, and absolute law order--is a blind, lawless force working its way upward and establishing its own rules by blind, unconscious experience. In a society that will not use the Bible as its reference point, law eventually must be the product of the arbitrary will of man. There is no longer even any natural law. In reality, Darwin's theory shattered all confidence in any form of orderly law, including the system based on Christian absolutes." Random chance became lord of the universe.

Evolution demands perpetual change which presents a social problem. There will always be those who offer resistance born of a conviction of allegiance to the cornerstone of liberty. This creates tension which necessarily demands an all-encompassing, all-directing totalitarian state. Thus conformity to transitory standards are demanded which replaces liberty under God's laws.

When Barak Obama promised hope and change, he purposely avoided the word "evolution," but make no mistake, that is exactly what he intended. For the most part, the Supreme Court has now descended to the level of a popular poll-taking agency, reacting to the whims of the many or to the pressures of the few. Justice Scalia was the primary speed bump, slowing down Darwin's application to the law. He believed that the higher principles of law are static and unmovable, and for that Mr. Obama could not show him the respect he deserves.

A Sheepdog Barks!

I've come to realize over the years that most people don't listen very carefully to the question they are asked and consequently answer wrong. My favorite is this exchange. "Do you mind if I come in? Yes, please come in." Happens all the time. The correct answer is NO (I don't mind, therefore you can come in). HilLIARy really screwed a question up but ended up telling the real truth. You have to pay close attention to the one and only question Scott Pelley of CBS asked her. I was listening very carefully to the exchange and was amazed Hillary would actually answer an important question so honestly. Follow the "bouncing ball" as these are the exact words.

SCOTT: "Have you always told the truth?"

HilLIARy: "I've always tried to, always, always." (REALLY? Tried to? The deception begins)

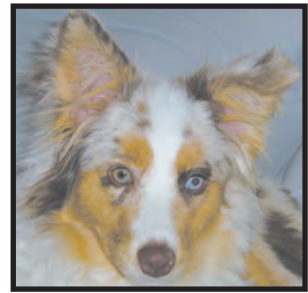
SCOTT: "Some people are going to call that wiggle room you just gave yourself. Jimmy Carter said I will never lie."

HilLIARy: begins to sputter: "You are asking me to say have I ever." (Here I believe she knows she can't even utter the word "lie" on live TV so she stops abruptly and answers his question)

HilLIARy: "I don't believe I ever have, I don't believe I ever have, I don't believe I ever will."

Scott Pelley never asked her if she had ever lied, he asked her if she always told the truth. That was his only question. She answered that she didn't believe she ever had or ever would. See what I mean. In this case she twisted the question around in her mind and answered what she thought was a different question. In doing that she really answered his very straight forward question in a truthful manner. Take all the middle stuff out and it simply goes like this. Q: "Have you always told the truth? A: "I don't believe I ever have and I don't believe I ever will." Finally! Even though she panicked because of her constant lies to the American people she got confused and inadvertently told the truth. That's what's

known as a political gaffe -- accidentally telling the truth. Sad isn't it. WOOF! HilLIARy often gets confused, especially when it comes to telling the truth. Judicial Watch is one of my favorite organizations. They are responsible for exposing many a lie or wrongdoing due to their tenacious FOIA requests. They eventually get the paper trail that exposes the LPSD agenda and their unconstitutional actions. Recently they got their hands on an email from HilLIARy's aide Huma Abedin. In it she tells another staffer "to carefully explain things to Hillary as she often gets confused." WOOF! We've known that for a long time. HilLIARy is always confused when it comes to doing the right thing or telling the truth to the American people. HilLIARy is a liar, a big liar and nothing but a liar. And still, a majority of the LPSDs want her to be president. It boggles the mind. What is wrong with LPSDs? It's bad enough they like Bernie's socialist ideas. But can they not even draw the line at honesty and trustworthiness? We must outnumber them when November comes. Or else America is doomed. Conservative Americans must wake up and get active. HilLIARy ended her segment with Scott Pelley with this statement. "I will do the best I can to level with the American people." The best she can? What does that mean? I don't want her "best I can." She's corrupt and dishonest. I want someone who "can" and "will" level with the American people. We all know what is coming when someone says they'll try. A Secretary of State (SOS) that sets up a private server so SHE can control all her emails has something to hide. And an SOS that wants to be president as badly as she does would definitely have motive for doing such a thing. Nothing else makes sense or justifies NOT using a secure government server. This woman belongs in jail and I believe she will end up there. So far they have found over 1700 classified emails, some higher than TOP SECRET. And don't ever forget her smug little comment to a reporter. "You mean like with a cloth?" This criminal knew exactly what she was doing. She believes she is above the law. If she is not indicted and



prosecuted it will be time to impeach the Attorney General and charge her with failure to do her job. HilLIARy and many of her staff have committed grave national security crimes and they all need to be punished. Her arrogance of being "too big" to being held accountable is overwhelming. Read the easy-to-understand email on page 3 from an Army officer about how serious the emails containing SAP information are. She MUST go down and go to jail along with her aides. WOOF!

Not long ago HilLIARy told a joke about a dog that would bark every time a politician lied. It's actually true. There are lots of sheepdogs barking at her many and constant lies. She's the main reason I have a constant sore throat. WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!

Can you imagine that woman selecting the next three or four Supreme Court Justices? We sure don't need any more LPSD judges that are concerned with the UN, international law or, for sure, Sharia Law. We must have hard core Constitutional originalists. This SCOTUS issue now becomes the single most important issue in the November election. A liberal progressive socialist court could affect America's future in a very bad way for the next 30-40 years. Conservatives MUST prevail in this election. Otherwise a liberal court is the final coffin nail in our liberty and freedom. The Constitution would surely be dead. We can't let that happen to our children and grandchildren. Become active, motivate and inform others to do their civic duty and VOTE. We need aroused and concerned conservative turnout. The battle is right before us and we have seen the enemy. It is us; the apathetic conservative American citizen. Don't be one! WOOF!

May God Have Mercy On



So You Don't Like Trump, Eh?

by Karl Denninger,
Market-Ticker.Org

Well then, you must like losing your job to someone in Mexico who will make \$3/hour.

Union leaders at an air conditioner factory in Indianapolis threatened with losing 1,400 jobs to Mexico said on Tuesday the plant's owner expects to pay Mexican workers \$3 an hour compared to an average of more than \$20 an hour for the U.S. workers.

"We haven't given up the fight yet," said Chuck Jones, president of the United Steelworkers union local that represents workers at the Carrier Corp plant. "But Carrier has pretty well indicated that the wage differential is too great and there's not much we can do."

A spokeswoman for Carrier, a unit of United Technologies Corp (UTX.N), said the company pays a "competitive wage" based on local conditions and could not discuss pay levels.

So what do you do about this?

Without wage and environmental parity tariffs you do nothing about it, because you can't.

This is a national policy issue. China protects its industries with tariffs and local-content rules that make it effectively impossible for firms to do the same thing to them. But the United States, in return, gives China, Mexico and other nations open access to goods and services produced there even when their "advantage" comes from paying people \$3/hour or having free rein to pollute the land, water and air instead of having to dispose of their toxic wastes cleanly and safely.

What drives this disparity and wage need? Let us remember that \$3/hour is in fact roughly 50% more than the minimum wage was when I started working. In other words, not a terrible wage. Now it's less than half of the minimum wage.

In the intervening years the federal government went from \$600 billion in outstanding marketable debt to \$14 trillion, an increase of 23 times.

Every dollar of deficit spending debases the currency every time, dollar-for-dollar. It thus makes prices go up; this is arithmetic, not politics, and cannot be prevented.

At the same time non-financial businesses increased their debt (that is, circulating "moneyness") by a factor of approximately 10 times, which also debased the currency and households were goaded into borrowing almost 12 times the amount of money, which in turn also debased the currency as well.

But while corporations were goaded by government policies that "encouraged" such borrowing, as were households (e.g. mortgage interest tax deductions, etc) the worst offender by far was the Federal Government.

Anyone and everyone complaining about Carrier and others moving jobs to Mexico who also supports or allows any form of government deficit spending, no matter what the funds are spent on, needs to STFU.

Your incessant screaming for more-more-more-more that is not paid for via current taxes is why that pay disparity exists, in part, and is a large part of why those jobs have and are leaving.

YOU are destroying this nation's job base.

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by Karl Denninger,
Market-Ticker.Org

I've been talking about this now since long before The Market Ticker existed -- in fact, it animated a number of rather loud "discussions" that were had around the family dinner table many years ago.

It's arithmetic, of course.

"This is just going to cripple my family," said Dorsy, who was one of 750 retirees and workers who attended a town hall meeting Tuesday in Kansas City.

They came to battle massive pension cuts proposed by the Central States Pension Fund, which covers 400,000 participants, 220,000 of them retired. The fund is so short of money, it will go broke in ten years.

A controversial 2014 law allowed the pension to propose the cuts, many of them by half or more, as a way to perhaps save the fund.

What is there to "fight"?

See, here's the deal -- there's a pile of money of \$X. It can earn, safely, no more than the risk-free return rate which is more-or-less right near the rate of actual inflation -- not the phoney-baloney statistic published by the government, but the actual rate of monetary expansion, which is trivially computed from the amount of debt in the economy.

The problem is that these "funds" claimed they could earn seven, eight even nine percent forever without fail. That's impossible; were to be "possible" it would mean that your cost of living would double every six or seven years, and you'd be broke anyway.

Math is a B***h

In other words these "funds" were a Ponzi scheme and like all Ponzi schemes they look good when you start, because few people are drawing and most people are paying into them. But the inevitability of arithmetic gets you in the end irrespective of what you'd like to have happen.

The cited article above claims that a 2014 law change made this sort of cutback legal and it was done in the dark of night. Well, ok, true on both counts. However, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) has always come in when you run out of money in a pension fund and has always led to the beneficiaries getting whatever the fund can actually pay when that happens.

What the update of the law did was allow the pension managers to attempt to avoid full-blown insolvency when it was inevitable but before it happened -- previously they'd keep paying as long as they could which frequently meant that when it blew up you got either nothing or d***n near nothing.

Something is better than nothing, I will note. But not to these folks:

"This pension should be paid out in full until it's gone," said Larry Logston Jr., who said he's among those facing a 50 percent pension cut.

"Screw everyone else, including those who are paying in now but will get zero, I demand mine despite the fact that I voted for union representatives that promised me the impossible and I refused to do the math and call them on that -- instead, I elected people who promised to rob others!"

That's called theft Larry, you five-eyed J*****s, and in a just society it would be called racketeering, conspiracy and theft by conversion and you would be in federal prison along with your union representatives.

Those people who thought that the Fed's interest rate cuts and holding down rates for two decades was a good idea, which incidentally the Fed has done, had better think again. Depressing the risk-free rate means that pensions have to reach out on the risk curve and when that goes wrong they lose a lot of money. But by law they cannot reach out too far, and that's good -- the problem is that there is no such thing as a free lunch and when you enable massive deficit spending by the government (an expansion of federal debt by nearly thirty times over the last few decades) and goad private banks into issuing unbacked loans while stoking bubbles (house prices, stock prices, etc) the value to do that comes from somewhere.

Where it came from is in these parts of the system.

There is no free lunch; those of you who support deficit spending in any amount, ever, are responsible for this. That's virtually all of the retirees and workers in these systems, as many of them only have jobs for that reason in the first place, and in any event we elect the representatives and senators that pass said budgets and enable the chicanery on Wall Street.

You cannot evade arithmetic folks. You either face it up front or it smacks you in the back of the head.

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A Cash Ban Has Already Begun

by Graham Summers,
Phoenix Capital Research,
via ZeroHedge.com

The Central Banks hate physical cash. So much so they there will likely try to ban it in the near future.

You see, almost all of the “wealth” in the financial system is digital in nature.

1) The total currency (actual cash in the form of bills and coins) in the U.S. financial system is a little over \$1.36 trillion.

2) When you include digital money sitting in short-term accounts and long-term accounts then you’re talking about roughly \$10 trillion in “money” in the financial system.

3) In contrast, the money in the U.S. stock market (equity shares in publicly traded companies) is over \$20 trillion in size.

4) The U.S. bond market (money that has been lent to corporations, municipal Governments, State Governments, and the Federal Government) is almost twice this at \$38 trillion.

5) Total Credit Market Instruments (mortgages, collateralized debt obligations, junk bonds, commercial paper and other digitally-based “money” that

is based on debt) is even larger \$58.7 trillion.

6) Unregulated over the counter derivatives traded between the big banks and corporations is north of \$220 trillion.

When looking over these data points, the first thing that jumps out at the viewer is that the vast bulk of “money” in the system is in the form of digital loans or credit (non-physical debt).

Put another way, actual physical money or cash (as in bills or coins you can hold in your hand) comprises less than 1% of the “money” in the financial system.

As far as the Central Banks are concerned, this is a good thing because if investors/depositors were ever to try and convert even a small portion of this “wealth” into actual physical bills, the system would implode (there simply is not enough actual cash).

Remember, the current financial system is based on debt. The benchmark for “risk free” money in this system is not actual cash but U.S. Treasuries.

In this scenario, when the 2008 Crisis hit, one of the biggest problems for the Central Banks was to stop

investors from fleeing digital wealth for the comfort of physical cash. Indeed, the actual “thing” that almost caused the financial system to collapse was when depositors attempted to pull \$500 billion out of money market funds.

A money market fund takes investors’ cash and plunks it into short-term highly liquid debt and credit securities. These funds are meant to offer investors a return on their cash, while being extremely liquid (meaning investors can pull their money at any time).

This works great in theory... but when \$500 billion in money was being pulled (roughly 24% of the entire market) in the span of four weeks, the truth of the financial system was quickly laid bare: that digital money is not in fact safe.

To use a metaphor, when the money market fund and commercial paper markets collapsed, the oil that kept the financial system working dried up. Almost immediately, the gears of the system began to grind to a halt.

When all of this happened, the global Central Banks realized that their worst nightmare could in fact become a reality: that if a significant percentage

of investors/ depositors ever tried to convert their “wealth” into cash (particularly physical cash) the whole system would implode.

As a result of this, virtually every monetary action taken by the Fed since this time has been devoted to forcing investors away from cash and into risk assets. The most obvious move was to cut interest rates to 0.25%, rendering the return on cash to almost nothing.

However, in their own ways, the various QE programs and Operation Twist have all had similar aims: to force investors away from cash, particularly physical cash.

After all, if cash returns next to nothing, anyone who doesn’t want to lose their purchasing power is forced to seek higher yields in bonds or stocks.

The Fed’s economic models predicted that by doing this, the U.S. economy would come roaring back. The only problem is that it hasn’t. In fact, by most metrics, the U.S. economy has flat-lined for several years now, despite the Fed having held ZIRP for five to six years and engaged in three rounds of QE.

As a result of this... mainstream economists at Citi-Group, the German Council of Economic Experts, and bond managers at M&G have suggested doing away with cash entirely.

If you think this sounds like some kind of conspiracy theory, consider that France just banned any transaction over €1,000 Euros from using physical cash. Spain has already banned transactions over €2,500. Uruguay has banned transactions over \$5,000. And on and on.

This will be coming to the U.S. in the near future. Already, the big banks (the ones with the closest ties to the Federal Reserve) have begun turning away deposits OR charging them.

State Street Corp. , the Boston bank that manages assets for institutional investors, for the first time has begun charging some customers for large dollar deposits, people familiar with the matter said. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., the nation’s largest bank by assets, has cut unwanted deposits by more than \$150 billion this year, in part by charging fees...

And here’s another big “tell”...

“At some point you won-

der whether there will be a shortage of financial institutions willing to take on these balances,” said Kelli Moll, a partner of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP’s hedge-fund practice in New York, saying that where to hold cash has become an increasing topic of conversation as hedge funds are shown the door by longtime banking counterparties.

So where is the physical cash meant to go?

Jerome Schneider, head of Pacific Investment Management Co.’s short-term and funding desk, which advises corporate and institutional clients, said that as a result of the bank actions, he and his customers have discussed as cash alternatives boosting investments in U.S. Treasury bonds, ultrashort-duration bond funds and money-market funds.

When it comes to cash, Mr. Schneider said, “Clients have been put on warning.”

Source: Wall Street Journal.

This is just the beginning.

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