

Fire District Election Candidate Questionnaire Results

by Fred Hernandez,
George Gramlich

We are having a somewhat unusual Wet Mountain Fire District board (WMFD) election this Tuesday, May 3rd. There are

three open board memberships up for grabs this coming Tuesday. According to current members of the WMFD, board candidates for open slots are almost always current, active, WMFD members. However,

with the three WMFD incumbents, two WMFD firefighters and five non-WMFD all vying for the three positions, it is an interesting mix for this election, to say the least.

To help our readers decide, the *Sentinel* sent out a questionnaire to each candidate. We decided to have two sets of questions, one for the WMFD incumbents and firefighters and one for the non-WMFD challengers. In reviewing all of the submitted answers, one thing is for certain: we have an extremely talented group of people to choose from.

These are the questions we asked the WMFD incumbents and firefighters running:

Please give us a brief bio (where born, education, training and profession, how long a resident in Custer County, etc.)...

2. How long have you served in the board and/or as a volunteer firefighter? Why do you seek re-election/ election to the board at this time?

3. How many calls did you attend in the last year and what memorable contribution did you make at each one that you would like to share?

4. What three strengths and/or talents do you possess which would be of particular benefit to the board, the department and the community at large?

5. Do you believe you are a good/strong leader or have been a good strong leader in the past and, what changes or improvements would you like to consider in the future?

1. Talk about your opinions and experiences during training that you received while a volunteer?

See ELECTION Q & A
on page 10



Wet Mountain Fire District Building in Westcliffe.

Photo by George Gramlich

Fire Board Election Tuesday May 3rd

by Fred Hernandez

John G. Decker
Michael R. Kienbusch
Jeffery Allen Thomas
Roger Allen Camper
Stephen Yackley
Jim L. Shapland
Eric J. Foster

The fire board elections are NOT a mail-in ballot except for requested absentee ballots. Instead, it is an election wherein the voter has to personally appear at the Courthouse and cast their vote. Please mark your calendars and cast your vote for your choice of those you believe will be the best qualified to form the leadership of the fire department of our community. All Custer County residents, registered voters, may vote in this election.



This year's elections to the fire board of the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District (WMFPD), have, for some reason, attracted quite unusual interest. There are ten gentlemen vying for three open slots on the board this election day, Tuesday May 3, 2016. In the order of appearance on the ballot itself, the following are the contenders:

Christopher James LeCuyer
Gerald Lee Livengood
Ron Beckner

PRIDE Awards

Press Release

Cotopaxi schools holds a citizenship award ceremony for its elementary students every quarter. It is an opportunity to honor students who have exhibited PRIDE qualities. Each quarter they

focus on one trait.

PRIDE is an acronym for the elementary school's positive behavioral support system.

P=Positive Attitude
R=Respect
I=Integrity

D=Determination
E=Excellence (all of the above)
The school acknowledges one trait per quarter and Excellence at the end of the year. Elementary students K-5 are recognized by their teachers.



Pictured above are this year's award recipients after the 4th Quarter Excellence PRIDE Assembly for Cotopaxi Elementary students.
Back row (L to R): Ty Coleman (5th), Simon Stiller (5th), Emily Miller (5th), CheyAnn Samples (5th)
Middle row (L to R): Hayden Will (5th), Trinity Stiller (3rd), Kelsey Teter (3rd), Zac Winkler (4th), Joel Tezak (3rd)
Front row (L to R): Hayden Eggleston (2nd), Sydney Vincent (2nd), Josey Kaiser (1st)
Not pictured: Jonah Jamerson (K)

Courtesy Photo

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**PATRIOT
ALERT!**
What is
Coming
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All Scripture is
given by
inspiration of God,
and is profitable
for doctrine,
for reproof,
for correction,
for instruction in
righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV



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



AMENDMENT 69 – A PENDING DISASTER

ColoradoCare — What’s it all about? Here is what the website says it is:

ColoradoCare is a **resident-owned, non-governmental** health care financing system designed to ensure comprehensive, quality, accessible, lifetime health care for **every** Colorado resident. The benefit package will enhance the comprehensive health care services required by Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Premiums will be collected from Coloradans **based on income, securing health care regardless of financial circumstance.** This **efficient, universal** system will operate in the **interests** of Coloradans. By **eliminating layers of bureaucracy** and **reducing administrative and other nonmedical costs**, ColoradoCare **will cover all** residents and **still cost less** than the current system.

Sounds great, no? Another big government “non-governmental” entity that will take care of everyone’s lifetime healthcare, cost almost nothing, is run by a board of trustees and will be a cure for all our health problems (pun intended). Another perfect socialist plan. And the above description

has all the fabulous “buzz” words and phrases (bolded above) that connote perfection while being hollow and meaningless in reality. Someone has concocted a symphony of pleasing concepts and promises. All false by the way. Eliminating, reducing, enhancing; these things **never** happen in government programs. We hope you have learned by now that we cannot trust these kinds of cure-all programs that according to the proponents are affordable and efficient. Obamacare (aka the Affordable Care Act – don’t you just love how the politicians name their legislation?) is an utterly unaffordable program that is failing just as predicted. A recent report by the CBO suggested that when the new Medicaid patients are removed from the statistics the fact is that less people have health care insurance now than before Obamacare was mandated and implemented. We are compelled to remind our readers that Obamacare was passed unconstitutionally by Democrats only and was upheld in the Supreme Court by the Chief Justice inexplicably “rewriting” the law. Major health insurance companies are

pulling out and most of the state exchange systems implemented to operate with Obamacare have failed. Most of us knew that the premise of Obamacare was flawed and would never be affordable as written. Another utopian concept brought to America by the liberal progressives. So what now? ColoradoCare? The only thing different really is the beginning of the word which has changed from Obama to Colorado. This is a prescription for a mega disaster in our state. Information in the next three paragraphs can be found in the opposition website: <http://amendment69co.com/get-the-facts>:

ColoradoCare proponents insist that their taxpayer-supported system will solve our Obamacare woes and provide us with a better system. With a \$25-billion-dollar price tag, the proposal essentially doubles the state’s budget, soaking many hard-working Coloradans through a 10% payroll tax increase. Even worse, the language of the Colorado single-payer ballot initiative allows for “increasing these tax rates when ColoradoCare begins making health care

payments,” and exempts this healthcare system from the protections of the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR) that are very popular with Coloradans.

ColoradoCare proponents tout Amendment 69 as the answer to the failures of Obamacare, yet the last few years provide ample evidence to the contrary. The recent failure of Colorado HealthOP cost taxpayers over \$70 million and left over 80,000 Coloradans with cancelled policies. As of January 2016, only about 25,000 of these Coloradans have regained their insurance through the state exchange, Colorado HealthOP. Reports reveal that Colorado HealthOP has mismanaged more than \$170 million in taxpayer funding and is running a deficit of \$13.3 million dollars. Rather than serving as a hopeful alternative, a single payer system would only magnify the problems we’ve already seen – skyrocketing costs and plummeting quality of care.

According to the Independence Institute a Colorado-based conservative think tank:

• ColoradoCare will increase the state income

tax to 14.63 percent, the highest in the country.

- ColoradoCare will control medical prices and medical spending.
- ColoradoCare is not health insurance.
- ColoradoCare can assess unlimited income taxes.
- ColoradoCare will administer all State and Federal health programs except Medicare.
- The Colorado General Assembly will lose control of roughly a third of the state budget.
- All personal health care data will be deposited in a database for publicly available research.

How many times can we be fooled? Remember the story of the little boy who cried wolf! We believe it’s time to ignore these false cries of another massive taxpayer-funded program that will solve all the health problems we face. Amendment 69 was designed by liberal progressives as a substitute for the failing and costly Obamacare system and will be an even worse debacle for Colorado and its citizens and businesses. Get informed. This **MUST** be defeated in November. Vote **NO** on Amendment 69.



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Psalm 98:1a, NIV



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Patrick Henry - Referencing the Bible

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For true patriots to be silent, is dangerous.

Samuel Adams - Founding Father

Letters to the Editor



Please send your submissions to us at sdcsentinel@gmail.com, mail them or bring them in to the office at 610 Main St. Westcliffe CO 81252.

Rules: We will print, at our discretion, the thoughts and ideas of our fellow citizen-patriots. Please limit your offerings to 250 words or less. No profanity or vulgarity, no personal attacks, and please sign your name. Also, please give us the general location of your residence and phone number or email - for confirmation only. The opinions expressed here are solely those of the author; they do not reflect the opinions held or endorsed by the Sentinel.

Transgender Restroom Use

Dear Editor,

Once again, I find myself living in an episode of The “Twilight Zone”. For a whole bunch of reasons, it is an American custom to have separate restroom facilities. This has been a custom in my lifetime; I was born in 1944. Today, I heard a retired judge turned political pundit on TV compare this “open restroom” dispute with “white” and “colored” restrooms of the past. Being born and raised in metro-New York City, I never even saw a “colored” restroom or water fountain in my life. These things are beyond my experience and using it to defend “transgender allowed” restrooms is 100% meaningless to me.

I know the real reason for these cultural statement media fueled controversies like “decorate my cake for my gay wedding” or “if I feel like a girl today, I’ll use the ladies’ room today.” The real reason is to force acceptance for aberrant lifestyle choices adopted emotionally by the left in America. It is undeniable that the overwhelming majority of Americans like the separate restrooms custom, they like the choice to say “no” to being asked for a gay wedding cake and most parents do not want their children to use a ladies’ room with some man who is enjoying being a girl.

Let me be clear, the first time a woman uses a re-

stroom while I’m using it is the last time I’ll patronize that establishment. There will be no arguments or shouts; I’ll just leave and never come back. For most of my life, I’ve lived without Target, Wal-Mart and fast food franchises. They are not critical to my existence. Maybe if enough disgusted Americans vote with their feet and their wallets, the “social justice warriors” will get the message.

Local businesses should be careful about the decisions they make. While making poor business decisions isn’t against the law, they do have consequences.

Joe Cascarelli
Westcliffe CO

Press Release Correction from Custer County Sheriff’s Office

I wanted to reach out to everyone and make a correction to a Media Release on the Fatal Accident we released early last week. In the original Media Release, I inadvertently stated the driver was not restrained when in fact he was.

I specifically observed Mr. Pierre was belted into the driver’s seat and I sincerely apologize for that mistake.

Shannon K. Byerly
Custer County Sheriff

Barack Obama’s Fantasy

by Joe Cascarelli
Westcliffe CO

Now that still another meaningless climate change treaty has been signed by John Kerry, the American public will have to sort through the “sky is falling” claims by the left. The only question that still remains unanswered for me is, “How did such a large portion of the American left become so gullible?” One of my theories is that Americans have become intellectually lazy. Another theory is that schools may not be spending enough time on the sciences. A passing grade in high school physics should be enough background knowledge for any thinking person to shoot dozens of holes in Obama’s fantasies as presented in his recent speeches.

I wonder how Mr. Obama would explain this data. Colorado’s record high temperature was 118 F, set on July 11, 1888. Yes, that’s 1888 not 1988. I wonder how the *New York Times* missed that opportunity to predict the melting of polar ice caps. Maybe they planned to write that story, but the famous blizzard of ’88 earlier that year was a bigger crisis particularly in New York City where several hundred New Yorkers

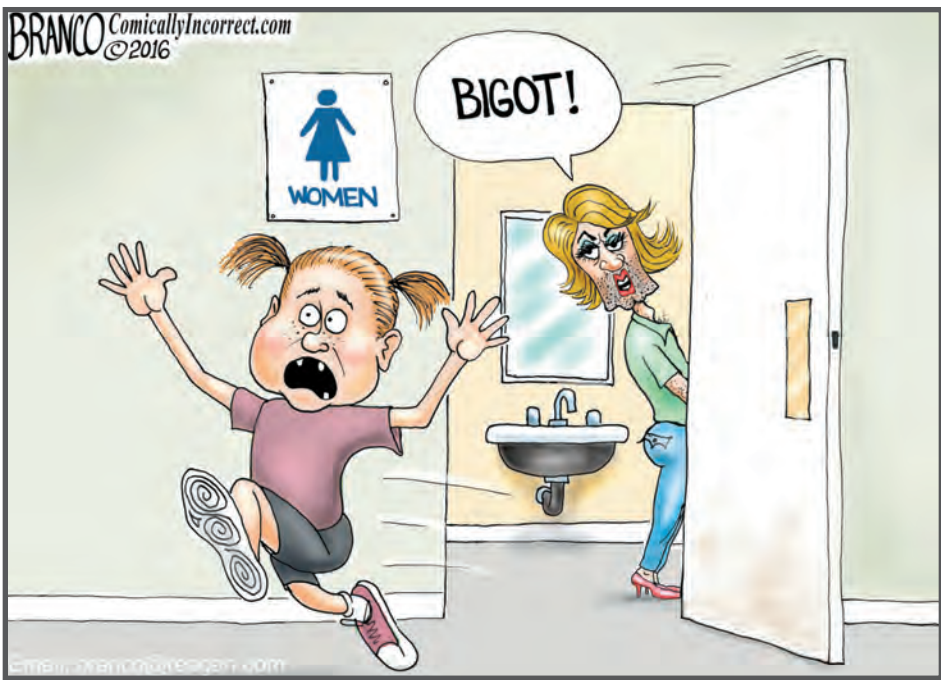
froze to death. Nearly three decades later on June 27, 1915, Alaska set its current record high at 100 F, recorded at the U.S. Weather Service’s station at Fort Yukon.

Now, the summer of 1936 was one for the record books. The states of Maryland (109 F), Indiana (116 F), Kansas (121 F), Louisiana (114 F), Minnesota (114 F), Nebraska (118 F), New Jersey (110 F), North Dakota (121 F), Pennsylvania (111 F), South Dakota (120 F), West Virginia (112 F) and Wisconsin (114 F) all set record high temperatures in July/August that year. It is funny how Barack’s speech writers missed 1936. How could a community organizer, non-practicing lawyer and law school lecturer miss this opportunity to show that man caused “global warming” started decades ago? He is no doubt an expert in the field of climatology. Does anyone in America know what his academic and experiential credentials are? Maybe 1936 is a bad year to use to make a point because in February of that year the Dakotas, North and South, also set their current state record lows of

minus 60 F and minus 58 F respectively.

Here is why I don’t believe Barack or John. If any self-proclaimed climate expert like Prince Charles doesn’t have a theory about the Medieval Warm Epoch (400 years of record high temperatures in the northern hemisphere, 900-1300 AD) or if they don’t know that water vapor is earth’s most abundant greenhouse gas or if they can’t explain sun spots, I have no faith in their ability to predict the climate 100 years from now. Weather and over time the climate just doesn’t seem to want to cooperate with Obama and his unquestioning followers. Unpredictable climate will be around for another 2 or 3 billion years. Fortunately for humanity, Barack and his fantasies will not.

I can only hope that the portion of the American public that fails to question the arguments for “man-caused global warming” before economy-destroying public policy decisions are made, will wake up and pay attention. This will require some reading, analysis and critical thinking. They must get a grasp on reality.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

True Value Hardware on Hwy 50 Acquires Kioti Tractor Line

by George Gramlich

The long established True Value Hardware, Tractors and Power Equipment dealer on Highway

50, a few miles east of Cañon City, has recently become a vendor for Kioti tractors. The internationally famous Kioti tractor

family have become quite popular in the United States in the last decade or so. True Value is carrying their complete line of very

competitively priced tractors from compact to full size.

The owners of True Value Hardware, Bill and Jeanne Garoutte, who live in Custer County, are very excited about having a full service tractor line in their inventory to supplement their power equipment sales (Stihl, Ariens, Husqvarna, Hustler), generators (Honda), trailer line and their comprehensive RV repair facility.

True Value is located on Highways 50 and 67 in Penrose. Their hours are Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Phone: 719-784-0123. Website: www.truevaluetrailer.com.



True Value Hardware, Highway 50, Penrose

Sentinel Photo by George Gramlich



Kioti Tractors Now Available Locally

True Value owners, Bill and Jeanne Garoutte, with their Kioti tractor lineup.

Sentinel Photo
by George Gramlich

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Preschool Screening for Children Ages 2-5

Friday, May 6, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Located at the Elementary School Gym

If your child will be 3-5 years old before August 1, 2016, you are encouraged to call and make an appointment to have your child screened for preschool and/or kindergarten. To possibly qualify for a tuition-free CPP slot, you and your child must attend this screening. Regardless of whether you plan to enroll in school or are homeschooling, you will be provided with information on your child's readiness for school and with information on community resources to support your child. There is no cost for this screening.

Please call the school at 719-783-4891 to schedule an appointment.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Colorado Report Finds Heavier Marijuana Use Anyone Surprised?

by Larry Luikart

A 143 page report from the Colorado Department of Public Safety released on April 18, 2016, indicates heavier marijuana use among patients to Colorado treatment centers. The report through 2014 indicates more than a third of the patients reported near-daily use of marijuana, while 2007 data indicates less than a quarter reported the same use.

While the rate of people seek-

ing treatment has held steady since legalization, the number of people 20 years old or less has declined. This information has led to a conclusion; marijuana

legalization has led to a shift in use patterns which worries some researchers. Mark A.R. Kleiman a New York University professor who studies marijuana, said last year. "While we have been arguing about legalization, the country has developed a serious cannabis use problem for the first time."

A steady increase in marijuana use has been going on in Colorado since 2006, long before the boom in medical marijuana dis-

ly, marijuana arrests or citations have declined sharply with little change in the number of people arrested on suspicion of driving stoned. (Reporter's note: This is a significant finding. If many

have been so poorly done and haphazard in the past, the report is more a starting point than a final analysis. Reed says, "It is too early to draw any conclusions about the potential effects of marijuana

policy efforts pointed to the increase in emergency room visits and the dramatic rise in drug-related suspensions in schools. He said, "While they weren't major spikes, and while they may be attributable to increased enforcement and decreasing stigma, they point to long-term difficulties the state may face that are the unique result of legalization."

Without boring you to death with statistics, here are a few from the report that are significant, and they indicate just the beginning of what will become an epidemic in Colorado. The numbers are all past-month marijuana use by age group. Ages 12-17: 2006, 7.6% rises to 12.6% in 2014; Ages 18-25: 2006, 21.2% rises to 31.2% in 2014; Ages 26 and older: 2006, 5.4% rises to 12.4% in 2014. That's a 65.8% increase in the first group, a 47.2% increase in the second group and whopping 129.6% increase in the last group.

"...the country has developed a serious cannabis use problem for the first time."

"There has been a sharp rise in emergency room visits related to marijuana..."

more people are using marijuana at an alarming frequency and arrests are down it indicates you as a non-stoned driver are meeting and following a lot more people who are driving impaired. Think about that the next time you're on the I-25 raceway between Colorado Springs and Denver.)

Unfortunately, the report written by Jack Reed, a statistical analyst, isn't meant as a final statement on the marijuana issue. The data-tracking efforts in Colorado

legalization or commercialization on public safety, public health, or youth outcomes and this may always be difficult due to the lack of historical data." Along with the lack of data, Reed notes the jump in hospital visits may be a change in peoples' willingness to admit to marijuana use. The increase may be nothing more than people being more willing to tell the truth about their marijuana habits.

Andrew Freeman, Coordinator for the Colorado pot program

Wet Mountain Fire Announces Three More Rank Advancements

Press Release
Wet Mountain Fire

Jeremiah Coleman, Chris LeCuyer and Michael Moos have all been promoted to Lieutenant.

"All three of these Firefighters became voted members in January, 2012, and have met the minimum time requirements of the by-laws," said Chief Dave Tonsing, "but they've also shown merit in their ability to assume incident command when the need arises."

"We expect junior officers to be at least confident enough to handle the basics of the nationally recognized Incident Command System as part of our requirements for rank advancement. We've seen definite

growth in this area from all three candidates," added Tonsing.

The Firefighters have also shown their commitment to the Department in their response numbers. "LeCuyer has been our heaviest responder for four years straight, and even though they are all volunteers and have heavy work and family priorities Moos and Coleman, as well, have found the time to respond more and more, said Assistant Kit Shy. "Every time they respond they learn, and as they gain experience they improve their value as a team member we can count on to get the job done," added Shy. All three of the new Lieutenants have committed as well to the extensive Firefighter I training scheduled to begin this month.

Memorial Weekend 2015 Parade Saturday, May 28th at 10 a.m.

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Local Mountain News & Notices



CCHS Choir Competes in Vocal Competition

The CCHS Choir competed at the CHSAA Southern Vocal Competition at Pueblo West H.S. on Friday, April 15th. They performed three pieces and then had to sight-read (perform a piece without ever having seen or heard it before) and scored a one or “superior” which is the highest score possible.

Back Row (L-R): Ryan Young, Michael Batson, Ryan Schepmann, Jon Redmond, Victoria Wiener and Liz Stewart.
Middle Row (L-R): Athena Wisecup, Dakota Schoch, Morgan Nelson, Betsy Zeller, Amy Selden, Dalton Wommack, Bennet Zeller, Chris Jenkins, Alisha Dryer, Skylor Smith and Noelle Zeller.
Front Row (L-R): Amber Woodrum, Lillian Bailey, Holly Wenger, Madysen Paxton, Latisha Schlabach, student X and Director- Sarah Thompson.

Courtesy Photo CCHS

Free Admission at Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum Saturday

Great opportunity to take the family to one of the premier aircraft and space museums in the country for FREE this Saturday, April 30. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are located right next to the Pueblo Airport at 31001 Magnuson Ave. Phone: 719 948-9219.



Backyard Gardener's Program: "All Things Potato"

Press Release

The Custer County Extension Office is offering the Backyard Gardeners program again this year. The program, was started by local Extension Agent Robin Young three years ago, by bringing in certified potato seed from the San Luis Valley Agricultural Research Center for distribution to Custer County residents. “All you have to do is fill out an evaluation form at the end of the season and turn it in,” says Young. “There will be a small fee for the seed this year, but it’s worth it to keep the program going”. There are usually four varieties to choose from with different colored flesh and skin that include fingerlings, red, masquerade, and Yukon gold. Young says the program has been very successful and growing steady each year with more people participating. Last year, pinto beans were offered in the program. “It’s important to pay attention to soil health when growing any vegetable. Po-

tatoes should be rotated with a legume crop to follow to adjust the nitrogen. That is why we are offering the beans.” The beans and potatoes will be available April 18th.

There will be a presentation on “All Things Potatoes” put on by the Extension service on April 30th. Experts from the research center will be on hand to talk about best management practices. Custer County Extension is also partnering with the SLV Research Center on a research project on new varieties of potatoes. They need growers to help conduct the research and report back at the end of the season. Please contact the local Extension Office if you are interested in participating in either of these programs. The local Extension Office is located at 205 S. 6th Street on the top floor of the Court House. You may contact Robin Young at 783-2514 or robin.young@colostate.edu for more information or sign up to be a grower.

Rotary Club Presentations

Press Release

Come join the local Rotary Club for our meetings. All meetings are open to the public. We meet every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. at Cliff Lanes (bowling alley) Conference room.

If you would like to order

lunch, please call Merton Young at 783-0615 or you may contact the bowling alley in advance to place your lunch order.

May 2 - Roger Squire, Custer County Road and Bridge manager, will give us an update on Custer County Roads.

May 16 - Cole McCollum, Club America manager will talk about physical fitness and Club America.

May 23 - Walter van Woudenberg, retired business man and CCSD volunteer and sponsor, will speak about micro finance.

For All Your Spring Projects

- Landscape Materials
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Local Mountain News & Notices

LET'S PLAY BALL!

WET MOUNTAIN BASEBALL
IS NOW ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS
FOR THE UPCOMING BASEBALL
SUMMER PROGRAM
MAY 6TH DEADLINE

Boys and girls from age 4 through 13 are eligible to play.

T-ball (4-6 years old)

- All games and practices held in Westcliffe.
- \$25 which includes a game shirt.

Rookies (1st - 3rd grades)

- Games in Cañon City on Monday nights.
- Practices once a week at the Silver Cliff baseball field.
- \$50 registration fee includes a complete uniform.

Minors (4th and 5th grades)

- Games in Cañon City on Tuesday nights.
- Practices once a week at the Silver Cliff baseball field.
- \$50 registration fee which includes a complete uniform.

Majors (6th - 8th grades)

- Games in Cañon City on Tuesday nights.
- Practices once a week at the Silver Cliff baseball field.
- \$50 registration fee which includes a complete uniform.

The games for Rookies, Minors and Majors begin on June 4th in Cañon City. The season lasts for six weeks.
Please contact contact Shelly Penkoff for more information at 783-2666 or at wmvrcsi@gmail.com.

Bobcat Track Update: Records are Meant to be Broken

by John (Jack) Swartz

After a well-planned weekend off, the Custer County Track and Field team was back in Pueblo for the Thunderstorm invitational held at CSU - Pueblo on Saturday April 23rd. The team is looking to make a final push for the State Championships as times and mark keep getting better.

Someone who is used to improving on their mark is Junior Serenity Ham. After a record breaking sophomore year, Ham has found her stride once again after re-braking her own 300-meter hurdle record in Pueblo taking second in the event and lowering her time to 47.20. Ham also placed

fourth in the 100 meter hurdles in a time of 17.20.

Also improving their time at a very competitive meet was Freshman Kayla Carter. Carter placed seventh in the mile with a time of 5:52. Adding to the list of personal bests on Saturday was Alyssa Barnes running 30.99 in the 200 meter and Katie Florom in the discus with a throw of 78' - 06".

No records were broken for the boys but it might not be long for Junior Jerald Taylor. Taylor continues to improve his time in the mile running a 4:30 to place third overall. Taylor also ran the 800 meter in 2:04 for fourth. The boys added to some personal bests as well. Jess Franta

ran 6:41 in the mile, Billy Berry cleared 5'7" in high jump and threw 112' in the discus. Dylan Schoch ran a 59.60 in the open 400 meter and Michael Batson threw 34'-08" in the shot put.

Both teams will attend the Primero Invitational on Thursday, April 28th, before heading to Alamosa on Saturday the 30th. After that, there will only be two more meets to qualify for the State Championships. Currently Ham, Taylor, Carter, Emily Crossley and the 3,200-meter relay team of David Kinsey, Chad Levenkamp, Dylan Schoch and Taylor are in the top 18 of their respective events. Every weekend that can change.



Pirates Baseball Schedule

Tuesday, April 26: CCV Away, 4 p.m.

Bobcats Sport Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

Saturday, April 30: High Altitude Championships, Alamosa 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday, May 6: Pueblo Twilight, Pueblo- Dutch Clark TBA

May 12 - 14: Pueblo West Cyclone Invitational, Pueblo West

May 19 - 21: State Track Meet, Denver

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

Friday, April 29 Away @ Monte Vista 9 a.m. - noon

Friday, May 6 Away @ Del Norte 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Friday, May 13 Away @ Alamosa League Track Meet 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Bobcat Menu • May 2 - May 5, 2016

Monday
Breakfast
Choice of Cereal
Fruit
Milk
lunch
Chicken over Noodles
W.G. Roll
Veg. & Fruit
Milk

Tuesday
Breakfast
Choice of Cereal
Fruit
Milk
lunch
Scrambled egg/w Ham
W.G. Biscuit
Veg. & Fruit
Milk

Wednesday
Breakfast
Choice of Cereal
Fruit
Milk
lunch
Spag. w/ Meat Sauce
W.G. Roll
Veg. & Fruit
Milk

Thursday
Breakfast
Sausage Gravy
W.G. Biscuit
Fruit, Milk
lunch
Nachos
Rice
Veg. & Fruit
Milk

Elementary: Main Dish, Grain Product, Veg., Fruit, and Milk
Middle & High: Main Dish, (or Pre-made Chef Salad) Grain Product, Veg., Fruit, and Milk

KIDS

Friday, April 29, 2016

Earthquakes

April 18, 1906 an earthquake struck San Francisco, California, measuring close to 8.0 on the Richter scale.

April 15 & 16, 2016 twin earthquakes strike near Kumamoto, Japan measuring 6.2 and 7.0. on the Richter scale.

April 18, 2016 a 7.8 magnitude earthquake shook the town of Portoviejo, Ecuador, killing at least 410 people and injuring more than 2,000.

So, what exactly is an earthquake?

First some definitions:

Tectonic plate - A tectonic plate is a massive, irregularly shaped slab of solid rock.

Large crustal plates form the surface of the earth on the continental land masses and beneath the seas.

Fault - Cracks in the planet's surface. These cracks may be small and localized or can stretch thousands of miles where tectonic plates meet. Most earthquakes occur along cracks in the planet's surface called faults. The San Andreas Fault was made famous by the 1906 earthquake that struck San Francisco.

An earthquake is caused by a sudden slip on a fault. The tectonic plates are always slowly moving, but they get stuck at their edges due to friction. When the stress on the edge overcomes the friction, there is an earthquake that releases energy in waves that travel through the earth's crust and cause the shaking that we feel. Another result of an earthquake is a Tsunami.

Tsunamis are giant waves caused by earthquakes or volcanic eruptions under the sea. Out in the depths of the ocean, tsunami waves do not dramatically increase in height, but as the waves travel inland, they build up to higher and higher heights as the depth of the ocean decreases.

In March 2011, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake rocked Japan, sending a massive set of waves onto its coastline. Over 18,000 people died; buildings, roads, seaports, and railroads were destroyed, and a nuclear power plant was severely damaged.

As you can see, earthquakes can be very damaging to lives and homes. It is difficult to predict future earthquakes, but the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) conducts and supports research into predicting earthquakes.

by Audrey Slater, Sources: openhazards.com, usgs.gov, exploratorium.edu, education.nationalgeographic.org, environment.about.com

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Cañon City Public Library

Gustaff Besungu

An Amazing

Djembe Percussionist

&

Storytime Performer

Tuesday, April 26

@ 10:30 am

516 Macon Ave

719-269-9020





Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES



NOTICE OF ELECTION

Polling Place

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District, Custer County, Colorado:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on the 3rd day of May, 2016, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM. The Designated Election Official has designated the following polling place:

**Custer County Courthouse
205 S. 6th Street
Westcliffe, CO 81252**

At said election, the electors of the District shall vote for not more than three (3) Directors to serve the following term of office on the Board of Directors of the District:

The names of persons nominated as Director for a FOUR-Year Term are as follows:

- Christopher James LeCuyer
- Gerald Lee Livengood
- Ron Beckner
- John G. Decker
- Michael R. Kienbusch
- Jeffery Allen Thomas
- Roger Allen Camper
- Stephen Yackley
- Jim L. Shapland
- Eric J. Foster

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that an eligible elector of said district for the purpose of said election is a person registered to vote pursuant to the “Colorado Uniform Election Code of 1992”; and who is a resident of the District, or who, or whose spouse or civil union partner, owns taxable real or personal property within the District, whether said person resides within the District or not, or a person who is obligated to pay taxes under a contract to purchase taxable property within the District shall be considered an owner of taxable property for the purpose of qualifying as an eligible elector.

NOTICED IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for and return of absentee voter ballots may be filed with, and replacement ballots may be received from:

Kelley S. Camper, Designated Election Official of the WetMountain Fire Protection District at the Custer County Courthouse, 205 S. 6th Street, Westcliffe, CO, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM until the close of business on Friday, April 29, 2016.

Wet Mountain Fire Protection District
Kelley S. Camper,
Designated Election Official

Date Published 04/15/16, 04/22/16, 04/29/16
Name of Publication Sangre de Cristo Sentinel

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CREATE BINDING USE RESTRICTIONS ON THE OLD CUSTER COUNTY LANDFILL (A/K/A WESTCLIFFE LANDFILL) LOCATED APPROXIMATELY ½ MILE NORTH OF WESTCLIFFE, CO. ON THE EAST SIDE OF

COUNTY RD 241, #515, PARCEL NO. 10229200

Custer County and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (DCPHE) provide notice of their intention to impose binding environmental use restrictions (EURs) located approximately one-half mile north of Westcliffe, Colorado on the east side of County Road 241, #515, parcel number 1029200. The EURs ensure continued protection of human health and the environment due to the land’s former use as a landfill. The restrictions prohibit any activity on the land that may damage the landfill cover, and prohibit access to the landfill cover and irrigation on the landfill cover. Pursuant to §25-15-318.5, C.R.S., once the EURs have been finalized, they are binding on all current and future owners of the land and any persons possessing an interest in the land. CDOHE is accepting public comments on the draft EURs. A copy of the proposed EURs and a legal description of the affected property is available on-line at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/solid-waste-public-notices>. All comments must be submitted to eric.jacobs@state.co.us by May 16, 2016.

Date Published 04/15/16, 04/22/16, 04/29/16
Name of Publication Sangre de Cristo Sentinel

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Custer County Planning Commission will hold a public meeting on May 3, 2016 at 1:30 P.M. Custer County Courtroom. The following will be considered.

- 1.Hearing for Wright & Goodman/Vacation of parcel lines and Replat, Custer County Colorado.
- 2.Hearing for Goodman/ Subdivision Waiver

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
Dates Published 04/22/16, 04/29/16
Name of Publication Sangre de Cristo Sentinel

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Custer County
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Tentative Agenda
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016
9:00 AM
Meeting Location:
County Courthouse /Commissioners Room**

- Call meeting to order
- Pledge of allegiance
- Roll Call
- Amend agenda
- Approval of minutes:
- Audience introduction
- Public Comment
- Commissioner Items

- Attorney Items
- Executive Session
- New/Old Business
- Staff Reports: Airport Advisory Board (AAB), Public Health Agency, West Custer County Library District – A. Moulton, VSO, Human Services
- Work Session: Custer County/ Custer School options to share a full time nursing position in 2017. Superintendent Mark Paylor

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

Publish April 29, 2016
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, CO

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Custer County
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016
9:00 AM
Meeting Location:
County Courthouse /Commissioners Room**

- Call meeting to order
- Pledge of allegiance
- Roll Call
- Amend agenda
- Approval of minutes
- Audience introduction
- Public Comment
- Commissioner Items
- Attorney Items
- Executive Session
- New/Old Business
- Award the contract for the Wetmore Community Center/Library Project
- Staff Reports: Road & Bridge, Landfill/Recycle, Human Resource/Finance, Treasurer, Planning and Zoning, Emergency Management
- Interviews for the BOCC Administrative Assistant Position

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

Publish April 29, 2016
Sangre de Cristo Sentinel
Westcliffe, CO

Events Calendar

Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 1, at 2:00 p.m. at	The Bluff and Summit Park, 100 S. Adams Blvd. <i>Mercury Transits Sun Viewing</i> At the Smokey Jack Observatory
<i>The Jones Theater:</i> “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” Action Adventure Fantasy PG-13	Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 15, at 2:00 p.m. at
Tuesday, May 3 9 a.m. County Commissioner’s meeting Boardroom	<i>The Jones Theater:</i> <i>A play</i> “Social Securtiyn”
Wednesday, May 4 9 a.m. County Commissioner’s meeting Boardroom	
Monday, May 9, at 9 a.m. - 12 noon	

*“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore will not we fear,
though the earth be removed,
and though the mountains
be carried into the midst of the sea;
Be still, and know that I am God:
I will be exalted among the heathen,
I will be exalted in the earth.”*

Psalms 46: 1,2, 10 NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

Benefits

Come to the Sneaker Ball, Sat. May 14, Saddle Club, doors open 6:30 p.m. Dance to Music by fabulous DJ David James until midnight. \$40 couple, \$20 adult, \$8 student (advance purchase), Includes appetizers, Silent Auction, door prizes for best dress sneakers. To benefit Club America. Tickets sold at Candy's Coffee, Club America. 783-0750.

Concrete

Flat work, sidewalks, driveways, patios, etc. Over 30 years experience Very competitive rates Call Mason 719-429-0219

For Rent

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

For Sale

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

FSBO: About 4 acres in center of historic Rosita on Rosita road. 100-mile view includes Collegiate Peaks. Easy well-drilling Call (518) 248-8014; jackleadley@yahoo.com.



38' 2006 Montana 5th wheel. Paid 93K will sell for 55K. Like new, has 4 pop-outs, fireplace, satellite antennae, lots of storage and hitch included. Call (719) 783-2130.

Help Wanted

Need a barn/stall/corral cleaning person to do the morning chores for three horses, sometimes more when guests are visiting. Located in south Bull Domingo. No more than two hours per morning, six days per week. Must be able to shovel, lift, and drive ATV on personal property. \$5 per horse per day; \$90 per week on average. Help needed from June 6 to October 31. Good part-time summer job for

High School student or retiree. Call Pam or Tom at 602-625-9133.

Bookkeeper / Executive Assistant needed. MUST KNOW QuickBooks and Word. If you do not know QB well, then do not apply. Must be able to download and print files, filing (paper and electronic), scanning, mailings, make calls, general office duties. 719-783-2867 ext. 4# or email resume to frank.oberlin@criticalpathmetalworks.com Salary and 401K

COWBOY CHURCH

The Cowboy Church is seeking an individual to serve as worship leader to replace outgoing George Fenley. This person must be accomplished in both vocals and lead guitar. We play traditional country, modern country and contemporary Christian music. Services are at 4:00 Sunday afternoon. This is a permanent, paid position. The other instruments in the band are bass guitar, rhythm guitar, drums, occasional pedal steel and backup vocals. Contact Pastor Larry Smith at 783-2676 or Mike Wilhite at 303-434-6184.

ADULT SERVICES LIBRARIAN OPENING The West Custer County Library is looking for an Adult Services Librarian to join a creative and community-minded team.

The position requires a passion for engaging adults in lifetime learning; current digital technology skills; demonstrated ability to combine administrative and people skills; reliability, creativity, patience and a sense of humor. Experience with a library and current working knowledge of the community in Custer County is desired. The Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is a jurisdiction of the State of Colorado, so employees need to recognize this government entity is required to provide services to all members of the community.

Under general supervision, the Adult Services Librarian provides a variety of programming for adults and promotes library awareness through community outreach. Assesses and identifies community needs, tastes and resources, and suggests creative, effective programs and

materials for adults. Also works with the public at the front desk. Required: High School Degree. College degree or equivalent experience is preferred. Ten to fourteen hours/week, ideally to include Thursday and a half day on Saturday. Starting wage is \$11/hour. Please pick up a full position description at the Library, 209 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO. Resumes and cover letters are due Thursday, May 12, 2016 by 5:00 p.m.

The Custer County School District has openings for custodial substitutes and for two summer custodial employees. For more information concerning the job requirements, please contact Greg Cravens at ((719)242-8891. Classified staff applications 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. The positions will remain open until filled.

In compliance with Titles VI & VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and Colorado law, Custer County School District C-1 does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, disability or need for special education services in admissions, access to, treatment or employment in educational programs or activities which it operates. Complaint procedures have been established for students, parents, employees and members of the public. The following person(s) have been identified as the compliance officer for the district: Secondary Principal, 709 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252. (719)783-2291

The Custer County School District has an opening for a middle school/high school social studies teacher for the 2016-2017 school year. Applications are available online at custercountyschools.org. For more information, please contact Barbara Jones at (719)783-4921. This position will remain open until May 4th.

In compliance with Titles VI & VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondis-

crimination Act of 2008, and Colorado law, Custer County School District C-1 does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, disability or need for special education services in admissions, access to, treatment or employment in educational programs or activities which it operates. Complaint procedures have been established for students, parents, employees and members of the public. The following person(s) have been identified as the compliance officer for the district: Secondary Principal, 709 Main Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252. (719)783-2291

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Tony 719-783-2883

SEPTIC PUMPING
(719) 783-2747 or ell (719) 371-3523
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Don't let your septic fail!
NORDYKE
SANITATION

Mowing and Brush Hogging
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Recurring Events

Monday

6 p.m. Closed step study Alcoholics Anonymous 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 Mountain 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 Company Restaurant in Silver Cliff. Contact Barb St. Amour at (719) 371-1051.
10 a.m. -5:30 p.m. West Custer County Library in Westcliffe is open. 783-9138.
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Custer County Public Transit service available to everyone - Wet Mountain 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 meeting (March-October) at the Saddle Club.

First Wednesday of the Month

7 p.m. ROCKY MOUNTAIN BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN at the Penrose Community 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 Library in Westcliffe is open. 783-9138.
9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Line dancers meet at Methodist 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 Mountain 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 Mountain Valley Rotary Club. Call 783-2343.
10 a.m. -5:30 p.m. West Custer County Library 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 Library, Computer help for adults. Need help using your computer or other computer-related 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 appointments 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 Mountain 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 Library in Westcliffe is open. 783-9138.
1 p.m.-4p.m. Custer County Community Sharing Center, Inc. 120 N. 3rd St. (formerly Schlachach's market)
6 p.m. Open discussion Alcoholics Anonymous 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 Enrietta and John Hartig at the Library Community 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 Sharing Center, Inc. 120 N. 3rd St.
3rd Saturday of Month
9 a.m. VFW meeting at Cliff Lanes Conference Room for more info call Commander Randy Knight 783-9304

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 4 p.m. for that week's edition.

Local Mountain News & Notices

ELECTION Q & A from page 1



And here are the answers:

Incumbent WMFD Board Member John G. Decker:



My name is John G. Decker. I was born and raised in the Catskill Mountains in southern New York State. After high school I attended Hudson Valley Community College and then the San Antonio College for Fire Science. I served in the United States Air Force from 1973 to 1978 as a supervisory firefighter. I then worked as a Department of Defense federal firefighter retiring in 2006 as a Battalion Chief. I also served as Fire Chief in St. Hedwig TX from 2004 to 2006 in which I help start a new fire district. I hold certifications as Fire Officer 1,2,3; Fire Instructor 1,2; Fire Inspector 1,2; Hazardous Materials Operations, Technician and Haz Mat Incident Commander.

1. In today's world fire fighters train all on the same level wheather you're a volunteer or a paid person. The WMFPD trains to the National Fire Protection Association standards. My training at the WMFPD has been great I have been sent to schools as well as other people in the Department. They use outside resources within CO for other training that we can't provide. I would not be in this department if it was a rag tag outfit these people care and are very professional.
2. I have been volunteering here since 2006 I have served on the board for the last two years. My goal is to work as a team on the board. My input has been taken very well in the various committees that I have been on. I seek re-election so I may continue to work as a team member and to keep this department current with today's standards. In today's world there is no cutting of corners for being safe and to deliver a service of high standards
3. In 2015 I made 33 calls. In all my 45 years of service I have memories that I saw of death, destruction, and mayhem but in all these events the most memorable contribution to the departments was making sure our men and women return home safe and sound.
4. I have ethics of Loyalty, Duty, Selfless Service and Integrity. On the personal side I believe in Commitment, Competence, Candor and Courage. I have brought to the board ideas that as a team made things happen: for example, our truck replacement program, upgrading our protective gear and a acquiring a special washer machine to clean our gear and a central fire alarm system to protect our taxpayer's investment. If I don't know something I will find an answer.
5. I believe that I am a good person if I wasn't I think that I wouldn't be writing this. When coming up thru the ranks I would attain results no matter what the task. I was mission focused/performance oriented. When a Fire Chief I was good at motivating others and help others to develop their skills. The district changes with time updating all the time adding new safety equipment updating old technologies keeping our buildings up to standards. As far as improvements I would say none its not broke so why screw with it. The men and women who run this district for 40 years have done a great job at spending the taxpayers monies and keeping a low mil levy. The only real time we are needed is when they dial 911 and we show up do our job

Incumbent WMFD Member Jeffrey Allen Thomas:



Born in Lamar, CO in 1973. Graduated High School Las Animas, CO. Lived in Custer County 15 years, (also spent childhood summers at their family cabin in Westcliffe since 1977.)

Owned 2 businesses since 2000: Bar CT Trucking LLC (in business 7 years), and The Chop Shop LLC (in business 10 years.)

Fire Fighting Experience: Member of Colorado State Firefighters Association – State Certified Structure Firefighter Type 1, and trained at Type 2 Level – Multiple levels of Incident Command Systems from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security – CPR and First Aid Certified - Flight For Life Helicopter Operations - Certified Training in Propane Emergencies – Tactical Rescue and Techniques – First Responder Training.

National Wildfire Coordinating Group recognized – Firefighter Type 1 and 2 – Incident Commander Type 5 – Fire Certified Chainsaw Operator – Engine Boss and Fire Boss Trainee.

1. Along with training I have received at our local fire station once a month, I have attended numerous fire training academies including National Fire Academy in Baltimore, MD, and the Colorado Fire Camp in Poncha Springs, CO. The training I have received from these institutions has not only made me a safe and knowledgeable firefighter, but has also provided me with life skills that have been invaluable for other aspects of my life like leadership, business ownership, and friendships.
2. I have been a member of WMFPD since August 2008, a Lieutenant since 2010, and a member of the Board of Directors since October of 2011. I am seeking re-election because I would like to help maintain the integrity of our fire department, while promoting the highest level of fire protection for this district.
3. Since 2008, I have been on 279 calls which are 27% of the call volume. Although the “memorable contributions” are far too numerous to name, I can say that due to training, organization, some good luck, and God's will, all the firefighters have come back safely from these calls!
4. I believe my three traits that most benefit the board would be experience with the budget, which I have helped maintain and manage for the past few years; including purchasing more up to date fire apparatus, as well as outfitting our firefighters with the safest personal protective equipment. Next would be my familiarity with insurance, as I am very up to date on the district's current insurance policies. Lastly, I have a broad knowledge of the special district laws that involve the WMFPD.
5. I do believe I am a leader. I have owned 2 businesses and have had many employees; most of whom are still my friends, and say they would work for me again if the opportunity arose. I believe I have also shown my leadership skills in the fire department as Wild land Coordinator in the past, as well as an officer. I believe family comes first, but while providing a good living for my family, I have also managed to devote a great deal of time to this fire district, to my brothers and sisters here. Hopefully I have proven myself a true leader through these years here at the WMFPD. In the future, I would like to see our goals met with an emphasis on safety, teamwork, and camaraderie.

Firefighter Jerry (Gerald) Livengood:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Sentinel interview.



My name is Jerry (Gerald) Livengood. I was born in Canon City Co. (No hospital in Westcliffe !) I am a lifelong resident of the valley. I attended all 12 years of school at Custer County School. In 1982 I received my Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University. From 1983 until 2004 I worked for Round Mountain water and Sanitation in Westcliffe. Currently, since 2004, I work for the State of Colorado, Division of Water resources, as Water Commissioner for Wet Mountain Valley.

1. I have numerous experiences during training at WMFPD. Live burns, SCBA training in confined spaces, extrication, wildland training, and classes at the National Fire Academy in Maryland are just a few. The department motto “you are only as good as you train “ is ingrained in us.
2. I've been on the WMFPD for 31 years. I served previously on the board of directors for 8 years, and as Assistant Chief and Chief for a total of 7 years. I seek election now to continue to strive to provide the best fire protection we can for the Fire District.
3. I attended 20 calls last year. I am not comfortable sharing contributions I made at specific calls, due to HIPA regulations, and due to the fact it may bring up painful memories for individuals we responded to. Let me say in general, it's always a good memory to respond to someone's call in time of need, provide assistance, and have all the fire personnel on that scene return safely.
4. I would like to think that my three main strengths or talents I could bring to the Board of Directors would be (1) My experience and knowledge from being on the board previously, including budgets and regulations. (2) My ability to be approachable from both the public, and members of the WMFPD to try and provide for the needs or concerns of both. (3) My passion for the fire service and the Valley!
5. I do believe I'm a good leader, and the challenges/changes the WMFD face are constant. There is always the challenge of offsetting the depreciation of our fire trucks with the acquisition of new ones and the financial constraints. Providing the best and safest turnout gear for our members is paramount. Continuing to provide fire response by a purely volunteer membership, and recruiting and training new fire personnel is something the existing board always strives to accomplish, and I would also strive to improve and meet that objective.

Firefighter Roger Camper:

I WAS BORN IN Canon City, CO on July 4, 1948. I am a lifelong resident of Custer County. I graduated from Custer County High School in 1966. I joined the USAF in 1967 and was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant in late 1971. I married Pam Canda 44 years ago in 1972.



I joined the Westcliffe Volunteer Fire Department in 1972. In 1980, as president of the board, I spearheaded the formation of the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District (WMFPD).

I am a general contractor here in Custer County. I am a licensed locksmith, licensed residential plumber and am certified through the International Code Council as a general contractor. I am a life member of the VFW.

I am also presently employed, on a part time schedule by the Town of Silver Cliff as the Building and Zoning official.

1. Training is a must. Training is the bottom line for learning, safety, advancement, building competency, knowledge and molding the Fire Fighters into a team. Training gives the fire fighters mental and physical strength to accomplish their task on scene. I have had 40 years of training. A few of the certifications I have obtained are: EMT Basic, first responder, firefighter I and firefighter II, CPR, AED, FEMA Emergency Management Institute IS-700, National Incident Management System (NIMS), Incident Command System (ICS), emergency and disaster for executives, wild land fire classes and PAK testing. As firefighters, we continually train and re-certify.
2. I have been a volunteer firefighter for 44 years. I was president of the Westcliffe Volunteer Fire Department from 1973 to 1980. In 1980, I formed the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District and have been either President or Vice President of the board from 1980 to the present.

I seek re-election, because I have dedicated my entire adult life to the fire department. I have implemented many improvements and innovations to the district. My goal is to continue building and keeping a strong successful fire district with the best training available and the most current state of the art firefighting equipment and in so doing, insure the safety of our firefighters and protection of life and property of the residents of Custer County.

3. I am a retired firefighter for the past 10 years. In the previous 30 years I had a perfect attendance to all fire calls for many years in a row, as well near perfect in all other years. It is hard to discuss memorable situations at and during fire responses without breaking HIPPA regulations. I will note that at each incident I gained situational knowledge that I was able to pull up and use in following incidents.
4. I am a lifelong resident of Custer County. I know the locations of roads, trails, creeks, ponds, landmarks and any natural hazards that may be in the incident area. I am volunteer service oriented and committed to the WMFPD since its inception. I am committed to Custer County and its residents.
5. I am a very strong leader which has been proven over the past 44 years with the fire department. I spearheaded the formation of the fire district and helped design and implement the pension plan for the volunteer Firefighters. I have worked with DOLA many times to write grants. Because of some of my grant writing efforts, we were awarded grants for many of our fire trucks, three fire sub-stations, fire apparatuses, and the EMS Building.

I have worked with the board and a certified accountant to keep a balanced budget through my entire tenure as an officer of the board. Through all our building and equipment additions, I strived to see to it that we did not have to go back to the residents of the district to ask for more money. Under my tenure, the WMFPD has operated with the same mill levy that was initiated in 1980.

I know and follow all the regulations of the Special District Association and the Colorado Revised Statutes. I work well with all emergency response organizations, the Westcliffe and Silver Cliff town boards and the County Commissioners.



ELECTION Q & A see page 11

Local Mountain News & Notices

ELECTION Q & A from page 10



Roger Camper Cont'd

My future plans include a new sub-station at Lake DeWeese, a five year equipment replacement plan as per NFPA, and more training here as well as at the Academy in Maryland. Although we already have a great response history, I would like to look into in-house shift scheduling to enable an even quicker incident response. I also want to research the possibility of merit pay for our volunteers. I remain dedicated to the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District, the firefighters and members of our community.

Here are the questions we asked the non-WMFD candidates:

Beginning with a small section on bio (where born, school, time in Custer etc) the questions follow:

1. Why are you interested in the Fire Board at this time and what got you to seek election to the board?
2. This is a type of job that does not have fixed hours. Are you able and willing to make the commitment in time and energy to serve this entity and the community of Custer County at large?
3. The fire district is a taxpayer funded entity. Do you have the qualifications and comfort level to take on the responsibility and discipline to make the decisions to properly allocate funds and otherwise manage the finances of the district?
4. What three strengths and/or talents do you bring to the table that would be of particular benefit to the board, the fire department and the community at large?
5. Please define your concept of a good strong leader which you feel you possess and will apply during your term as a board member.

And here are the answers:

Candidate Eric Foster:

1. With over 30 years in the fire service and now retired, I felt the desire to help my local department in any way I can. There are always needs that must be fulfilled in public safety. To accomplish this, you should have a solid collective of experience by various folks who feel they can contribute. I was informed of this need so I answered the call.
2. Whenever I contemplate a decision such as this, I take it to the Lord and ask Him if this is something He wants me to do. I am well aware of this kind of commitment as I have done this in a different scale before and am willing to give of myself in order to benefit the Fire Chief and his needs.
3. Yes I do. I have served on the board of directors and on its various committees for the California State Firefighters Association. We represented almost 15,000 professional and volunteer firefighters throughout the state. We covered all political issues facing the needs of firefighters such as firefighter safety, legislation, training, equipment, safety and in some cases their benefits for retirement.
4. After being retired for over 10 years, I feel that my past experience, leadership skills and fire service knowledge, will be a help to the Fire Chief. It is this kind of need to where we say "the rubber hits the pavement", that I can offer

the community and its Fire Chief the guidance and leadership it deserves.

5. This would be by my ability to listen to the needs and after much thought and consideration, give my input. A solid leader must always put his "self" aside and put the mission goals and objectives first. One doesn't have to have all of the answers but needs the wisdom to seek the advice and past experience of his peers. I feel that a good leader must possess these qualities in order to properly lead.

Candidate Steve Yackley:

I retired two years ago after 41 years of active and reserve Army service in Ranger, Special Forces, and Infantry units. I enlisted right after high school and worked my way up through the ranks from Private to Staff Sergeant and then from Second Lieutenant retiring at the rank of Colonel. I have a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from the University of Arizona, a Masters Degree in Management from Troy University, and a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies from the Army War College. I have been married to my spouse Debby for over 34 years and we have three grown children and six grandchildren.

1. As a family we have always been involved with volunteer work in the communities in which we lived. We purchased land in Custer County in 1987 and during the 2 years since our retirement in 2014 we have been busy building our own home and are finally living in it. I now have time to become more active in the community and was encouraged by some fellow citizens and some of our volunteer fire fighters to run for election to the board.
2. Yes, I have the flexibility in my schedule to be able to allocate the necessary time and effort to the board requirements. If selected by the voters of the district I will dedicate myself to serving them to the best of my ability.
3. It is about providing seasoned stewardship of resources to meet the current and future needs of the district and its members. I have experience leading large complex organizations in challenging situations and managing budgets well into the hundreds of millions of dollars. I was responsible for the organizing, training, equipping, and operations of the Afghan National Fire Services as well as the Afghan National Police from 2008-2009. My last position in the Army from 2012-2014 was as the Deputy Commander of the Army's largest Basic Combat Training Center so I am comfortable and experienced at balancing priorities and allocating scarce resources to accomplish the mission. I was responsible for the Department of Defenses Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) plans for the lower 48 states from 2003-2005 which included support to wild land firefighting. I have attended the Emergency Preparedness Course and understand the Incident Command System (ICS), the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Emergency Support Functions (ESFs). I am experienced with working across and within multiple jurisdictions at the local, state, and federal levels.
4. I believe I am a flexible leader who can adapt to changing situations. I am an organized decision maker who seeks out the facts, develops realistic courses of action, and then provides a sound solution to the problem. I am also a detailed planner, both for current operations but more importantly strategic planning necessary for the continued growth and development of organizations.



5. A strong leader is someone who understands the needs of the organization and the constituents in the community. He is a team builder who is able to accomplish the mission at hand while also making the organization stronger for the future. An individual who can also work as part of the team to solve the current challenges while developing the pathway to achieve future goals.

Candidate Mike Kienbusch:

Mike Kienbusch has been a resident of rural Westcliffe since August 2015. He and his wife and two children moved to the valley from Arvada, CO to live in a small community in the mountains. Mike is a certified project manager, providing consulting services to small business owners in financial planning and business operations. Mike has a Masters degree in Analytical Chemistry and over 25 years of program management experience. His areas of expertise include Program Management, Business Operations, Emergency Response, Waste Management and Air Toxics monitoring. His significant accomplishments include being the emergency response strike team lead to Union Pacific, responding to derailments involving the release of hazardous materials. He successfully managed a 9 year, \$9M program to safely remove over 60,000 waste chemicals (radioactive and RCRA hazardous) from the Rocky Flats DOE facility. He is currently tutoring and substitute teaching at the Custer County High School in math and sciences.

1. I am interested in the Fire Board because I want to support my community. Why now? We moved into the area 8 months ago, our transition into our new home is winding down and time is becoming available. The motivation comes from within, I find satisfaction in assisting the community in times of need.
2. I am self-employed, working out of my home so my work hours are flexible. I am building my client base until I reach about a 50% backlog, leaving me time to focus on my community commitments. I will have the time and energy to serve my community.
3. As an experienced program manager, I have successfully managed long term, complex, multi-million dollar programs under Department of Energy and Department of Defense contract regulations. I was responsible for the technical performance of the team, while meeting schedule expectations and budgetary requirements. I currently work with small businesses to improve operations, manage budgets, make profits and forecast out-year financial plans. I believe I am qualified, and I am comfortable with making financial decisions involving Custer County tax payer funds.
4. As a project manager, I will approach meeting Fire Department objectives as projects- defining scopes of work, schedules, resource management and budget controls. As an Operations Manager, I will work on systems, policies, processes and procedures to increase consistency, visibility and accountability. As an expert in Hazardous Materials Management, I will evaluate our Departments capabilities and resources, and work with the OEM to increase our response capabilities to accidental releases of Hazardous Materials.
5. I will bring the following leadership skills to the Board. Having a vision of where this Department is and where it wants to be in the near future. Incorporate the support of the entire Department to encourage ownership and capture creative ideas. Spend time to plan how the Department can achieve it's future goals. Ensure compliance with Department policies and procedures. Instill strong ethical work practices, integrity



and commitment by example and expectation. Expect accountability for those holding responsibility.

Candidate Chris LeCuyer:

My name is Chris LeCuyer. I was born in Denver, Colorado. I graduated from Thornton High School in 1988. My wife, daughter and I moved to Custer County in 1995. Started my own painting and staining business (Diamond Back Painting) about 20 years ago.



1. WMFPD has some of the best training possible. The training you get prepares you for all incidents that may occur. Whether it's a call or training I always learn something new.
2. I have been a firefighter for about four and a half years with the Wet Mountain Fire Protection District. I was recently promoted to Lieutenant. I am running for the WMFPD board so I can help make decisions to serve firefighters with safety equipment that is needed to keep them all safe. To also further benefit the community, and the fire department.
3. I have had most calls 4 years in a row. The past 4 years I have been on 80 plus calls per year. Most calls are very rewarding but yet some calls are hard on everyone.
4. I'm very active in the fire department. Being involved in fire classes and other fire activities. Being open to suggestions and listening to people's Opinions.
5. I do believe that I am a good asset to the Fire Department. I would like to see the continued team effort of the Fire Department, EMS, and the Sheriff's Department to keep working together as a team. I would also like to see that the firefighters risking their lives always have the proper safety gear and training they need to help others in need.

Candidate Ronald Bechner

Thank you for reaching out to get my information, views and thoughts on why I am running for the Wet Mountain Valley Fire Protection District Board.



I was born in Denver, Colorado and graduated from Golden Sr. High School. I joined the United States Navy in 1984. I have been living in the valley for 5 years now but visited the area for years prior to moving here.

I am retired military and for 24 years I was a firefighter in the Navy, Coast Guard and Naval Reserves. I served onboard USS Belleauwood where for 4 years I had the privilege to be on the rapid response team known as the Fire Cracker Team. I had various duties including number one nozzle man, scene leader, and damage control team leader in the repair locker I was assigned to during general quarters/battle stations. I trained in numerous firefighting facilities which included facilities that used fuel oil or diesel fuel as an accelerant in structures that took several teams attacking from various directions to extinguish the fire with only water. After completing my active duty Navy tour, I joined the US Coast Guard where I also served as a firefighter. In addition I attended Clatsop Community College taking fire science courses and joining the Warrenton Oregon Volunteer Fire Department before getting transferred to Hickman, Kentucky. In Kentucky I served onboard the USCGC Chena where I was the only Damage Control Man onboard. I established a damage



Custer County High School Prom 2016

April 23, 2016



The students of CCHS would like to thank the following community members and businesses for making the 2016 After Prom a tremendous success! Thank You!

Bobcat Sponsors

(\$100 or more in donation/merchandise)

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Wet Mountain Tribune

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Salty Pine Boutique
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Seifert Trucking
Senior Citizen's Center
Stanwood West ATV
Subway
Sugar and Spice Bakery
Town and Country Salon
Trail's West
Village Shop
Wet Mountain Treasures

Big thanks to those who donated anonymously or through the spare change boxes throughout town!

After Prom Committee Members:

Charlotte and Eugene Berry, Rebecca Gerringer, Paul and Candi Sage, Ed Berry, Kayli Short, Lori Short, Steve and Hailey Felks, Janet Freeburg, Deanna Soechting, and Troy and Anita Bomgardner

Special Thanks to Custer County Sheriff's Department and the Posse for providing supervision for After Prom Activities!

Sentinel Photos by Paul Sage and
Courtesy Photos by Mark Payler

Local Mountain News & Notices

Elect Dale Falske County Commissioner District 2 Post Debate Comments



First off I would like to thank the students of Westcliffe High School for hosting the first debate of the 2016 election season. Their questions were well thought out, and challenged everyone on the dais. I also wish to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to Jim Bistodeau, an excellent educator, for guiding these young minds into the realm of political science and civic awareness. Secondly, I thank all of my fellow citizens who took the time to attend and show interest in the future of Custer County. This is my first and only foray into politics so I may have seemed a little green on the debate floor. I assure you that all the thought evoking questions have motivated me to get to work for you by learning what is important to our future and explore new ways to address our issues. I must say the format seemed strange to me, there was no back and forth debate between the candidates and it is impossible, when given only one minute to flesh out problems that may have been fifty years in the making. So I am going to address two of the biggest problems I see in Custer County. Num-

ber one is the economy. All of our other troubles stem from this. My grandmother said, "From the nettle patch of trouble we pluck the flower of contentment." Commerce and change are not dirty words. This election can be an opportunity to move Custer County forward without losing our small town feel. As our students asked us questions, they also shared with us their college plans, life is all ahead of them now. I know the excitement they are feeling because forty years ago I was in their boots. But will they ever be back, will they be able to live, work, and raise a family here? Well employed and well paid people go out to eat, buy clothes, and pay taxes. They buy homes, do room additions, attend our churches, and give us grandchildren. These blessings and many more besides can be ours right here in the valley, if we are overcomers. Which brings me to the second problem. One anonymous citizen sent up a question concerning the caucus. His or her anonymity indicates that the caucus is feared, and indeed it should be. The caucus is a process

Paid for by the candidate.

of manipulation of our political system. It is a group of maybe fifty to sixty people in the county who control our lives and our future. Are our civic leaders elected by us or selected by the caucus? Year after year the same people do the same things in the same way and then we wonder why we always get the same substandard results. They are the royalty and we are their peasants. Your board of County Commissioners should not be a dynasty or an entitlement mired in nepotism. It is not just a job to be taken lightly or relegated to your spare time. I am offering myself up to be your servant and I ask for your vote, but more importantly I hope you will stop and think about what is most important to you. Get involved, attend the commissioner meetings, and stay informed. I attend all the meetings and assure you they are a great opportunity to learn what makes our county tick. One final thought: The meeting was opened with a ten minute disclaimer followed by a two minute prayer. How do we ask the Lord to bless our county if we are ashamed of His name?

Sheriff's Report...

On the dates below, there were 200 calls for service to the Sheriff's Office, 7 to EMS, and 2 to the Fire Department. As of April 25th, there were 5 males and no females in the county jail.

4/18/16:

Criminal Mischief: A deputy was dispatched to Main Street in Silver Cliff to investigate a report of criminal mischief.

4/19/16:

Rock Slide: A deputy called in a rock slide on Highway 96, MM 19 blocking the westbound lane of traffic. Dispatch contacted Colorado State Patrol requesting CDOT be advised.

4/20/16:

Juvenile Theft: A Sheriff's deputy was dispatched to the Custer County School concerning the theft of a student's cell phone. A juvenile was charged with the theft, taken into custody, and transported to the Pueblo

Youth Services Center with no bond pending a detention hearing.

Traffic Summons: James King of Westcliffe was issued a summons for passing on the left in an unsafe manner.

Bad Dog: A deputy took a report concerning the unlawful ownership of a dangerous dog from a complainant on Vista de Aspen Road.

4/21/16:

Criminal Trespass: A deputy met with a party in the lobby of the Sheriff's Office who filed a complaint of Criminal Trespass on Cheyenne Road in Cuerno Verde Pines.

4/22/16:

Flight for Life: A deputy was on routine patrol in the area of Lake DeWeese when a male began displaying signs of a heart attack. EMS was dispatched to the scene to assess. EMS requested Flight for Life be dispatched to the Custer

County Clinic to rendezvous with EMS. The patient was airlifted to a hospital in Pueblo.

4/23/16:

Arrests: Sandra McMullen of Cañon City was pulled over for a routine traffic stop. She was arrested and issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle while her driving privileges are suspended for failing to use a breath alcohol ignition interlock device, operating under a Montana's driver's license while her Colorado license was suspended, and speeding 5 - 9 over.

David Ragulsky of Pueblo was pulled over for a routine traffic stop. He was arrested on two active warrants out of Pueblo. The subject was also issued a summons for driving a vehicle with a license under suspension, passing on the right when not permitted, displaying fictitious license plates, and operating an uninsured vehicle.

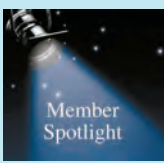
CONSTRUCTION/MODEL/RENOVATION SPACE ASSESSMENT BIDS

Custer County Courthouse
205 South Sixth Street
Westcliffe, Colorado 81252

The Custer County Commissioners will receive sealed bids up to the hour of 1:00 p.m. on the 13th day of May, 2016 at the office of the Board of County Commissioners, 205 South 6th Street, P.O. Box 150, Westcliffe, Colorado 81252, Attention: Courthouse Facility Needs Assessment for the following:

- Identify the current facility conditions and deficiencies to include an assessment of the existing utilities.
- Interview personnel and incorporate their comments into the planning process.
- Identify space needs assessment for the judicial facility
- Identify space needs assessment for a holding facility
- Identify space needs assessment for the courthouse facilities
- Analyze ADA compliant (restroom, common areas)
- Analyze placement of an ADA elevator to access the three floors of the building
- Address the security measures of a multi-functional facility
- Prepare options (drawings, reports, etc.) for future facility needs and potential expansion.
- Needs assessment and planning deadline September 6, 2016.

The bids will be opened at the Board of Custer County Commissioners meeting on May 17, 2016. The meeting will commence at 9:00 a.m. at the Wetmore Volunteer Fire Station, 200 CR 290, Wetmore, Colorado 81253.



Frontier Kitchens and Interiors

318 Main Street
Westcliffe, CO 81252
719-783-9225

*Not with the blood of goats and calves,
but with His own blood
He entered the Most Holy Place once for all,
having obtained eternal redemption.*

Hebrews 9:12 NKJV



Colorado State News



"Takin' It To The House..."

A Calendar And Commentary From The Golden Dome

From: Representative
Jim Wilson – HD 60
April 24, 2016

The clock keeps ticking down to the May 11th adjournment, but the bill total keeps climbing. Last edition the bill total was 632 – this week it is 653 and climbing! Unfortunately, at this time of the session, many of the bills are "gotcha" bills (those that are introduced by one side of the aisle to place their opponents in the position of voting for or against an issue that can be used against them in the upcoming election.) Ah, yes – 'tis the election season...

The "Truth is Stranger than Fiction" sign lit up again this week on the House floor. Early in the week, we commemorated the Holocaust – complete with a Holocaust survivor singing

two songs that were sung in the concentration camps. We closed the commemoration with a moment of silence. On Friday, we memorialized the Armenian Genocide in the early 1900's when some 1.5 million were killed. We also observed a moment of silence in recognition of those deaths. Now comes the strange part.

Immediately following the Armenian Genocide Resolution, a member from the other side of the aisle came to the podium and asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Prince. Now I am a fan of music, but putting a music star's passing on the same level as the merciless killing of millions of innocent people was offensive to me. Out of respect for a colleague's request, I rose for the moment of silence, but I was

not happy! Afterwards, I expressed my disappointment to the member and the Speaker of the House.

I mean, after all, Merle Haggard died recently as well, but it never crossed my mind that his passing would be on the same level as the Holocaust! If you look at the record, (pun intended,) Haggard had 38 #1 records and released 70 albums compared to Prince's five #1 records and 39 albums released. My colleague also requested that Monday be "Purple Day" in honor of Prince. You know, maybe a "Merle Day" when we all come to the Capitol looking "haggard" is not out of the realm of possibility...

Actually, we do get some substantive things done under the Golden Dome. I was fortunate to have two

more bills signed into law this week. The Governor signed HB 16-1198 (allowing Computer Science to be counted as a science/math requirement for high school graduation) and HB 16-1259 (granting administrative flexibility to Colorado Mountain College and AIMS Community College) into law on Thursday the 21st.

Monday the 25th, I presented SJR 16-011 to the House State Affairs Committee. SJR 16-011, better known as the "Gitmo Resolution", is an appeal to the Governor and the Federal Government to keep terrorists currently housed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, out of Colorado. With Fremont County high on the list of destinations for the transfer of the Gitmo prisoners, Senator Grantham and I felt it was important

to advocate for the protection of our Fremont County communities. I talked to the Speaker and got her assurance that she will allow the resolution to continue through the process, as long as our side of the aisle will not "politicize" the issue on the House floor. Merle could have made a country western song out of this one...

To check on the pop and country billboard charts, or to weigh in on the law-making process, 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

Bennet In Rough Shape Regardless of Who the GOP Nominee Is

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

Yesterday, the Colorado Secretary of State announced that U.S. Senate candidate Jon Keyser did not collect enough signatures (by a razor-thin margin of 86 signatures) to make it on the June primary ballot. Of course, Keyser has the opportunity to appeal the decision, and it's likely that he will. This reality didn't prevent Democrats across the state from gleefully celebrating.

We hate to rain on the Democrats' parade. Actually, we love doing that. But, here's another harsh reality for Democrats.

However the primary turns out, all of the Republican candidates are in a far better position in this race than Democratic incumbent U.S. Senator Michael Bennet. The most recent poll showed that Bennet's numbers are dismally low: just 30 percent of Colorado voters think he deserves to be re-elected. Think about that again: that means that 70 percent of Colorado's electorate does not think that Michael Bennett deserves another term.

In a similar poll, former U.S. Senator Mark Udall's

2014 poll showed that only 41 percent of the voting population in Colorado thought he deserved re-election – and look at how that election turned out. If Michael Bennet is already eleven points behind Udall, he faces an uphill battle to victory. Michael Bennet is even less popular than President Obama – and his worst critics include fellow Democrats.

Another thing to keep in mind – Bennet won his 2010 election by the slimmest of margins – .9% in a year in which Republicans basically blew themselves up in Colorado. Remember Dan Maes? Yeah, good times there.

Yesterday's hiccup in the Keyser campaign is just that – a hiccup. And there are two Republican candidates already on the ballot, Darryl Glenn and Jack Graham – both of whom offer a stark contrast to Michael Bennet's blue-blood background. No matter what happens in the Republican primary, one thing doesn't change. Bennet's prospects still aren't looking great.

Reprinted with Permission. Please see: coloradopeak-politics.com/2016/04/26/friendly-reminder-bennet-is-in-rough-shape-regardless-of-who-the-gop-nominee-is/

Crowder Saluted as Veterans' Ally

Press Release

DENVER, Colorado

Senator Larry Crowder (R - Alamosa) continues to win accolades as a top ally of military veterans at Colorado's Statehouse, having recently been named "Distinguished Legislator" at the United Veterans' Committee (UVC) 44th Annual Awards Banquet. It's the latest in a series of awards Crowder has garnered for his leadership on veterans issues.

UVC is a non-profit coalition of 50 chartered and federally recognized veterans service organizations and affiliates established in 1972.

UVC President Frank McCurdy said that Senator Crowder is seen as the "go-to" legislator whenever there is legislation to

benefit veterans. On top of being an Army veteran himself, Senator Crowder also served as the Veterans Service Officer of Rio Grande County.

"It is a privilege to receive this award from the UVC," said Sen. Crowder. "As a Veteran, I know what it's like to try to jump through these hoops the VA has set up and I just want to do my part to make that process easier for all our veterans here in Colorado."

Senator Crowder's unique experience of serving both as a member of the armed forces and then in a veterans service office gives him a holistic understanding of the needs of veterans, and his experience navigating the bureaucracy that too often impedes access to the services and care they deserve.

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IMPORTANT DATES IN FREMONT
School Board Meetings:
Cañon City
Fremont RE-1
2nd and 4th Mon
5:30 p.m.
101 N. 14th St, 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

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



Florence City Council Meeting: Ordinance on Cyber Bullying Approved

by Charlotte Burrous

The Florence City Council approved an ordinance Monday in regards to the cyber bullying that is taking place in Florence.

During the discussion, Florence Police Chief Mike DeLaurentis said they had a lots of trouble with cyber bullying in the area.

“We’ve been having a lot of problems in some of the schools with texting back and forth (which turns into) harassment,” he said. “Unfortunately,

“We’ll now be able to prove someone sent the message in the city boundary.”

sometimes it extends to parents and they get involved and other parents get involved. It’s gotten out of control. We refer cases to the DA’s office, but they’re so backed up with district charges. We thought this could be better handled in-house with our city attorney and our judge. It could be better attended to properly, in a quicker manner and the kids would get the message that it’s got to stop.”

After talking to the city attorney, he drafted the ordinance based on the state’s statute, he said.

“We can effectively get our message across in a quicker manner,” he said. “We have some cases six (or) seven months and they haven’t been brought up. They’re so backed up. The consequences are almost immediate.”

Fredrickson said he wanted the council to focus on the changes in the ordinance.

“It basically mirrors the current ordinance, except it mirrors the state statute,” he said at the beginning of the discussion. “(Another section) helps me to prove a crime in municipal court. We’ll now be able to prove someone sent the message in the city boundary in the City of Florence. I can certainly prove someone received the message within the limits of the City of Florence. It gives the municipal court a venue. The chief asked me to add, in regard to the penalty for any offense under this ordinance, whether it’s cyber bullying or any of the other things.”

The fine would be \$50 the first offense; \$100 for the second offense, \$200 for third offense within a year. After the third offense, the judge will refer to general penalty section of the code.

Councilwoman Charlette Henager suggested raising the fine for the third

offense to be substantially more than \$200.

DeLaurentis said unfortunately, parents are getting involved in the cyber bullying, as well.

“I’m comfortable with the fee structure as it is,” DeLaurentis said. “If you want to increase it to \$500, that’s fine with me.”

When Councilman Larry Baker asked how the city would get the word out to the community, DeLaurentis said the SRO could do an educational period, letting the students know this is in effect now.

Mayor Keith Ore asked if the council was on board with the \$500 for the second citation.

“We answer calls all over the city,” DeLaurentis said. “It gets to be a pain. If we can stop it somehow, this gives us a little more teeth. This helps us to prosecute (them in a timely manner).”

The council approved amending the ordinance to make the second citation \$500 and striking the words, “within the year.”

The council approved the ordinance as amended.

In other business, the council approved an ordinance on second reading Monday, banning the sale, purchase and consumption of tobacco and tobacco related products by and to minors. If a minor violates this ordinance four or more times, the judge will penalize the minor with referral to the general section of the municipal code. City Attorney Bryan Fredrickson also asked to place an emergency clause in the ordinance to immediately take effect.

Councilman Paul Villagrana asked if the person was caught with the products the next year, would it start all over?

Fredrickson said it would start over the next year; however, Villagrana said he would like it to continue it into the next year. Councilman Dick Upton suggested taking out the words, “within one year” in several places. At that point, the council approved the ordinance as amended.

In an unrelated matter, the council set Arbor Day planting day at 3:30 p.m. May 2nd at Lion’s Park. Originally, Black Hills Energy offered to donate 15 trees, but recently pushed the date back to the fall. Then Villagrana asked if there would be a tree to plant.

“We’ll have a tree,” City Manager Mike Patterson assured the council.

“There are two trees in Lion’s Park that did not survive the winter,” said Public Works Director Sam Elstun. “I would like to replace those two trees (instead of at Florence City Hall).”

Upcoming Events April 29-May 15

CONVERT YOUR VHSs to DVDs — The John C. Fremont Library has access to Version Conversion Kit from the Colorado Library Consortium until May 4 at the John C. Fremont Library at 130 Church Ave. in Florence. The machine converts VHSs to DVDs and old slides and negatives to SD cards (camera cards). If you are interested in converting your VHSs and pictures to a current technology, please call Natalia at 784-4649, ext. 3 and schedule an appointment.

Silent Auction — The Friends of the Library will offer its annual Mother’s Day silent auction and a kids’ gift shop from now until 2 p.m. May 4th in the John C. Fremont Library at 130 Church Ave. in Florence. For more information, call 784-4649.

The CHCA’s 25th annual Temple Canyon Hill Climb will begin April 29th. Meet for the third annual Racers Meet on Main Street for free. Gates open for the Temple Canyon Race at 6 a.m., followed by qualifying starts at 8 a.m. April 30 in Temple Canyon. On May 1, the gates open at 8 a.m. with the race beginning at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the gate. Children under 12 are free. Tickets are good for both days and may be purchased online at <http://chcaracing.com/> For new fans, plan on staying the entire day. Bring food, drinks, chairs, sunscreen and extra clothing. Park off the road in a safe place. Once racing begins the road is closed.

Hall of Fame Induction and Dinner— Fremont Campus of Pueblo Community College will host its annual Hall of Fame Induction and Dinner, starting with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. April 29 in the Abbey at 2951 U.S. 50. The event will honor Myron “Smitty” Smith, Larry Oddo and the family of Maureen Baxter. For tickets, call 549-3303.

Orchard of Hope will host its annual Fire Truck Pull at 9 a.m. April 30th at Fourth and Main streets.

Common Cents for Colorado Workshop will be offered at 2 p.m. April 30th in the Cañon City Public Library at 516 Macon Ave.

Fremont County Appreciation Month will begin from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. May 1st at the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park and last until May 31st at 4218 CR3A. For more information, call 888-333-5597.

Prayer in the Park, a multi-church effort, will take place from 5-7 p.m. May 5 in Veterans Park. All are invited. Bring chairs or blankets and enjoy a time of prayer for Fremont County, its communities and our country. For more information, leave a message for Kaye at 431-2687.

The 78th Cañon City Music & Blossom Festival will feature band competitions, concerts, a parade, a carnival, a rodeo, music, food and much more from May 5-8 in downtown Canon City.

Stores that stay open late— Beginning May 6th, on the first Friday of every month, head down Main Street in Cañon City from 5 p.m. to 7p.m. Check out all the stores that stay open late just for YOU! Music, food, art and more!

Royal Gorge Pro Rodeo will be May 6th-May 8th at the Jack Merris Rodeo Grounds. General Admission tickets are \$15 for Adults (16 & up,) \$12 for Kids (6-15,) and Children 5 & under) FREE. Active and Retired Military Discount \$9.00 (with ID) Tickets may be purchased on line at www.CanonCityRodeoAssociation.com

Join the Royal Gorge Route Railway at 12:30 p.m. May 7th or May 8th for its annual Mother’s Day Brunch. The 2.5 hour excursion includes a delicious three-course brunch and a special treat for every mom. The Mother’s Day Brunch is not wheelchair accessible. Minimum age is 3-years-old. For questions about accessibility, please call the reservations department at 888-724-5748 prior to booking a reservation on the website. Tables seat parties of four. When seated with another couple you and your guest will be seated on the same side of the table. Larger groups will be seated at adjacent tables. For more information, go to <https://royalgorgeroute.com/special-events/mothers-day>.

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

Barry’s Den
27077 U.S. Highway 50

Cotopaxi General Store
20204 U.S. Highway 50

Mr. Ed’s
1201 Royal Gorge Blvd.
(Hwy 50) in Cañon City

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

Mr. Ed’s Family Restaurant



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

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.

God Presides Over Destinies of Nations

by Bill Wilson

God presides over destinies of nations. It is amazing that when I write about civic responsibility and Christians that people rush to push the "unsubscribe" button. This leads me to the question, Do Christians not see that we have a civic duty in the very least as Romans 12:21 points out to: "Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good"? It is good timing to bring to our attention--to the notice of Christians, and in particular, American Christians, what a Christian farmer once said to the legislature. Here are some excerpts from a speech that was recalled from memory because it was so memorable. "This is no time for ceremony. The question before the House is one of awful moment to this country. For my own part, I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom or slavery; and in proportion to the magnitude of the subject ought to be the freedom of the debate. It is only in this way that we can hope to arrive at truth, and fulfill the great responsibility which we hold to God and our country. Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself as guilty of treason towards my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward the majesty of heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings..." "...There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged!... Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace, but there is no peace. The war is actually begun!...Why

stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" These are excerpts from the speech given on March 23, 1775, by Patrick Henry. Henry understood first hand the oppression of government over religious expression. The British government and the Episcopal Church were trying to stamp out the Baptists by persecuting them--even holding them under water until they nearly drowned. Upon news of one such beating, Henry rode his horse some 50 miles to attend the trial of two pastors who were accused of preaching the gospel. During the trial, Henry interrupted and asked the court if he heard it right that these men were on trial for "preaching the gospel of the Son of God?" Henry was instrumental in changing the laws against religious persecution. I left out the parts of his speech that pertained to the British. But I wanted to make the point that Christians in America were not always so concerned about themselves and their self-improvement, or paranoid about supporting their country, or waiting for the rapture, that they didn't take seriously what was happening to them and their nation. We as a nation are pretty far gone. One pastor friend of mine said we are in hospice--you can call it a result of judgment or just deserts or apathy or whatever you wish. The fact remains as Henry said, "There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations" and if we cared enough to get before the Lord and get right with Him, and take action as Christians, we just might make a difference. *Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!*

Taking Sides: The Christian's Responsibility in Civic Affairs

by Kevin Kookogey
Center for Self Governance via FreedomOutpost.com

This is the first in a series of essays on the duty of Christians in civic affairs, adapted from Kevin's weekly radio address and podcasts here.

Let's begin by dispelling some myths about Christians and political affairs.

engaging in politics? Might it have something to do with what the Church believes? Indeed, what Scripture has to say about people and governments stands in stark contrast to the spirit of the age. The Word of God, in fact, makes a lot of people very uncomfortable.

We must therefore understand that the push to neutralize the Church or to ban it from political affairs altogether is a deliberate strat-

egy aimed toward keeping the influence of the people of God out of every area of culture.

The command that we give to God what belongs to God establishes a clear limitation on Caesar's power. There is no room for interpretation. We must not give to Caesar what is God's.

The manner of Christ's death further illustrates our political duty. When Paul writes that "everyone [is to] be subject to the governing authorities," or when we read that we are to submit to the authority of leaders, whether the emperor or governors, or that we should pray for all those in authority, we must never mistake that as a command to obey unconditionally.

Were that true, Jesus Christ died for nothing! Christ could have avoided crucifixion by simply obeying Romans 13. Likewise, had Paul obeyed his own counsel, he would have escaped torture and beheading by Nero. And if Peter

words, while flying in the face of the manner of death of Christ, Paul, Peter, all of the disciples (save for John), and every martyr who, over two millennia, has died for Christ in the face of demands for absolute loyalty to the State.

The Bible is unambiguous that all authority -- including the authority of governments -- is derived from God. If governments disobey God, we must disobey them, lest we be subject to punishment for rendering to Caesar what is God's. These truths were understood by St. Augustine. They inspired Jon Knox, Samuel Rutherford, and the authors of our own Declaration of Independence. The Biblical distinction between true law and illegitimate power also served as the moral foundation for the Civil Rights movement as so eloquently captured in Martin Luther King's famous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."

And the conviction that the Church must stand erect as a counter-power to unlawful political power motivat-

"We must not give to Caesar what is God's."

A common misconception lurks among American Christians that politics can be separated from our beliefs, and that the Church -- the Body of Christ -- should not be engaged in the political arena.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Elections, conventions, and politics are merely practical means for implementing a body of beliefs about the human condition. Every policy advanced, every piece of legislation passed and every opinion rendered by a court presupposes certain beliefs about the nature and relationship between humanity and government: from whom and how you tax, to whom you choose to defend, to what you can say, think, or do and how you spend your money.

We must, then, reject the notion that human existence can be divided into "political" and "non-political" segments. We are people, after all, and any ideas, policies or decisions that affect people are inescapably political in nature.

The Bible, of course, has something to say about people and the human condition: who we are, where we come from, where we are going, and our duties. The Bible also has a lot to say about governments, kings, power and authority.

So if politics concerns the affairs of people, and if the Bible has some important things to say about people and governments, what conclusions might we draw from the ongoing effort to discourage the Church from

engaging in politics? Might it have something to do with what the Church believes? Indeed, what Scripture has to say about people and governments stands in stark contrast to the spirit of the age. The Word of God, in fact, makes a lot of people very uncomfortable.

We must therefore understand that the push to neutralize the Church or to ban it from political affairs altogether is a deliberate strat-

egy aimed toward keeping the influence of the people of God out of every area of culture.

Too many Christians forget that Jesus was condemned to death for a political crime. Jesus explained that His kingdom was not of this world, and that all temporal power is subject to the authority of God. For that, He was deemed a threat, a rebel against the Roman State, leading to the political punishment of crucifixion.

Jesus Christ did not die of cancer or natural causes. Nor was he killed in a chariot accident. He was crucified by the State for a political crime.

That Christ against Caesar -- Church v. State -- stands at the center of the Gospel is further evidenced by the collusion of the Sadducees and Pharisees, who made common cause in an attempt to trick Jesus regarding the subject of payment of taxes. Yet Jesus undid them, telling them to "render to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

Notice that Jesus did not admonish them to give Caesar everything that Caesar demanded. He said

"Too many Christians forget that Jesus was condemned to death for a political crime."

had complied with his own admonitions, would not he, too, have dodged being hung upside down on a cross for his failure to worship the state cult or the "genius" of Rome?

The suggestion that Scripture supports yielding to authority even when that authority exceeds the bounds established by God, is to suggest that the Bible commands that we obey the State above God. Such a reading of Scripture contradicts Christ's own

ed William Wilberforce's fight to abolish the slave trade, while providing the basis for the successful defense of human liberty in Poland and the 1986 Philippine Revolution.

With these foundations, our next essay will begin to explore ten very common questions regarding the role of Christians in political affairs.

Please see: <http://freedomoutpost.com/taking-sides-the-christians-responsibility-in-civic-affairs/>



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1956: “America Peaked Back Then and We’ve Been in Decline Ever Since”

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

How far we have fallen! The American Dream used to be attainable to all who worked hard, and freedom was still a tangible thing that many experienced. People used common sense and wisdom from experience to make it through life.

Today, most people are dumb-ed-down consumers who only know what they have been told through the television, who eat processed foods made by leading corporations with almost no nutritional value, they are in debt up to their eyeballs, and couldn’t think independently if they tried. **Problem solving and common decency have disappeared,** and the gap between the Americans of 60 years ago is so astonishing as to make movies like “Idiocracy” and books like “*The Time Machine*” appear absolutely correct.

And so Michael Snyder (via The End of The American Dream blog) compares **America 1956 vs. America 2016...**

Is America a better place today than it was back in 1956? Of course many Americans living right now couldn’t even imagine a world without cell phones, Facebook or cable television, but was life really so bad back then? 60 years ago, families would actually spend time on their front porches and people would actually have dinner with their neighbors. 60 years ago, cars were still cars, football was still football and it still meant something to be an American.

In our country today, it is considered odd to greet someone

as they are walking down the street, and if someone tries to be helpful it is usually because they want something from you. But things were very different in the middle of the last century. Men aspired to be gentlemen and women aspired to be ladies, and nobody had ever heard of “bling”, “sexting” or “twerking”. **Of course life was far from perfect, but people actually had standards and they tried to live up to them.**

So how did it all go so wrong?

Could it be possible that life in America peaked back then and we have been in decline ever since?

Before you answer, I want to share with you a list of comparisons between life in America in 1956 and life in America in 2016...

In 1956, John Wayne, Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe were some of the biggest stars in the entertainment world.

In 2016, our young people look up to “stars” like Miley Cyrus, Justin Bieber and Lady Gaga.

In 1956, Americans were watching “I Love Lucy” and “The Ed Sullivan Show” on television.

In 2016, the major television networks are offering us trashy shows such as “Mistresses” and “Lucifer”.

In 1956, you could buy a first-class stamp for just 3 cents.

In 2016, a first-class stamp will cost you 49 cents.

In 1956, gum chewing and talking in class were some of the major disciplinary problems in our schools.

In 2016, many of our public

schools have been equipped with metal detectors because violence has gotten so far out of control.

In 1956, children went outside and played when they got home from school.

In 2016, our parks and our playgrounds are virtually empty and we have the highest childhood obesity rate on the entire planet.

In 1956, if a kid skinned his knee he was patched up and sent back outside to play.

“Problem solving and common decency have disappeared”

In 2016, if a kid skins his knee he is likely to be shipped off to the emergency room.

In 1956, “introducing solids” to a baby’s diet may have meant shoving a piece of pizza down her throat.

In 2016, we have “attachment parenting” which advocates treating children like babies almost until they reach puberty.

In 1956, seat belts and bicycle helmets were considered to be optional pieces of equipment, and car safety seats were virtually unknown.

In 2016, millions of us are afraid to leave our homes for fear that something might happen to us, and if something does happen we slap lawsuits on one another at the drop of a hat.

In 1956, many Americans regularly left their cars and the front doors of their homes unlocked.

In 2016, many Americans live with steel bars on their windows and gun sales are at all-time record highs.

In 1956, about 5 percent of all babies in America were born to unmarried parents.

In 2016, more than 40 percent of all babies in America will be born to unmarried parents.

In 1956, one income could support an entire middle class family.

In 2016, approximately one-third

of all Americans don’t make enough money to even cover the basics even though both parents have entered the workforce in most households.

In 1956, redistribution of wealth was considered to be something that “the communists” did.

In 2016, the federal government systematically redistributes our wealth, and two communists are fighting for the Democratic nomination.

In 1956, there were about 2 million people living in Detroit and it was one of the greatest cities on Earth.

In 2016, there are only about 688,000 people living in Detroit and it has become a joke to the rest of the world.

In 1956, millions of Americans dreamed of moving out to sunny California.

In 2016, millions of Americans

are moving out of California and never plan to go back.

In 1956, television networks would not even show husbands and wives in bed together.

In 2016, there is so much demand for pornography that there are more than 4 million adult websites on the Internet, and they get more traffic than Netflix, Amazon and Twitter combined.

In 1956, the American people had a great love for the U.S. Constitution.

In 2016, “constitutionalists” are considered to be potential terrorists by the U.S. government.

In 1956, people from all over the world wanted to come to the United States to pursue “the American Dream”.

In 2016, 48 percent of all U.S. adults under the age of 30 believe that “the American Dream is dead”.

In 1956, the United States loaned more money to the rest of the world than anybody else.

In 2016, the United States owes more money to the rest of the world than anybody else.

So now that you have seen what I have to share, what do you think?

Has America changed for the better, or has it changed for the worse?

(Editor/GG: Need a complete restart here folks. From the ground up.)

Reprinted with Permission. Please see: <http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2016-04-08/1956-america-peaked-back-then-and-weve-been-decline-ever>

A Morally Sound Tax Reform Proposal Part I: The Oppressed U.S. Taxpayer

by Antonius Aquinas



This year, Americans’ day of tribute to their federal overlords falls on April 18th. As calculated by the Tax Foundation, the average American will work from January 1st to April 24th (Tax Freedom Day) to pay his share of taxes to all levels of government with some \$3.3 trillion to be forked over to the federal government and \$1.6 trillion to state and local jurisdictions.

While any talk of tax cuts are verboten on the Democratic side of the presidential campaign, the remaining Republican contenders have offered their views on the matter suggesting a flat tax, reduction in corporate tax rates, and a call for the consolidation of the current tax bracket from

seven to four (“No Emancipation This Year.” *The Washington Times*). Most of these and their variations have been trumpeted before and even if enacted would not permanently undo the crushing tax burden or prevent rates from escalating to even more confiscatory heights.

If real and lasting tax relief is ever going to come, a more fundamental alteration of tax policy needs to be taken, which has not been suggested by any of the presidential contenders, but had once been an integral part of the nation’s political thought.

One of America’s most neglected political theorists of the 19th century was South Carolina statesman John C. Calhoun, who wrote the important treatise, “*A Disquisition on Government*.” Calhoun perceptively saw that politically, society is divided between two distinct groups: *taxpayers* and *taxconsumers*. Obviously, taxpayers are the ones who “pay” taxes while *taxconsumers*, such as government employees, welfare recipients, state contractors,

and all others that receive income from the public trough, “consume” or live off taxation.

Naturally, when it comes to the issue of taxation, *taxconsumers* will be in favor, or, at least, want to maintain the status quo and, more than likely, would support notions of tax increases. Taxpayers, on the other hand, would oppose increases or enlargement of the tax base, since they are the ones “footing the bill.”

Of course, politicians of all stripes and colors try to blur this distinction that Calhoun so brilliantly made, especially on tax day by declaring how “they paid their taxes.” This, however, is sophistry.

In reality, politicians are just returning some of the loot that they coercively took from their fellow citizens. Federal government employees in essence do not pay federal taxes! Nor do individual state employees pay state taxes. This is merely an accounting gimmick to bamboozle the public. This is one of the reasons that,

for the longest time (and wisely so,) citizens of the District of Columbia could not vote in federal elections, since most of them were government employees and would, in their self interest, oppose tax cuts or public spending reductions.

When government was limited and the welfare-state effected only a small group, voting and levels of taxation did not have a significant correlation. However, with the number of people working for the government in the millions and those dependent on state largesse in the tens of millions, who votes, and in what numbers is extremely important.

It has been recently estimated that of the total U.S. adult population of some 260 million, only one third (some 79 million) can be said not to be dependent on state support for their existence, while 70% of the adult population or 57% of the total population is dependent on some form of state aid. And, unfortunately, all indicators point to more and more headed for the dependency

category, primarily due to the destructive economic policies of the Obama Administration.

All of those who seek to lower the oppressive levels of taxation, not only in America but throughout the Western world, are foolish if they allow those who parasitically live off others to have a voice in choosing candidates or initiatives in regard to taxation. Democracy does not trump human nature. State dependents will vote for those they perceive will continue their subsidies.

Instead of lobbying for the redress of phony grievances against Politically Correct victims and groups, social justice warriors should direct their energies to the long suffering U.S. taxpayers and demand that those who live off them should have no say in either how much taxpayers are to pay or how their confiscated wealth is to be dispersed.

Please see: antoniusaquinas.com/2016/04/17/a-morally-sound-tax-reform-proposal/

Operation Wetback: 1954 Deportation of Millions of Illegals

by J Cascarelli

Donald Trump became a serious presidential candidate by uniquely talking about the serious problem of illegal immigration in America. Trump, unlike most Americans and nearly all elected officials, knew about the 1954 Eisenhower program, “Operation Wetback.”

Mexican farmworkers, both legal and illegal, are familiar to agribusiness executives since the early 1940s. Well connected agri-businessmen wanted cheap labor and used influential politicians like Lyndon B. Johnson to get the labor they wanted. Violating existing immigration laws back then, as now, was common. Between 1944 and 1954, dubbed by some historians “the decade of the wetback,” the number of undocumented immigrants coming from Mexico increased by 6,000 percent. It is estimated that in 1954 before Operation Wetback got under way, more than a million workers had crossed the Rio Grande illegally.

Dwight Eisenhower, who was preparing for his run for the presidency was committed to put a stop to bribery and graft at the bottom of the illegal immigration issue in Texas, Arizona and California. He had an ally in J. William Fulbright, U.S. Senator (D). Fulbright’s proposal then before Congress, stated that: “The rise in illegal border-crossing by Mexican ‘wetbacks’ to a current rate of more than 1,000,000 cases a year has been accompanied by a curious relaxation in ethical standards extending all the way from the farmer-exploiters of this contraband labor to the highest levels of the Federal Government.” Wealthy ranchers and farmers had numerous politicians on the “payroll” to ensure a steady flow of cheap labor...and apparently, everyone knew it.

Once elected, halting the flow of illegal migrant workers from Mexico became a top priority for the new president who had planned and implemented the D-Day invasion of Europe. On June 17, 1954, “Operation Wetback” began. Due to low political resistance in California and Arizona, the roundup of aliens began there. Seven hundred Border Patrol agents swept northward through agricultural areas with an objective of 1,000 arrests per day. By the end of July, over 50,000 illegals were caught in the two states. It was estimated that nearly 500,000, fearing arrest, had fled the U.S.A. In short order, the crackdown extended eastward to Texas.

By September 1954, 80,000 illegals had been taken into custody in Texas and an estimated 500,000 to 700,000 illegals had left the Lone Star State voluntarily. What many who claim that the deportation of eleven million illegals is impossible haven’t considered, is the effect that a serious effort at enforcing existing laws will have. What Eisenhower had was a real sense of urgency to address the illegal worker issue. That commitment would be the right motivation for many in the U.S. illegally to just go home.

America “was faced with a breakdown in law enforcement on a very large scale,” Mr. Brownell, Ike’s first Attorney General, said. “When I say large scale, I mean hundreds of thousands were coming in from Mexico [every year] without restraint.” Does any of this sound familiar to American voters concerned about the negative impact that illegals are having today?

Farmers and ranchers in the Southwest had become dependent on an additional low-cost, docile, illegal labor force of up to three million, mostly Mexican, laborers. This is similar to many big businessmen in the Republican Party today. These big contributors to a candidate that will allow the status quo to exist. A guy like Trump will shine the light on this scam which costs the American taxpayer billions and the Washington D.C. elite know it.

Walt Edwards, who joined the Border Patrol in 1951, said, “When we caught illegal aliens on farms and ranches, the farmer or rancher would often call and complain [to officials in El Paso]. And depending on how politically connected they were, there would be political intervention. That is how we got into this mess we are in now.” Does any of this sound familiar to you?

There was no coddling of Mexican law-breakers back in 1954. Deportees were not turned loose at the border, they were sent deep into Mexico via ship. Two ships, the Emancipation and the Mercurio, transported deportees from Port Isabel, Texas, to Vera Cruz, Mexico, more than 500 miles south. The result: illegal migration had dropped 95 percent by the late 1950s.

Some say that the 1.3 million deportees claimed by the INS is an exaggeration. Maybe so, but one must also count the millions of illegals that went home voluntarily as part of the net effect of the Operation. The San Antonio district, which included all of Texas outside of El Paso, had officially apprehended slightly more than 80,000, and local INS officials claimed that an additional 500,000 to 700,000 had fled to Mexico before the campaign began.

“hundreds of thousands were coming in from Mexico [every year] without restraint.”

Back in the 1950s, this matter was about money, cheap labor. But, today as Trump pointed out, doing something about illegals from Mexico is about safety for America. Besides the high profile cases we read about daily, it is common in certain states that many innocents are killed by illegals. Consider these statistics from Edwin Rubenstein’s “*Criminal Alien Nation*”; criminal illegal aliens are a growing threat. In 1980, our Federal and state prison facilities held fewer than 9,000 criminal aliens. By the end of 2003, approximately 267,000 illegal aliens were incarcerated in U.S. correctional facilities. Here are the facts:

- 46,000 illegals are in Federal prisons
- 74,000 illegals are in state prisons
- 147,000 illegals are in local jails

Of all prisoners in Federal custody, 17% in addition to being criminal illegal aliens, are Mexican citizens.

Sadly, thanks to the Obama administration, 30,558 criminal aliens released by ICE were back on the streets in 2014. These criminals combined, total 80,000 convictions. These included 250 homicides, 186 kidnappings, 373 sexual assaults, 13,636 convictions for driving under the influence, 1,589 weapons offenses, 994 aggravated assaults, 56 arsons and 31 smuggling offenses. So, when Trump tells his supporters that Mexico is sending to America criminals and rapists who are committing crimes all over the U.S., maybe he should be given credit for doing the job that the American media has failed to do.

Sleep well.

(Editor/LV; Operation Wetback was a co-operative effort developed after pressure from Mexico. The great exodus of Mexican labor had taken a toll on Mexico’s economy. We do not have that kind of cooperation today. Mexico not only encourages its cartel and criminals to enter the U.S., it has aided Central and South Americans fleeing their countries by giving them safe passage through Mexico to our borders, rather than detaining them.)



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Matthew 24:35 NKJV



The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand

2016



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

Captain John Parker, Lexington Green, April 19, 1775

Colorado: My Past Should Not Define Women's Future

by BearingArms Staff
BearingArms.com

The last man executed in the state of Colorado was the man who murdered my mother...

This is how I was told I needed to start my letter to state legislators in 2013 when I decided to stand tall and speak out against the sweeping gun control legislation presented in Colorado. But as much as I was committed to taking action, I was grossly offended by the fact that my chances of being heard as a citizen were obsolete without divulging my very "personal and relevant" story to make the case on why I felt as though my Second Amendment rights were being infringed upon.

Apparently, some people thought that in order for my insight to be respected, I had to first revisit and share a very painful scene with strangers and legislators. That brings me back to the most horrific time in my life each and every time I talk about it.

So before I gave my testimony, I was forced to describe myself as a young girl; how I watched my mother being chased around the yard by a criminal as I was held restrained by another assailant on the front steps of our country home. I recalled the panic in her voice as she glanced toward me on the porch, desperately struggling for a means to protect us

both. I described this scene from years ago in order for my voice to be heard that day.

"After exhausting my painful past, I was able to testify to legis-

than one occasion.

As women, we practice and preach countless safety tips to avoid the senseless tragedies reported daily on news outlets

safe while we continue to confidently live our lives.

However, I've found that when I make my decision to exercise my Second Amendment rights as my personal choice of self protection, regardless of my past or present situation, the cheering section becomes a little quieter. Suddenly, I have to jump through hoops and climb mountains to justify my form of self defense, which is in fact, my own personal choice.

It wasn't until after the birth of my first child that I felt the gravity of a parent's responsibility to protect a precious, innocent life. It wasn't until that moment that I could truly comprehend what went through my mother's mind as she fought for her life. Driven by this enormous sense of duty, I realized nothing matters more than the safety of my children, and because of my experience, I

knew that the best choice for my personal protection was for me to carry a firearm.

I don't live in fear. I live in reality.

I refuse to allow my past to define my future and I will not allow my children to witness the look of fear and helpless desperation I saw in my mother's eyes before her life was taken from her. I know the greatest way I could ever honor her is to live prepared; armed and ready to defend myself and my children, encouraging women to do the same for themselves and their loved ones as well.

Just like she would have done, if given the chance.

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"...individuals in this world who are so brazen and inherently evil that they will cross unspeakable lines..."

lators that the man who violently assaulted her and ultimately took her life, had obtained his firearm illegally. Then I told them their proposed gun control legislation would do nothing to keep violent criminals from obtaining guns now or in the future and would only hurt the ability of law abiding citizens' like me to defend ourselves effectively."

Aside from the effects of my past, my needs as an adult woman and mother are the same as any other sensible woman trying to protect herself and her family from the evil that undoubtedly lurks in this world. I am a law abiding citizen. I worry about my children as they play in our yard. I talk vigilantly about strangers, walking the fine line between the dangers they may present and preserving the innocence of a 4-year-old mind. I stay alert, aware of my surroundings, and have requested a security escort to my car in a mall garage or a dark parking lot on more

across the country and beyond. But the reality is, there are individuals in this world who are so brazen and inherently evil that they will cross unspeakable lines, damning any law set against their warped behavior. In the face of evil, we collectively stand together as women and as a society, proudly speaking of all the rights we have as women and how we can empower ourselves and others to demand respect and remain



"I Don't Live in Fear. I Live in Reality."

Krista Ceresa grew up near a small town in Eastern Colorado. As a young child, she witnessed the kidnapping of her mother who was later violently assaulted and murdered at the hands of her assailant (who illegally obtained a firearm.)

Now a mother herself, Krista is a passionate defender of gun rights. She went public with her story, speaking out against gun control in 2013 in Colorado when proposed legislation threatened her ability to fully exercise her Second Amendment rights.

Courtesy Photo

Home Intruder Kicks Down Front Door, Grandma Shoots Him Dead

by Jenn Jacques
BearingArms.com

A disabled Kansas City, MO woman proved that every second counts when police are minutes away.

The homeowner said just after 11 p.m. on Wednesday night, she heard loud knocking and banging at her front door. She grabbed her gun for her protection when she couldn't see who was trying to enter her house.

And it's a good thing she did.

The man eventually kicked in her front door, and gaining entrance to her home and charged toward the homeowner, who neighbors say walks with a cane.

At that point, the woman steadied herself and shot the man as he rushed toward her.

KMBC reported:

A longtime friend and neighbor of the woman said she didn't want to be identified. She said the woman who lives at the house is in her late 40s and uses a cane to get around. The friend said the woman's two sons sometimes stay at the house, but her toddler granddaughter is there almost all the time.

The friend said she understands the trauma of Thursday night's situation. She said she understands the choice the woman made.

"If I felt I was being threatened, yeah, I sure would have," said the friend.

Police said the man, whose name has not been released, was a friend of a relative and had been at the home earlier. He had been asked to leave, because the homeowner said he had illegal narcotics on him.

The woman was questioned and released. No charges have been filed at this time, but the prosecutor's office will review the case and make a final determination.

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Thank you and see you then.**

A Preview of What Is Coming

by Dean Weingarten
GunWatch.Blogspot.com

Gun control, or more properly, the restrictions on the ownership and use of guns by the general population, was not a common or popular phenomenon in Europe until after the First World War. One of the most influential gun control laws was instituted in England and Wales in 1920. It has been the basis for a great deal of restrictions on the private ownership of firearms around the world, both in the Commonwealth countries and in Europe. These restrictions were not designed to protect the public from criminals. Rather, they were designed to protect the ruling class from revolution. Colin Greenwood and Joyce Lee Malcolm are the two foremost scholars on the history of firearms controls in England and Wales. From “A Study of Armed Crime and Firearms Control in England and Wales” by Colin Greenwood, page 246:

How, then, should policy on firearms controls be affected by the facts produced? The system of registering all firearms to which Section I applies as well as licensing the individual takes up a large part of the police time involved and causes a great deal of trouble and inconvenience. The voluminous records so produced appear to serve no useful purpose. In none of the cases examined in this study was the existence of these records of any assistance in detecting a crime and no one questioned during the course of the study could establish the value of the system of registering weapons.

It was not until much later that Greenwood discovered the purpose of the English firearms registration laws. They were passed to facilitate firearms confiscation in the event of civil unrest or revolution. From Colin Greenwood, May 15, 2000. The term “Constitutionalists” below means British Constitutionalists:

Constitutionalists might argue about whether in Britain, Statute law can over-ride the basic principles of the Common Law, but in 1920 the Government of Britain was in fear of revolution and documents such as the Cabinet Diaries reveal debates about the number of aircraft available for use against insurgents within the British Isles. In that climate, the registration of firearms (other than shot-

guns) was imposed for the purpose of “ensuring that all arms are available for redistribution to friends of the government”.

Extensive research by Professor Joyce Lee Malcolm buttresses what Colin Greenwood found. From Guns and Violence, the English Experience, page 162:

Second, the Firearms Act of 1920, which took away the traditional right of individuals to be armed, was not passed to reduce or prevent armed crime or gun accidents. It was passed because the government was afraid of rebellion and keen to control access to guns.

The British government did not have to invent new law. It already had an example that it had been using for 40 years, in India, as a prophylactic against revolt there. The British Crown took over the governing of India from the East India Company after the mutiny or revolt that occurred in 1857-58. Immediate restrictions on the ownership of arms were put into effect. Restrictions on the ownership and use of Arms were codified into law in 1877. From statutory-law.knoji.com:

Before 1857 there was no gun control law in India. Any Indian could own any weapon of any caliber. After the mutiny things changed as the British decided that the time had come to restrict Indians from owning weapons and hence the first seeds of arms control were sowed.

The 1877 law has several similarities to the Firearms Act of 1920.

- 1.The ownership of pistols and rifles were immediately reduced to a privilege, which could only be obtained by asking the government for permission (The 1877 law included all arms. Perhaps the difference is due to the large number of sporting shotguns owned by the British aristocracy.)
- 2.A reason had to be given for owning the arms.
- 3.The license could be denied at the discretion of the authorities.

In practice very few Indians were able to obtain licenses to own and use firearms, while nearly all Europeans were

able to obtain them easily. I have a picture of famous geologist, a relative on my children’s maternal side, with a rifle in an Indian jungle, while he was employed there in the 1920’s.

The Indian arms act of 1877 was successful in controlling proliferation of guns in India and hardly .5% of Indians were issued gun licenses. In a way, unbridled owning of guns as protected by the 2nd amendment in the USA, never happened. The British were thus successful in keeping the local Indian population unarmed.

It has taken a hundred years of incremental tightening of the bureaucratic and legislative screws in England and Wales to reduce the number of people with permits to 783, 000, of which 582,000 are shotgun licenses. That is about 1.3% of the population. The percentage of English and Welsh who owned firearms in 1920 was small compared to the United States. The vast majority of people did not hunt, and the crime rate at the time the 1920 law passed was incredibly low; far, far lower than it is today.

In contrast, in India in 1857, at least in some cities, most men went about armed:

“Everyone,” observed Frayer, “in Lucknow in those days (pre-annexation) went about armed.”

In spite of the differences between the implementation of the acts in India versus England and Wales, the purpose was the same. Protect the rulers from revolt.

It appears that gun control in England and Wales was a cultural implant from colonial India.

[Editor/GG: This is coming folks. The libs have been hammering at this for 50 years. Once they get the guns, they will be coming for the dissenters. With no rule of law left (e.g., SCOTUS; Obamacare, Kelo, Roe v. Wade; Colorado Supreme Court: magazine capacity limits. etc., etc., etc.) it is only a matter of time.]

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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.



EARTHQUAKE CENTRAL

The recent earthquakes in Japan and Ecuador serve as a reminder that natural disasters can be expected at any time. Portions of Texas are under water, wide swaths of the South and Midwest are listening for frequent tornado warnings, and the West Coast (part of the ring of fire) has been alerted that they could expect their own earthquake soon.

These phenomenon of nature represent a real curve ball to the cognitive powers of our unenlightened liberal friends. On the one hand, they love to blame God for anything that results in a major negative impact (such as 9/11) but on the other hand, pointing the finger at God is to recognize His existence. The dodge is accomplished by the suggestion that it's our God, not theirs, who is responsible. The usual accusation is something like... "Well, your God certainly can't be the distributor of love and compassion that you claim when He allows death and destruction of this magnitude." In the mind of the incriminator, the reality of a deity has been targeted, but if one does actually live, he couldn't possibly be worthy of acknowledgment because he permits natural disasters. Interestingly, it's never the god of the Muslims or other pagan lords which are questioned... perhaps it was Allah which deserves the "credit". The lack of intense investigation revealing other religious possibilities is, in itself, a harbinger of the authentic Sovereign of the universe.

Sweeping aside the lightweights, we will consult the final authority on faith, practice, science and common sense. The God of the Bible has broad shoulders, willing to bear the responsibility for events with which the philosophers struggle. While they putter around with Naturalism, Idealism, Realism, Pragmatism, Existentialism, Theistic Atom-ism, Altruism, Animism, Logical Empiricism and all the other junk they collect in the bone yards of twisted minds, the Scriptures reveal answers that third grade Sunday School students can comprehend.

Earthquakes (Job 9:6), volcanoes (Psalm 104:32), tidal waves (II Samuel 22:16), tornadoes (Job 37:9), fire, hail (Psalm 148:8), famine (Psalm 105:16) and floods (as in Noah's) can all be attributed to "acts of God." Someone should alert the insurance industry... that kind of language is no longer acceptable.

Now that the "who did it" is established, a good detective will attempt to establish the motive. In general, because of mankind's willingness to disobey God, the earth reels under a present curse which is compared

to a woman in childbirth (Romans 8:22). The upheavals of nature are labor pains signaling a birth that will bring relief. A thorough study of Genesis 3:16-19 is more beneficial to a truth seeker than all of the combined "isms". There is a lot more to "thy kingdom come" than most realize with every natural catastrophe bearing testimony to its present absence.

More specifically, the Lord retains His sovereign right to display His anger. "Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth (Psalm 18:7)." To a committed leftist, an angry god should be reduced to primitive jungle tribes sacrificing chickens to appease the wrath of an idol while feeding the witch doctor. Any preacher suggesting that there are consequences to sin and bad behavior will be compared to the shaman. The only god palatable to a liberal is a soft, warm, fuzzy grandfather who is always permitting and never requiring.

Now, here it comes, one of the ten most pressing questions of the ages...what upsets, agitates, disturbs, ticks off and angers God? If you know the answer to that, you may know what to do about it. Isaiah 64 describes in some detail earthquakes and volcanoes, laying the blame at the feet of guess what? "Behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned (Isaiah 64:5)." The next verse is a real corn-killer for those searching for religious ethanol to leapfrog over the obstacle of God's holiness. "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

God's postscript, the Book of Revelation, indicates the worst is yet to come, including earthquakes that will literally move mountains and islands "out of their places (Revelation 6:14)." Amazingly, the Bible and Hollywood share some agreement in forecasting a dismal future. The film makers are regularly presenting end time scenarios, each one more frightening than the last. I wonder where they ever got that idea? Two observations... first, the movie producers are never criticized, mocked, scorned or ridiculed; they just keep making money on themes God invented. Second, Hollywood is long on the presentation of problems, but extremely short on solutions which minister to the soul of persons who are asking, "What is really going on?" Our recommendation is to check with a real authority... the Word of God!

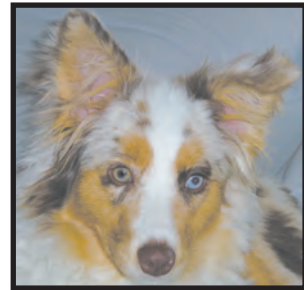
A Sheepdog Barks!

Many conservative Americans are becoming upset about the way the Republican National Committee (RNC) has selected its presidential candidates. I am somewhat amused about their lack of understanding about our "democracy". We don't have a democracy, never have and never will. As we have discussed before, far too many citizens have been apathetic and uninvolved for far too many years. Eight years ago, Barack Obama spawned a movement —The Tea Party. Millions of concerned citizens "woke up" and decided to become active citizens. This was great and sparked many good things, not the least of which was the election of hundreds of conservative constitution-loving representatives at the federal and state levels. Sadly, within five or six years the citizens got tired and went home again.

This movement has slowed way down and in many places completely disappeared. In 2016 we have a new kind of movement rearing its head. It's being called many things but is mostly an anti-establishment, anti-status quo anger swelling in America that is bound and determined to make Washington D.C. and the established political parties suffer. This is especially strong on the conservative and Republican side of American politics. I remain amused, however, about so much misunderstanding. None of the current rules and methods were newly created to stop one candidate. Trump and his followers like to suggest that the selection process has been "rigged" and specifically "rigged" against him. That is simply not true. The selection process has been flawed for many years and there is no perfect method. If anything the system is rigged in favor of the front runner. It is designed to create a presumptive nominee BEFORE the convention. For example Trump got 60% of the vote in New York and 90% of the delegates. There is NO system for equal votes, equal delegates. The states' rules are varied and in many cases nonsensical. Pennsylvania only awards 17 of their 71 del-

egates based on the primary results. 54 delegates remain unpledged until the convention. The candidates are passing out lists trying to round up as many of those as possible. Sort of like some state caucuses. The political parties are not government agencies nor are they controlled by the Constitution. Political parties are public organizations that created a system to choose a candidate to run for public office. You cannot accuse it of violating our Constitution or our democracy. This is the strangest part of the brouhaha for me. America is not a democracy in anything. There is no 1 man, 1 vote concept. We elect representatives that then vote for us. It starts small at the County or Congressional District level and then gets larger and larger each step of the way up. Some U.S. Senators vote for tens of millions of citizens. Consider this for a moment. The popular vote does not elect our president. Representatives, known as the Electoral College, do. This concept was developed by our Founding Fathers, pretty smart men in my view. Just as a baseball team can win the World Series in a seven game playoff while scoring less runs than the winning team, the candidate with the most raw votes doesn't always get elected. This actually works. America would be very much different in a real democracy. And it would not be pretty. I once heard the difference between a Democracy and a Constitutional Republic described like this: Democracy is where 2 wolves and a sheep decide what's for dinner. A Constitutional Republic is where 2 wolves and a well-armed sheep decide what's for dinner. WOOF! Back to the issue. I resigned from the Republican Party because I don't like the system that produces men like John Boehner and Mitch McConnell and then protects them in power for many years. They quit working for the American people they were representing and began working for the party and their personal power and wealth. It is time for a change.

I just don't like the accusation that things are being rigged



just for this ongoing selection process. One of the outsiders, Trump or Cruz, needs to win this nomination. Then they can fix what needs fixin' about the party rules for 2020. It seems clear to me that one of these two men will win the Republican nomination. If any shenanigans occur that prevent either one from being the candidate I believe the Republican Party will "burn to the ground" and maybe, just maybe, a new reformed party will rise from the ashes. If not, there needs to be a third, truly conservative party born out of the anger and frustration. Nothing says America has to be a two-party country. Yes, a party's objective is to select the best candidate that can be elected in the general election. That makes sense. That doesn't necessarily mean that the candidate with the most delegates, but not a majority before the convention, is the best choice.

If one chooses to participate in the RNC process to become its nominee, then one must win by the rules. If one can't, one might need to play some other game. A contested convention is not necessarily a bad thing. It gave America Abraham Lincoln and that's not a bad thing. I believe the RNC nominee must be Trump or Cruz. They have captured the "will" of the conservative people. We must stop the status quo in Washington D.C. If we don't select an "outsider" then it will make little difference which party is in the White House. I can't stand the thought of HilIARY being the President of the United States. But I will not support another "go-along-to-get- along-let's-all-hold-hands-uniter" that will continue destroying this country. WOOF!

May God Have Mercy on America! JMH



What Puerto Rico Can Teach Rural California About Minimum Wage Increases

by Eric Boehm, WatchDog.Org

They're looking for work in Colusa County, California, but it's hard to find.

It's also hard to believe there could be a small corner of America – where the national unemployment rate on the national level is down to 5 percent – where more than one-in-five working age adults are unemployed. But that's the reality in the county of 21,000 people in the Central Valley, a part of the state where nearly every county has unemployment rates two, three or, in Colusa County, four times the national average.

No jobs and no work means other problems soon follow.

The county's only hospital – and its three related health clinics – are closing April 22nd.

That's another 201 jobs gone, and it means that anyone still struggling to eke out a living in Colusa County will have to drive more than 25 miles to get to an emergency room. There's just a single ambulance serving the entire county – so living there means hoping you won't have to go to the hospital at the same time as someone else.

"It's a disaster for the community," County Public Health Officer Greg Burt told KCRA-TV in Sacramento. "There is a very significant risk for very poor patient

outcomes."

Sacramento media covers Colusa County because it's less than an hour's drive from the state capital. Being so close, you might expect state lawmakers to be aware of the situation there – or at least not totally ignorant of it.

Instead, California's legislature last month passed a bill to increase the state's minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2022. The increase will take effect in a series of increases starting in 2017.

The phase-in approach is supposed to help businesses adjust to the higher labor costs. But what happens in places where they can't do that?

"The least productive workers will be laid off, while those without jobs, little experience, and no special skills will face more difficulty finding work," predicts Paul Kupiec, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

Bad news for anyone living in Colusa County. Bad news, really, for anyone living in California as a whole.

The jump from the current statewide minimum wage of \$10 an hour to the \$15 minimum wage will be one of the largest mandated wage increase in U.S. history. As such, it could provide economists with a huge case study of the consequences of such policy.

Some of those responsible for the higher minimum wage already have an idea about the merits of that policy.

"Economically, minimum wages may not make sense," Gov. Jerry Brown said as he signed the bill into law.

Kupiec agrees with him. The only other time a part of the United States has been subject to a minimum wage hike comparable to the one coming down the pipe in California, he says, was a decade ago when the Fair Minimum Wage Act was passed by Congress. That law required U.S. territories to adopt the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, a huge increase over what the local economies could support.

Here's how Kupiec, writing in *National Review*, puts it:

The impact on the economies of American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands was devastating. In American Samoa, by 2009, after only three of the ten scheduled minimum-wage increases, overall employment dropped 30 — 58 percent in the critically important tuna-canning industry. Real per capita GDP in American Samoa fell nearly 10 percent from 2006 levels. In the Northern Mariana Islands, by the end of 2009, employment was down by 35 percent, and real per capita GDP off by 23 percent...

The law had a similar effect in Puerto Rico where the mandatory increases resulted in a minimum wage that was greater than 75 percent of the Puerto Rican median wage. And the results were predictably catastrophic for the economy.

Economic activity declined and Puerto Rican unemployment surged. Between 2007 and 2013, Puerto Rico's GDP per capita declined by nearly 7 percent, while over the same period it was unchanged nationwide. As a result, many Puerto Ricans left for the U.S. mainland. The migration of young, mobile, working-age Puerto Ricans created an imbalance as the aged and less ambitious remained behind.

Foreign investors were deterred by the high cost of hiring Puerto Rican workers. Labor costs in the Bahamas and Jamaica, two direct competitors for foreign investment, were half of those in Puerto Rico.

California, on the whole, does not have a lot in common with these small tropical islands. But when you break the state down into its component parts, some of those parts are more similar than backers of the \$15 per hour minimum wage might like to admit.

Parts like Colusa County, for instance, or any of the 12 other counties in the rural, blue-collar, agriculture-driven regions of the

state where unemployment was in double-digits last month.

Oregon took those rural counties into consideration when passing its own minimum wage hike earlier this year. Oregon's new wage mandate will climb to \$14.75 per hour in cities, but rural counties will be subjected to a smaller increase to \$12.50 per hour.

Even that might be too much in places where more than 20 percent of working age adults can't find a job at \$7.50 per hour (California's current rate), but at least acknowledges the major difference between places like Portland and rural Harney County, which in February, had an unemployment rate of 11.3 percent, the highest in Oregon.

In California, businesses in Colusa County will have to pay the same minimum wage as businesses in San Francisco, where the cost of living is nearly double.

The experiment that wrecked the economies of Puerto Rico and American Samoa will soon be replayed on the rural poor of central California, predicts Kupiec.

"In these cases, 'good politics' turned out to be disastrous policy," he writes.

Please see: <http://watchdog.org/262522/puerto-rico-california-minimum-wage/>

The Last Free Americans

"I predict that the Bush administration will be seen by freedom-wishing Americans a generation or two hence as the hinge on the cell door locking up our freedom. When my children are my age, they will not be free in any recognizably traditional American meaning of the word. I'd tell them to emigrate, but there's nowhere left to go. I am left with nauseating near-conviction that I am a member of the last generation in the history of the world that is minimally truly free."

by Rev. Donald Sensing

FYI... for your information...

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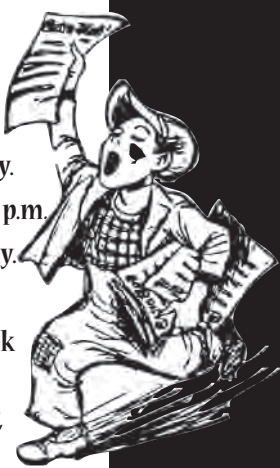
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ELECTION Q & A from page 11



Ronald Bechner Cont'd

control preventative maintenance system where the crew received on hands training, maintenance and working knowledge of the fire fighting equipment. I was also responsible for the fire fighting training for all hands that included engine room fire fighting tactics, the ability to know how to extinguish all types of fires and, other shipboard damage control techniques. I was also responsible for setting up fire drill scenarios and conducting the debriefs after each evolution.

After completing my Coast Guard tour I came back to Colorado and joined the Naval Reserves and continued my firefighter training for an additional 16 years. I am very proud of my fire fighting history. I am also a third generation welder pipefitter. I helped build DIA at the start of my career and also helped build the Blackhills Power Plant in Pueblo. I was going to college at night while working at the power plant to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Business Management degree. I was then offered a position as a pipefitter welder for the Department of the Navy in Hawaii. Just prior to graduating I moved back to Custer County. After receiving my degree I was offered a position as a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones, a financial firm. I have been working in the financial arena for 4 years now and love serving my clients because as you can see I have always served.

1. My interest in the Fire Board comes

from my commitment to the community. I live in. I know many of the individuals on the WMVFD, as well as several board members. I consider them friends and neighbors and my desire to work with these individuals is honestly what has motivated me to run for the position.

2. My business affords for me a flexible schedule and as far as my willingness to serve the community of Custer County, I am absolutely willing, able and, ready if given the opportunity by the voters.
3. As a financial advisor I am very comfortable with my business and my ability to manage the fire districts assets. I also feel very confident that I can bring a disciplined financial managers view to the table and help with all responsible decisions to properly allocate the districts funds.
4. I feel my greatest strengths are servitude, commitment and, my ability to work with others under various situations. To also add a talent, I listen to the needs of others and appropriately guide people to an advantageous solution.
5. The leadership concept is not defined by the job or task you're given, but the past experiences that one can draw from to assist in leadership decisions. A good strong leader had to have been a good strong follower and as my past shows I was a strong follower before I was a leader. The foundation of a strong leader lies in ones ability to follow with thoughtfulness, inquisitiveness, open mindedness and, the desire to lead when given the opportunity. These qualities I possess and have consistently applied in every situation I have handled.

Thank you for the opportunity to share who I am and why I am an outstanding candidate for the Fire Protection District Board.

Jim L.Shapland:

Mr. Shapland was out of state when the Sentinel sent him the questionnaire and we were only able to do a brief telephone interview:



A native of the Sunflower State of Kansas, Jim was born, raised and got his schooling in Garden City. In his early twenties he went to Fort Worth, Texas where he worked for a brief period before moving to Denver, Colorado and joined up with a team in a thriving body work business with which he was involved for decades. Jim loves the mountains and made many trips to the Wet Mountain Valley area where he bought property in 1980. In 1998 he built his own home on the property he bought and has lived in Custer County ever since, making a weekly commute to work in Denver three or four days and enjoying long weekends. With more time on his hands now that he is semi-retired, Jim had been contemplating the idea of giving back to the community he cherish-

es, and making a contribution of his time and talent to the county. Asking around he learned about the upcoming election for three fire board positions. It struck a nerve and Jim decided to go for it. A proven team player he cites his leadership qualities as being always honest, transparent and sincere in all his dealings. His uncomplicated sense of doing the right thing and his down-home wisdom comes through in any conversation no matter how sensitive the issue. In response to the three things he brings to the table that would benefit the board, the department and the community Jim replies, and he permits us to quote "common sense, common sense and common sense".

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