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

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

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Our Opinion...

Guest Editorial

Who is Best for the Job of CC Commissioner?

by J. Cascarelli

This being a presidential election year it is understandable that the local election for Custer County Commissioner is overshadowed. While selecting a new president is extremely important given the results of the last eight years, electing the best candidates for Commissioner will likely have a big impact on our lives in Custer County.

This cycle, we have plenty of candidates including one incumbent. I urge every voter to think about their vote. My observation during the past 16 years as a resident and voter in Custer County tells me that most voters vote based on personality and friendships. This time I'd like to offer some criteria that everyone can use to help them select the best person.

If leadership is important, experts agree that an effective leader must be a visionary. So, it is a good idea to ask every candidate if they have a vision for the county. A vision is a brief statement that describes a desirable future state or condition for the county. Why is this

important? There is an old, but true, adage that, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." Every candidate should have some idea what they'd like to see the county look like after their four-year term. Boldly stating this vision also implies that they expect to be judged or evaluated on progress toward that vision as part of a re-election bid.

There is a "vision" statement in the County Master Plan. It isn't a good one, but I wonder how many candidates have read it and do they have an opinion? Here is the vision that has been in place since 2001:

Custer County, home of one of Colorado's most beautiful mountain landscapes, honors its rural, agricultural, mining and western heritage, and seeks to connect its future with its past by protecting local values, preserving community assets, respecting property rights, accommodating managed growth and compatible economic development for all levels of society, and serving as a responsible steward of its spectacular natural environment.

Personally, I don't know what it means, but any candidate should be willing to explain it, improve it or replace it. A vision should be inspirational and FUTURISTIC.

Next, candidates should all have a list of what they would like to fix, eliminate or improve. Unless they think that the county is so perfect that it can't be improved, citizens could benefit from a list of the three biggest problems, challenges or concerns that the county will face in the next four years. Naturally, each should have a solution or two in mind. The community must hear about what the candidates have in mind if elected before the election.

I have always wondered about "economic development" in the county. It is mentioned in the vision statement. At one time there was an Economic Development committee in place. I know because I served on it. It didn't accomplish much and finally was disbanded. Just what do the commissioner candidates think of Economic Development? More

real jobs would be a good thing for the community. These would be year round non-retail/non-food service jobs that would bring young families into the valley that would support local business, would raise tax revenue to improve infrastructure and raise real-estate values which would benefit all land owners. What do commissioner candidate have in mind for Economic Development?

While it isn't a direct responsibility of the BOCC, wouldn't it be great if families would move here because the schools were the best in southern Colorado? While the commissioners don't have a direct say in education, they can help create an environment that would encourage public education to improve.

Finally, think about this. Just how "business friendly" is Custer County? Any community that wishes to survive long term must be seen by existing and prospective business owners as "business friendly." Step one in becoming "business friendly" is define what it means. Consider the following:

Characteristics of Business Friendliness:

- *Community leaders who welcome new business*
- *Residents who are willing/competent workers*
- *Residents willing to buy locally*
- *Flexible zoning*
- *Tax incentives*
- *"How can we help you" attitude from policy makers*
- *Has an Economic Development Plan*
- *Community knows what it wants...a vision*
- *Community policy makers willing to accommodate*

How do commissioner candidates rate the current Custer County's "business friendliness?" Unless the community gets an "A" or a "B+", we will continue to watch our communities dry-up and blow away. If elected, how will candidates help the BOCC become more "business friendly?" Ask each to be specific.

Hey, here is a radical idea; cut out this article and bring it to the planned candidates' meet and greet events.

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dying for in time of war
let us resolve that is truly worth
living for
in time of peace.*

— Hamilton Fish



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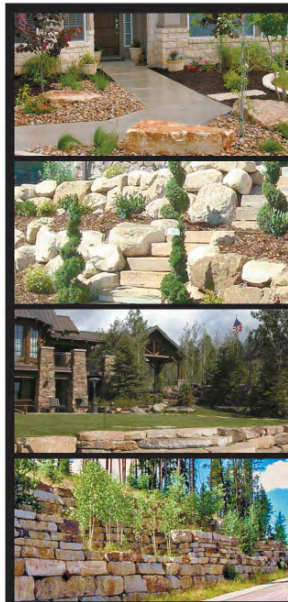
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Letters to the Editor



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.

Peace Officers Memorial Day

In 1962 President John F. Kennedy designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week with that day as National Police Week. This celebration and recognition of Law Enforcement personnel and the sacrifices they make was celebrated in our Nation's Capital as between 25,000 and 40,000 officers, family members, and citizens who support law enforcement participated in this year's events. Roll call for the Officers Killed in the Line of Duty was conducted, prayer vigils, and a very large candlelight vigil was held to honor all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country in the constant search for justice. I ask each of you to join me in thanking every member of our agency who selflessly goes about their duties for the good of the county. May God Bless each of you and your families.

Sheriff Shannon Byerly

Prove Us Wrong!

Dear Editor,

Because of a glitch I can't get an email to go through to the Fox Newsroom. Here is my message to them concerning their discussion on how the media is not doing it's job correctly. Trump was the focus of their discussion.

"Without realizing it the news media has gotten Trump's message through to the public. The news media doesn't realize how many people are now politically aware and actually listen to and understand what a politician, or in this case, Trump, is saying. The news media needs to listen to

Trump's speeches instead of its own sound bites. The media will realize why so many people are for Trump. That includes many of you at Fox News, who will also realize you are doing a lousy job of reporting what Trump has actually said. Much of the public thinks that the news media is illiterate when it comes to politics. Prove us wrong! We can tell the difference between reporting on a sound bite and reporting on what is actually said."

Thank you for your attention.

Linda Anderson
Rural Custer County

Retirement Party for Mrs. Betty Heising

Mrs. Betty Heising is retiring as the head of Custer County Central School's special education department at the end of this school year. Betty has given 16 years of dedicated service to our district. The reception will be held in the school library on Wednesday, **May 18th, from 4:15 p.m. till 6:00 p.m.** Light refreshments will be served and the public is welcome. Come help us wish our dear friend a fond happy retirement!

Personal Ideology versus Common Sense Leadership

When I hear our County Commissioner say "I am against spending money on outside consulting expertise, as all too often we get a recommendation that we end up following," I hear ideology speaking; one holding on to the status quo!

Recently, our Board of County Commissioners had the opportunity to sponsor **no-match funding** from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), for five projects totaling \$96,985. The five projects were studies, analyses & recommendations i.e. by outside expertise on the future of Custer County's economy and communications infrastructure. My opponent eliminated a critical infrastructure study (which was a precursor to future qualification for deployment funding) before he would allow the submittal to move forward. With no sense of urgency or visible Board of County Commissioners' support, the reduced request was finally submitted. During the DOLA evaluation process (which we suspect had local input) two remaining critical studies were denied by DOLA. Unfortunately, the Custer County Economic Development Corporation was only awarded funding for one of the five projects (\$9,885 vs the original \$96,985) for a submittal that had been assembled with the encouragement of DOLA staff.

Custer County's wealth is realized through our history, quality of life and the capabilities of our volunteers, not in financial wealth. Potential financial support through grants, **free from matching funds**, assist initiatives to strengthen the economic base of our entire county, should be aggressively pursued rather than barricaded, which resulted in the lack of funds that could have been awarded. We cannot elect commissioners who ideologically oppose available financial help.

I will be a commissioner who appreciates and respects the efforts of our community's volunteers, and will aggressively seek financial support that will make a difference in support of our community's economic stability, while reinforcing our quality of life.

Donna L. Hood

Custer County Commissioner, District 3, Candidate

Contributions to my campaign may be sent to:
The Committee to Elect Donna L. Hood
3115 County Road 160
Westcliffe, CO 81252



Thanks for the Memories

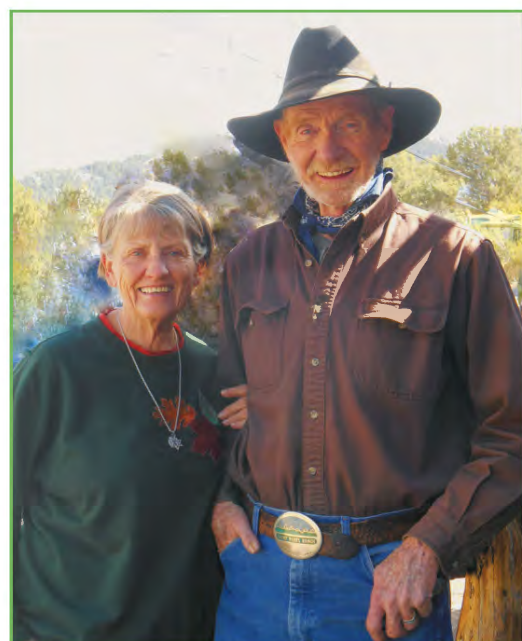
Dear Editor,

We would like to thank all our friends and neighbors for all the good times over the years. We will cherish all the memories surrounding Friday and Saturday night dinner shows, breakfasts and lunches, St. Pat's corned beef and cabbage, and our Thanksgiving potluck dinners. Thank you for sharing with us.

After almost 30 years of having way too much fun we have decided to retire and enjoy our old age. So, if you're driving down Oak Creek Grade and the door is open, stop in and share a cup of coffee and a few laughs.

Thanks for the Memories!

Jack and Audrey Slater
Oak Creek Grade
General Store



Jack and Audrey Slater, owners of the General Store, May 2016.

Courtesy Photo

Wetmore Community Center Renovations

Dear Editor,

The Wetmore School was erected in 1928 and is presently known as the Wetmore Community Center. The school served K-8th grades from 1928 to 1962. After the school closed, the building has and continues to serve as the Community Center. It also houses the Wetmore Library that assists our community with various services. Extensive and various meetings are held such as Veteran Affairs, 4-H meetings, concerts, dances, summer programs,

weddings, funerals, etc., just to name a few.

Due to the aging community and continuing use of the building, upgrades are needed to allow for the use of this facility. These renovations are now becoming a reality due to the perseverance and dedication of Commissioner Lynn Attebery who was able to receive non-matching funds in the amount of \$475,000, to date, solely dedicated to this project. Lynn is not stopping there, he is continuing to pursue other grant sources for the

restoration of the building. Also helping with this unbelievable feat is the Wetmore Community Center Board along with Nan Davenport and Dave Hayward.

We want to express our deepest gratitude for the countless hours of hard work and dedication that will allow for the continued use for our beloved community.

Sincerely,

Julie Fall, Ruth Spaar,
Nancy Kreuz, Jan Lawson
and Ruth Roper

Everything is Just Perfect for a New Owner Hand Crafted Cabin Backs To Greenbelt



This cedar cabin with a metal roof is tucked into the woods of Cuerno Verde with Sangre de Cristo mountain views. The 1280 SF cabin has 2 BD plus an additional sleeping area. The master bedroom and bath are on the main level. The cabin is warmed by a Woodstock soapstone stove. The floors are carpet and tile.

The kitchen has stainless steel appliances and hickory cabinets with tile counter-tops. Cedar stairs lead upstairs to the second bedroom plus a sitting/sleeping area. There is a wood deck across the front where you can enjoy the Sangre views. Storage building for mountain toys is just behind cabin. Property is 6.75 beautifully treed acres with healthy mature Ponderosa where you can access the Cuerno Verde green belt to hike and explore. Access is easy on all county maintained roads. Available now at \$182,000.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Custer County Deputy Sam Berkeland: The Extra Effort

by Fred Hernandez

The young Sheriff's Deputy approached some fishermen at Lake

DeWeese one afternoon on April 22nd. It was just to make contact with the community and do a routine check of fishing licenses. Earlier, he had been dispatched to

the area on a report of a motorist in a black diesel truck doing "donuts" on the dirt road. By the time he got there the donut maker was gone so he decided to see if the fish were biting. The second angler he talked to could not locate his fishing license anywhere on his person or in his gear and his driver's license was expired. Since he was not operating a vehicle, he got off with a warning. Lucky.

The third contact turned out to be even luckier

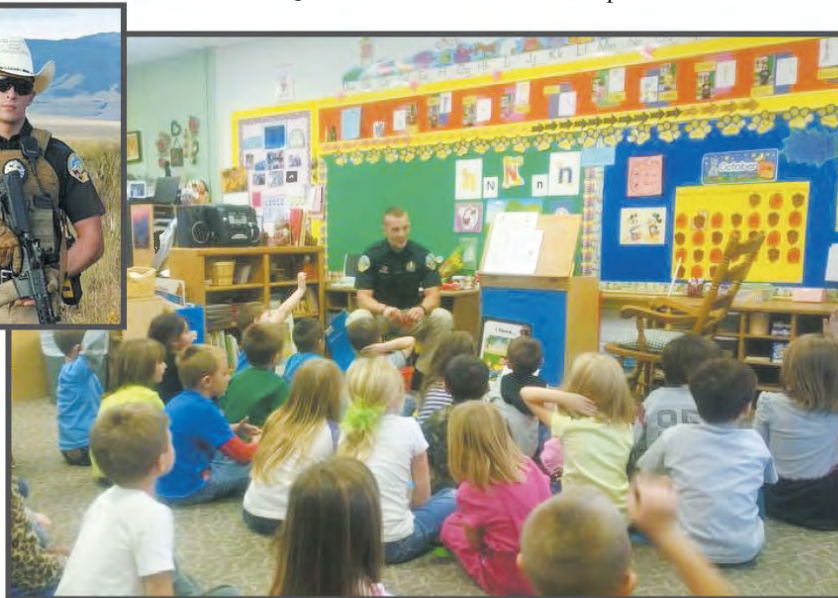
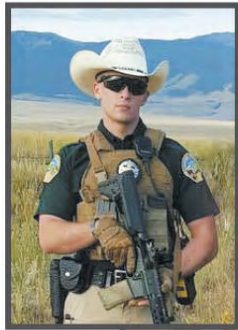
yet. The deputy noticed that the man did not look well. When asked, the man admitted that the right

to allow for an ambulance to be called. As soon as EMS personnel arrived and hooked the patient to the machines,

rushed to the area near the community health center where he was transferred to the helicopter for the life-sav-

rado native, Sam was born, raised and did all his schooling in Colorado Springs. His grandpa built a cabin in Custer County during the '80's and Sam would come up for weekends and longer vacations. Immediately after high school at Coronado High, he joined the Marines for five years, serving in Washington State and with the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines in a place called Twenty Nine Palms in the California desert. After his discharge from the service he knew he wanted to be in law enforcement. Soon after the required training he accepted Custer County Sheriff's Office as one of the two positions he was offered.

Sam recently got a message on his voice mail from the man whose life was saved by conscientious and competent action. He was very thankful, as are we, for the man's life and for Sam.



Deputy Sam Berkeland at Custer County School.

Courtesy Photo from the Custer County Sheriff's Office

half of his body was numb but, at the same time, refused any medical attention. Knowing better, the deputy stood his ground and continued conversing with the mid-fifty-ish man finally convincing him

paramedics confirmed he was in the throes of a full blown heart attack. In fact, at one point the medical responders had to use the "paddles" (defibrillator) to bring him back from the brink. He was then

ing flight to the hospital in Pueblo.

If you ask him, Sheriff's Deputy Sam Berkeland, in his early to mid-twenties, shrugs it off as being "all in a day's work". A Colo-

Line of Duty Officer Deaths

2015 Line of Duty Officer Deaths in U.S.A.: 128
Colorado 2015: 4

Police Officer I, Garrett Preston Russell Swasey
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Police Department, CO
EOW: Friday, November 27, 2015
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Trooper Jaimie Lynn Jursevics
Colorado State Patrol, CO
EOW: Sunday, November 15, 2015
Cause of Death: Vehicular assault

Trooper Taylor Joseph Thyfault
Colorado State Patrol, CO
EOW: Saturday, May 23, 2015
Cause of Death: Vehicular assault

Sergeant Sean Patrick Renfro
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, CO
EOW: Saturday, January 3, 2015
Cause of Death: Struck by vehicle

2016 Line of Duty Officer Deaths in U.S.A.: 34
Colorado 2016: 3

Deputy Sheriff Travis Russell
Las Animas County Sheriff's Office, CO
EOW: Tuesday, March 1, 2016
Cause of Death: Automobile accident

Corporal Nate Carrigan
Park County Sheriff's Office, CO
EOW: Wednesday, February 24, 2016
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Deputy Sheriff Derek Geer
Mesa County Sheriff's Office, CO
EOW: Monday, February 8, 2016
Cause of Death: Gunfire

Source: <https://www.odmp.org>



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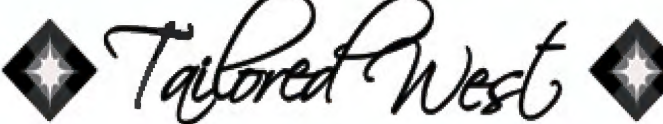
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Local Mountain News & Notices

BOCC Meeting

by Mike Kienbusch
Westcliffe, CO

May 3, 2016

The meeting opened at 9 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, approval of the minutes and audience introductions. There were no public comments or reports from the commissioners, other than to report that approximately \$9,900 is anticipated this week from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The attorney reported the landfill submitted closure notification to the public. Public comment period is open until May 14, 2016.

Under New/Old Business; the Airport Advisory Board (AAB) presented their April report. The Colorado Department of Transportation Aeronautics will perform an inspection of the fuel system for weights and measures. This inspection will occur later this year. On May 14th the airport will hold an open house. The AAB is considering having written policies for the use of the tractor and plow to clear the runway. On April 22nd, the airport hosted a pre-school field trip. With regard to managing emergency responses, the airport will not be commanding the Incident Command. Instead, the airport will need to call 911 to inform the Sheriff's Office who will lead the response. Airport personnel will inspect the runway for foreign object damage (FOD) at least twice a week.

The Public Health Agency reported they performed ten childhood immunizations and two adult immunizations. The Weigh and Win program increased participation by 24 members, losing 271 pounds thus far. The agency is looking for a champion to lead this interest throughout the year. Membership goal is to reach 80 members by the end of the year. The Agency attended a conference focused on health care coalition building and sustaining in Colorado and emergency preparedness. There will be a full-scale exercise conducted in 2017. The Agency reported that a hantavirus victim had died in Saguache County. The Agency kicked off a program aimed at instructing families on ways to cook inexpensive, healthy dinners. There will be six classes, the first of which happened on April 13th. Contact the Agency for more information.

The West Custer County Library District reported that even during winter months, library activity was relatively high. April recorded 150 library users per day. Wi-Fi usage is also up, they reported that their bandwidth use is fast and reliable. The access is backed up with a secondary service to ensure connectivity with the internet. The Library is currently interviewing for a new part time position. The Library uses a Shared Library application that allows book requestors to view and reserve books from other

participating libraries. Deliveries are made to and from the Library a couple times a week. This application has increased book reservations by over 100%.

The Veteran Service Office (VSO) reported they attended a state conference for training and meeting other VSO representatives from Colorado. Custer County currently has 250 veterans, up from 235 members last month. As a service to veterans, the VSO can be a source for the DD214 form, often hard to find but needed by veterans and their families to claim veteran benefits. The office also reported that funds are still available through the American Legion to assist veterans with bill payments and other approved requests. Contact the American Legion for requests. On May 14th, the VSO will be at the Painted View, hosting a booth for the Outdoor Buddies events held there during the day.

Human Services reported that all was pretty much 'OK'. They did conduct a private meeting with Human Services, the BOCC and Attorney.

The meeting ended with a work session between the BOCC and the Custer County High School Superintendent Mark Paylor, to discuss options to share a full time nursing position in 2017. More information on this efficient use of Custer County resources will be forthcoming in later issues.

American Legion Honors Local U.S. Marine Veteran

by Bob Dreher, PAO,
The American Legion Post 170

At the American Legion monthly membership meeting on May 3, 2016 Post 170 extended honors and thanks to U.S. Marine Veteran and Post member Jessica Carter.



Jessica Carter receiving accolades from Post 170 Commander Steve Case

Courtesy Photo

Post Commander Steve Case presented Jessica with a plaque stating: "This certificate is Post 170's way of saying 'Thank You' for your service to our country, and 'Thank You' for your support of American Legion Post 170 in our service to

veterans, veteran's families and our community. Your commitment to Custer County's youth is second to none. Your unique youth programs and activities have awed, engaged, enlightened and educated the entire community. Your excellent work supporting Americanism in our schools is outstanding. Your commitment in insuring the proper display of our nation's flag no matter the time, place or weather is exemplary.

This is awarded with our most sincere thanks and appreciation."

Jessica is a full time employee at the library as the Youth Services Librarian, volunteers at Custer County School working with students on a host of programs, is active in the school music programs, supports the athletic programs at the school, is Chairman of the Post 170 Children & Youth Committee and the Chairman of the Post 170 Scholarship Committee, is an active member of the Post Honor Guard and is the a member of the Post Flags for Main Street program, assuring the flags at Cliff Lanes and the courthouse are maintained and flown at half-staff on appropriate days.

Following her presentation Jessica commented, "I was really touched to receive this award. I'm happy that I have this opportunity to continue to serve."

Jessica, you are making a huge difference in our community. You set the example for all of us. Thank you for your service.

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For they shall be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:9

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Cotopaxi Lions Club Students of the Month

by Tiffany Coleman,
Cotopaxi High School
Publications Advisor

The Cotopaxi Lions Club is composed of civic-minded volunteers who service the Cotopaxi community and surrounding communities in western Fremont county. For several years, the Cotopaxi Lions Club has honored outstanding Cotopaxi junior and senior high students for their character and their academic and extracurricular commitments. The organization is continuing its tradition this year with their "Student of the Month" program. Student winners for the months of March, April and May were recently recognized at a breakfast hosted at Barry's Den in Texas Creek. The winners were freshman Levi Barr and seventh graders Koylynn Gulliford and Shealee Coleman.

Levi Barr is the youngest son of Craig and Susie Barr. He is an active participant in basketball and baseball. In his free time,

he is an avid outdoorsman. Levi's math teacher and basketball coach, Mike Brown commented, "I am honored to teach and coach

Levi Barr. In the classroom and in sports, he is responsible and does what is requested of him without hesitation. Levi is mature,

has an excellent work ethic and follows directions. He leads by example. Levi has become a very reliable member of the student body

at Cotopaxi." Even though he has a few years until graduation, Levi is looking forward to playing sports in college.

Koylynn Gulliford is the daughter of Wes and Devin Gulliford. She is involved in a variety of activities at school. She is in middle school leadership and is a three-sport athlete who enjoys volleyball, basketball and track. Koylynn also helps as manager of the high school volleyball and basketball teams, and she competes in club basketball with a traveling team. According to math teacher Paul Nameth, "Koylynn is a perfect student. She is conscientious about being the best person she can be. Whether she is in the class, playing sports, or with her classmates, she strives for the best. These help to make working with Koylynn a pleasure, but her personality makes her easy to teach/coach."

active participant in middle school leadership and athletics including volleyball, basketball, and track. She helps manage high school volleyball, and in her free time she enjoys rodeoing and spending time helping her family on the ranch. Lou Collins, Shealee's teacher and coach, states, "Shealee is like sunshine. Her joy and kindness carries through any storm and creates an air of positivity that I believe keeps her focused and determined to be good at and make the best of whatever she does."

The Cotopaxi Lions Club also hosts an annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser during the month of April. Student of the month winners are invited to participate in a Student of the Year essay contest. This year's winner was Koylynn Gulliford who was recognized at the dinner and received a \$25 check.

Congratulations Levi, Koylynn, and Shealee! You deserve this recognition!



Students of the Month

(L to R) Levi Barr, Koylynn Gulliford, Shealee Coleman

Courtesy Photo

Shealee Coleman is the daughter of Bryan and Tiffany Coleman. Shealee is an

Track with Jack: One More Meet and on to State

by Jack Swartz
Assistant Coach - High
School Track and Field

The Pueblo Twilight meet is relatively new in regards to track meets but in its fifth year, it has provided some great results for the Custer County Track and Field team. The team traveled to Dutch Clark Stadium this past Friday to take part in the highly competitive meet, with only 14 of the 29 athletes qualifying.

With only one meet left before the State Championships, the Track and Field team needed some outstanding performances

to ensure a trip to Denver in two weeks. The top 18 in 2A State make the meet.

Freshman Kayla Carter placed 14th in the 1600 meter and bettered her personal best to 5:47. Currently Carter is ranked 13th in the state and will look to improve that place at Pueblo West on the 15th. Carter also is ranked 11th in the 3200 meter and should make state with her current time of 12:42.

Making the biggest jump was senior Katlyn Freeburg. Freeburg was on the outside looking in for the 300 meter hurdles but after a personal best time of

50.93, Freeburg sits 11th in the state.

Katie Florom competed in the high jump, clearing 4'-08" to finish 8th. Florom is tied for 11th in the state at 4'-10".

Also competing for the Lady Bobcats, was Alysia Barnes in the 100 meter (14.66) and 200 meter (30.51), Hannah McNeal in the 100 meter (15.80) and 200 meter (32.64). Kayli Short ran 7:18 in the 1600 meter as well as 16:39 in the 3200 meter. As for the throws, Emily Crossley finished 12th in the discus with a throw of 94'-11".

Crossley as well as Serenity Ham have been dealing with injuries these past few weeks. Crossley is currently ranked 24th in the state and looks to make a jump this next week at Pueblo West. Ham did not compete but is comfortable with her rank in the 100 meter hurdles as well as the 300 meter hurdles.

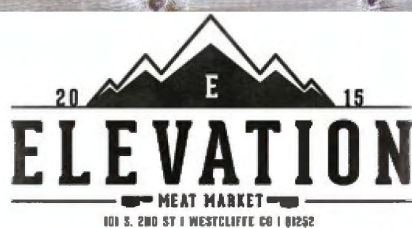
For the second straight year, a boys' track record would fall. **This one, however, was older than two of the three coaches! Jerald Taylor is the new record holder in the 800 meter run, breaking the old record from 1966 of 2:00.** Taylor's time of 1:57

puts him firmly in the 2A State Meet but also has him ranked first in the event. Taylor would follow the 800 meter up with a near record in the 1600 meter. With the current record holder Corey Lewenkamp, on hand to watch, Taylor would come within .14 of a second to breaking the 1600 meter record as well. Taylor's time of 4:27.54 was good enough for 4th at the meet and in the state for now.

Also running the 1600 meter was Chad Lewenkamp (5:20) and Dylan Schoch (5:30) which are both personal best times for them. Competing in the 3200

meter, was Jess Franta running a personal best time of 14:36 as well as David Kinsey, in the 800 meter in a time of 2:18. Billy Berry would compete in the discus (112'-02) and the high jump (5'-06").

The team will travel to Pueblo West for a two day meet the weekend of the 12th. Entries for the state meet are submitted by Sunday evening and we will know who our 2016 state qualifiers are. This will continue the streak of sending Custer County Athletes to the Track and Field State Championships. A streak that has been alive and well for 12+ years.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

CCHS Seniors Get Ready to Serve

by Troy Bomgardner,
CCHS Counselor/Head Football Coach



Graduating Seniors, Sarah Gerringer and Cody Koble.

Courtesy Photo

Graduation is nearing for the CCHS seniors and with it comes the “what’s next?” question. For two of the class of 2016, service is at the forefront of their post-secondary plans. Cody Koble has enlisted in the United States Navy and is scheduled to ship out next October. Sarah Gerringer has plans to serve in the mission field through the Youth With a Mission (YWAM) organization.

“Ever since the sixth grade, I’ve had an intense desire to be a Navy Seal,” said Koble. “I feel this is my purpose, the one thing I’ve been put on this earth to do and that is be a warrior and protect and serve

my country.” Koble is busy with physical assessments every week in trying to earn his Navy Seal contract. It is a big challenge, success rate for the Seal program hovers around 20%. “It is definitely a tough program to get into. There are a number of tests to pass, even before the physical tests. You have to bring your best every day. I love the challenge!” exclaimed Koble.

Gerringer is excited about her missions trip to New Zealand this summer. It will be part of a six month commitment to YWAM. “When I heard about the mission trip, I just knew that is what I was going to do after high school,” said Gerringer. “I want to give back to others, tell my story and speak the Word. I feel I can relate to others.” Gerringer will spend time in the New Zealand winter snowboarding and reaching out to the local youth to spread the Gospel. “I am very excited about what God has in store for me,” smiled Gerringer. “It will be a great learning experience and we will see what is next, but I am definitely considering missions as a career.” If interested in supporting Gerringer on her mission, she may be reached at 285-5291.

Serving others has and will always be a noble career calling; the Custer County community can be very proud of Cody Koble and Sarah Gerringer as they begin their next chapter in life that includes service above self.

Knights of Columbus Award Scholarship



On May 1, 2016, the Knights of Columbus awarded a \$500 scholarship to CCHS graduating senior Ms. Katlyn Freeburg for her essay on maintaining your faith while going to College.

Courtesy Photo

Big Thanks to the Community!

Once again, the community of Custer County has come through in a big way! The After Prom event for our high school students set a record of raising nearly \$5,000! With the numerous donors, I always leave someone out and this year it was Sky Ranch. Doug McClain of Sky Ranch donated the recreation center for our students to play basketball, use the climbing wall, bowling alley, and wally-ball court. So thank you Sky Ranch and my apologies!

And thanks again to the churches, businesses, and individuals who make After Prom an awesome drug and alcohol free event for Custer County students!

Go Bobcats!

-Troy Bomgardner
CCHS After Prom Committee

Bobcats Sport Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

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

May 19 -21: State Track Meet, Denver

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK

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



Bobcat Menu • May 16 -19, 2016

Monday Breakfast
Choice of Cereal
Fruit
Milk
lunch
Chili
Veg.
Fruit
Milk

Tuesday Breakfast
Choice of Cereal
Fruit
Milk
lunch
Beef Taco Bowl
Rice
Veg. & Fruit
Milk

Wednesday Breakfast
Choice of Cereal
Fruit
Milk
lunch
Italian Dunkers
W.G. Bread
Veg. & Fruit
Milk

Thursday Breakfast
Sausage Gravy
W.G. Biscuit
Fruit, Milk
lunch
BBQ Chicken Sandwich
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, May 13, 2016

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for many soldiers who have bravely fought for our country. Approximately, 27 to 30 funeral services are conducted at Arlington National Cemetery each day.

The Army National Military Cemeteries consists of Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Arlington National Cemetery was established on the grounds of the Arlington House, formerly the estate of the family of Robert E. Lee's wife Mary Anna (Custis) Lee, a descendant of Martha Washington. It is situated directly across the Potomac River from Washington D.C. and near the Pentagon.

George Washington Parke Custis, grandson of Martha Washington, acquired the land in 1802. He constructed the Arlington House and passed the estate on to his daughter, who had married United States Army Officer, Robert E. Lee. In 1862, Congress authorized the U.S. federal government to purchase land for national cemeteries for military dead. In May 1864, Union forces suffered large numbers of dead in the Battle of the Wilderness. An examination of eligible sites was ordered to be made for the establishment for a large new national military cemetery. It was reported that Arlington Estate was the most suitable property in the area.

The first military burial at Arlington, William Henry Christman, was conducted on May 13, 1864. He was a confederate prisoner who died at a local hospital. Since then, more than 300,000 soldiers have been buried on that 624 acre plot. Today, it contains the graves of soldiers from every war in which the United States has participated, as well as re-interred dead from earlier wars, including the American Revolution.

The first national Memorial Day ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery, was conducted by President Herbert Hoover on May 30, 1929. In 1992, Morrill Worcester donated thousands of wreaths to be placed on graves at Arlington. His effort has since been expanded and is now known as, Wreaths Across America, and supplies wreaths to over 230 state and national cemeteries and veterans monuments across the country.

For information on tours of Arlington National Cemetery go to: dc.about.com/od/monuments/p/ArlingCemetery.htm.

by Audrey Slater, Sources: worldhistoryproject.org, wikipedia.org

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

*“Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

Proverbs 22:6

Local Mountain News & Notices

Meet the Author Night

There is going to be a MEET THE AUTHOR Night at Tony’s Pizza on May 19th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Come down, shoot the breeze, break bread (have a drink)and meet some of the local talent. This event is being put on by the local writers’ group. Some authors will have books to sell. It’s a free event. We encourage folks to buy food and/or drinks.

If you have questions, call Diane Gehrke at 719-371-1554

Red Hats Meet May 17th



Save the date: On May 17th, the Red Hat Custer Cuties will meet at the Boathouse Cantina, 228 F St., Salida, CO, for fellowship and of course lunch. We will order off the menu. Please RSVP to Carol 783-3360 or Judy 783-3750 by May 16th.

\$20 Food Box with No Qualifying

Compassion Food Bank, A 501C3 Non-profit, is coming to Westcliffe Colorado to serve the Wet Mountain Valley.

This is a mobile food bank that serves much of Southeastern Colorado. They rotate sites from as far east as Rocky Ford and west to Monte Vista. You can find all of their locations on their Facebook page.

With the Sharing Center and Lighthouse already serving our community on a weekly basis, the Compassion Food Bank is a great supplement to these already existing programs.

For a \$20 donation per order, anyone in the valley is eligible to receive a large

amount of fresh fruits, produce, breads, meats, and other foods. The boxes change every time. This \$20 dollar donation pays for the next month’s supplies of food and keeps this service available to Southeastern Colorado. There are no qualifying guidelines and everyone is invited to participate.

The first distribution will be held on May 14th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Located in the parking lot of Hope Lutheran Church. This service runs fast as everything is delivered right to your car for you as you just have to drive up. Those who also use the Sharing Center on the weekends will also be able to use that service as well.

Come Play at the Library: A Family Event

Press Release

Bring the whole family to build, tinker, play and learn at the West Custer County Library on Saturday, May 14th from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Today’s library is about creating and exploring as well as reading. People of all ages can find out for themselves at the Upcycling Adventure Open House where they will be able to experience a variety of activities, tinker zones and free-create stations.

“We’ll be exploring how to use ordinary household items for cool projects such as the File Folder Flashlights and Starchy Structures,” said Youth Services Librarian Jessica Carter.

This free program is co-sponsored by the West Custer County Library and the Denver-based organization RAFT (Resource Area for Teaching).

For more information, stop by the library or call Jessica Carter at 783-9138.

CSU Food Safety Training for Cottage Food Producers

Farmer’s market season is right around the corner and maybe you have been thinking about producing a cottage food to sell at your local market. What is a cottage food? What does it take to bring a cottage food to market? One key requirement in the Colorado Cottage Food Act is a Food Safety for Cottage Foods training certificate and one of the best ways to meet this requirement is to attend a training offered by CSU Extension. Custer County Extension Agent Robin Young will offer a Food Safety Training for colorado cottage food producers presented by Chaffee County Agent

Christy Fitzpatrick on Wednesday May 18th, 2016 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Lange Hall, 312 3rd St. (next to the Lutheran church).

This class covers foods and products permitted under the Cottage Foods Act, ingredient labeling requirements, and basic food safety for a home business. After taking and passing a short quiz, participants will receive a certificate of completion, good for three years. Health department staff and farmer’s market managers are also encouraged to attend the class to learn about the law and the food safety expectations for cottage

food vendors.

Pre-registration for this class is required and may be done by coming to the Custer County Extension Office at 205 S. 6th St. top floor or calling (719-783-2514) or emailing Robin.young@colostate.edu by May 16, 2016. Please give us your phone number, email and the food you are planning to prepare. The \$25 registration fee, covers program materials, testing, certificate and dinner.

For disability accommodations, please notify us at 719-783-2514 at least five business days prior to the event.

Events Calendar

Saturday May 14
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
103 S. 2nd St.
Indoor Farmer’s Market

Saturday May 14
Outdoor Buddies @ A Painted Ranch
See pg 10

Saturday May 14
Custer County Library Family Event
See pg 8

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
May 13, 14, 15 and
May 20, 21, 22
AT THE JONES THEATER
Play: Social Security
Tickets online at Jonestheater.com

Tuesday May 17
9 a.m. Commissioners meeting
In Wetmore

Tuesday May 17
6 p.m. School Board meeting
In the School Library

May 18
5:30-8:30 p.m. Food Safety Training
Custer County Ext. Office Class
at Lange Hall see pg 8

Thursday May 19
5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Meet the Author Night at Tony’s Pizza

Saturday, May 21, 2016
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Brew with a View and Vino Too
Main Street, Westcliffe

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. Need help using your computer or other computer-related things? Call and make an appointment with us for one-on-one instruction FREE! 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.

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 Schlabach’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.
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. COMPASSION FOOD BANK distribution in the parking lot of Hope Lutheran Church. \$20 for a box. No qualifying guidelines.
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. (formerly Schlabach’s market)
3rd Saturday of Month
9 a.m. VFW meeting at Cliff Lanes Conference Room for more info call Commander Randy Knight 783-9340

Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

GOT SOMETHING TO SELL, TRADE OR WANT TO BUY? OUR CLASSIFIED SECTION CAN HELP YOU. STOP BY AND SEE US AT 610 MAIN ST. WESTCLIFFE 783-3360

Auction

Historic Willows School Open House/Auction
The Historic Willows School Board invites the community to celebrate "Saving the Willows" Saturday, May 28th at 495 C.R. 141 (Willows Lane) at 11a.m. A lively auction will follow at noon with food, entertainment and an opportunity to outbid your neighbors for antique, vintage and unique treasures. For more info or to donate please call Marci 783-2289.

Benefits

Come to the Sneaker Ball, Sat. May 14, Saddle Club, doors open 6:30pm. 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.

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For Sale

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



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.

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.

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.

Communications Dispatcher
Hourly wage \$11.67

Applications must be submitted by Sunday, May 15, 2016
The Custer County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for a Communications Dispatcher. This is a full time position (40 hours/week) with benefits. All applicants must be age 21 or older, no felony convictions, and pass a background check.

The Communication Center operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week. As such, it requires applicants to work flexible shifts, holidays, and weekends. Required skills include attention to detail, strong communication skills, working well under pressure, and an ability to learn various computer applications.

The Communications Dispatcher is responsible for gathering information, dispatching the appropriate emergency response, and providing information to ensure the safety of county personnel, including: Sheriff's Office (Deputies, Detention staff, Posse members, and Search and Rescue); Custer County EMS and Flight for Life; the Wetmore and Wet Mountain Fire Departments; the County Coroner, and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers.

Pick up an application at the Sheriff's Office, 702 Rosita Avenue, Westcliffe, CO 81252. You need not complete a new application if you previously applied

within the past 12 months. Call or email asking to be considered for the current position. Questions, please call Joseph McCarthy, 719-783-2270 or email at jmcCarthy@custercountygov.com.

Position: Field Technician - Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District is currently accepting applications for the position of Field Technician, Temporary Full-time Summer help for June-July-August. Interested parties should pick up an application and full job description (including minimum requirements) at the district office located at 59000 Hwy 69 N. The package may also be downloaded from the district's website at www.rmwsd.com, or call 783-2604 for more information. A background and drug screening check will be conducted prior to employment. Salary is \$13/hour. Applications are being accepted until May 25, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. RM-WSD is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in employment.

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Wet Mountain Log Homes
Tony 719-783-2883

JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE COMMISSION SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON JUDGES

The Judicial Performance Commission for the 11th Judicial District (Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, and Park Counties) has begun the evaluation process that culminates in the recommendation on whether a judge should be retained in office. The recommendation appears in the Blue Book sent to all registered voters before each general election. As part of the evaluation, the nonpartisan Commission seeks comments from the public concerning 11th Judicial District Court Chief Judge Patrick W. Murphy, 11th Judicial District Court Judge Stephen A. Groome, and Chaffee County Court Judge William P. Alderton.

The Commission will consider input from the public together with responses to questionnaires sent to attorneys, plaintiffs, defendants, jurors, court staff, probation officers, court interpreters, and the law enforcement personnel who have had contact with the judges in recent years. The commission also conducts courtroom observations, considers judge statistics, a self-evaluation completed by the judge, and decisions issued by the judge.

Written letters concerning the performance of the judges may be sent to: Eleventh J.D. - Judicial Performance Commissioners, c/o Cutler Law Office, LLC, P.O. Box 743, Salida, Co. 81201. Letters must include the name and address of the persons submitting the comments and the judge will receive a copy of the letter. All letters commenting on the performance of these judges must be received by May 21, 2016.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Join the excitement while supporting your community at the summer events volunteer meet and greet, sponsored by CART.

May 18, 2016, at the West Custer County Library, in the Community Room, on 209 Main Street, Westcliffe from noon - 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The purpose of the Summer Events Volunteer Meet and Greet is to match events volunteer coordinators for many of our busy events, with potential volunteers. The events volunteer coordinators are providing information regarding volunteer needs. Volunteer interests, skills, and contact information will be gathered to be sure that each person is matched with an event and in an area where he or she will be sure to have a great time, while contributing to the success of an event.

From the Brew with a View and Vino, Too, being launched on May 21st to the Arts Hullabaloo on October 1st, all volunteers will be matched with exciting events and positions that are the right fit!

For more information, call 727-642-5342 or email stodolam@hotmail.com.

4th Annual

"Brew with a View and Vino Too"



Let's do it again "Brew with a View and Vino Too". Where? At the 'Cliffs, Silver Cliff & Westcliffe. It all takes place in downtown Westcliffe, Saturday, May 21st from 1 - 5 pm. \$25.00 entry fee includes a glass while supplies last.

SORRY NO PETS ALLOWED.

While you wet your whistle with your favorite brews and vinos too, enjoy good music and good food from local vendors. You will also get a taste of 740 square miles of Wow, the backdrop for this event.

Experience big town fun in a small town atmosphere while discovering one of Colorado's hidden gems.

Buy your tickets ahead of time at: thecliffscolorado.com go to the C.A.R.T. tab and click on Brew with a View and Vino Too at the bottom you will see buy now.

For more information call 719-371-3208 or 719-783-2282

Thank you to our sponsor RMC Distributing Company.

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.

Sangre de Cristo Community Band Spring Concert

"The Great Outdoors"

Sunday, May 22nd

The Feed Store Amphitheater 2 p.m.

Free Concert

Donations are accepted

Come join us for an afternoon of great music celebrating the great outdoors!

Music composed by Aaron Copland, James Horner, Ferde Grofe and much more.

**--Andrew Straight
Custer County Schools
Director of Bands/HS Technology**

Benefit May 28th

VFW Post 12063 Fundraiser for Veterans Programs

A southern style benefit dinner will be hosted by Cheryl and Willie of Silver Cliff Mt. Inn & Restaurant, 700 Ohio St. All proceeds will go to veterans' programs.

Dinner will be held 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., Saturday May 28. Cost will be \$11.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children under 10. Cash or checks only please.

Any questions or for more information, please call Ivan Brooks, 719.783.4011

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719-372-6588

Sangre View Benefit Auction To Benefit the Amish School by donation

**Saturday, May 28th
Starts at 10 a.m.**

**At the Marvin Miller residence
6020 Oak Grove Ct.**

Moses Troyer 719-942-3189

Marvin Miller 719-429-6472

Donations Welcome

**Come early for fresh
HOMEMADE Donuts & Coffee**

Lunch Menu

**Grilled Chicken Salad
Hot Dogs Homemade Pie
Baked Beans Ice Cream**

Outdoor Buddies Community & Armed Forces Appreciation Day: May 14th

Press Release

On May 14th, Outdoor Buddies will hold the Fifth Annual Community & Armed Forces Appreciation Day honoring disabled Veterans and other military personnel and veterans.

This is a "Family Day" event and everyone is invited! There will be games, demonstrations, free food, and much more.

Again this year, thanks to the generosity of ranch owners, Ralph and Donna Hood, the event will be held at A Painted View Ranch. The ranch is located three miles west of downtown Westcliffe at 3115 County Road 160. Activ-

ities will start at 10:00 am and end at 4:00 pm.

A Blackhawk helicopter is scheduled to fly in, land, and remain as a static display for part of the day.

The Mounted Color Guard from Fort Carson along with representatives of local American Legion Post 170 will participate in the flag ceremony. Following the flag ceremony, the members of the Mounted Color Guard team will perform an equestrian demonstration.

There will be displays of military vehicles, mine detecting/clearing robots, individual combat gear, and a medical display from the

Combat Support Hospital.

Outdoor Buddies volunteers will serve a free lunch consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, potato chips, iced tea, lemonade, and water. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

There will be special recognition for local Vietnam era veterans, other veterans, soldiers and their families.

Other planned activities include Huey helicopter display, action trackstander and off-road adaptive vehicle demonstrations, a climbing wall, dunk tank, archery range and fishing game (by local Colorado Parks & Wildlife), Paca Peace Alpaca demonstra-

tion, Mission Wolf's 30 minute educational program with wolves, and more.

Special attractions for kids include a bounce house, ducky race (using an irrigation canal that runs through the ranch); stick pony barrel racing, animal balloons, face painting, and cotton candy.

Please plan to join the fun at A Painted View Ranch on Saturday, May 14th.

For more details, contact Dwaine Robey at 783-9044 or dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org or Donna Hood at 783-9100 or rdh@apaint-edview.com.

SHERIFF from page 1

during National Police Week—May 15-21—to honor and remember those law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice, as well as the family members, friends and fellow officers they left behind.

This year, the names of 252 officers killed in the line of duty are being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC. These 252 officers include 123 officers who were killed during 2015, plus 129 officers who died in previous years but whose stories of sacrifice had been lost to history until now.

The names of all 252 fallen officers nationwide will be

formally dedicated during the 28th Annual Candlelight Vigil on the evening of May 13, 2016 to be held on the National Mall between 4th and 7th streets. So that people across the country can experience this unique and powerful ceremony, the vigil will be webcast live over the internet beginning at 8 p.m.(EDT) on May 13th. To register for this free online event, visit www.LawMemorial.org/webcast.

The Candlelight Vigil is one of many commemorative events taking place in the nation's capital during National Police Week 2016. The national observance is organized by a group of organizations led by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), Concerns of Police Survivors, the Fraternal Order of Police and the Fraternal

Order of Police Auxiliary.

On May 15th each year, the Fraternal Order of Police and the Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary host a ceremony on the west steps of the U.S. Capitol to honor fallen law enforcement officers and their families.

In tribute to American law enforcement officers and at the request of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Public Law 103-322 designates May 15th National Peace Officers Memorial Day, which is one of only two days each year during which government agencies, businesses and residents are to fly their U.S. flags at half mast.

So, take a few minutes folks and let our local law enforcement people know that you appreciate their dedication. Go to the Custer

County Sheriff's Facebook page, send them an email or letter, or just say thanks when you see them out doing their job.

Nothing could be more appropriate this week than seeing that the two new Sheriff's Office patrol trucks (which now have a nice, stately silver/grey color,) are sporting signs on the tailgates that proclaim where the legal and moral foundations of our country came from and where true justice is always found. The vehicles now proudly display "In God We Trust". And truly, God Bless our local law enforcement and thank you for your constant, day-to-day service. (See page 4 for a list of the Colorado police officers who were killed in the line of duty in the last 18 months. Please pray for their families and loved ones.

"Family Feud" Style Competition

Press Release

On May 12, 2016 Cotopaxi Middle School students traveled to participate in Cañon City's annual "Battle of the Books." Students participating in the event were required to read ten books from a pre-selected list before they met for the competition. Then, they answered over 108 questions in a total of three "Family Feud" style rounds.

Middle school Language Arts teacher, Kris Schoech said, "The kids just love it. They look forward to battle day every year. It's hard work, and they take it very seriously."

Eighth grader Claire Carlson said, "It is a great experience and a fantastic way to get students involved with reading."

"It's not only a blast," said Haylee Samples, but also a great way to test our knowledge of the books we have read."

The four teams with the

highest scores after three rounds moved into the fourth and final round to determine who would become the newest "battle" champions. This year, all four Cotopaxi teams made it into the final round. After 20 questions, the teams were all tied. In the final elimination round, one team finally emerged victorious. Claire Carlson, Emily Ward, Jonah Stiller, and Dane DeVries received the honorary plaque and were also rewarded with gift cards to Hastings Book Store. The three other teams all tied for second place.

"Having all four of our teams in the final round was astonishing!" said Sage Laymon, Cotopaxi 8th grader.

"The 'Battle' embeds an enthusiasm and motivation for extracurricular reading, gives the students a chance to participate in collaborative discussions about literature, and develops

a deeper understanding of what they are reading," stated Schoech. "We are so

thankful to Cañon City for sponsoring this event every year."



Cotopaxi Middle School students at "Battle of the Books."

**Front row: Claire Carlson, Jonah Stiller, Peter Belt
Middle row: Alexandra Cole, Koylynn Gulliford, Haylee Samples, Shealee Coleman, Savannah Serfoss, Katy Ferguson, Jacob Maestas
Back Row: Lydia Tonnesen, Dominic Will, Dane DeVries, Sage Laymon, Amelia Tonnesen
Not Pictured: Emily Ward**

Courtesy Photo



Local Mountain News & Notices



CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Custer County School District C-1
Regular School Board Meeting
Library – May 17, 2016 6:00 p.m.
Note Date & Time Change

A G E N D A

“For the good of the students of Custer County Schools”

1. Call to Order and the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call – Board Attendance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. General Public Comment Session - Comments will be limited to 3 minutes, Admin Response
5. Bobcat Pride Certificate(s): Mark Payler
6. Consent Agenda
 - a. Acceptance: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on April 12, 2016
7. Reports from Students/Staff
8. District Financial Report – Monthly Overview – Amy Perschbacher
9. Reports from Public: Excellence in Education (Lori Short), Accountability (Shelly Penkoff)
10. Board Committee Reports: Accountability, BOCES, FFA, Legislative, Preschool Advisory Committee
11. Affordable Housing Committee Report: Monty Lee, Wendy Rusk, and Mark Payler
12. Action Items:
 - a. Approval / Personnel:
 - i. Letter of Resignation: Brady Hines
 - ii. Letter of Resignation: Betty Heising
 - iii. Approval: Elementary Teachers : Sydney Camper (2nd), Mari Raley (3rd) (Some information is included in this packet, others will be at your places) – Holly Anderson
 - iv. Approval: Special Education Teacher: Carrie Driver – Barb Jones
 - v. Approval: Social Studies Teacher – Barb Jones (TBD – At your places – Interviews 5/11)
 - vi. Approval: Custodian Substitute – Greg Crauens (TBD – At your places)

- vii. Approval: Other Personnel – TBD (Possibly at your places)
- viii. Principal (Jack Christensen) Contract Approval: Mark A. Payler
- b. Approval: As Per Policy JJH – Out-of-State Student Travel – Lia Coleman
- c. Approval: Check Vouchers & Financial Reports - Amy Perschbacher
- d. Approval: Insurance Renewals: Amy Perschbacher
- e. Approval: Certified Faculty Contracts: Mark A. Payler
- f. Approval: Classified Staff Contracts: Mark A. Payler
- g. Approval: 2016-2017 SCBOCES Operating Agreement: Mark A. Payler
- h. Discussion: Policy IKF-E – Menu of College and Career-Ready Demonstrations – Mark A. Payler
- i. Discussion/Action: Closed Campus at CCHS, SY 2016-17 - Board Discussion
- j. Discussion/Action: Superintendent Evaluation (Policy CBI-R) and Compensation: Dr. Terre Davis
- k. Discussion: SY 2016-17 Master School Schedule – Holly Anderson, Barb Jones, Mark A. Payler
- l. Approval: Car Purchase: Dave Bennett
- m. Acceptance: Proposed Budget – Amy Perschbacher & Mark A. Payler
13. Principal’s Reports:
 - a. Elementary - Holly Anderson
 - b. Secondary - Barb Jones
14. Superintendent’s Report - Mark Payler
 - a. District Highlights
15. Items introduced by Board Members
16. General Public Comment Session (Comments limited to 3 minutes)
17. Executive Session – Expulsion Recommendation
18. Looking Ahead: Regular Board Meeting, June 14, 2016
19. Adjournment

PUBLIC NOTICE

Custer County
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tentative Agenda
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016
9:00 AM
Meeting Location:
Wetmore Fire Station

Call meeting to order
Pledge of allegiance
Roll Call
Amend agenda
Audience introduction
Approval of minutes
Public Comment
Commissioner Items
Attorney Items
Executive Session
New/Old Business
--Appoint the Office of Emergency Management Director to the RETAC Board
--Vacation and Replat - Goodman Wright
--Sub Division Waiver - Goodman
--Public Health Agency EPR Contract – G. Stoltz
--Wetmore Community Center/Library Project

NOTICE TO PUBLIC:

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

Round Mountain Water and Sanitation District is seeking candidates for the **Board of Directors** vacancy. A registered voter applicant must be a Resident of the District for not less than thirty (30) days, or the owner (or the spouse of the owner) of taxable real property situated in the District. Self- nomination forms may be picked up during business hours at 59000 Highway 69, Westcliffe CO or you mail a “Letter of Interest” to RMWSD, P.O. Box 86, Westcliffe CO 81252. Deadline to be received in our office is May 31, 2016.

Sheriff's Report...

Sheriff's Report for 5/13/16 328.

On the dates below, there were 165 calls for service to the Sheriff's Office, 3 to EMS, and 0 to the Fire Department. As of May 8th, there were 3 males and 1 female in the county jail.

5/2/16:
Traffic Summons: Daniel Horvath of Cañon City for speeding 10 - 19 over.

Snowmobile Assist: Custer County Search and Rescue was activated to assist/tow snowmobilers whose machine had broke down in the area of Ophir Creek Road.

Mailbox Fire: A deputy took a report of an incident in which someone set fire to mail in a mailbox on CR

5/3/16:
Accident: A deputy was dispatched to a single vehicle accident on Highway 96, MM 22. The Wetmore Fire Department of Florence EMS were also dispatched to the scene. The driver was transported to Parkview Hospital in Pueblo.

Alleged Burglary: A deputy met with a party residing on First Street in Silver Cliff who filed a report alleging burglary and criminal mischief.

5/4/16:
Arrest: Deputies stopped a vehicle on Highway 96, MM 15 matching the description in an alert

received from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office concerning a road rage incident on Highway 115. Hannah Crawford of Westcliffe was arrested on a warrant out of El Paso County for felony menacing and reckless driving.

5/5/16:
Traffic Summons: Marcus Patton of Westcliffe for speeding 20 - 24 over. Benjamin Porter Coe of Norwood, CO for speeding 10 - 19 over.

Arrest: A deputy on routine patrol in Westcliffe pulled over a vehicle for weaving and driving well below the posted speed limit. Gabriella Graf of Westcliffe was issued a summons and ar-

rested for driving a motor vehicle with a blood content of 0.08 or more, driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs or both, driving with a revoked license, failing to drive in a single lane, and for an outstanding warrant out of Pueblo County.

5/6/16:
Asset Forfeiture: A deputy was dispatched to CR 310 on an agency assist with the U.S. Marshall Service. The U.S. Marshall posted a notice seizing property as part of the Asset Forfeiture Program.

Arrests: The Sheriff's Office received a report of a reckless driver traveling eastbound on Highway

96. A deputy made contact with the vehicle at MM 22. Nathan Leonardo of Olney Springs, CO, was arrested on an outstanding warrant, violation of a protection order, the unlawful possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Thomas Pacheco of Pueblo was arrested for driving a motor vehicle with a revoked driver's license.

5/7/16:
Threats: A deputy took a report from a party in Westcliffe who stated she was receiving threatening instant messages. The complainant provided the evidence to the deputy who sought an arrest warrant. The judge found there

was probable cause and a warrant was issued for Harassment and Retaliation Against a Witness or Victim. The subject was subsequently arrested by the Pueblo Police Department.

Suicidal Ideation: A deputy was dispatched to CR 255 in an attempt to locate a party reported to be having suicidal ideation.

5/8/16:
Protection Order Issue: Two deputies were dispatched to CR 389 in Wetmore regarding a potential protection order violation.

Disturbance: A deputy was dispatched to CR 255 in response to a report of a verbal disturbance.



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book in the world.

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all the libraries I have seen.”

John Adams

Founding Father and Second President of the United States

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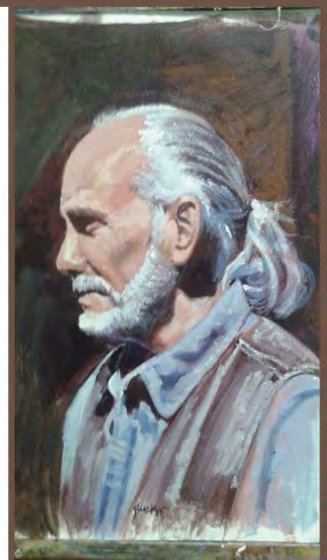
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Building Trades Class Project

2015 - 2016 School Year



The instructor of Building Trades, Mr. Bruce May, described the accomplishments of this year's class as being two-fold: From the beginning of the school year until October the class put the finishing touches on last year's construction project, a house built from the ground up. That job turned out beautifully, and the owners now enjoy living in a quality new home. Starting in October, the crew moved on to a second project, which is what is featured on these pages.

This year's class consists of just 3 seniors, Sam Dunlap, Cody Koble, and Colton Lind. Dunlap joined up with his classmates who are "old hands" in Building Trades, taking the class for now their third school year. This job site couldn't be more convenient, since it is located at the Wet Mountain RV Park, directly across the street from the school. There's no actual travel time involved for the students to put in their 2 hours per day, from mid-morning to noon—an 8-hour work week.

The job consists of a 40 ft. x 12 ft. addition to an existing structure, plus some interi-

or construction in the original building—a couple rooms, one of which is a restroom. The end result will be a combination office and shop, instead of just the shop. Mr. May gives credit to some local contractors who contributed their specialties and did a good job of teaching the students their respective trades: Ross Penkoff started off by pouring the concrete pad, and Hough Electric and Batson Plumbing have taken care of their parts of the overall job. Mr. May himself deserves credit for his many years of imparting the "tricks of the trade"—from his very extensive bag of tricks-- to the students in Custer County High School who elected to take his classes.

As shown in these photos, the students learn tasks in the construction trade by first observing the master craftsmen and then participating hands-on in on-the-job training. This project will be completed by the end of the school year, which will please the Hartbauers and in turn give these young men something to take pride in-- having seen yet another project to completion as they graduate from Custer County High School.



From left: Sam Dunlap, Cody Koble, Colton Lind, and Instructor Mr. Bruce May



From left: Brad Hartbauer and Bruce May.

“Takin’ It To The House...”

A Calendar And Commentary From The Golden Dome

From: Representative Jim Wilson – HD 60

May 8, 2016

It is Mother’s Day – a welcome reprieve from the craziness under the Golden Dome during the final few days. I hope you all took the time to recognize those special Moms in your lives. Life is lacking without loved ones...let them know how much they are appreciated!

Well, the dam finally broke! All those “backed-up bills” spilled over the top this past week, and the flash flood of legislation came roaring through the Capitol. The floodwaters included 17 more new bills introduced in the last week. The current total is 684, with more scheduled for introduction on Monday!

Committee schedules are jammed, some committees are scheduling additional meetings, and some have just lost touch with reality. For example, the House Judiciary Committee finally completed its Thursday agenda at 4:47 AM Friday morning! The good news? Judiciary is not one of my three committees! I am however, on the Appropriations Committee that heard 34 bills in one and a half hours. I am thinking about building an ark...

With many important issues such as School Finance and Presidential Primaries floating by in the floodwaters, we took time to engage in a lengthy debate on the House floor over HB 16-1464 (one of those late bills) which would allow civil action for stealing a newspaper.

(Yes, you read it correctly!) With the Democrat House and the Republican Senate, many of the remaining bills will be carried away by the raging torrent, never to be seen again (until maybe next session...).

The School Finance Act was one of the bills thought to be secure on dry land, but the Senate threw it back into the water last week. The Chair of the Senate Ed. Committee decided to hold the bill hostage until he secured support for his plans to benefit Charter Schools. There are now negotiations going on behind closed doors to decide what to do with the threats. I think the people of Colorado deserve better than a few legislators pushing their own personal agendas down the throats of the rest of the citizens.

The State Constitution says we are a local control state. In my opinion, some of the actions here at the Capitol are examples of “Loco Control”!

The question of a Presidential Primary continues to be swept along in the current. The latest word is that the Senate has come up with its own version of HB 16-1454 that is a little more restricted than the House version. The House sponsors seem to be OK with the Senate version so, a Presidential Primary Bill (although somewhat soaked) may make it through this session.

One of the late bills to be filed Monday involves a lawsuit that Colorado lost. We will have to reimburse the prevailing party. The state budget, already

stretched to the limit, will have to be readjusted to allow for payment of damages. Just when we thought the flood had crested...

On a final personal note, my Full Day Funding for Kindergarten bill was killed in Appropriations last week. It was no surprise that the Chair asked me to request that it die – that way the committee members did not have to vote against Kindergarten. I complied, but I pointed out the fact that we are spending millions of dollars on new programs while not funding all-day kindergarten which is mandated in statute! That is like me owing you massive amounts of money and not paying you, while I buy new cars, new suits, jewelry, etc. Something is wrong with that picture!



Maybe next year...

Adjournment sine die (from the Latin “without day”), will occur sometime on the 11th. If you have any questions about bills that are being swept down Colfax Ave., 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

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“A militia, when properly formed, are a in fact the people themselves...”

Richard Henry Lee 1788

Feds to Kick Out Campers, Hikers at Maroon Bells

by ColoradoPeak Politics.com

The Forest Service is kicking us out of our own backyard because there are just too many people who are taking advantage of public lands to endanger wilderness areas by

hiking. And sleeping.

Starting in the Maroon

instance, we can allow 20 groups of people at one time. ... That would dramatically limit overnight use on some heavy holiday weekends up there, because in the past, we’ve had upwards of 75 groups at a time camping.”

That’s right, the government is going to make us take a test before we can enjoy nature on federal lands.

Old timers on the Western Slope have been warning us for decades that the government wants to put up “no trespassing” signs, looks like their predictions are coming true.

(Editor/GG: Remember back in England in the old days. All the “common/public” land was owned by the king and nobody could use it without permission. The people were peasants back then. But now the “king” is back. And so are the peasants....)

Reprinted with Permission. Please see: <http://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2016/05/05/no-trespassing-feds-to-kick-campers-hikers-out-of-maroon-bells>

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Bells, they want us to actually make reservations in order to hike and camp, so they can keep down the number of homo sapiens in nature.

The feds are boldly planning an environmental assessment of their plan to prove their thinking, with hopes of kicking us out by next year.

We’re fairly certain this is unconstitutional:

One idea being tossed around it to have visitors watch a video and take a test on www.recreation.gov before a permit would be issued. The goal is for people “to have what actually might be a wilderness experience in the wilderness,” District Ranger Karen Schroyer said.

“I think this plan will allow us to limit use as needed as we move forward in the future,” she said. “At Conundrum Hot Springs, for



Colorado State News



School Districts Conspire Against School Choice and Charter Schools

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

(Editor/GG: Note below that the Cañon City school system is part of the cabal.)

A reader tipped us off that there was a contingent of anti-charter school districts working to kill bills that would benefit charter schools, and then we got an email from a lobbyist to a group of school district officials plotting against charters. Wow. These school districts do realize that charter schools are public schools too, and that they are part of their district, right?

The email went out to a group the lobbyists called the Alliance, which included representatives from the following school districts: Woodland Park School District, Fountain Fort Carson School District, Cheyenne Mountain School District, Denver Public Schools, Cañon City Schools, Lewis Palmer School District, Academy District 20, Widefield School District 3, Pueblo City Schools, Cripple Creek-Victor Schools, Manitou Springs School District, and Harrison 2 School District.

It's worth noting that some of these schools have terrible academic records and would likely benefit from the additional choice that charter schools offer. Additionally, the email reads:

"While expected, the vote was disappointing. The margins of support, particularly among Democrats, was higher than hoped and makes it more challenging to kill the bills in the House."

Actually, what is disappointing is the idea that school districts are colluding to diminish resources for the schools in their own districts. The bills they were hoping to kill are SB16-187, which would have brought additional resources into charter school classrooms and SB16-188, which

would have equalized funding for charter schools. This move against charter schools has the potential to strip parents of choice and cripple the very schools that are helping kids grow and thrive in our state.

It's no surprise that Senator "There's-a-Special-Place-in-Hades-for-Charter-Schools" Merrifield would have opposed it, but we just want to know what the h-*** these school districts were thinking.

And, in case you wondered what the Alliance is planning next, here you go:

"As discussed at our last Alliance meeting, we need a solid turnout of testimony for the Education hearing. The point to make is that decisions on charters are best left at the local level as every situation is unique – and to convey those situations directly from district leadership.

"Please plan for this date on your calendars and let us know who from your district is available for testimony.

"Additionally, media outreach would be helpful to push back in the Equity argument that seems to be growing such traction with legislators.

"To frame the argument to the public, would members be willing to submit an Op-Ed as the Alliance outlining our concerns with the bills?"

We look forward to school districts arguing against funding public schools equitably. Please carry on.

Reprinted with Permission. Please see: <http://coloradopeakpolitics.com/2016/05/06/peak-exclusive-school-districts-conspire-against-school-choice-and-charter-schools-reveal-game-plan/>

Colorado Sends Non-Vaccinating Parents ILLEGAL Order To "Register Their Child With The State"

by Mac Slavo, SHTFPlan.com

Here's the fraud of the State in action.

It seems that the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment sent out a letter to parents demanding that those who have not vaccinated their children register them on a state website under requirement by law... the only problem is that there is no such law.

The agency has apologized, claiming the letter was sent out by mistake, but their intent was revealed anyway.

A law was proposed to require a "yellow star" registration process for families who don't vaccinate... but the law did not make it out of committee. Of course, that doesn't mean that the bill's sponsors will give up.

via Off the Grid News:

A number of parents received a letter this month from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, which said in the document that parents of unvaccinated children in school would be required to register and exempt their child through a state website.

[...] "My biggest issue is that you are trying to take my child's information – that you have zero legislative authority to do – to track and to possibly come back to me,"

parent Missy Frazier said, according to *The Gazette* newspaper. "Where does this end, and with whom are you going to share this information?"

It is hardly surprising that the school district is being accused of deliberately spreading the misconception that parents are legally required to comply.

That is already that standard line with childhood vaccines – creating the impression that they are required, when freedom over medical injections should be a personal decision protected by constitutional freedoms.

"I find it curious that the House has already killed 1164, whereas the health department has already implemented the provisions of 1164 in law on their website stating that by July 1st, parents will be required to register online," Lundberg said. "This online registration system is in complete violation of current statute. They don't have the authority to require an online registration."

"They want to populate the vaccine registry and they want to know exactly who's exempting from which vaccines, where they live and I think it's a harassment technique," Theresa Wrangham of the National Vaccine Information Center told a Denver TV station.



Demanding data from people who opt out of any program in this country is akin to discriminating against them and allowing them to be targeted and tracked – and it is dangerous civil liberties, particularly as threats against non-vaccinating families is nothing new.

In particular, government agencies in general seem very disconcerted by the level of independence and rebellion by anti-vaxxers – there is every reason to think that they fear the herd will be spooked, and they could lose control over the masses.

When you consider that non-vaccinating parents are frequently treated as second-class citizens and targeted with misplaced anger about the spread of disease, it is not surprising that this law is being required – as California and other states have stepped up their pro-vaccine rhetoric and used the power of state mandates to pimp for Big Pharma.

Reprinted with Permission. Please see: http://www.shtfplan.com/headline-news/colorado-sends-non-vaccinating-parents-illegal-order-to-register-their-child-with-the-state_05022016

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Joshua 24:15

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.sentinel@gmail.com



Third Annual “Create Cañon City” Balloon Classic

by Charlotte Burrous

For the third year in a row, the balloons are coming to Fremont County. The festival is slated for May 28-30, 2016.

“Our principal sponsor is St. Thomas More Hospital Centura Health,” said Rob Brown, of Create Cañon City. “It’s over Memorial Day weekend so it’s a celebration of Memorial Day weekend. We’re going to have at least 15 or maybe a few more (hot air balloons). Weather permitting and God willing, we’ll get them off the ground like we did last year. We’ll have three opportunities to get the balloons launched, Saturday, Sunday and if we don’t have them either one of those days, we’ll launch them on Monday as well.”

Scheduled balloon launches are;

- 6:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. - Balloon Launches - Saturday, Sunday and Monday - Soccer Field (North of the Abbey)
- 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. - Balloon Glows - Saturday and Sunday - Soccer Field
- 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. - Abbey Glow - Saturday and Sunday - best viewing is on the east side of the Abbey

The afternoons will be filled with activities, including “America’s Got Talent” competitor, Conner Doran, demonstrating his kite flying, High Sky Adventures is dropping in during the weekend. “They’re pre-

cision parachute guides,” Brown added. “They’re very interesting and fun to watch.”

In conjunction, a variety of music will be performed by Spinphony, R-V-Zoo and the Sugar Spun, Elephant Band as well as Chris Daniels and the Kings on Saturday. On Sunday, the lineup will feature Hammerstadt



with Tony Exum Jr., Wendy Woo Band and The Inman Brothers.

“We (also) have (what) we called the ‘libation station,’ where you can enjoy beer and wine,” Brown added. “This year, we consolidated the entire event onto the campus of the Abbey complex. In previous years, we had it at the Winery and at the Abbey.” For the first time, the libation station and live music will continue until 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Lots of food vendors, along with military vehicles, fire trucks will be on site along with Estes Rockets and Southern Colorado Rocketeers (SCORE).

“We’ll be allowing every kid that’s participating to have a rocket to shoot into the air both Saturday and Sunday,” Brown said. “It’s going to be a really nice event. We’ve gotten more and more experience each year and we’re anticipating the best event we’ve had so far.”

“After a disappointing first year, last year’s event was highly successful,” he added. “I can’t tell how much a relief it was for us as an organizing committee, sponsors and all of our volunteers. Everybody just felt this collective sigh of relief when those balloons gently rose into the air,” Brown continued. “It’s really magnificent up close. They are just wonderful.”

Another bonus will be the balloon glow each evening. If there is calm weather, the balloons will be inflated at dusk.

“With the brilliant colors and the back burners, it’s really pretty,” Brown said. “If we don’t get the balloons inflated, we’ll do what we call ‘candles in the dark,’ where we set the balloons up and fire off those big burners. That’s fun too.”

He also noted there is something for everybody, from young families to older adults, “We have a little of everything for everybody,” Brown said.

Admission is free and open to everyone. For more information, go to the website at canoncityballoonclassic.org.

34th Annual Antique and Special Interest Car Show

by Charlotte Burrous

The 34th annual Antique and Special Interest Car Show from 8 a.m. until the trophies are awarded at 3 p.m. May 21st on the Abbey campus at 2951 E. U.S. 50.

Sponsored by Royal Gorge Chapter of The Veteran Motor Car Club of America (VMCCA), the show kicks off with registration from 6:45-10 a.m. with gates

opening at 8 a.m.

Cooking is not allowed on the Abbey grounds, but don’t despair, a variety of food vendors will be on site. According to organizers, space is limited to 425 vehicles so preregistration is strongly advised.

Admission to the show is \$5. For more information, call Ralph Kunselman at 275-3561, Dan Guernsey at 276-0540 or Eli Athison at

275-7493.

The next day, the 15th annual Florence Merchants Car Show will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. May 22nd on Main Street in downtown Florence.

One of the highlights of the day are the Valve Cover races at 11 a.m. May 22nd.

For more information, call 520-403-5204.

Upcoming Events May 14-31

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

May 14th – The Cañon City Public Library will host “**Art and Letters: Artists During the New Deal**” at 2 p.m., at 516 Macon Ave. Join us as we return to the 1930s and the arts and the music of the Great Depression. Music of the Era provided by Cindy and Charles Katz. For more information, call 269-9020

May 14– The Fremont County Concert Association will present “**Fascinating Rhythms of the World**,” led by accordionist. Alex Meiner, and featuring Joe Tierney on sax and clarinet, and Tom Haller on drums. The Alex Meixner Band is at home playing polkas, jazz, Gypsy world-beat, authentic European folk, classical, Latin, and Zydeco-blues all in one program. The concert will begin at 2 p.m in the Cañon City High School at 1313 College Ave. For more information, call Paula McFarland at 275-0144 or Phyllis Koroshetz at 275-9616.

May 18th– The Cañon City Chamber of Commerce will host a **Fremont County Commission Candidate Forum** from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Fremont County Administration Building, featuring candidates John Marietta, Dwayne McFall, Mike Merlino and Tim Payne. Moderators will be Gerald Meloni and John Waters. Please submit any questions for candidates to director@Cañoncity.com by May 13th for review. The event will be broadcast on Channel 191 for those who cannot attend.

May 19th – The Al Kaly Shrine Circus will take place at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. May 19 in Jack Merris Rodeo Grounds. In addition to performing acts, kids will have an opportunity to ride and pet different types of animals. Tickets are available in participating merchants or at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/al-kaly-shrine-circus-2016-cañon-city-co-tickets-242649114011> or from any Shriner. For more information, go on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TheJordanWorldCircus>.

May 21st, the 34th annual Royal Gorge Chapter of VMCCA (The Veteran Motor Car Club of America) Car Show will feature numerous special interest antique vehicles on the Abbey campus. Gates open at 8 a.m. with trophies awarded at 3 p.m.

May 21st, Flashback on Main Street will begin at 3 p.m. in the 500, 600 and 700 blocks of Main Street, where numerous cars will be on display. The concert kicks off with Michael Martin Murphy performing from 5-7 p.m., followed by Flash Cadillac at 7:30 p.m. Other activities include sock hop, games, contests and much more.

May 21-22nd – Highway 50 Yard Sale will take place along Highway 50 corridor from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. **Florence Merchants’ Car Show** will take place all day in downtown Florence. Activities include music, numerous vehicle exhibit, food, valve cover races and much more. Everyone welcome.

May 21st– Picnic & potluck, featuring Sangre’s Best grass finished beef will be held from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. May 21 at **Music Meadows Ranch** at 6076 CR 119 in Westcliffe. Bring a snack side dish or dessert to share. Beverages provided. Bring your on beer or wine. Tour the ranch house and historic barn. Watch horse training exercises; take a sample horseback ride or just pet and brush the horses. Relax, make new friends and have a good time.

May 28, 29, 30– Create Cañon City Balloon Classic at 6 a.m. each day. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/CreateCanonCityBalloonClassic/> for more information.

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

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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

Government Lawyers Cost U.S. a Staggering \$26.2 Billion!!!

by Ethan Barton,
Daily Caller News Foundation

A “pervasive army” of more than 25,000 federal lawyers have raked in \$26.2 billion from U.S. taxpayers since 2007, according to a new report by the non-profit government watchdog Open The Books.

“Today’s federal government is protected by a pervasive army of attorneys,” Open The Books founder and the report’s author Adam Andrzejewski told *The Daily Caller News Foundation*. “At a force size of 25,000, that’s bigger than a conventional combat division.”

Nearly half of the lawyers are based in Washington, according to the report, called “Lawyered Up: Federal Spending On Lawyers, 2007-2014.” Open The Books maintains a database containing 2.6 billion lines of government spending, representing the largest such digital resource in the world.

The federal portion of the database was made possible by the Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, which was co-sponsored

by then-senators Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and Barack Obama of Illinois, and signed into law by President George W. Bush.

“Since 2007, federal spending on attorneys exceeded \$26 billion in salaries and bonuses,” the report said. More than 50 salaries exceeded \$250,000 and 19 bonuses were for more than \$50,000 since 2007.

“In 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency employed 1,020 attorneys while the Internal Revenue Service employed 1,423 attorneys,” the report said.

- Open The Books also found:
- In 2014, the top federal lawyer salary was \$266,469.
- Salaries paid to more than 50 attorneys on the federal payroll topped \$250,000 since 2007.
- Since 2007, 19 bonuses exceeded \$50,000. The top bonus was \$83,900 and the second largest was \$62,895.

- If the attorneys working for the federal government formed a nation-state, it would rank 158th in global GDP, with \$3.3 billion in annual spending. That’s more than combined GDPs of vacation paradises St. Lucia, the British Virgin Islands and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

“The lawyers aren’t the problem per se,” the report said. “They simply serve at the pleasure of entrenched politicians and bureaucrats. Federal spending on attorneys both reflects and perpetuates the size, scope, expanse and inertia of today’s federal government.”

Andrzejewski added:

“That’s why it’s essential for taxpayers to fight back with the best tools at our disposal – transparency and accountability. And that’s precisely what our report aims to do.”

Read more: <http://daily-caller.com/2016/04/27/pervasive-army-of-govt-lawyers-hits-25000-strong-costs-staggering-26-2-billion/#ixzz-477wyRZdD>

THE MASK from page 17

exactly what they were doing engineered the student-loan bubble. Yet it is legal, like so many scams. Huge military contracts for things not needed, the near-control of Mid-Eastern policy by Israel, poor medical care at high prices, the deliberate gutting of American industry so that corporations can enrich themselves in China—all of this is legal. You pay Congress and it makes legal anything you want.

Credit cards, which intentionally lure people into going deeply in debt and paying usurious interest rates, are legal. Big Pharma paid Congress to rule that Medicare cannot negotiate the price of drugs, opening a sluice to the Treasury. Corruption, but legal.

Under the rule of the Insiders Club, medical care is a fecund source of legal graft. Example: I once needed eye drops from Bausch and Lomb called Muro, which amounted to hypertonic salt water. A bottle of 1.8 (I think it was) ounces cost \$23 in Washington, \$19 in Winchester, Virginia. Exactly the same product in Mexico, \$6. Price-fixing, but where and by whom? What Congressmen were paid to make it legal, or not look into it too closely, or at all?

Welcome to Guatemala.

Corruption has come to be the purpose of government, and the Club battens on it. You want to see the political equivalent of a public latrine in Uganda? Try HUD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development. I promise that you will be horrified by

the diversion of funds and lining of pockets.

You ask, Fred, why do you say this? Are you a student of HUD? No. I know nothing of HUD. I know much of government. HUD is an outfit with over thirty billion a year to spend, completely unwatched. Have you ever seen a newspaper story about HUD? I guarantee that it is dominated by the sacred ethnic groups who milk it like a prize Guernsey, and by big companies getting sweetheart contracts.

Or try Commerce, or Education or the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or Congress.

It is to preserve these overflowing rice bowls that we have elections without substance between candidates without a difference. Hillary is just Jeb Bush in a dress, Biden a universally applicable cipher, Cruz a compliant applicant for membership in the club. Since the parties collude in avoiding issues that people care about, the contest becomes a popularity contest of the sort found in middle school. Whoever wins, the Insiders win.

Of course Trump also is a billionaire, but he is a turncoat, a class traitor, the Benedict Arnold of billionaires. He addresses the issues that the Insiders want to remain un-addressed. He is indeed dangerous. He threatens the endless (immensely profitable) wars, the endless (immensely profitable) shipping of American jobs to China, the endless (immensely profitable) importation of cheap Mexican labor. He threatens the sacred rice bowls.

It is why he must be stopped.

Please see: <http://fredoneverything.org/the-mask-comes-off->

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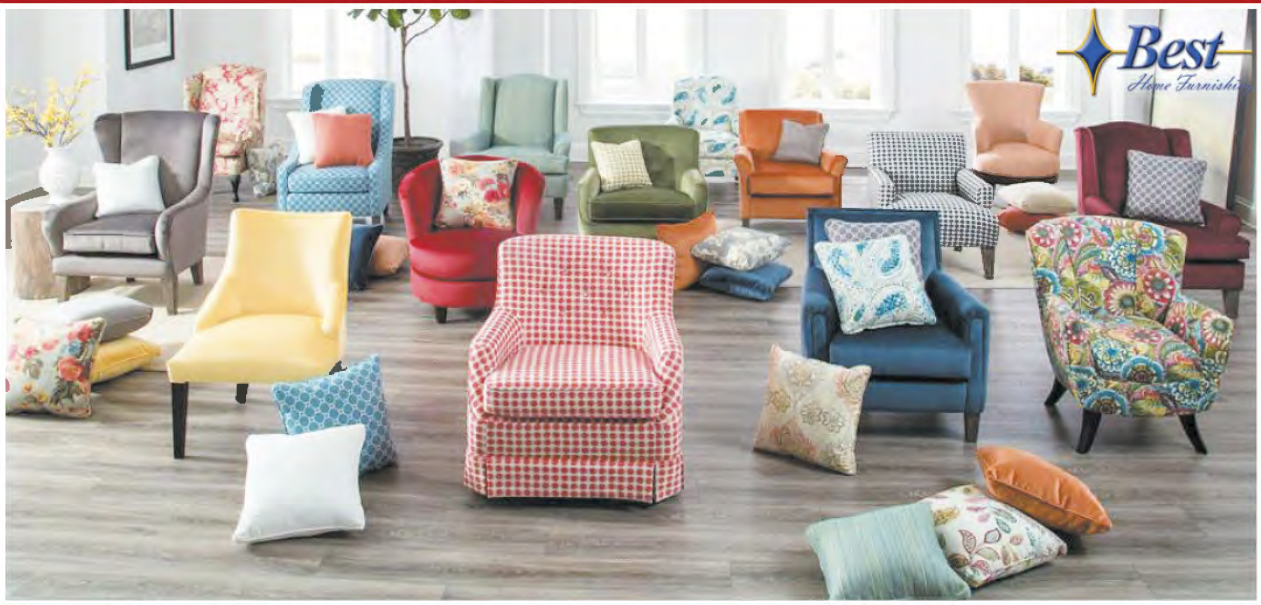
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Feds Put Credit Card Felon in Charge of Major VA Purchasing Program

by Luke Rosiak,
Daily Caller News Foundation

Almost immediately after Federal Bureau of Prisons Inmate #11109-017 completed a 14-month sentence for using sensitive credit card data on his previous employer's computer system to steal \$70,000, he was hired by the Department of Veterans Affairs in a position that ultimately led to his present job — running an office racked with credit card fraud and bribery problems.

Braxton Linton is prosthetics service chief at the Caribbean Veterans Affairs hospital in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Service chiefs are the top officials in each department in VA hospitals. VA prosthetics offices procure all assistive devices and use government credit cards so often that they are called "prosthetics purchase cards."

Linton is at least the second convicted felon working in management at the federal hospital in San Juan. The civil service employees' union local there recently got an employee reinstated despite her involvement in an armed robbery by arguing that she can't be discriminated against since the hos-

vised release and required to make restitution in the amount of \$69,089, according to federal court records.

Now, at the VA, Linton has access to the personal and medical information of thousands of veterans, as well as to federal credit cards. He also oversees a large budget and a staff.

Criminal investigators with VA's Inspector General received information in 2012 that Puerto Rico's assistant prosthetics chief was steering contracts to a particular company in exchange for bribes, according to an investigative report reviewed by The Daily Caller News Foundation.

As soon as Hamlin moved from Florida to San Juan to lead the hospital, he was accused by his top deputy of stealing from taxpayers by inappropriately billing the government for personal expenses associated with the move. Hamlin responded by removing the deputy, Japhet Rivera, from his post and transferring him to Florida.

The Puerto Rico hospital's spokesman, Axel Roman, would not say whether Hamlin was involved in Linton's transfer from Tampa to Puerto Rico.

Tito Santiago Martinez, the Puerto Rico VA human resources manager

"... \$1.2 billion dollars of problematic credit card purchases made by prosthetics officials in an 18-month period.."

After a year-long bribery investigation, the IG found evidence of criminal misconduct and noted that the amount spent on the contracts had increased six-fold in one year.

who is a convicted sex offender, said in his own case, bosses reasoned that "there's no children in [the hospital], so they figure I could not harm anyone here."

Last year, Jan Frye, the VA's deputy assistant secretary for acquisition and logistics, said that prosthetics chiefs were using purchase cards for all manner of unauthorized expenses — even \$70,000 worth of veterinarian care for a single pet dog, and medical care for a VA employee who was not a veteran.

"Contracting officers, armed with government purchase cards, simply procure products without contracts, and liquidate the illegal obligations using the purchase card," Frye said, citing \$1.2 billion dollars of problematic credit card purchases made by prosthetics officials in an 18-month period.

The cards are only supposed to be for small items under \$3,000, but VA prosthetics chiefs split major purchases up into many bills just under that amount.

At other federal agencies, employees with access to purchase cards have used them to purchase all manner of personal luxuries, such as satellite TV at vacation homes, with no consequences to their employment status.

(Editor/GG: This is happening in every federal agency and at every level. This is unfixable. It must be destroyed. The private sector can easily handle 95% of what the feds do, at a tenth of the cost.)

Read more: <http://dailycaller.com/2016/05/05/feds-put-credit-card-felon-in-charge-of-major-va-purchasing-program/#ixzz47se2ak6n>

"... his previous employer's computer system to steal \$70,000, he was hired by the VA..."

pital's human resources manager remains on the job despite being a convicted sex offender.

Linton's story began in 1998 when he was working as a night clerk in a dorm at the University of Florida and stole mail from freshman students, using their private information to apply for credit cards and racking up \$70,000 in purchases.

Police said Linton used his position to prey on the students he victimized. "Not only would the person have to have access to personal information, they would have to have access to intercept the plastic," an officer said in a front-page news article about the crime.

When credit-card offers came in the mail, he would apply for them using personal info, like Social Security numbers, taken from the college's private database of students. When statements came showing the huge purchases, he would steal those pieces of mail, so the students never knew.

In addition to the prison time, Linton was placed on three years of super-

In November 2013, investigators told hospital director DeWayne Hamlin that the assistant chief should be fired. But a year passed and Hamlin took no disciplinary action. So in 2014, investigators attempted to bring criminal charges. But federal prosecutors declined to take the case.

That same year, Linton was transferred from the Tampa, Florida, VA hospital to run the Puerto Rico purchasing unit that Hamlin knew to be plagued with criminality. Hamlin, who also has repeatedly been accused of misconduct, also previously worked at the Tampa VA.

Hamlin was arrested in Florida in 2013 after being found with painkillers for which he had no prescription, and he refused to tell police why he had the drugs. Diversion of opiates is a major problem at the VA.

Linton was also arrested for drugs twice while working at the VA, once in 2005 and again in 2006. A judge agreed to withhold judgment the first time if Linton stayed out of trouble, which he didn't; the second resulted in a misdemeanor conviction.

Greenspan Admits The Fed's Plan Was Always to Push Stocks Higher

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

(Editor/GG: Understand that this plan was proposed and endorsed by both the republican and democrat honchos. The printing of trillions of phony dollars will eventually destroy our economic system. And not that far into the future. THE POLITICIANS WHO RUN THIS COUNTRY DID THIS TO US. And they are still doing it. Time for a change.)

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan admitted in an interview with Sara Eisen that quantitative easing (QE) did what it was supposed to do, which was to inflate stock prices and drive multiple expansion.

He was confused as to why things such as corporate earnings, capital spending, and productivity have declined given how much QE was pumped into the system. The answer to the riddle of course, is that QE was never intended to help fix anything fundamentally, it was as Kyle Bass said recently, simply a mechanism to transfer wealth and make the rich richer.

"Monetary policy has done everything it can, unless you want to put additional QEs on and QEs on, they're not helping that much."

What ultimately determines whether or not you're getting an effect from the QEs are what has happened to the price/earnings ratio, and that

obviously has done what you'd expect it to do.

You bring long-term rates down, and the price/earnings ratios in the equity markets go up, which is exactly what they planned to do and it's happened that way."

All of this is precisely what we've been saying all along, which is that QE has always been about one thing, and that is to take wealth from many (savers), and transfer it to a select few (asset owners).

Reprinted with Permission. Please see: <http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2016-04-18/greenspan-admits-feds-plan-was-always-pushing-stocks-higher>

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Republican Senate Caves To All Of Union's Demands On Veterans Affairs Firing Bill

by Luke Rosiak,
Daily Caller News Foundation

(Editor/GG: Yes, our lovely RI-NO's at it again with a make-pre-tend bill for our veterans. This bill says it still is virtually impossible to fire a bad VA employee. It is all a smokescreen so the RI-NO's can say they are "reforming" the VA. Wake up folks, the Dems ain't the problem, it's the republicans who have betrayed our trust.)

All of a federal employee union's objections were removed from a Senate bill designed to help the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) discipline bad employees, making it politically easier for the bill to pass, but indicating it may not be doing the very thing it's supposed to.

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) sent a letter April 18th, asking taxpayer-funded employees to pressure Sen. Johnny Isakson, chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Isakson is a Georgia Republican.

"I strongly urge you to oppose the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs omnibus bill in its current form," president J. David Cox wrote. "No less than the future of the VA health care system is at stake here."

He enumerated four account-

ability measures that caused him to oppose the bill. Days later, Democrats joined Republicans to announce a final version they planned to introduce. A *Daily Caller News Foundation* computer analysis of the two texts showed all four measures had been walked back, while virtually no other changes were made.

The result was a VA employment reform bill that backtracked on measures dealing with the vast majority of the workforce, leaving mainly restrictions on Senior Executive Service (SES) members, who represent only one in

the employee will automatically become permanent unless other action is taken.

The Government Accountability Office recently said one of the best ways to ensure bad employees are booted from government is by not renewing them after the probation period, but the period often ends without managers realizing it.

The union's other three complaints were that employees didn't have enough time to appeal, reprimands wouldn't be removed from their file quickly

Even then, the disgraced director can appeal this decision to OPM.

The changes assured support from the committee's ranking

mous consent" where even one Democrat is enough to stop it — forcing Democrats to publicly weigh the interests of VA employees against those of veterans.

"..bill often simply restates existing law in different terms, giving the false impression of strengthening."

Democrat, Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut. AFGE has openly said it would work to help him win re-election because of his efforts to make it hard to fire VA employees.

In a March letter, Sen. Marco Rubio and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Jeff Miller said Isakson had cut the Republican-led House out of negotiations and expressed concern he seemed intent on reaching a deal with the Obama administration at any cost. The House has already passed a stronger VA accountability bill, but if the Senate's version does not match it, those differences will have to be ironed out in a conference committee.

AFGE sent its letter opposing the draft bill before the public had even seen the proposal. Gaydos said Isakson did not share the text with the union, but it was leaked to it by another member of the committee. AFGE did not return a request for comment.

Gaydos said the House bill "simply does not have the requisite 60 votes to pass the Senate nor does it have enough support in the House to override a White House veto threat that has been issued against it. Because of that, Chairman Isakson set out to create an accountability bill that actually has a chance of being signed into law."

Veterans advocates and House Republicans believe the bill should be brought for a floor vote under the normal process — rather than using expedited "unani-

House Republicans said the Senate bill often simply restates existing law in different terms, giving the false impression of strengthening.

For example, current law gives 30 calendar days for an employee to respond to proposed discipline. The Senate bill changes it to two 10-day periods, but uses business days, shortening a 30-day period by only a few days.

Isakson's bill, focusing on 0.1 percent of the VA's workforce, misses some of the most notable instances where VA officials have lamented their inability under existing laws and regulations to fire poorly performing or corrupt employees.

"As far as Phoenix is concerned, many of the employees involved would fall under the SES provision of the Veterans First Act," Gaydos said, referring to the hospital that was the epicenter of the department's most severe scandal.

Lance Robinson and Brad Curry, top deputies at the Phoenix VA, were returned to work after collecting pay for more than a year because the VA failed in its efforts to discipline them. Though they were among the very top administrators, only the hospital's director, Sharon Helman, was a member of the SES.

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Read more: <http://dailycaller.com/2016/05/03/senate-caves-to-all-of-unions-demands-on-veterans-affairs-firing-bill/#ix-zz47guOB79j>

"The result was a VA employment reform bill that backtracked..."

1,000 VA employees.

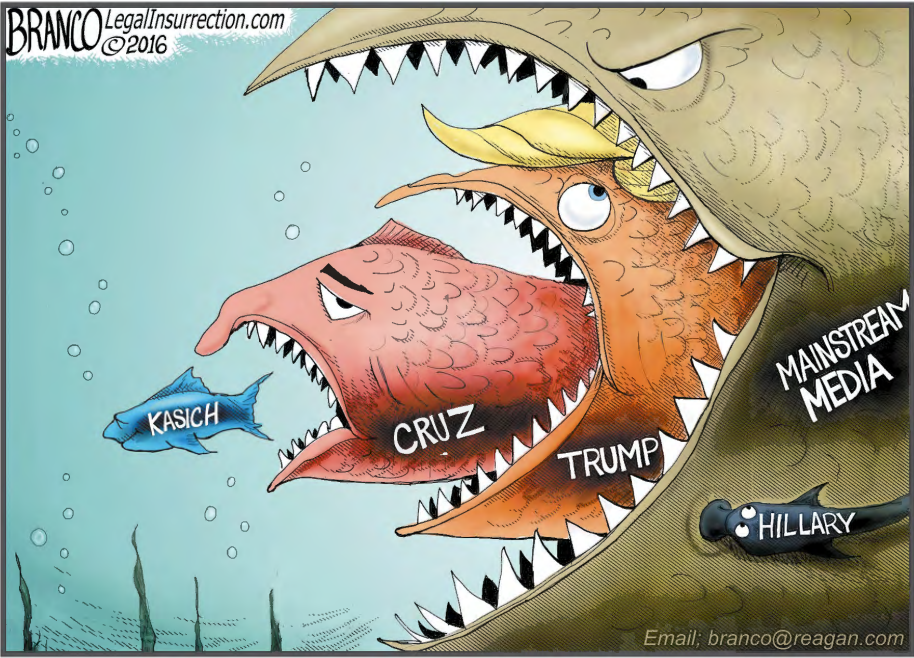
"It's the career senior executives who are more responsible than anyone for setting the tone of the workplace and maintaining the culture at the VA, and they're the ones collecting the biggest taxpayer-funded salaries," Isakson's spokeswoman Lauren Gaydos told The DCNF.

The original draft said no employee may complete their initial probationary period unless their manager affirmatively signs off on it. But this was changed so

enough, and performance reviews could be revised after the fact.

Isakson quickly allowed all of these to be changed. For example, the draft bill says letters of reprimand could be removed from an employee's file after five years, but the final version reduces it to three years.

Even the accountability measures for senior executives are burdened with so many caveats they may have little effect. Senior executives stand to have their pensions diminished after resigning to avoid firing only if they are convicted of a felony, have exhausted appeals on the felony, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) determines the felony was sufficiently related to their work, and the VA secretary chooses to avail themselves of the option.



And I said: "O my God, I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You, my God; for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has grown up to the heavens."

Ezra 9:6 NKJV



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The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained.

George Washington - First President of the United States

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

Captain John Parker, Lexington Green, April 19, 1775

West Virginia's Senate Overrides Governor's Concealed Carry Veto

by Jenn Jacques,
BearingArms.com

West Virginia's senate voted 23-11 to override Governor veto on the conceal carry bill on Saturday. The measure was passed along after the house also voted to override the veto by a vote of 64-33. The measure makes it no longer necessary to apply for a permit to have a concealed weapon.

The legislation provides a \$50 tax credit for anyone who voluntarily undergoes gun training and persons between the ages of 18-21 must still obtain a permit.

"As the chief legal officer of the state and the person in charge of criminal matters for the state at the WV Supreme Court and in federal courts, I know that this

legislation will not impact public safety," West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey said after the veto. "If this bill is enacted, we will not only expand freedom, but we will keep our citizens protected."

"Self-defense is a fundamental right that must be respected," said Chris W. Cox, executive director of the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action. "Law-abiding West Virginians are now free to choose the method of self-defense that best suits their needs. The NRA and our five million members are pleased that the legislature voted in support of West Virginians' Second Amendment freedoms."

Of course, there were no shortage of ignorant and inflammatory responses from the left.

"It's unfortunate that the concerns of officers from every law enforcement branch in the state, including the West Virginia State Police and university campus police officers, have been ignored by today's action," Governor Tomblin said.

"I can hear them (drug runners) up in Detroit, Michigan....I can possibly hear the cheers going up," Sen. Mike Woelfel (D-Cabell) said.

Perhaps he didn't hear that right.

"I can hear freedom knocking at the doors in West Virginia. That's exactly what this does," Sen. Craig Blair (R-Berkeley) said.

West Virginia Senate President Bill Cole (R) delivered a moving statement following the veto, say-

ing in part,

"The Senate today, in a broad bipartisan vote, defended the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding West Virginia citizens by overriding Governor Tomblin's veto of House Bill 4145.

This bill allows West Virginians to protect themselves without the government's permission. It has been improved from the bill vetoed last year by creating three new criminal offenses. The new felony offenses come with tough penalties for using a concealed deadly weapon during the commission of a crime, and for carrying a concealed firearm if you are not legally permitted to do so. We are also creating an incentive for training courses, which I believe will go a long

way to encourage people to be properly trained on the safe use of their weapons.

I am proud of this version, and I am pleased that today we were able to stand up for the constitutional rights our citizens hold so dear."

The law is set to go into effect on May 26th, making West Virginia one of eight states to allow permit-less concealed carry. Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Maine, Vermont, and Wyoming are so-called constitutional carry states. In Wyoming, the law applies to residents only.

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Why Is Hillary Conflating Gun Owners With Gang Members?

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

Over at Breitbart, Ian Hatchett notes a very revealing statement made by Democrat Presidential contender Hillary Clinton.

"Too many young people, in particular, are turning to guns to settle disputes, grievances, resentments. We have got to help our young people understand, guns are never an answer, and there have to be other ways, and that's going to take all of us, working in our schools, working through our churches and our houses of worship. We've got to break the grip of the gun culture on our young people, because the number one leading cause of death for young African-American men, are guns. It outranks the next

nine, together. So, this is a health issue, a safety issue, a cultural issue, and I'm going at it from the very first day. I'm going to keep talking about it, and we're going to make it clear, that this has to be a voting issue. If you care about this issue, vote against people who give in to the NRA and the gun lobby all the time."

Clinton is correct in her initial statement that weapons should not be used to settle personal disagreements.

Where she goes completely off the rails, however, is in her inability—or perhaps her unwillingness—to separate criminal culture from gun culture. This strongly suggests that we have a Democrat front-runner who is either deeply confused and is co-mingling

two significant oppositional groups, or even worse, is intentionally smearing roughly 1/3 to 1/2 of the American electorate.

The violent "young people," and in specific, "young African-American men," Mrs. Clinton says are being shot in "disputes, grievances, resentments" all have a very common trait that Mrs. Clinton pointedly refuses to mention. The majority of them are predators with criminal records involved in street gangs which are engaging in violent crime and narcotics trafficking. Because these gang members typically have criminal records, they cannot obtain firearms legally, and get them on the black market or via "strawman" purchases via friends and relatives who can (un-

til they are caught) pass a background check.

These people are part of thug culture, not gun culture.

As a general rule of thumb, these criminals do not go to the gun store or gun shows to acquire their firearms, because they can't pass background checks (and yes, FFLs must conduct background checks whenever they do business, including gun shows). These violent criminals do not compete in competition shooting, do not go to firing ranges, belong to gun clubs or the National Rifle Association, attend formal firearms training schools (which often require a concealed carry permit or other background check verification), or participate

in recognized gun culture (versions 1.0 or 2.0) in any way, shape or form.

So why is Mrs. Clinton conflating roughly 1.4 million gang members with the 120+ million law-abiding Americans citizens in both political parties who

lawfully own firearms for self-defense, hunting, collecting, and target shooting?

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The maintenance of the right to bear arms is a most essential one to every free people and should not be whittled down by technical constructions."

[State vs. Kerner, 181 N.C. 574, 107 S.E. 222, at 224 (1921)]

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Refreshments will be provided.
Thank you and see you then.

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.



Dear Hillary

Dear Hillary,

According to media reports Donald Trump has been picking on you by suggesting that your only political advantage is the woman card. You responded with "deal me in," preceded by the usual talking points of equal pay, women's health rights, etc. I know those issues are constantly repeated to keep your left wing base on the Clinton subway, but a bit more information may be necessary to move the aristocratic donors through the gate. As you know, they prefer limousines over trains.

In the spirit of bi-partisan good will, allow me to offer some ideas that may help you gain the trump card. No volume on the planet is a stronger advocate for women's rights and benevolent treatment than the Bible which is chock full of principles and examples of proper attitudes toward the feminine gender. I realize that the majority of the Left has little regard for the Scriptures and would even be offended if you utilized it to any great degree; however, all polls show that well over 70% of Americans still hold the Book in high esteem even if they don't know what's in it. To be victorious in the coming election, it's critical to win over a plurality of Middle America to supplement your whack-a-doodle base...no offense intended, just stating the obvious.

The necessary image is one of slight religious leanings without appearing to be anything approaching a zealot. Your rich Jewish supporters may respond with measured approval if you quote something from the Old Testament. An excellent choice would be Proverbs 31 which describes a virtuous woman. One of her many qualities was her entrepreneurial spirit which resulted in a variety of successful business deals. This passage could advance your message on pressing for more women's opportunities, but, of course, there is a fine tightrope that needs to be approached carefully...namely, the Obama administration, of which you have been a distinctive part, has not been small business friendly. Obamacare, increased taxes and a constant flow of regulations has handicapped women desiring a business career. You have demonstrated political agility all the way back to your Arkansas days, but this race will require the most delicate balance equalizing truth with fabrication. I know you are relishing the challenge.

Influential Protestants will likely give a nod of blessing if you sprinkle a little of the "golden rule" on the hors d'oeuvres of political correctness. "Do unto others" is always good for a little redistribution

of wealth, but you must avoid in-depth analysis. There is always the possibility that someone in a down-home café campaign stop went to Sunday School as a child. They may remember the words of Jesus... "For ye have the poor always with you;" (Matthew 26:11) or even worse, Solomon's assessment... "The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it." (Proverbs 29:7) The coup de grâce is six verses later... "The poor and the deceitful man meet together." If you were asked for theological clarification it could be a problem. Fortunately, the Secret Service has been very adept at keeping all dissenters far behind the rope. Continue to pick the questioners carefully.

Our Catholic friends have historically favored the Democratic Party but Donald Trump's message on immigration and the economy is resonating across religious borders. A proverbial rabbit in the hat is necessary to keep them on the reservation. You have made clear your ability to deal with individual men who push the boundaries, but a corporate group is much more complicated. We all know that in spite of the Pope's unwillingness to waver, abortion is the sacred cow of liberalism. Some Catholics, like Nancy Pelosi, will clutch to the procedure "till do us part," but the majority of the faithful have their doubts, which requires them to hold their noses when pulling the Democrat lever. It may not take much for them to cash in their chips and consider other options.

Obviously, you cannot abdicate from your pro-choice position, but some subtle efforts of mitigation may be helpful. Please consider a very unusual bunny in the bushes. Your crowd has consistently been opposed to pre-abortion counseling but if you would, deliberate the need for post procedure mental health. The elephant in the room that few are willing to acknowledge is a little thing called a conscience. Millions of American women suffer from the nauseating guilt of participating in the extinguishing of a life. They often wonder what wonderful potential has been eliminated. Countless times individuals have told me they believed their sin was unforgivable. Perhaps you could extend some words of comfort to those who are hurting in one of your speeches. For several millennia we, who have been "waging war on women," have preached the means and method of God's forgiveness for sin sick souls. If you need assistance with that address, call me; I'd be glad to help out. One note of caution...it's inappropriate to charge \$225,000 for a message that's always been free.

A Sheepdog Barks!

I've been traveling the last two weeks through Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. Been reading a lot of different newspapers and listening to several local area radio talk shows. What a wildly different America I've been introduced to. Thought you might find some of the headlines and highlighted stories interesting. I'll share several with you that I found amusing, unusual and even scary. Every day I become a little more concerned that America has crossed a rubicon into an LPSD world that we may not be able to overcome. Check these headlines and stories out:

"Supreme Court Nominnee really is against guns."

Seems Merrick Garland is a dyed-in-the-wool anti-gun activist judge. And Obama portrays him as a moderate. He's just another Sotomayor and Kagan. Michael Hammond, the general council of Gun Owners of America, has "outed" Merrick. In 2007 Merrick was one of four judges on the District of Columbia Circuit who voted to rehear the pro-gun decision that overturned Washington D.C.'s gun ban in D.C. vs Heller. He voted earlier in 2005 to NOT rehear an anti-gun decision in a similar case. He also voted in 2000 to allow the FBI to retain background check records well beyond the immediate destruction period required by the Brady Law. Since the four liberal judges have called for a reconsideration of D.C. vs Hiller, ole' Merrick would surely be the "swing" vote to deny an individual's right to bear arms. Obama knows exactly what he is doing and Garland needs to be denied. Hold tough U.S. Senate.

"Bathroom Bills won't stop real creeps, criminals."

Rekha Basu of the Des Moines Register uses the lame argument that real predators will not materialize and cause harm as that would be too obvious. All the opponents make the same mistake. Their LPSD logic is that not all transgenders are pedophiles. So what? Forget the attacks that may or may not happen. What about common decency? Many of us will never agree that just because one "thinks" he is a woman that that makes it okay to use the women's bathroom. Bull Poop! What if this "harmless" act makes our mothers, wives and daughters uncomfortable?

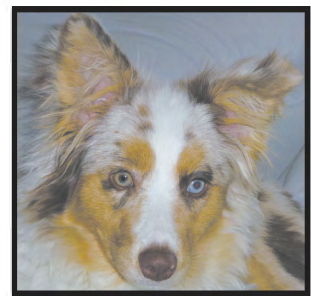
That is enough for me. The LPSDs are usually so sensitive to even ONE person being offended or uncomfortable. Well this stupid concept of "use whichever bathroom, dressing room or locker room you feel good in" will offend or make uncomfortable millions of females. That's good enough for me. Stop with this insane crap.

"China tries female-only buses in fight against sex harassment."

It seems in China that a woman can't even ride public transportation without being groped or abused (And the LPSDs wonder why we want to keep the sexes segregated in bathrooms). Moral behavior is disappearing all over the world, not only in America. I suggest these women start "packing heat." After a few perverts are shot or tased things will change. Right now it's a target-rich environment for any male that can't control his hormones.

"Climate Deal much ado about nothing."

On Earth Day (April 22) John Kerry went to the United Nations and signed the Paris Climate Agreement. This document requires American taxpayers to send enormous amounts of money to "developing" countries (aka every other country in the world besides America). It will cause higher costs of driving cars and heating homes in America beyond the means of many lower-income citizens. And all for what, a carbon dioxide reduction GOAL that would effectively require the cessation of fossil fuel consumption around the globe. NOT going to happen. According to Oren Cass, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, the countries "pledged" climate actions that basically define "the deal" but which really committed the countries to business as usual. China pledged to ensure that its emissions would peak on or around 2030. 2030?! Another 14 years of increasing emissions? What a deal. And by the way, that is precisely the year when the U.S. government's national laboratory had already estimated that the global peak would occur. So, China offered up nothing. Pakistan agreed to do what it can, when it can. WOW! A deal full of nothing, except in America! We get higher energy costs, less jobs and a weaker economy. We will also be subjected to massive taxpayer-funded wealth transfers to the third world. The net result: zero effect on the climate, great legacy for Obama.



er-funded wealth transfers to the third world. The net result: zero effect on the climate, great legacy for Obama.

"Summit offers LGBT youth the chance to get together, learn and make friends."

A high school in Arizona will host its second annual Tucson Queer Youth Summit on Saturday. The keynote speech is by the VP of the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance. Huh? The speech will be followed by workshops for youth 11 to 19 years old. Topics include: Being Queer on a College Campus and Slam Poetry. An organizer said this: "Our ultimate goal is to bring everyone together for a community event that really connect us queer youth to each other." Indeed.

"Thousands of Eagles at risk with Federal Plan."

This one is really hard to believe. Fish and Wildlife Services Director Dan Ashe said the new Obama Administration's federal rules that allows wind-energy companies to kill or injure up to 4200 bald eagles a year, for 30 years, is a lot of good news. According to him this new plan will provide a path forward for maintaining eagle population while spurring development of a pollution-free energy source that's intended to ease global warming. Really? That makes me feel a lot better.

"Father-Daughter Dance cancelled in South Carolina."

School officials cancelled the annual father-daughter dance as a few parents complained it wasn't inclusive enough. What the heck did they want included? Father-sons dance or lesbian parents-children dance. This is absurd. Single parents were always welcome.

This last one may be the hardest for all you sheepdogs to stomach.

"California rejects John Wayne Day."

Several LPSD legislators objected and described statements John made about racial minorities and his support for the anti-communist House Un-American Activities Committee and the John Birch Society. The resolution failed on a 35-20 vote on what was called the "orthodoxy of political correctness." Couple this with the college and university attacks on our Founding Fathers and I believe it sums up where we are in America today. And it's not good. WOOF!

May God Have Mercy on America! JMH



Medical Errors Become the Third-Leading Cause of Death in U.S.A.

by Tre Goins-Phillips,
The Blaze

According to a new study from the BMJ, originally named the British Medical Journal, medical errors — to include incorrect medications, wrong diagnoses and medical mishaps — has unseated respiratory disease as the third-leading cause of death in the United States.

Medical errors lead to more than 250,000 deaths every year, according to the study. But exact numbers are not currently available — a reality the BMJ said needs to change.

“There’s vast under-recognition, under-preparation, and underfunding of the problem of medical care gone awry, even though it

has a significant impact on public health,” Dr. Martin Makary, health policy and management professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, said.

The research revealed that 9.5 percent of all deaths within the U.S. occur in hospitals and are actually preventable. But, according to Dr. John Torres, the surgeons are not always to blame.

“I think one of the big things they’re emphasizing is not to put it on a bad doctor plate and say bad doctors are causing all these medical errors,” Torres told KUSA-TV.

“There’s no such thing as a perfect surgery, that nothing’s going to go wrong,” he continued. “There’s no

such thing as any procedure that doesn’t have side effects with it. And that’s why I always encourage patients, before you go in, know what’s supposed to happen, what could happen, and understand what you need to do to follow up with that because we’re a team; the doctor and the patient are a team and we need to work together.”

As a result of the study, the BMJ is calling on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to require more information on death certificates. As it stands, there is no formal, streamlined procedure for collecting accurate numbers behind medical errors.

The BMJ’s research builds upon a previous study that discovered more than

210,000 deaths per year are a result of medical errors. After adjusting for 2013 hospital admission rates, Makary and his team determined the actual number is much closer to 251,454 deaths per year, far sur-

“Medical errors lead to more than 250,000 deaths every year...”

passing the CDC’s currently-listed third-leading cause of death, respiratory disease, which kills nearly 150,000 people per year.

The first-leading cause of death is heart disease, followed by cancer in the no. 2 spot.

Currently, deaths are categorized based on health insurance billing codes, which sometimes fail to record the legitimate cause of death. BMJ’s study includes the horrific story of a woman who went into

actual cause of death.

“People don’t just die of billing codes,” Makary said.

In order to fix the problem, Makary proposed creating a culture in hospitals that is more open, where patients and medical professionals feel free to talk about and discuss mistakes — a step many hospitals are already implementing.

(Editor/GG: I wonder if the Custer County Clinic’s stats were included?)

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Largest U.S. Health Insurer Is Done with Obamacare

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

As conclusion to our article yesterday reporting on the largest U.S. health insurer’s accelerating exodus from various Obamacare markets (it had already announced it was out of Georgia, Arkansas, Michigan and Oklahoma) we said that UnitedHealth “will likely announce more defections in the coming days.”

We didn’t have long to wait, and moments ago Bloomberg reported that in addition to the four states listed above, UnitedHealth has just announced it is departing the following “Affordable” Care Act state exchanges: Connecticut, North Carolina; Nebraska, Pennsylvania and Texas.

That, too, however, is just a preview of what’s to come, because earlier today UnitedHealth made its divorce

with Obamacare complete **when it announced plans to exit most of the Affordable Care Act state exchanges where it currently operates by 2017.**

During a conference call with analysts Tuesday,

As such, he said UnitedHealth (UNH) could not serve these exchanges on an “effective and sustained basis.”

Said otherwise, the company is losing money by participating in Obamacare.

“...the company is losing money by participating in Obamacare.”

CEO Stephen Hemsley noted that **“next year we will remain in only a handful of states.”**

As CNN reports, CEO Stephen Hemsley explained that UnitedHealth will leave most states by 2017 because the markets for these exchanges are relatively small and also have higher risks for the company over the short-term.

UnitedHealth’s president and chief financial officer David Wichmann added that the company served 795,000 people on public exchanges as of the end of the first quarter. It expects to have only 650,000 public exchange members by December.

As CNN politely notes, “this could be a blow to President Obama and his

signature law to overhaul the nation’s healthcare system.”

More importantly, it could be a blow to taxpayers because as we observed yesterday, according to estimates from the Kaiser Family Foundation, the exodus will almost surely mean higher insurance premiums in several states - most notably Alabama, Arizona, Iowa, Nebraska and North Carolina. It will also mean even higher subsidies.

Still, some remain optimistic: Cynthia Cox, associate director of health reform and private insurance at Kaiser, said this won’t be the death of Obamacare. She noted that UnitedHealth has been more cautious about entering the ACA markets than its competitors. Hemsley had warned previously that claims tied to the Obamacare exchanges

were costlier than expected. And other insurers that focus on Medicaid and Medicare plans, such as Centene (CNC), are more prominent players in the state exchanges.

Perhaps it’s not the end for Obamacare, but it means even greater sticker shock for Americans once they get their premiums for 2017. Recall that as a result of the merger between Aetna and Humana, and that of Cigna and Anthem, the industry is about to shrink from five players to only three.

This means much higher premiums.

It also means that mandatory Obamacare tax payments will keep “healthcare” spending as the biggest contributor to U.S. GDP for years to come.

(Editor/GG: As predicted. The lies the Dems told

us (“keep your policy”, “lower premiums”, “expanded networks”, on and on) to sell the public on this were, of course, all lies. They knew. It was all about taking federal control of the healthcare industry, bankrupting it, and then instituting a federally controlled, single-payer, Medicaid-type system that will deliver third-world healthcare to us peasants (with the rich and the politicians, of course, getting their own high-end care). Our lovely republican RINO’s had multiple chances to kill this at budget time. And didn’t. But you know something, it’s all about power, and they want it as bad as the Dems. God help America.)

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