

Three Runners Compete in “Regionals” One Qualifies for National Junior Olympics!

by Jim Silver

On the same day that JT Taylor was running in the Nike Regionals in Arizona-- Saturday, November 19th-- his younger brother Jeremiah and two of JT’s high school teammates—Luke Canon and Elias Zeller—competed in a race a lot closer to home. Jeremiah ran on the Custer County Middle School cross country team this fall, and Luke and Elias are both freshmen who were on the High School team. These three went to the USATF (Track & Field) Regionals in Fountain to run in the 13 to 14 year-old age category. This was a 4K race

with 118 entries, part of a series which included more than 3,000 runners nationwide. In this instance, the boys were not representing the Custer County Bobcats, but were considered “unattached individuals,” just as JT was in Arizona.

The top 30 runners of these 13 to14 year-olds qualified to advance to the Nationals Junior Olympic Cross Country Race. Luke Canon made the cut with room to spare placing 5th! Elias Zeller just missed qualifying, placing 32nd. Jeremiah Taylor, the youngest of the three boys, did not qualify either, though in the words of his father and

coach, Jesse Taylor, “Jeremiah ran a solid race!”

This was decidedly a comeback run for Luke, for though he competed in the High School Cross Country State Meet on October 29th, he was unable to finish the race due to an injury. He tangled feet with another runner sometime after the first mile and turned his ankle. Fast-forwarding to the Fountain race, Luke’s mother, Kim, describes his strategy and race preparation (besides his recovery from the injury) in this way: “Luke



Bobcat high schooler, Luke Canon running the 4K at USATF Regionals in Fountain, CO.

Courtesy Photo

RUNNERS
see page 5

The 13th Annual Community Spirit Campaign Is Underway

Press Release

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation is pleased to sponsor the annual Community Spirit Campaign, a matching gift project to benefit local nonprofit organizations beginning each November. The Foundation contributes matching funds, augmented by donations from other foundations and individuals. Donations are used to match private contributions made to valley and county nonprofits when received by December 31st of each year.

In 2015, sixty-three nonprofit organizations received donations totaling about \$320,000 during the twelfth annual Spirit Campaign. Since the Campaign’s inception over \$3 million has been donated and shared by virtually every nonprofit headquartered in Custer County. Over 670 donors from Custer County, throughout Colorado,

several other states and a number of foreign countries have contributed to our county’s charitable organizations.

The maximum amount that will be matched is \$1,000 per family and/or business. You are welcome to spread your donation to more than one nonprofit, or just one -- it’s your call. Matching funds will be pro-rated based on the dollar total of contributions made through the campaign. Donations to churches through the Spirit Campaign are not allowed to receive matching funds due to IRS regulations.

Donations may also be made directly to the Matching Fund for the Spirit Campaign to further stretch the community’s charitable dollars. We now have a terrific new challenge. A local donor has posed a challenge to our

SPIRIT
see page 23

Children’s Holiday Hunt

The Second Annual Children’s Holiday Hunt is a free event for children ages 4-11, sponsored by the ‘Cliffs Action Revitalization Team (CART). Solve and follow the clues in the poem to the many ‘Cliffs Main Street establishments to receive a small gift or goodies at each! The adventure begins at Tony’s Pizza, in

Silver Cliff, December 3rd, from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. Tony’s Pizza is the first location in the clues below, where children will pick up a bag in which to carry their treasures. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Have fun and be safe!

See page 11 for the “Children’s Holiday Hunt Poem” Clues Clip out.

Time to Help: State Patrol Cody Donahue Memorial Fund

by George Gramlich

Colorado State Patrol Officer Cody Donahue was tragically killed during a motor vehicle accident investigation Friday, November 25th on I-25 north of Colorado Springs. Officer Donahue, an 11-year veteran of the Patrol, was hit by a passing commercial food truck and instantly killed. The accident happened around 1:50 p.m. He was wearing a reflective vest. The driver of the truck, Noe Gomez-Ruiz was arrested.

Officer Donahue is survived by his wife and two daughters. A GoFundMe account has been set up to help his



State Patrol Officer
Cody Donahue

Courtesy Photo

family. Please go to www.gofundme.com/Cody-Donahue-memorial-fund to donate some money to help his family.



Cody Donahue with his children.

Courtesy Photo

Lady Bobcats
Pre-Season
Photo Feature
pages 12-13

Library
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Fair
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PERA Takes
Baby Step
page 15

Pearl Harbor
75 Years
Anniversary
page 3

Islam Is Here
to Dominate
page 19

PATRIOT
ALERT!
U.S. Army
Ranked
‘Weak’
page 17



For the eyes of
the Lord are on
the righteous,
And His ears
are open to their
prayers;
But the face of
the Lord is
against those
who do evil.
1 Peter 3:12



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

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

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

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Our Opinion...

From the Editorial Board

The 2016 Christmas Holiday Season

The Friday after Thanksgiving has become known as "Black Friday." Until recently it was the single biggest day for "sales and shopping" all across America in getting ready for the next big holiday. The first Monday after Thanksgiving, is now known as "Cyber Monday." It is now a bigger spending day than Black Friday. The countdown is now on for a major Christian holiday – Christmas. It's about celebrating the birth of Jesus. Although there is controversy over exactly when Jesus was born, most of the Christian world has settled on December 25th. The controversy is unimportant. What is important is that He was born into and significantly changed the world forever. Christmas has become many things to many people. Sadly, for some it is all about diminishing what the "reason for the season" is. There is nothing wrong with the blended traditions celebrated by many Americans. Decorated trees, lights, presents, caroling,

baking, shopping, and family get-togethers and doing for others are all great and wonderful things. Alabama in 1836 and Louisiana and Arkansas in 1838 were the first three States to make Christmas a legal holiday. Immediately after the Civil War Christmas traditions rapidly spread across America and included many different customs from many different countries. Congress established Christmas as a national holiday in 1870. No matter exactly how you and your family celebrate Christmas, we hope the main reason is the birth of Jesus Christ.

THE 2015 SPIRIT CAMPAIGN: Sponsored by the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation the campaign officially kicked off on 24 November and runs through December 31. The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (WMVCF) was established in 1999 with a substantial gift from a local family. The Foundation supports local non-profit organizations for the benefit of cit-

izens and visitors in Custer County and the surrounding areas. The Foundation started the Community Spirit Campaign in 2004. The campaign donors' contributions to one or more of the non-profits or designated 501(c) 3 organizations will be matched by the Foundation on a pro-rata basis. There is a maximum of \$1000 per individual or family to be eligible for the matching funds. The WMVCF matches those donations with between 24 to 40 cents on the dollar. More information and the donation form can be found and downloaded from the Foundation's web site at www.wmvcf.org. The WMVCF has served this community extremely well and has distributed about \$3.5 million dollars since it began the Community Spirit Campaign. This is a great opportunity for everyone to help our local community and we urge you to participate. There are about 70 eligible non-profits and we are sure something will be to your liking. Please

contribute generously. The donation coupon is printed elsewhere in this paper.

The exchanging of gifts is a symbolic and important part of Jesus' teaching – giving and helping others. It's a great time of year which reminds us all that there is a special joy in giving to and doing for others. We like to think that the Community Spirit Campaign, done specifically at this time of year, is all about the Spirit of Christmas, the Spirit of Giving and the Spirit of Christ. We encourage all to shop and spend when you can locally. We all know we need our local merchants and businesses. They need your support during this season if they are to survive all year round. A big part of the Christmas tradition is exchanging gifts with family, friends and even strangers. **Do as much of your shopping locally as you can. It helps our whole community.** We hope you are inspired by Jesus Christ in your benevolence. Thanksgiving is over. Let's finish the leftovers and be-

gin preparing for this wonderful season that is upon us. Oh, and it's okay to put the "Christmas" lights up now. God Bless, America!

PEARL HARBOR DAY

Next Wednesday is December 7th. The day that lives in infamy. It's the day that the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, with a massive, unprovoked and deadly naval air strike. The President and the Congress of 1941 quickly issued a "powerful rebuke" to Japan. They declared WAR. And then proceeded to organize, counterattack, save the entire Pacific Region from Japanese tyranny (terrorism?) and destroy Japan's military and national will to fight. THAT is what a "powerful rebuke" is. Not something we have seen from the Obama administration in the last eight years when dealing with Islamic Terrorism. Thank you, WWII vets. We still enjoy our freedoms and liberties because of your heroic efforts.

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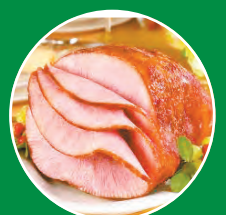
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75th Anniversary Remembering Pearl Harbor



Above, 75th Anniversary in Hawaii. Below, USS Arizona, 1941. Right, USS Arizona Pearl Harbor Memorial, Hawaii, USA.



A Prayer

This day of remembrance is a time to look back and recount their sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

But we also must look forward and ask for Your grace and guidance as we face another foe in the form of radical Muslim terrorists bent on our destruction.

Let us also look inward to find the character and courage to stand for the life and liberty with which You have endowed us.

Lord, we look upward in praise and thanksgiving as we acknowledge that You have shed Your grace on us.

May all we say and do today bring honor to those who have so nobly served, and bring glory to Your Holy Name we thank You for this occasion to pause and remember these heroes. Help us to draw courage from the example of the brave Americans we honor.

As we go from here, may we be ever vigilant and ever valiant. Steel us to stand, Father, for this land and this lighthouse that is the United States of America.

--Skip Findley, 2010

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Local Mountain News & Notices

"Tragedy of Drunken Driving" Local Gives Speech to 1,700 High School Students

by George Gramlich

Beverly Shoemaker, former Director at the Eagles Summit Ranch in Custer County, and a resident of Fremont County, recently gave a presentation to 1,700 students at Palmer High School in Colorado on the dangers and tragedy of drinking and driving.

Beverly, who lost her son to a drunken driver, founded the organization "Treasured Tears" (on the web at TreasuredTears.Webs.com), after the tragedy in an attempt to reach out to the public concerning the epidemic of drunken driving deaths.

At Palmer High School, she spoke of the phone call she got from the police and the five days her son spent in intensive care before dying.

Local resident and Pastor Ron Taylor attended the event and interviewed several students after the speech. Quotes from the students include, "She really impacted my heart, and I really agree with her"; "I was trying not to cry" and "It made my think".

Beverly is available to talk to any group concerning the perils of drunken driving. Her contact information can be found at her website, "TreasuredTears.Webs.com".

Children's Health Fund Committee Announces Grant Funding for 2017

Press Release

The Children's Health Fund Committee was formed in 2016 to establish a grant funding process for children's physical, emotional and social health issues for Custer County children. With donations from the High Mountain Hay Fever Festival Association and management by the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation for distribution, the committee was able to grant over \$11,000 to three different children's projects in the community in 2016. Applications are open to governmental agencies and non-profit organizations in the community, and col-

laboration between these different organizations is encouraged.

The Children's Health Fund Committee is happy to announce the next grant cycle for 2017. The High Mountain Hay Fever Festival Association has generously donated another \$20,000 for children's health, and with remaining funds from the 2016 campaign, \$40,000 in funding is available for 2017 grant proposals. Grant applications will be available January 2nd and the deadline for submission of grant proposals is March 1st. Applications can be acquired online on the Wet Mountain Valley Commu-

nity Foundation website: www.wmvcf.org or in hard copy form at the Custer County Library.

To assist with grant applications, the Children's Health Fund Committee will hold an informational meeting and workshop on January 11, 2017, at 9:00 am in the Backroom (Porth Building on 2nd Street in Westcliffe). Agencies and non-profit organizations are encouraged to attend to establish basic guidelines for grant proposal writing and for beneficial collaboration and discussion.

Questions can be addressed to kidshealthfund@gmail.com.

Custer County Trails Initiative Meeting December 9th

The next meeting in support of the Custer County Trails initiative will be conducted Friday, December 9th at 5 p.m. at the Community Room of the West Custer County Library, 209 Main Street in Westcliffe.

The meeting will sup-

port a discussion of trails hosted by the U.S. Forest Service. John Baumen, Recreation/Lands Staff Officer from the San Carlos Ranger District Office in Cañon City will discuss current and planned USFS trail initiatives in both the San-

gre de Cristo Range and Wet Mountains.

For additional information contact the Custer County Economic Development Corporation Office at (719) 315-6339 or email: CCEconDevC@gmail.com.



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Local Mountain News & Notices

Come Meet the Custer County Nonprofits December 10th

Press Release

Get Connected! The public is invited to attend Meet the Custer County Nonprofits, sponsored by the Community Foundation and 'Cliffs Action Revitalization Team (CART), December 10th, from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., at the Rancher's Roost Community Room, 25 Main Street, Westcliffe. Representatives from many non-profit organizations will be present to provide information about their organizations' missions and activities.

Catch the Spirit! Custer County residents are encouraged to come by to learn about the motivations and the contributions that each of these organizations makes to the community, what niche each fills, and how one might become a member or volunteer. For those considering making donations during the Spirit Campaign, learn more about the many organizations to best decide matches for

personal interests. Areas of interest include; the performing and visual arts, astronomy, broadcast services, classical music series, land and resources conservation, economic development, community garden and beautification, child, student, adult and senior welfare and support, health and fitness, counseling resources, faith-based retreat services, quilting arts, recycling, Main Street revitalization, historic preservation, horsemanship, environmental sustainability and community transportation.

Be involved in the community! All organizations either have a 501 C(3) designation or are operating under a 501 C(3) agency. The following will be present at Meet the Custer County Nonprofits event and ready to talk with those inquiring: All Aboard Westcliffe, American Legion Post 170, the Booster Club, Children's Health Fund Committee (resource), Cliffs Action Revitaliza-

tion Team (CART), Club America, Custer County Conservation District, Custer County Economic Development Corporation, Excellence in Education, Frances Kettle Memorial Nonprofit, Grassroots Grant Makers (grant sourcing resource), High Altitude Garden Club, High Country Recycling, In Concert, KLZR Radio, Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center, Olde Schoolhouse Quilters, Ranch of Hope, San Isabel Land Protection Trust, Sangre de Cristo Electric (funding agent), Sangres Art Guild, Silver Cliff Commemorative Park, Silver Cliff Museum, Sky Ranch Horn Creek Center, Sustainable Ways, Valley Assisted Living, Inc. and Home Care, Westcliffe Center for the Performing Arts, Wet Mountain Saddle Club, Wet Mountain Valley Dark Skies, Wet Mountain Valley Community Service, Inc.

Come out and meet the nonprofits, visit and learn! Light refreshments will be served.

Town Hall Meeting December 8th

Press Release

Bob Kattnig, BOCC District One to host a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, December 8th at 7 p.m. at Rancher's Roost.

The primary focus is to briefly discuss current issues impacting Custer County. An update on the Junkins Fire will include damage assessments, recovery efforts, potential flood risks and mitigation programs to reduce future risks.

Custer County's Court facilities have been identified among the four worst in the state. As a result, a critical need exists to improve both the physical facilities and the Court security. Last year Custer County received a \$40,000 grant from the Colorado Underfunded Court House Task Force to conduct a facilities needs assessment. Three potential solutions were suggested; remodel the current facilities,

build a new Court House or build a new County Administration Building.

Recently the county received a second grant of \$140,000 from the Task Force to start preliminary engineering and design for a remodel project.

Custer County experienced a major wireless outage over Thanksgiving. The outage had a major impact on both our citizens and our visitors. The BOCC Communications Committee will briefly address the continuing efforts to improve service.

A county-wide broadband engineering study is currently underway, funded by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. The primary objective is to identify and rate potential tower locations for broadband service. A secondary benefit could include cell phone expansion tower sites.

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Christmas Parade

The 2016 Annual Cliffs Community Christmas Parade in Westcliffe is scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd at 5 p.m. It is sponsored by the Custer County Chamber of Commerce and CART; with the help and participation of many community volunteers.

In the interest of the community the parade organizers plan to revamp its holiday tradition; adding a theme to the parade and prizes for the top three floats. This year's theme is "A Winter Wonderland". We encourage everyone to decorate a float

with your favorite winter wonderland scene.

We are excited to add the Santa dress-up to the annual Cliff's Community Parade. The Santa dress-up is a family and pet friendly event that allows participants to dress up in anything Christmas related. We are hoping to make the "Santa" themed 'Dress-up a Holiday Tradition' in the valley. We encourage adults, children, and pets to dress-up as Santa, an angel, elf or just a string of Christmas lights around your neck are just a few examples. To join the premier hol-

iday celebration of the season please contact Candace McDaniel at 719-783-4050.

The parade will begin at 5 p.m. at the Mining Co., 1202 Main Street, Silver Cliff. Parade check-in starts at 4 p.m. in the Mining Co. parking lot.

Reserve your space as a part of Westcliffe's biggest holiday parade. There is no charge to any organization to participate in the Cliffs Parade. Kick off the holidays with the sights and sounds of the season.

Public Invited to Library Listening Sessions

Press Release

The West Custer County Library has made many changes in the last few years, including increasing the books budget, adding e-books and e-audio books, switching to a new shared catalog with over 1.3 million items, and building a culture of community connection through more gatherings for all ages. These changes and more were in response to public feedback three years ago. Now the library is asking the public to share their thoughts on this

transformation.

A listening session is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7th at 1 p.m. in the library's community room at 209 Main Street, Westcliffe. For those who cannot make the first session, a second session has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 13th at 5 p.m.

"It's very important to the Library Board and staff to be responsive to the community's needs," said Library Director Amy Moulton. "We want feedback from every-

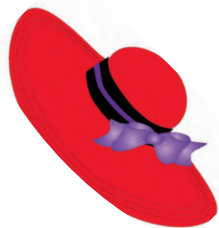
one, whether you currently use the library or not."

The meetings will include a brief review of the results of a library patron survey completed at the end of 2015. The 2015 survey results and any current input gathered from the listening sessions will be key in determining the library's top priorities moving forward.

Anyone unable to attend the public sessions can contact Moulton with feedback at 719-783-9138 ext. 2 or amy@westcusterlibrary.org.

Custer County Cuties Red Hats

Red Hats will meet for lunch in the Garden Room at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, on **December 8th at 11:30 a.m.** We will order from the menu. If you wish to attend, please call Terre Davis at 783-2824 or Helen Vahlsing at 783-2901 on or before December 5th.



Falling Into Christmas Festival

Community United Methodist Church

December 3rd 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Live Nativity Noon to 2 p.m.

- Arts & Craft Sale
- Bake Sale
- Chili Cornbread and drink \$5
- Sausage on a Stick \$5
- Face Painting
- Live Music



Friends of the Library Holiday Craft Fair

Press Release

Patti Collins is just one of the many crafters who will be offering beautiful and useful items for sale at the upcoming Friends of the Library Holiday Craft Fair, scheduled for Thursday through Saturday, December 1st through December 3rd. There will be a festive show opening on Thursday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and shoppers are invited to enjoy cider and cookies as well as view the many offerings. Hours on Friday and Saturday are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The show will take place at the Hope Lutheran Church's fel-

lowship hall at 312 South Third Street. This show benefits both the crafters and the West Custer County Library, so locals are encouraged to patronize the show and keep the money in the valley.

Patti says that crafts and photography have been her hobbies for most of her life. She sold at a craft fair in Victorville, California, where she and her husband lived for several years. She worked as a professional office manager before she retired and they moved to Colorado. Patti says she likes this life a lot better! The jewelry she is making this year consists of

gemstone necklaces and earrings, with lots of turquoise, red agate and some onyx, all in various sizes and combinations of stones.

Interested crafters are welcome to enter the show; pick up an application form at the library's front desk. And all Valleyites are reminded that donations to the Library Friends may be made through the current Wet Mountain Community Foundation's Spirit Campaign; donations go toward the library's community events, courier service, children's programs, and new books, DVDs and CDs.



Patti Collins, just one of the many local crafters preparing for the Friends of the Library Holiday Craft Fair.

Courtesy Photo

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Cotopaxi Students Perform with UNC's Pride of the Rockies Marching Band



Cotopaxi HS Band members at the UNC football game. Front: Brooke Cooper, Alex Cole, Cassie Brill. Back: Abbie McNeal, Danne Ogden, Hailey Plante.

Courtesy Photo

(Editor/Ilv: Last week we ran a story on the Custer County Band students attending University of Northern Colorado's Pride of the Rockies Marching Band for their last game of the season. Cotopaxi High School Band also attended the November 12th event.)

by Cotopaxi HS Staff

High school students from all over Colorado were divided up by sections and got to practice and get musical suggestions from UNC college students during the morning sessions of event.

They were treated to a fabulous buffet lunch and then had the opportunity to mix in with the UNC Band and

march in a parade around the campus. The band performed three Beatles songs: "Eleanor Rigby", "I Saw Her Standing There" and "She Loves You."

Jennifer Fritz, Cotopaxi High School Band teacher said, "Most of our kids had never been on a college campus before, never seen a college marching band, and had never seen a college football game. I think that most of them came home inspired to be a better musician and to perhaps go on to study in college."

Ameilia Tonnesen, trumpet player said, "It was amazing. They were really supportive, and I realized that maybe I could achieve my

dream of being a musician."

Sage Laymon, flute player said, "I had an amazing time storming through the campus on our way to the football field. I never would have imagined playing at a college football game!"

Claire Carlson, clarinet player said, "I absolutely loved hearing the band play, and it definitely made me want to play in college."

Arlo Garner, percussion said, "I blended well with everyone around me...all percussion acted as a family even though we only knew each other for a few hours before the performance."

Bobcats Schedule

HS Boys & HS Girls Basketball AWAY -Trinidad Tournament - Departure time TBD When: Thursday, December 1, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Where: Trinidad	Where: Custer County High School, HS Wrestling AWAY- Fowler - match time 7 a.m. Departure TBD When: Saturday December 3, 7 a.m. – 12 p.m. Where: Fowler High Gymnasium, Fowler
All State Band Auditions When: Friday Dec 2 – 3, 2016 Where: Pueblo	Elementary Basketball Program When: Saturday December 3, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Where: EAST GYM
HS Boys & HS Girls Basketball AWAY -Trinidad Tournament - Departure time TBD When: Friday December 2, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Where: Trinidad	HS Boys & HS Girls Basketball AWAY -Trinidad Tournament - Departure time TBD When: Saturday December 3, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Where: Trinidad
MS Girls Basketball Game HOME v South Park When: Friday December 2, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	

Bobcat Menu • Dec. 5 - Dec. 8, 2016			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Breakfast Choice of Cereal Fruit Milk	Breakfast Choice of Cereal Fruit Milk	Breakfast Choice of Cereal Fruit Milk	Breakfast Biscuit & Gravy Fruit Milk
Lunch Elem. Nachos Corn Fruit Milk	Lunch Elem. Italian Dunkers Cheesy Bread Gr Beans & Fruit Milk	Lunch Elem. Toasted Cheese Sand. Tomato Soup Carrot & Celery, Fruit Milk	Lunch Elem. Corn Dog Tator Tots Veg & Fruit Milk
Lunch MS & HS Nachos Grande Beans Corn & Fruit Milk	Lunch MS & HS Italian Dunkers Cheesy Bread, Salad Gr. Beans & Fruit Milk	Lunch MS & HS Baked Cheese Sand. Tomato Soup Mxd. Veg. & Fruit Milk	Lunch MS & HS Corn Dog Tator Tots, Beans Fruit Milk
<i>Elementary: Main Dish, Grain Product, Veg., Fruit, and Milk</i> <i>Middle & High: Main Dish, (Or Premade Chef Salad), Grain Product, Vegetable, Fruit and Milk</i> <i>A la Carte Items To Be Sold To M.S. & H.S. Only</i>			

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KIDS Friday, December 2, 2016

The Chunnel Makes Breakthrough

The English Channel is part of the Atlantic Ocean and separates Britain from northern France. It is approximately 350 miles long, and it is fairly shallow, with an average depth of 390 feet to approximately 148 feet between Dover and Calais.

For centuries the idea of crossing the English Channel was considered a miserable task. The inclement weather and choppy waters turned the stomach of the most seasoned traveler. It's no surprise that the idea of building a tunnel under the channel goes back to Napoleon Bonaparte's day. This first plan, made by French engineer Albert Mathieu Favier, called for a tunnel to be dug under the channel waters large enough for horse-drawn carriages to travel through. Favier was able to get the backing of French leader Napoleon Bonaparte. However, the British rejected Favier's plan, possibly fearing that Napoleon wanted to use the tunnel to invade England. Since then, other plans were created to connect Great Britain with France but they all eventually fell through. There were many reasons, some political discord or financial reasons, all of which needed to be solved before an actual tunnel could be built.

In 1984, French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher jointly agreed that a link across the English Channel would be mutually beneficial. They also both realized that neither country's government could fund such a massive project. They decided to hold a contest inviting companies to submit plans to create a link across the English Channel. One important part of their plan needed to include a means to raise the funds to build the project.

Ten proposals were submitted, including various tunnels and bridges. The proposal accepted was the plan for the Channel Tunnel, submitted by the Balfour Beatty Construction Company.

Tunnel digging began simultaneously from the British and the French coasts, with the finished tunnel meeting in the middle. As the digging proceeded, the sides of the newly dug tunnel had to be lined with concrete. This concrete lining was to help the tunnel withstand the intense pressure from above as well as to help waterproof the tunnel. Special lasers and surveying equipment were used to make sure that both the British and the French side of the tunnel actually met up in the middle. On December 1, 1990, the meeting of the two sides was officially celebrated.

On December 10, 1993, the first test run was completed through the Channel Tunnel, and it officially opened on May 6, 1994. Today, a regular shuttle train runs a total of 31 miles through the tunnel and takes 20 minutes. The Chunnel, as it is called, is the second-longest rail tunnel in the world.

by Audrey Slater, Sources: history.com, Wikipedia.org, worldatlas.com

Sangre de Cristo Sentinel • Westcliffe, Colorado

CORNER

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

Psalm 56:3 NKJV

Local Mountain News & Notices

Bobcat Runner JT Taylor to Attend University of Wyoming

by Jim Silver

Just a few weeks ago the *Sentinel* (Nov. 4 issue) reported on the strong performance of senior runner Jerald (JT) Taylor at the Colorado State Cross Country Meet held in Colorado Springs on October 29th. JT's decisive first-place finish in the 2A race—as well as his running career leading up to that—has paid off in more ways than just making the news, just as he had expressed hope for. That hope, we all learned then, is to pursue a degree in Agricultural Business, funded as much as possible by an athletic scholarship. JT is a home-schooled student who takes a few classes at Custer County High School.

This dream—the pursuing, that is—has become a reality, as JT has been offered a scholarship from the University of Wyoming! He has accepted, and is relieved that the decision has been made. The scholarship JT is to receive will cover half of all costs of his education,

reviewed year-by-year, it can be increased—based on his performance in both cross country and track.

JT's choice of the University of Wyoming was based on his being impressed with the school's running program as well as the Ag. College, and his seeing Laramie as a more appealing option than a larger city. He has met with Ag. College professors as well as with coaches. The coaching staff is recruiting national caliber athletes to build up the program, a runner at a time. JT expects to be joined by another freshman from Oregon, and all runners will be competing for a place on the 13-man cross country team. The team consists of a seven-man A-Team with the remaining six competing as a B-Team. JT is aware that the present A-Team includes two freshmen, so it's an equal-opportunity situation when his feet start making tracks on Wyoming soil next fall.

Though he has run for years

with only minor ailments, JT is impressed with the athletic department's injury recovery program—a good factor to take note of for



JT at home donning his future Alma Mater's logo.

any athlete hoping to stay healthy in competition. The school has good cross country and track facilities, he adds, notably seven indoor tracks for those cold Wyoming winter days.

Probably deserving higher mention in this order, JT said that he likes the head coach and his two assistants, with their perspective

Courtesy Photo

on athletics. His perception after several meetings is that they're good coaches and family men as well, who see that there's more to life than just running. This is something that JT would

have an eye for, being raised by parents who met while running on the same New Mexico high school cross country team. His father, Jesse, went on to run at Adams State College. With that as a backdrop, JT's parents have evidently modeled well that running may be enjoyed and can be a part of the means to an end, but that there's much more to life. As reported in the November 4th issue of the *Sentinel*, Jesse is also his son's Custer County Bobcats running coach. He and his wife, Shari, are the parents of three grown daughters and JT and Jeremiah whom we know as Custer County runners. Jesse is a pastor, presently pursuing a three-year master's degree program at Sangre de Cristo Seminary.

The coaching relationship between JT and his Wyoming coaches will begin at the end of May, and he'll train according to their prescribed program through the summer here in Custer County. He'll report for training with the

cross-country team two weeks before school starts in the fall. We'll point *Sentinel* readers to the co.milesplit.com website where a larger following than ours gets its news. This article is entitled: "Jerald Taylor: Aspiring to be a (Real) Cowboy."

An additional story at this time is that JT was accompanied by his family to the "NXN" (Nike Cross Nationals SW Regional) meet on November 19th in Casa Grande, Arizona. He competed against 230 runners from five states; among them were highly competitive runners JT is familiar with from mostly larger schools here in Colorado. He finished in 20th place! JT says that he'd hoped for a PR (personal record), which he didn't get. But, he also had the goal of finishing in the top 20—he did! Coach Jesse Taylor called this "a pretty nice way to top off the season." We all agree, congratulating JT and trusting that his next steps will go just as planned!

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Local Mountain News & Notices

Classifieds

Announcements

Crafts and Bake Sale
St Luke's Episcopal
Mission, Westcliffe
December 2nd & 3rd 9-4.
Local Artisans Featured
Items: Hand Crafted
Jewelry, Pottery, Paintings,
Books, Copper, Cashmere
Scarves, Christmas Deco-
rations and Baked Goods

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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.

THE CUSTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS OPENINGS FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS AT ALL LEVELS

Applications are available at the administration office Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. or please visit the district's webpage at <http://www.custercountyschools.org/#!/employment/c17c>; scroll down to the section marked "Applications" to download and complete the "Substitute Application". Applicants will need to be licensed through the Colorado Department of Education. For more information, please contact Kathy Schickling at (719)783-4950.

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

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Psalm 92: 13

Events Calendar

Friday and Saturday, December 2-3,
9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friends of the West Custer County Library
Winter Arts & Crafts Fair \$\$
Lange Fellowship Hall at Hope Lutheran Church
3rd and Powell, Westcliffe

Friday & Saturday December 2nd & 3rd 7:30
p.m. Sunday December 4th 2 p.m.
"Fantastic beasts and where to find them"
PG - 13 fantasy and adventure
Jones Theater Westcliffe \$\$

Friday, December 2, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Festival of Trees
25 Main St. Westcliffe

Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Falling into Christmas Festival
Community United Methodist Church,
206 S 6th St., Westcliffe

Saturday, December 3, All Day
All Aboard Westcliffe - Santa in Depot
Main St. Westcliffe

Saturday, December 3, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
SAG - Winter Holiday Show
Reception
59000 N. Highway 69, Westcliffe

Saturday December 3, 5 p.m.
Cliffs Community Christmas Parade

Main Street Contact: Candace McDaniel, (719)
783-4050, crmcDaniel_13@outlook.com

Sunday, December 4th
2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Christmas Cantata
Wet Mountain Community Chorale at
Hope Lutheran Church
Light refreshments between performances
next door at Lange Hall

Monday December 5, 5:30 p.m.
Silver Cliff Town Meeting

Tuesday December 6, 9 a.m.
BOCC Meeting, Boardroom

Tuesday December 6, 5:30 p.m.
Westcliffe Town Meeting

Tuesday, December 6, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Custer County Christmas Concert
Custer County School West Gym

Wednesday December 7, 9 a.m.
BOCC Meeting, Boardroom

Wednesday, December 7, 4:05 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Meeting
Custer County School Library

Saturday, December 10, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Sangre de Cristo Community Band
Concert West Gym Custer County School

Recurring Events

Monday

6 -7 p.m. Closed Step Study Alcoholics
Anonymous at St. Luke's Episcopal
Church in Westcliffe.
Call Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172
or Emily at (719) 371-5974.

3rd Monday

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

12 – 4:30 p.m. Bridge Club meets in the
Library Community Room in down-
town Westcliffe.
6 p.m. Bible Study at Wild West
Cowboy Church. Call 719-783-2676.

1st 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.

Wednesday

9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Line dancers meet
at the Methodist Church. Call Clem at
(303) 909-7370.
6-7 p.m. Closed Big Book Study Alcohol-
ics Anonymous at St. Luke's
Episcopal Church in Westcliffe. Call
Jim at 783-2053 or (360) 509-9172 or
Emily at (719) 371-5974.
6:30 p.m. Men's and Women's Bible
Study. First Baptist Church of West-
cliffe Call 719-783-2498.

6:30 - 8 p.m. Custer County Community
Band practice in the band room at the
high school.

2nd and 4th Wednesdays

3 p.m. Scrabble Group West Custer
County Library.

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

Thursday

Second Thursday of the Month
10 a.m. – 11 a.m. "Ask a Nurse" at
the library.

Friday

6 -7 p.m. Open Discussion Alcoholics
Anonymous meeting at St. Luke's
Episcopal Church. Call Jim at 783-2053
or (360) 509-9172 or Emily at (719)
371-5974.
7 -8 p.m. Bible Talks with Domenic
Enrietta and John Hartig. At the Library
Community Room. All welcome. No
charge.

Third Friday of the Month

Camp Happiness for 0-6 yrs old.
1-2:20 p.m. at West Custer Library.

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.
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 wel-
come! If you have a drum, please bring
it. We have a few spares.

3rd Saturday of Month

9 a.m. VFW meeting at Cliff Lanes
Conference Room for more info call
Commander Randy Knight 783-9340.

Services

Club America
50 E. Main Street
Silver Cliff, CO 81252
(719) 783-0750

Custer County Senior Center
612 Main St.
Silver Cliff, CO 81252
(719) 783-9508
Lunch; Mon., Tues. & Thur. at
Noon. **RSVP by 9:30 a.m.**

Custer County Community
Sharing Center Inc.
120 N. 3rd St.
Westcliffe, CO 81252
(719) 783-3303
Fri.-Sat. 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Lighthouse Pregnancy
Resources
417 Cliff Street
Silver Cliff, CO 81252
(719) 783-4357
Mon. and Thur. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Fri. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

West Custer County Library
209 Main Street
Westcliffe, CO 81252
(719) 783-9138
Tue. – Fri.: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sat.: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Wet Mt. Rotary Van Service
For transportation needs,
contact Van Dispatch
(719) 783-2343
Mon. – Fri. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Local Mountain News & Notices

Lady Bobcats: Awards Still Coming In

by Greg Cravens
CCHS Volleyball Coach

Even though the season has come to an end and I'm still trying to figure out a way to say goodbye to these seniors, the awards are still coming in.

This team has done some remarkable things over the last few months. They collected another West Central League Championship, won our first Southern Peaks Conference Championship, second at the CHSAA District One Tournament and second at the CHSAA Region A Tournament.

Stats-wise this team did some pretty incredible things also. Elizabeth Mullett ended the year with 264 kills to lead the team. Penkoff had her best year as a three-year starter with 210 kills. Katie Florom lead the team in blocks with 33, not bad for a first-year starter.

Ham finishes her high school career with 1489 assists, first all time for the school, 1109 digs and 150 kills. She ended her 2016 season with 109 aces which was the most in the State of Colorado for all schools. For her career, she has 181 aces.

Schlabach did something that I would have never dreamed of



(L to R) Serenity Ham, Coach Cravens and Tish Schlabach.

four years ago; she finishes her high school career with 1,861 digs. That is the most digs a player has gotten in a career for anyone in the State of Colorado.

The team can start looking at individual awards now as well. Ham, Schlabach, Mullett and Penkoff were voted West Central League All-Conference. Ham was named League Most Valuable Player.

The awards don't stop there. The weekend of November 19th-20th, Ham and Schlabach played in the Colorado Coaches of Girls Sports All-State games in Arvada. The team was made of Class 2A players from all over the state, voted on by the coaches within our classification. The girls prac-

ticed on Saturday with their team and then showed off their skills on Sunday. A good time was had by all. Both are also in the running for the Colorado High School Coaches Association All-State games this summer in Alamosa. The voting for that team is currently being conducted online.

As I have stated all year, the girls really appreciated all the support this community provided them throughout the years. The fans that would travel and were so loud, it seemed like it was a home match. This made all the hours of practice worth it. We saw more attendance at home matches this year as well. The Homecoming match against South Park will be one I remember forever. Thank you from all of us!



Front Row (L to R): Serenity Ham, Custer County, Rosie McDonald, Byers, Tish Schlabach, Custer County.

Back Row (L to R): Coach Gramblin, West Grand, McKenna Hartigan, Paonia, Emily Pieper, Paonia, Brittney Anton, Denver Christian, Peyton Bodemann, West Grand, Megan Godsey, Wray, Coach Gramblin, West Grand.

Courtesy Photo

Sheriff's Report...

On the dates below, there were 183 calls for service to the Sheriff's Office, 8 to EMS, and 2 to the Fire Department.

As of November 27th, there were seven males and two females in the county jail.

From 11/21/16 to 11/27/16 there were the following calls for service:

11/21/16:
Traffic Summons: Clayton Key of San Angelo, TX, for speeding 20 - 24 over.

Phillip Haton of Coppel, TX, for speeding 10 - 19 over.

Bad Money: A deputy was dispatched to South 6th Street to take a report involving receipt of counterfeit U.S. currency.

Burglary: A deputy was dispatched to Highway 165 in response to a report of a burglary.

11/23/16:
Traffic Summons: Holguin Cerrillo of Denver for speeding 20 - 24 over.

Kyle Bachman of Westcliffe was issued a summons for driving a motor vehicle with a revoked license.

Arrest: Toby Gandeski of Cotopaxi was arrested and charged with Driving

a Vehicle while Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs or Both, Failing to Drive in a Single Lane, and Failing to Stop as Required at a Stop Sign.

Suspicious Person: A deputy was dispatched to Highway 69 South MM 52 to investigate a report of a suspicious person.

11/24/16:
Stolen Vehicle: A deputy was dispatched to CR 390 on an agency assist with the Colorado State Patrol regarding a subject driving a stolen vehicle from Missouri.

11/25/16:
Assault: A deputy was dispatched to Main Street in Westcliffe to investigate an assault in progress.

Abandoned Vehicle: A deputy on routine patrol took a report of an abandoned vehicle parked at the Forest Service pull off on Highway 96 MM 16.5.

11/26/16:
Traffic Summons: Jack Moore of Grand Junction for speeding 10 - 19 over.

Melissa Carey of Silver Cliff for speeding 10 - 19 over.

SHERIFF
see page 24

Wild Bill's Toy Run: Update



Wild Bill's Toy Run is speeding towards the Christmas distribution. This year's Toy Run is dedicated in memory of Courtney Curtis and all the children of the Valley are eagerly awaiting Santa.

Drop off boxes for new

toys, gloves and winter hats are located at Family Dollar, First State Bank, Bowling Alley, Tony's Pizzeria, Highway 96 Roadhouse and the Sentinel office.

Please drop off your contribution to help us insure that ALL children will have presents under the tree this holiday season. If you do not have time to shop, many collection cans are around town, and Wild

Bill's helpers will shop for you.

If you are in need of an application for your children please pick one up at The Country Store, Family Dollar, Sentinel offices, Silver Cliff Mountain Inn (Willie's) or the Department of Human Services at the Courthouse. Filled out forms need to be returned by December 15th.

Come and Worship



Christian Science
9:30 a.m. Worship
8 Bassick Place
Westcliffe

Church of Christ
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Worship
Wedn. 6:00 p.m. Worship
818 Ohio Street
Silver Cliff
719/783-4601

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

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

Cody Park Community Church
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday, 8:30 a.m., Prayer Mtg.
Wednesday, 7 p.m. Bible Study
0157 County Rd. 27A
Cotopaxi
719/942-3462
719/942-3526

Cotopaxi Community Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Wedn. Bible Study
20326 Hwy. 50
Cotopaxi
719/315-6339

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

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

Huerfano Community Bible Church
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
7 p.m.: Thursday Bible Study
603 Leon Street
Walsenburg
(719) 251-9053

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

Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church
Diocese of Pueblo
11 a.m. Sunday Mass
10 a.m. Wednesday Mass
11 a.m.- 2 p.m. Wedn. Adoration
109 S. 5th Street
Westcliffe
719/783-3507

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

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

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

Sangre de Cristo Fellowship
Sundays, 10 a.m. Meet and Greet
Sundays, 10:15 a.m. Service
120 Jerry Court
Westcliffe
719/783-0903

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

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Diocese of Pueblo
Saturday Mass 4:00 p.m.
Highway 69, Gardner

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

Westcliffe Community Church
10 a.m. Worship
103 N. Adams St.
Westcliffe
719/783-2545

Wetmore Baptist Church
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship
6 p.m. Worship
Junction of Hwy 96 & 67
Wetmore
719/371-1230

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

Wild West Cowboy Church
4 p.m. Worship
Followed by Potluck
Tuesdays 6 p.m.: Bible Study
60260 Hwy. 69 North
Westcliffe
719/783-2676



Local Mountain News & Notices

CUSTER COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES



Custer County BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Tentative Agenda

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016
9:00 AM**

**Meeting Location:
County Courthouse /Commissioners Room**

Call Meeting to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Amend Agenda
Audience Introduction
Public Comment
Approval of Minutes
Commissioner Items
Attorney Items
Executive Session
New/Old Business

- Addressing on Antelope Ln (Centennial Ranch) – J.D.
- Centennial Ranch HOA
- Courtroom Door bid/estimate
- Sheriff Agreement with Town of Westcliffe
- Sheriff Agreement with Town of Silver Cliff
- Underfunded Courthouse Grant Agreement
- Transfer funds from Airport back to CG
- Christmas Party – K. Camper
- Staff Reports:
- Airport
- Extension
- Veterans
- Human Services

lines, 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 bren-da@custercountygov.com no later than 9:00 AM on the Monday of the week prior to the BOCC meeting. Items not submitted in time may be tabled for one month so they may be properly published. True emergency items will be heard. (Audio recordings of the BOCC meetings are available for public review or purchase for \$10 per CD.)

Custer County BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Agenda

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016

**9:00 AM
Meeting Location:
County Courthouse /Commissioners Room**

Call Meeting to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Amend Agenda
Audience Introduction
Public Comment
Approval of Minutes
Commissioner Items
Attorney Items
Executive Session
New/Old Business
- Library Board – Amy Moulton
Staff Reports:
-Road & Bridge/Landfill/Recycle
-Budget – J. Piquette

- Human Resource/Finance
- Treasurer
- OEM
- Planning & Zoning
 - Jackie & Gail discussion

1:00 PM - Workshop

CDPHE Presentation

NOTICE TO PUBLIC: To meet publishing dead-
lines, 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 bren-da@custercountygov.com no later than 9:00 AM on the Monday of the week prior to the BOCC meeting. Items not submitted in time may be tabled for one month so they may be properly published. True emergency items will be heard. (Audio recordings of the BOCC meetings are available for public review or purchase for \$10 per CD.)



**For Financial
Transparency
information for
Custer County
School District
C-1, please see
link at custercountyschools.org.**

NOTICE TO PUBLIC: To meet publishing dead-

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from page 1

Children's Holiday Hunt Poem

With pizza, drinks and pepperoni

Start your hunt at a place called _____.
For tasty selections, take your spouse
For food and drink, To Highway 96 _____.
For Holiday Decorations, there's a Place,
It's a Hardware Store called _____.
On the little white porch where there hangs a banner
For stylish clothes and gifts visit Barton _____.
Holiday attire and flowers are fine
Check them out at the Salty _____.
For healthy foods for energy and power
Make sure to stock up at the _____.
For romantic western wear there's just one name,
Get your Buttons, bows, and frills at Boutique off _____.
Tis the season for simple pleasures
You may find them at a shop called Wet Mountain _____.
Popcorn roasting goes pop, pop, pop
Go next door to the Village _____.
Whether walking, running or riding a bike
The clothing you'll need is at _____.
For holiday gifts that are a perfect match
Be sure to stop by the Sunflower _____.
Tis a place where no one is a stranger
Make your way to the _____.
With cocoa and ice cream and home goods galore
You'll find it all at Sangre Home _____.
With main course foods that can't be beat
You can't go wrong with Elevation _____.

Lady Bobcats Preseason Basketball



Back row from left: Manager Cellistine Barnes, Savannah Langford, Katie Florom, Jessie Henrich, Elizabeth Mullett, Athena Wisecup, Megan Frahm, McKensie Penkoff, and Grace Flynn. Front row from left: Alexia Stanciv, Sydney Cooper, Lindsey Gilmore, Tisha Schlabach, Serenity Ham, Emma Aldrich, Kylinn Wisecup, and Brittany Benoit.

Head Coach is Gary Fischer. Assistant Coaches are Kristen Foster and Tim Lorenzen. Managers are Cellistine Barnes and Zach Fischer.





Colorado State News



New Study Calls Colorado Parole Reforms Into Question

by Todd Shephard,
CompleteColorado.com,
Page Two

Recent efforts to reform the parole system in Colorado may not turn out to be as effective as first hoped, according to a new study published in the academic journal *“Criminology and Public Policy.”*

In particular, the Colorado Department of Corrections (DOC) began a program in 2015 that would temporarily arrest a parolee when they violated the terms of their parole as opposed to revoking the parole entirely and placing the offender back in prison. In Colorado, these short-term arrests were known as “Sure and Swift” sanctions.

The issue has real-world public safety consequences, especially in light of numerous high-profile incidents involving parolees which were reported on by Complete Colorado and *The Denver Post* in the winter and spring of this year. In one of those cases, a parolee whose erratic and sometimes violent behavior raised red flags to DOC staff was later charged and found guilty of murdering a homeless man in an alley near downtown Denver. In

another case, a parolee who was arrested and released three times under “Sure and Swift” policies was involved in a shootout with Denver Police; the suspect was shot and killed, but not before he shot one officer in the leg.

The new study estimates that parolees who are managed under these “Swift, Certain, and Fair” theories eventually have a revocation rate similar to those parolees managed under traditional methods.

Colorado’s reforms were based largely on a program initiated in Hawaii called “Honest Opportunity Probation with Enforcement,” or HOPE.

The recently concluded academic study of HOPE-styled reforms looked at 1,500 probationers, some of whom were randomly assigned to the reform model management, and others managed under what’s called “Parole as Usual,” or PAU. The study examined parolees in other states, however, not parolees in Colorado.

The authors of the study concluded that HOPE or “Sure and Swift” managements seemed “unlikely to offer better outcomes and

lower costs for broad classes of moderate-to-high-risk probationers.”

Complete Colorado asked the DOC the following two questions by email:

1. Does this change DOC’s faith in the effectiveness of “Sure and Swift” policies?
2. Has DOC upper management studied the report, and can you summarize thoughts from someone like Director (Rick) Raemisch or Parole Director (Melissa) Roberts?

The response from the DOC did not answer either of the questions in any meaningful way. DOC spokeswoman Laurie Kilpatrick said by email, “The Colorado Department of Corrections’ program, along with several states across the nation utilized the philosophy of the H.O.P.E. program. The model we implemented was created by Colorado, for Colorado and is one of many tools we use for intermediate sanctions.”

In February of this year, Complete Colorado broke the story about a **parolee named Calvin Johnson**, who at the time, had been arrested on charges of first-degree murder of a

homeless man in an alley near 10th and Broadway. Adding to the significance was the fact that just weeks before the crime, the Depu-



Calvin Johnson
Courtesy Photo

ty Director of Adult Parole, Alison Morgan, told legislators that Johnson was an example of how well new reforms were working. The set of reforms described by Morgan went beyond just the implementation of “Sure and Swift” arrests.

Johnson was convicted of murder in a jury trial later that summer in which Johnson represented himself.

In March, these pages also broke the story of Geraldino Gonzales, a parolee who had been arrested and released three times under the “Sure and Swift” policies. Gonzales was killed in

a shootout with the Denver Police on February 22nd. DPD Officer Rachel Eid suffered a gunshot wound to the leg in the incident which also included a high-speed chase through the Highlands neighborhood in northwest Denver.

On March 20th, *The Denver Post* published an expose on numerous parolees who had endangered public safety or endangered themselves in some way, possibly as a result of the reforms:

Instead of sending difficult offenders back to prison for breaking rules, parole officers increasingly are told to find alternatives such as counseling, short-term jail stints or other sanctions.

A 2015 law — aimed at reducing the prison population — changed how and when parolees are arrested and sent before the State Parole Board. Then in October, the Department of Corrections added another layer that put the decision about whether to seek parole revocation in the hands of just two people.

Within three months, the changes slashed in half recidivism rates for technical violations. But the reduction has come at a cost, an

investigation by *The Denver Post* has found.

After the numerous parole stories were published earlier this year, Representative Pete Lee (D – Colorado Springs) and former Representative B.J. Nikkel (R – Larimer and Weld Counties) published an editorial in *The Post* defending the reforms, and specifically mentioned HOPE as the foundation for Colorado’s reforms.

As a response to that editorial, a current employee within the DOC authored an anonymous editorial on Complete Colorado. (See <http://completecolorado.com/pagetwo/2016/04/28/>) That editorial argued that the implementation of the parole reforms by the DOC management team was more problematic than the parole reforms themselves.

The DOC was also under scrutiny recently after an investigation from KMGH Channel 7 revealed the parole department had misled neighbors about the installation of a new parole office in Aurora.

Please see: <http://completcolorado.com/pagetwo/2016/11/21/9054/>

Colorado Woman Beats Billionaire Environmentalists

by Ginni Thomas,
Daily Caller News
Foundation

While President-Elect Donald Trump’s national victory has taken the public’s attention, the failed progressive battle for down-ballot races in places like Colorado get scant attention.

Heidi Ganahl, the founder of Camp Bow Wow, defeated a stealthy, well-funded environmental machine aimed to take over the University of Colorado (CU)

Board of Regents on November 8th.

Tom Steyer and George Soros — using Bill McKibben’s activism at 350.org and misleadingly soft-sounding groups like New Era — are employing the ballot box to press college trustees, elected or appointed, to act as political operatives and divest from coal, oil and gas.

These out-of-state donors and environmentalists largely failed after pouring over \$4 million into

down-ballot races in Colorado, including the race to control the statewide race for the CU Board of Regents.

The fossil fuel divestment movement, steered not by students, but paid professional activists, is really “an effort to radicalize students and stoke public support for drastic political and economic transformations,” according to a comprehensive report on the divestment movement by the National Association of Scholars.

Ganahl, featured as someone to defeat in this deceptive voter guide, narrowly beat a former Obama administration climate official and environmentalist for the regent post. Ganahl says she found that voters care less about climate change, and more about the cost of tuition, getting jobs and restoring free speech to campuses.

She believes in “feisty debate” and that colleges should focus on “teaching students how to think, not what to think.”

In this exclusive video for *The Daily Caller News Foundation*, Ganahl also comments on the growing unruly student-based protests and riots occurring around the result of the presidential election. While protests are acceptable in America, new evidence is coming to light of the paid professional protester network designed to delegitimize Trump’s presidency.

Some in Colorado are now calling on Steyer, the anti-fossil fuel activist and

donor, and their ilk to “go home” to California.

For more on Heidi Ganahl see her “Moms Fight Back” Facebook page or their website at Momsfightback.org

Read more: <http://daily-caller.com/2016/11/19/anti-fossil-fuel-divestment-tactics-failed-during-the-2016-election-and-here-is-a-woman-who-beat-them-video/#ix-zz4QYX67CR0>

**Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning.
For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.**



Colorado State News

PERA Takes a Baby Step When a Giant Leap Is Needed



by SecureFutures
Colorado.Org

Some Colorado PERA board members demonstrated a clear understanding of the challenges facing the state pension fund during a meeting last week, pushing for an aggressive move to address the plan's troubled finances. But their efforts fell short.

As a result, the board voted to reduce PERA's long-term estimated rate of return by just one-quarter of a percentage point, from 7.5 percent to 7.25 percent effective January 1st of next year.

Eleven of 15 voting board members are elected by PERA beneficiaries in elections where fewer than five percent of eligible voters

cast ballots. It was most of the board members in this bloc who resisted more aggressive action. They said that the uncertainties inherent in a projection period spanning 30-plus years makes it irresponsible to react to short-term market fluctuations with large reductions in rate of return estimates.

Cavanaugh MacDonald Consulting, PERA's actuarial consulting firm, had recommended that the rate remain at 7.5 percent.

Susan G. Murphy, one of three governor-appointed members of the PERA board, pushed for a full percentage point reduction in the long-term investment return assumption, to 6.5 percent. She said that actuaries base recommen-

dations on historical data, but that "a forward-thinking analysis is more appropriate."

But several elected board members said they wanted to stick with the actuaries'



recommendation and hold steady at 7.5 percent. Carole Wright, a retired Aurora Public Schools teacher, said she worried that if the board went against the actuaries' recommendation, "I may be in violation of my fiducia-

ry responsibility to PERA members."

Murphy countered that she would feel more comfortable taking into account a wide array of input from a variety of sources that board members had tapped, including two senior Wall Street executives who last month counseled PERA to lower its estimate sharply. As a fiduciary she said, she would rather take action to increase the chances of "achieving what we have told beneficiaries they might expect."

And governor-appointed board member Lynn Turner, a former Securities and Exchange Commission chief accountant, took issue with Wright's statement. He said it was "absolutely false" that anyone

was ignoring the actuaries' recommendation. Rather, he said, other board members "are ignoring all this other data that point to something lower [in a rate of return]."

Turner proposed lowering the rate by a half percentage point, to 7.0 percent. That motion failed narrowly, on an 8-7 vote.

To help offset the impact on solvency of a lower rate of return, the board also voted to reduce long-term inflation expectations from an annual average of 2.8 percent to 2.4 percent.

Lowering the projected rate of return may bring PERA more in line with reality, but it also lays bare some hard truths that PERA will have to explain to its mem-

bers. According to a 2015 report on PERA, "Risky Retirement, Colorado's Uncertain Future and Opportunities for Reform", annual returns of 7.0 percent would mean pension debt would be more than \$20 billion in 2045, compared to \$12.45 billion in 2015.

The report didn't calculate long-term pension debt at a return rate of 7.25 percent.

Stay tuned for another post that attempts to put PERA's latest moves in context.

Please see: www.secure-futurescolorado.org/perascope/pera-board-takes-a-baby-step-when-a-giant-leap-is-needed/



Denver County Sheriff's Office Fined for NOT HIRING Non-Citizens!

by Blake Neff,
Daily Caller News
Foundation

Denver County's Sheriff's Office has been slapped with a fine by the Department of Justice (DOJ) because it refused to hire non-citizens as deputies.

From the beginning of 2015 through last March, the Denver Sheriff Department went on a major hiring binge, adding more than 200 new deputies. But those jobs ended up only going to citizens, because the department made citizenship a stated requirement on the job application. The department admitted as much in a new settlement

with the U.S. government, which requires it to pay a \$10,000 fine.

The department will also have to comb through all of its job applications from the past two years, identifying immigrants who were excluded from the hiring process and giving them due consideration.

"Eliminating this unlawful citizenship requirement will help ensure that the Denver Sheriff Department hires the best and most qualified individuals to protect and serve," DOJ Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta said in a statement. "The entire community will benefit from these reforms."

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, employers are required to give equal treatment to non-citizens with valid work permits, unless state, local, or federal law explicitly requires certain jobs be open only to citizens. More than 40 U.S. states currently have laws that in some capacity restrict non-citizens from being police, but Colorado is not one of them. The department says it was simply unaware that limiting employment to citizens was a violation of federal law.

In a report released last October, the Department of Justice blasted citizenship requirements for officers as a "barrier" to creating more

racially diverse police forces.

"While federal law allows law enforcement agencies to impose a citizenship requirement where it is authorized by state or local law, this requirement may prevent a considerable number of racial and ethnic minorities – many of whom have valuable foreign language skills – from being hired by law enforcement agencies," the report said.

Read more: <http://daily-caller.com/2016/11/21/obama-admin-fines-police-department-for-not-hiring-non-citizens/#ix-zz4QkQmX0Tu>

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DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 p.m. - SHOW AT 7:00 p.m.
TICKETS: ADULTS \$20.00 KIDS \$5.00 AVAILABLE AT
CANDIES COFFEE OR CALL LORI 719-371-4601

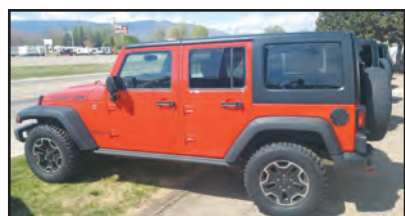


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Fremont County Bulletin

News, Opinion, Commentary

IMPORTANT DATES IN FREMONT

School Board Meetings:

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

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

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

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

Royal Gorge
Tea Party
2nd Thursday
6:30 p.m.
Core Knowledge
School Gymnasium,
890 Fields Ave.
Cañon City
www.royalgorgetea-party.com

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

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

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



Living Nativity



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church’s 18th Annual Living Nativity is Saturday, December 10th, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at 801 N. Sheridan Ave., Cañon City.

Press Release

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church will present its 18th Annual Living Nativity on Saturday, December 10th, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., at 801 N. Sheridan Avenue in Cañon City. The event will include the cast, music, narration and animals provided by members of the Penrose Horses & Hounds 4-H Club, which is led by Angie Ladeau and Elaine Stricklett. The 4-H members will also be

part of the cast of the Living Nativity.

Donations of cash and non-perishable food items will be accepted for the benefit of Mercy Today Ministries to assist them with expenses of their Tuesday free lunch program and food pantry.

Come view the Living Nativity with family and friends and be a part of this Fremont County tradition celebrating the “reason for the season”. Visitors may drive by the Nativity,

or they may park their vehicles and take additional time to view and reflect on the Nativity scene and see the animals.

Directions: Go north on 15th Street, turn left on Woodlawn Avenue, and at the second stop sign turn right onto Sheridan. Or, go north on 9th Street, turn right onto College and then left onto Sheridan (one block past the high school). The church is the last building on the left on Sheridan.

Florence City Council

by Sentinel Staff

According to Charlotte Burrous of the Crusader, Florence City Council reiterated their stance on marijuana grow and excise tax in Florence based on the voting down of 2B during elections.

During committee reports, Councilman Dick Upton said, “The council put two issues on the ballot. One was the excise tax for marijuana grows and the other one was marijuana grows or retail. Of course, we all know retail grows [were] voted down. That was an advisory vote. Council said ... we would support whatever the people did...I’m assuming that the moratorium on marijuana grows, retail marijuana, retail marijuana are all continuing as being on moratori-

um with the lone exception of a testing facility, which was approved.”

Then he asked if the council was still good with that.

Councilman Paul Villagrana said he accepts the vote of the election just before Councilman Larry Baker suggested City Attorney Matthew Krob give his advice on the subject.

“The vote was really a polling vote,” Krob said. “It goes back to the last in time ordinances of what’s in place is my understanding. Until you pass an ordinance to the contrary, that is ordinances (the council will go by what’s in place). We don’t have to do anything.”

For the purpose of the citizens, I want to make sure

they understand I would go by the election results,” Villagrana reiterated.

Upton said he would accept them, as well as several others.

“Whatever people said, that’s it,” said Councilman Larry Baker.

“I wanted to make sure we got that out,” Upton declared.

Florence City Council failed to agree on 2017 budget items listed as “other” during the November 22nd meeting. As a result, council has set a budget hearing for 7 p.m. on December 5th.

Members of the public are invited to give their opinion about where and how money should be allocated for the 2017 budget.



Those who expect
to reap the blessings
of freedom, must,
like men, undergo
the fatigue of supporting it.

Thomas Paine ~ Founding Father
Sponsored by Critical Path Metalworks, Westcliffe, Colorado

Events

Nov. 25 -Dec. 10

Free lunch to those in need will be offered from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. the third Saturday of the month in the Fellowship Hall at the First United Methodist Church at the corner of Ninth and Main Streets.

COG lunch is served at noon every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 100 Railroad St. in Florence. Call 784-6493 before 9:30 a.m. for reservation. Meals cost \$2 for 60 and older and \$6.50 for 59 and younger.

Free lunch is served from noon-1 p.m. Tuesdays at Mercy Today Ministries in the back of the First Christian Church at 320 N. 16th St. in Cañon City. For more information, call 276-9242.

Lunches are served at noon Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Penrose Center at 405 Broadway in Penrose. Everyone is welcome. Meals are \$3 per person. Please call 372-3872 for reservations. Thrift Store is open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Friends of the Penrose Community Library hosts its weekly used book sales from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. every Wednesday in the shed behind the library at 35 Seventh Ave. in Penrose

Dec. 2, Penrose Chamber will host its **Annual Apple Country Memories Event** at 6 p.m. at Coyote’s Coffee Den at 675 Colo. 115. Activities include Santa Claus, hay rides, music by Colorado Country Music Association, marshmallows, apple cider and much more.

Dec. 3, The Bridge Youth Center Open House is 1-7 p.m. Following the Parade of Lights, the youth center will host a **free 8 p.m. concert** featuring the Colorado-based band, **Felling Giants**.

Dec. 3, Animal Swap will take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Tractor Supply at 1919 E. Main St. in Cañon City.

Dec. 3, Cañon City Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade of Lights will take place at 6 p.m. in downtown Cañon City. This year’s theme is “The Miracle of Christmas.”

Dec. 4, ‘Light’ concert to benefit Loaves & Fishes Ministries, 6 p.m., at E-Free Church, 3000 E Main Street in Cañon City. Admission is free. Event features Lobo and Sheryl Loggins and the community worship band, and vocalists from E-Free Church, Catalyst Church, Vineyard Church, Christian Family Fellowship and Cañon City Free Methodist Church.

Dec. 8, Coping with Grief through the Holidays will take place from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Garden Park building at 201 N. Sixth St. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is free. Register online at stmhospital.org/calendar or call 285-2061.

Dec. 8, Business After Hours takes place from 5-7 p.m. the second Thursday of the month. The event is open to chamber members and guests. For this month’s location or to RSVP, call the chamber at 275-2331.

Dec 10, Santa will greet children at 11 a.m., in Florence in the **Rocky Mountain Bank & Trust parking lot** at Main Street and Pikes Peak Avenue. Be sure and stop by to see Santa and enjoy small town America.

Dec. 10, Santa Claus will be available for photos with children from 9 a.m.-noon, at the **Cañon City Chamber of Commerce office** at 403 Royal Gorge Blvd.

Dec. 9-10, Light Up the Park Festival will take place from 5:30-9 p.m. in **Penrose Park** at 415 Fifth Ave. in **Penrose**. Food, fun, music, lights and more will be available to celebrate Christmas.

Dec. 10, Santa Claus will visit children from noon-2 p.m. at the **Cañon City Public Library** at 516 Macon Avenue in Cañon City.

December 10th, 18th Annual Living Nativity at **Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church**, from 5 - 7:30 p.m., at 801 N. Sheridan Ave. in Cañon City. Animals and actors from **Penrose Horses & Hounds 4-H Club**. Canned food donations for Mercy Today Ministries will be accepted at the event.

The Sentinel is available
at the following location in
Fremont County:

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

Religion, The Constitution & Culture

State, National, & World

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

The Daily Jot

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

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

Hypocrisy Heights

If you have been following the news, there is a new nationwide show called Hypocrisy Heights. It stars defeated communists, Green Party Presidential candidate Jill Stein and Democratic Party Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. Clinton, if you remember, was spastic about the possibilities that Donald Trump would not accept the results of the presidential election if he lost. Stein and Clinton have decided to challenge the results of the election in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan, if they can raise enough money to do so. In reality, Clinton likely will also assist in funding the recounts initiated by Stein. This, after her fit that Trump may undermine the democratic process with a challenge if he lost.

On October 20th, the news narrative was full of stories about Trump responding to a question during the third presidential debate about whether he would accept the result of the election if he lost. He responded, “I will tell you at the time. I’ll keep you in suspense.” Clinton tweeted that his stance was “horrificing” saying that it “was not the way our democracy works.” Trump was labeled “dangerous” and damaging to democracy by the current “president.” Reporters speculated for days what Trump not accepting defeat would do to the country. Political analysts at colleges and universities said it undermines the credibility of the elected president and could foment a shadow presidency by the loser, a divided nation.

Clinton, the Democratic Party and the “president.” Clinton’s camp is saying it wants to show that it is exploring all the options even though there is no “actionable evidence” suggesting foul play. Using the narrative that Russia could have hacked the US election and put Trump in office, Clinton justifies undermining the Republic. In reality, she shouldn’t want a recount considering there are several experts pointing to untold millions of illegal votes cast by non-citizens and dead people who are likely to have voted Clinton. But Clinton is now exploring all options to something she called horrifying a month ago. Hypocrisy Heights.

As citizens, we all should be concerned that elections are fair and conducted without foul play.

Trump should insist on a recount of all the votes in New York, California, Oregon, Washington, New Jersey, and just for kicks, Illinois, where the cemeteries are full of reliable voters. He may win by a landslide of the popular vote after all the illegal votes are thrown out. Notwithstanding, Clinton and her backers will not stop in trying to undermine our Constitutional Republic and replace it with a form of communism. As Jesus said about the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23:28, we can say about these hypocrites, “...you outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”

Have a Blessed and Powerful Day!
Bill Wilson

www.dailyjot.com
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U.S. Army Ranked ‘Weak’ in New Think Tank Report

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

The U.S. Army is ranked “weak” and the other branches of services “marginal” when it comes to military power, according a new think tank report. Military.com reports that **overall, American military power is just “marginal” and trending toward “weak,”** according to the 2017 Index of U.S. Military Power, released Wednesday by the Heritage Foundation.

The scores are based on the military’s “capability or modernity, capacity for operations, and readiness to handle assigned missions successfully,” the document states.

The group’s Army assessment is the same from last year (the index began in 2015) and stems from the service’s decision to decrease the size of the force and delay equipment upgrades to improve readiness -- yet only a third of its units are prepared for war, according to the document.

“Even for units deployed abroad, the Army has had to increase its reliance on contracted support to meet maintenance requirements,” the report states. “In summary, the Army is smaller, older and weaker, a condition that is unlikely to change in the near future.”

Military Boost

Based on the U.S. military fulfilling the strategic goal of waging two major wars at the same time, Heritage argues the size of the military must be increased to include 50 brigade combat teams in the Army, 346 surface combatants and 624 strike aircraft in the Navy, 1,200 fighter and

ground-attack aircraft in the Air Force and 36 battalions in the Marine Corps.

Similarly, President-Elect Donald Trump has called for increasing the size of the Army to about 540,000 active-duty soldiers, the Marine Corps to 36 battalions, the Navy to 350 surface ships and submarines, and the Air Force to at least 1,200 fighter aircraft.

The Obama administration in 2012, argued for changing the force-structure model based on the two-war scenario. The proposal came after Congress and the White House approved decade-long spending caps known as sequestration.

The Pentagon’s \$583 billion budget proposal for fiscal 2017, which began October 1st, requests funding for 460,000 active soldiers, 24 Marine infantry battalions, 287 naval ships and roughly 1,170 fighter aircraft (excluding A-10 ground attack aircraft) -- all for the active component. The figures don’t take into account additional troops and equipment for the Guard and Reserve.

The United States spends more on defense than the next several nations combined, with annual outlays of more than \$600 billion -- three times more than China and seven times more than Russia, according to figures compiled earlier this year by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Other Service Rankings

The sea service is sacrificing long-term readiness to meet short-term needs, according to the Heritage report. “While the Navy is maintaining a moderate global presence, it has little

ability to surge to meet wartime demands,” it states. “Deferred maintenance has kept ships at sea but is also beginning to affect the Navy’s ability to deploy.”

Despite an inventory of nearly 1,600 combat aircraft -- including fifth-generation fighters such as the F-22A Raptor and the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter made by Lockheed Martin Corp., the Air Force is facing a shortage of 700 pilots and 4,000 maintainers, affecting its ability to generate combat power, according to the report.

“The lack of ability to fly and maintain [aircraft], especially in a high-tempo/threat combat environment, means that its usable inventory of such aircraft is actually much smaller,” it states.

The Marine Corps also faces a partially utilized aviation fleet, with less than a third of its F/A-18 Hornets made by Boeing Co. about a quarter of its CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters made by Lockheed’s Sikorsky unit available to fly operational missions, according to the report.

While its modernization programs are relatively on track, the Corps “has only two-thirds of the combat units that it actually needs, especially when accounting for expanded requirements that include cyber units and more crisis-response forces,” it states.

Strategic Threats

Even the nation’s nuclear forces only received a score of “marginal,” according to the document.

While the delivery platforms such as the B-2 Spirit bomber “are good, the force depends on a very limited set of weapons (in

number of designs) and models that are quite old, in stark contrast to the aggressive programs of competitor states,” it states.

“Russia has rattled its nuclear saber in a number of recent provocative exercises; China has been more aggressive in militarily pressing its claims to the South and East China Seas; North Korea is heavily investing in a submarine-launched ballistic missile capability; and Iran has achieved a nuclear deal with the West that effectively preserves its nuclear capabilities development program for the foreseeable future,” the document states.

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter has made the case for a down payment of \$108 billion over the next five years in the long-term effort to modernize the nation’s nuclear triad that will eventually cost hundreds of billions.

Notably, while Trump has taken a softer approach toward Russia -- he recently talked to Russian President Vladimir Putin on the telephone about possible ways to combat terrorism and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS -- the Heritage report states, “Russia and China continue to be the most worrisome, both because of the investments they are making in the modernization and expansion of their offensive military capabilities and because of the more enduring effect they are having within their respective regions.”

Source: Military.com

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“You are part of the world’s most feared and trusted force. Engage your brain before you engage your weapon.”

—General James Mattis’ Letter to 1st Marine Division

Liberals, Teachers Unions Are REALLY Upset About Trump’s Ed Secretary Pick

by Blake Neff,
Daily Caller News Foundation

President-Elect Donald Trump’s choice to nominate Betsy DeVos as the next Secretary of Education has sent progressives around the country into a tizzy, with teachers unions and other groups denouncing her as a dramatic threat to the current status quo of public education.

Within the Republican Party, Trump’s choice was seen as a form of outreach, bringing in a woman who was a close ally of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and who had harshly criticized Trump during the GOP primaries.

But on the other side of American politics, DeVos made some figures apoplectic. DeVos, who chairs the American Federation

for Children, has a long history of pushing for enhanced school choice around the country. According to the country’s top teachers unions, though, her true agenda is a corporate takeover of America’s schools.

“The president-elect, in his selection of Betsy DeVos, has chosen the most ideological, anti-public education nominee put forward since President Carter created a Cabinet-level Department of Education,” said American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten in a statement. “In nominating DeVos, Trump makes it loud and clear that his education policy will focus on privatizing, defunding and destroying public education in America.”

The National Education Association, the country’s largest teach-

ers union, was equally unhappy.

“[DeVos] has consistently pushed a corporate agenda to privatize, de-professionalize and impose cookie-cutter solutions to public education,” complained the group’s president, Lily Eskelsen Garcia. “By nominating Betsy DeVos, the Trump administration has demonstrated just how out of touch it is with what works best for students, parents, educators and communities.”

Union hostility towards DeVos is no surprise. Charter schools and private schools, for which DeVos is a top advocate, both are far less unionized than regular public schools.

The progressive advocacy group Center for American Progress (CAP), meanwhile, complained

that DeVos has no history of focusing on early childhood education or fighting against bullying, which it suggested should be top priorities for the secretary of education. It also warned that the DeVos pick could herald an effort to defund the Department of Education.

“By nominating a candidate with a proven record of hostility toward public education, Donald Trump is sending a troubling signal about his plans to privatize education from cradle to career, as well as scale back the Department of Education’s resources,” said CAP’s education Vice President Catherine Brown.

While unions warned of a corporate takeover of education, other groups argued DeVos’s support for school vouchers would lurch

America towards a theocracy.

“[DeVos] has fought to divert resources away from public schools into private, mostly religious institutions,” said Rev. Barry Lynn of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. “This is indeed a dark day for public education in America.”

Similarly, the Interfaith Alliance said the DeVos pick suggested Trump has “little regard” for “the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.”

(Editor/GG: Bwaaaaaaaaaaaaa. They need their safe space.)

Read more: <http://dailycaller.com/2016/11/25/liberals-teachers-unions-are-really-upset-about-trumps-ed-sec-pick/>

Food Stamps and Junk Food

by Tyler Durden,
ZeroHedge.com

A new study just released by the USDA, offers a very detailed look at exactly how participants in the “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program” (SNAP, aka Food Stamps) spend their taxpayer-funded subsidies. Unfortunately for taxpayers, the amount of money spent on soft drinks and other unnecessary junk foods/drinks is fairly staggering. But, we suppose it’s a nice taxpayer funded subsidy for the soda industry...so score one for Warren Buffett and the Coca Cola lobbyists.

Per the study, nearly \$360mm, or 5.4 percent of the \$6.6BN of food expenditures made by SNAP recipients, is spent on soft drinks alone. In fact, soft drinks represent the single largest “commodity” purchased by SNAP participants with \$100mm more spent on sodas than milk and \$150mm more than beef.

Soft drinks were the top commodity bought by food stamp recipients shopping at outlets run by a single U.S. grocery retailer.

That is according to a new study released by the Food and Nutrition Service, the federal agency responsible for running the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly known as the food stamp program.

By contrast, milk was the top commodity bought from the same retailer by customers not on food stamps.

In calendar year 2011, according to the study, food stamp recipients spent approximately \$357,700,000 buying soft drinks from an enterprise the study reveals only as “a leading U.S. grocery retailer.”

That was more than they spent on any other “food” commodity—including milk (\$253,700,000), ground beef (\$201,000,000), “bag snacks” (\$199,300,000) or “candy-packaged” (\$96,200,000), which also ranked among the top purchases.

Even worse, when we added up all the commodities that would typically be considered “junk food” (i.e. soft drinks, candy, cakes, energy drinks, etc.), we found that roughly \$950mm, or just over **14 percent of the aggregate \$6.6BN of food expenditures made by SNAP recipients, is spent on unnecessary, unhealthy products.**

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U.S. Completes 22 Straight Years of Trade Deficits With Mexico

by Terrence P. Jeffrey, CNSNews.com

The United States ran a merchandise trade deficit of \$5,243,300,000 with Mexico in September, according to newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

That completes 22 straight years in which the United States has run monthly merchandise trade deficits with Mexico.

The last time the United States ran a merchandise trade surplus with Mexico was September 1994—when the U.S. ran a \$4,700,000 bilateral surplus with its southern neighbor.

The U.S. Census Bureau has published monthly figures on the export and import of goods to and from Mexico going back to January 1985. In the 31 complete calendar years that have passed since then (1985 through 2015), the United States has run merchandise trade surpluses with Mexico in four years and deficits in 27 years.

Three of those years that the U.S. ran a surplus—1991,1992,1993—were before the North American Free Trade Agreement took effect (NAFTA). The fourth year the United States ran a merchandise trade surplus with Mexico—1994—was the first year NAFTA took effect.

September 1994 was the last month that the United States ran a monthly merchandise trade surplus with Mexico. Two months before that, in July 1994, the U.S. ran a \$592,700,000 merchandise trade surplus with Mexico. One month before that, in August 1994, the U.S. ran a \$99,700,000 merchandise

trade surplus with Mexico.

But the next month--October 1994--the United States ran a \$81,600,000 merchandise trade deficit with Mexico.

Since then, the United States has not run a merchandise trade surplus with Mexico in any single month.

Prior to 1991, the U.S. ran up a 45-month stretch of merchandise trade deficits with Mexico, running from January 1985 through September 1988. That string was broken when the U.S. ran a merchandise trade surplus with Mexico of \$49,100,000 in October 1988.

NAFTA—which created a free-trade zone between Mexico, the United States and Canada--was signed by the then-lame-duck President George H.W. Bush in December 1992. The deal was not ratified as a treaty, which under the U.S. Constitution would have required a two-thirds majority in the Senate for ratification. Instead, it was approved on a so-called “fast-track” that required only majority votes in both the House and Senate.

The House and Senate approved the NAFTA in 1993 and President Bill Clinton signed it in December 1993.

In the years since NAFTA took effect, bilateral trade between the United States and Mexico has increased, but in every month after September 1994, the value of the goods that the United States imported from Mexico has exceeded the value of the good the United States exported to Mexico. As of September 2016, the U.S. had run merchandise trade deficits with Mexico for 264 straight months.

In 1994, the U.S. merchandise trade surplus with Mexico was \$1,349,800,000. In 2015, the U.S. merchandise trade deficit with Mexico was \$60,662,8000.

In the first nine months of 2016 (January through September), the U.S. merchandise trade deficit with Mexico has been \$46,811,500,000.

In February of this year, the Obama administration signed the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement, which includes Mexico and Canada as well as nine other countries, and which now needs to be approved by Congress to take effect.

In 2015, the United States ran its largest merchandise trade deficit with China—a record \$367,172,900,000, according to the Census Bureau. In the first nine months of this year, the U.S. has run a merchandise trade deficit of \$257,671,800,000 with China.

(Editor/GG: This NAFTA/Free Trade garbage was foisted on us by the Rino brigade headed by George H. W. Bush in 1992 and implemented in 1994, resulting in the literal destruction of our manufacturing sector starting that very year. After 22 years of enormous trade deficits and our companies migrating to Mexico for the cheap labor, one would think that our legislators would maybe GET RID OF THE DARN THING. Nope. No-bama and the statsits want to make it even bigger. I wonder why.)

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Chicago: Muslim Leader Says “Islam Is Not Here to Integrate. Islam Is Here to Dominate”

by Tim Brown,
FreedomOutpost.com

At least there is one Muslim in America who is open and honest about what Islam is and what it is here for. No taqiyya, no mincing of words. Islam is here to dominate.

Haitham Ibn Thbait, of the American chapter of Hizb Ut-Tahrir, told American Muslims earlier this year that Islam was not here to integrate, but rather to dominate.

The Prophet said: “There is no god but Allah. Instead the [elites of Mecca] rejected. They offered the Prophet wealth, status and political representation – a seat on the executive branch within Mecca’s secular order – all to avoid this statement and its implications. Yet he rejected their offers and continued his journey towards radical change, providing us with step-by-step instructions on how to make this religion supreme.”

“The elites of Mecca would use every possible measure to coerce or contain Muhammad’s call for change within specific parameters. Those parameters would permit the changing of anything that did not threaten their system and infringe on their power. But this message is not here to integrate. It is here to dominate. Islam is here to dominate! This was

an ideological struggle, the sole purpose of which was to organize Man’s affairs in accordance with a system revealed by Allah.

There was no room for compromise. Instead Allah revealed to the Prophet, saying: ‘Proclaim openly, as commanded, and turn away from those who associate others with Allah.’ ‘Proclaim openly, as commanded by Allah’ – this is our activism. It is free of polytheism, the polytheism of a secular system. Activism within a flawed infidel system is forbidden.

There is definitely a problem with polytheism in our land, but Islam will not help that since it is a flawed ideology that thrives on death, not life, and because it is an anti-Christ religion at its heart.

Haitham Ibn Thbait then said: You cannot raise your hands to Allah, while extending your hands to men for legislation. Every four years, you do just that. Muslims are pressured to get out there and vote, believing somehow that their insignificant numbers have an impact. The effort to get Muslims out there to vote has never been about their significance. It is part of an effort to assimilate Muslims.

They have tricked Muslims into voting for Clinton, who went on to starve half a million children in Iraq to death. They tricked

Muslims into voting for Bush, who went on to bomb two Muslim countries and kill millions. And they went on to trick Muslims to vote for Obama, who bombed seven Muslim countries and killed millions.

The argument used was always the “lesser of evils.” So now, killing millions of Muslims is a “lesser evil.” “What is the matter with you? How do you judge?” [Quran 68:36] The ballots have brought you nothing but disgrace, and have soaked you with the blood of your Muslim brothers and sisters. The problem with their system is not the scores of dead. It is deeper than that. It is their secular faith. It is in direct opposition with our creed, when Allah says: “Legislation belongs to none other than Allah.”

Muhammad and his companions established for us a political system where sovereignty belongs to Allah and not to the elites, where politics meant caring for the affairs of Mankind, not only the elites, where da’wa was conveyed to the whole of society, not only to the oppressed and excluding the elites. This system was not for the 99% or the 1%. This system was for the 100%. For those of us in the West, Allah granted us the opportunity to be amidst a people so misinformed that the truth we offer will resonate. Our voice is our greatest weapon, and

our silence is our worst enemy.

... They want to entice you and intimidate you into embracing their way of life. They want to change our Islam. We are not their puppets. We are a cure and a mercy. We carry a comprehensive system of solutions for Mankind, and we should act accordingly. Muslims in the West are a part of this struggle. We should not underestimate our impact in this global effort. We need to be honest about who we are, what our global program is, and advocate for the system of Islam, wherever we may be, and explain it to Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Don’t fall into the electoral trap.

Some of what Thbait says is true. This idea of being used is very true, not only of Muslims, but of many in our society. However, Islam does not offer truth. It offers lies. As for killing Muslims, perhaps one should follow the blood trail left by Islam, not just in this

century, but in the previous nine!

While I do admire his conviction, it’s placed in the wrong thing. I wish more Christians understood their divine mandate and obeyed it (Matthew 28:19-20). I wish they understood that Christians are ambassadors for King Jesus and that He is dominating the world through the message we are to be teaching others (1 Corinthians 15).

Sadly, American Christians many times can’t even get the basics of the Gospel right. It is because we have lost our saltiness that we are being trampled underfoot in America (Matthew 5:13). May God renew us, even as He did Samson (Judges 16:28), and either cause our enemies to bow to Him or destroy them before us.

Please see: <http://freedomoutpost.com/muslim-leader-in-us-islam-is-not-here-to-integrate-islam-is-here-to-dominate/>



Islam: Turkey Votes to Make Child Rape LEGAL for Men Who MARRY Their Victims

by Pamela Geller,
PamelaGeller.com

Obama has boasted on more than one occasion that he calls President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey for his advice on how to raise his daughters, Malia and Sasha. Obama praised Erdoğan and said this: “And I also appreciate the advice he gives me, because he has two daughters that are a little older than mine — they’ve turned out very well, so I’m always interested in his perspective on raising girls.”

Obama has said Erdoğan was his “favorite” and “most trusted” ally.

Erdoğan has spoken out against contraception, describing it as “treason” when speaking at a wedding ceremony. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has said women cannot be treated as equal to men and now Erdoğan

calls women who work, “half-persons.”

Obama goes to him for advice on raising girls. This is who has been running our country for the last eight years.

Donald Trump appointed Steve Bannon to a senior position, and there is a chorus of condemnation from the media.

Barack Obama considering a friend and confidante someone who will legalize statutory rape — no problem. That’s the hypocrisy of the media.

“Fury as Turkey votes to make child rape LEGAL for men who MARRY their victims”

by Nick Gutteridge,
Express,
November 19, 2016:

In a move which has shocked world politi-

cians, the Muslim majority country proposed exonerating paedophiles en masse.

Hardline President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s government insists that the new law is designed to pardon men who did not realize they were having sex with underage girls.

But critics have reacted with open fury to the legislation, saying it officially legitimizes both deliberate child rape and forced child marriages.

It comes after a shocking rise in violence against women in Turkey, which has risen by 40 per cent in the past decade.

Opposition Republican Member of the Parliament (MP) Ozgur Ozel raged: “Sexual abuse is a crime and there is no consent in it. This is what the [conservative Justice and Development Party]

AKP fails to understand.

“Seeking the consent of a child is something that universal law does not provide for.”

MPs will have a second vote on the new legislation on Tuesday at which point, if the ballot goes the same way, it will be officially passed into Turkish law.

It is estimated that the change in the law would quash the convictions of some 3,000 men accused of assaulting an under-18 [female].

The government says this will happen if their act was committed without “force or threat” and if the aggressor marries the victim with the consent of their family.

Please see: <http://pamelageller.com/2016/11/erdogans-turkey-votes-make-child-rape-legal-men-marry-victims.html/>

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The Second Amendment Corner Liberty's Line in the Sand



"Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle—"
A Psalm of David, Psalm 144:1

Feds Spell It Out: No Gun for You If You Fire Up in a Pot-Legal State

by Corey Hutchins,
The Colorado Independent

In Colorado, can you own a gun if you use marijuana?

The feds say no. State law is silent. And updated language from the Federal Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) on its gun-transaction paperwork has people once again talking about the conflict between Colorado law and federal law.

This week, the Department of ATF said it will issue a new form that gun buyers must fill out when purchasing a firearm.

The form, which takes effect January 16, 2017, includes an added warning that reads: "The use or possession of marijuana remains unlawful under Federal law regardless of whether it has been legal-

ized or decriminalized for medicinal or recreational purposes in the state where you reside."

That warning follows original language in the form that requires a buyer to answer yes or no to a question about whether he or she is "an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance."

The ATF is required to update its forms every few years, says Lisa Meiman, a spokeswoman for the Denver division of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

"And since there have been so many changes to state laws since 2012, when it was last updated we took the opportunity to remind everybody what federal law has to say about marijuana use and gun ownership," she says.

The updated warning underscores an existing conflict between state and federal laws. Multiple states have since followed Colorado's lead in legalizing



recreational marijuana, including California, Massachusetts and Nevada.

In decades past, "this wasn't an issue because marijuana wasn't legal anywhere," says David Kopel, a Colorado attorney

who has written books and articles about gun laws and the Second Amendment. "So they are updating the form to raise an issue that applies to people all over

the country."

But, he says, the updated language does not change anything regarding Colorado law versus federal law.

And that's where the issue

gets sticky.

Colorado law doesn't say whether someone of the appropriate age can carry a legal firearm and a legal amount of marijuana at the same time, John Jackson, the chief of police for Greenwood Village and a former director of the state police chief's association has said.

"If they're 21 and they've got a joint, and a gun on their hip, there's no issue there," he told *The Independent* in September.

But the ATF, clearly, has a different perspective.

"Under federal law, a marijuana user cannot legally possess a firearm," Meiman told *The Independent*. Not even in Colorado where marijuana is legal to have and use.

And now the ATF form will be even more clear on that point.

The feds also likely want to dispel someone from saying they were confused when filling out the form, says Tony Fabian, an attorney who has helped draft firearms legislation in Colorado.

"It's just ATF basically taking that defense away from people," he says, especially for those who might use marijuana for medical purposes and assume their state laws give them cover.

So, to recap: Can you lawfully have a gun in Colorado—say, a shotgun passed down to you by your uncle—and also be in possession of marijuana at the same time? The answer depends upon whom you ask. Or, more importantly, who catches you doing it.

Please see: <http://www.coloradoindependent.com/162630/atf-update-guns-marijuana-pot-colorado-laws>

When the
SECOND AMENDMENT
was written



**All guns were
MILITARY STYLE**

www.NationalGunRights.org

"A free people ought not only to be armed, but disciplined; to which end a uniform and well-digested plan is requisite; and their safety and interest require that they should promote such manufactories as tend to render them independent of others for essential, particularly military, supplies."

— George Washington

Mom Blasts Home Invader Into Oblivion with One Shot

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

Two home invaders targeted the home of a Louisville (KY) woman who learned how to shoot a year and a half ago, and it was the last mistake one of them will ever make.

LOUISVILLE, KY.(DRB) reported;

Louisville Metro Police are investigating after a man is shot and killed in east Louisville.

It happened shortly after 3:30 p.m. at a home in the 3800 block of Northumberland Drive near Westport Road in the Worthington Hills area.

LMPD says two men tried to break into a home at that location when a female homeowner shot and killed one of them.

The man who died has been identified as 23-year-old Eric Gathwright. He died at 3:30 p.m. on the scene from a gunshot wound.

He was found by police just outside the house, while the other was arrested shortly thereafter.

The son of the homeowner described what happened between his mother

and the attempted burglars.

"They busted the back window out, and that's when she stepped out of the hallway and let one shot go and hit somebody, and obviously she got him," said Bruce Haddix, whose mother shot the man.

The other suspect, 23-year-old Aaron McDuffie, has been charged with burglary and with Gathwright's death under Kentucky's implementation of the felony murder rule.

Haddix said that his mother is shaken up by the incident, which is entirely understandable. Taking a life is never easy, even when it is more than likely justified as it appears to be in this instance.

It's a good thing that Haddix's mother heeded his advice a year and a half ago, learned how to use a gun, and then purchased one. If she hadn't, we may have been reading about another kind of felony crime instead.

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Please see: bearingarms.com/bob-o/2016/11/21/louisville-mom-blasts-home-invader-oblivion-one-shot/

This Case Could Shatter ALL Federal Gun Control Laws

by Bob Owens,
BearingArms.com

The federal trial of a Kansas man for manufacturing and selling firearms and silencers without a federal license could very well turn out to be the pivotal case that not only challenges the constitutionality of the National Firearms Act of 1934, but also every federal firearms law ever passed in a battle that will determine whether it is the states or the federal government that has the constitutional right to pass gun laws.

Put bluntly, this could be huge.

When Shane Cox began selling his homemade firearms and silencers out of his military surplus store, he stamped "Made in Kansas" on them to assure buyers that a Kansas law would prevent federal prosecution of anyone owning firearms made, sold and kept in the state.

The 45-year-old Chanute, Kansas, resident also handed out copies to customers of the Second Amendment Protection Act passed in 2013 by the Kansas Legislature and signed by Gov. Sam Brownback, and even collected sales taxes. His biggest selling item was unregistered gun silencers that were flying out of the shop as fast as Cox could make them, prosecutors said later. One of those customers – 28-year-old Jeremy Kettler of Chanute – was so enthusiastic about the silencer that he posted a video on Facebook.

But last week a jury found Cox guilty of violating federal law for the manufacture, sale and possession of unregistered firearms and silencers. Kettler was found guilty on one count for possessing the unregistered silencer.

The case could reverberate across the country because it cites the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, pitting the federal government's right to regulate firearms against the rights of states. The judge overseeing the case expects it ultimately to end up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

At trial, defense attorneys contended their clients believed the Kansas law made their activities legal, arguing they are "caught in the crossfire" of the struggle between the state and the federal government over gun control.

Cox and Kettler were convicted under the National Firearms Act, which is a part of the Internal Revenue code enacted under Congress' power to levy taxes. The case raises the question of whether that taxing authority can be used to regulate firearms that stay within state borders. Advocates for state's rights also contend such guns do not fall under Congress' power to regulate interstate commerce.

After a decades-long wait, we finally appear to have a case that is likely to see the United States Supreme Court have to directly examine whether the Founding Fathers meant what they said when they wrote amendments to a federal Constitution that was designed to tightly bind and constrict the reach of the federal government.

What most 21st Century Americans simply do not grasp is that the Constitution and Bill of Rights were not written to give rights to the citizens of our then-new nation, but was instead written to tightly constrain the federal government.

The Bill of Rights was added

to the Constitution to placate the concerns of the Anti-Federalists, and was meant to be ten strong chains binding down the then-puny federal leviathan to prevent future abuses.

The Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights was written by Founding Fathers who understood the right to bear arms as a natural human right that the Creator bestowed upon each and every human being. How can there be any other right, if the right to defend your life is not the most paramount right of them all?

They almost felt it silly to have to codify a natural right that was so obviously self-evident to them, but knowing that a federal government unchained is a federal government tyrannical, they ratified the basic human right to bear arms within the Second Amendment.

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

The Founders and following generations thought this to be very clear language. They recognized a well-armed and well-trained citizenry as the well-regulated militia, and that having citizens both well-armed and well-trained with military-grade arms was imperative to the survival of the young Republic not just against foreign nations and native tribes, but also the ever-hungry, ever-corrupting desire of nation-states to grow and seize power for themselves, turning citizens into subjects, and subjects into slaves with both edicts and chains figurative and literal.

That the Second Amendment

meant the federal government in Washington had no power to constrain or regulate arms was an unquestioned reality for the first 143 years of our Republic, and then the Democrats of the 1930s, under the disreputable and dishonorable Franklin D. Roosevelt, decided that the Constitution and Bill of Rights no longer mattered.

FDR and his congress were bound and determined to enslave the states to the will of his federal government, and the National Firearms Act of 1934 was a direct challenge to the sovereignty of the states to make laws regarding firearms. It was also a thumb in the eye of the Founders who had clearly written the Second Amendment to mean that the federal government was constrained from passing gun laws.

That's precisely what the Founders meant when they wrote that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed" upon by the federal government. Quite simply, the Congress and President lack the constitutional authority to pass any gun laws.

Not a single one.

The only federal challenge to the constitutionality of National Firearms Act to date was *U.S. vs Miller* in 1939, which was uncontested when neither the defendant nor his attorney showed before the federal court.

As a result, we've never had these federal gun laws challenged on the fundamental level.

If Cox and Kettler's attorneys see this challenge through the courts, we can expect it to arrive before a U.S. Supreme Court in

several years time. It will be a high court shaped by the 45th President of the United States, Donald Trump, and the organization that spent more money than any other to help him win the Presidency, the National Rifle Association.

If President Trump and a Republican-controlled Senate put a textualist judge on the high court to replace Antonin Scalia, and any or all of the three elderly liberal-to-moderate justices are replaced by textualists before Cox and Kettler come before the high court, there would seem to be a high likelihood that a strict reading of the Constitution and Second Amendment would regard the National Firearms Act as clearly being an unconstitutional usurpation of powers reserved for the states.

It's going to be very tempting for most of the nation to celebrate such an affirmation of states rights, but it's also important to realize that as the Supreme Court strikes down federal powers to pass gun laws, it simultaneously places those powers in the hands of state governments, and not all state governments were smart enough to mirror the natural right to bear arms reflected in the Second Amendment.

We indeed live in interesting times, and I look forward to living in a world where the Supreme Court upholds the laws of the land, and not the whims of activists in robes.

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Please see: bearingarms.com/bob-o/2016/11/22/this-law-suit-could-shatter-all-federal-gun-laws/

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Politics & The Bible From Pastor Jim



Jim Modlish has been in ministry 50 years, pastoring churches from upstate New York to 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, happily returned to their home state in 2006. He is currently the founding pastor of Huerfano Community Bible Church in



Walsenburg. 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 the King James Version.

Course Change, Please!

Considering the era of its construction, the Titanic was an engineering feat difficult to imagine. This magnificent ship was 882 ½ feet long...the equivalent of three football fields; she had nine decks complete with appointments that were only found in first class hotels. James Cameron's movie rendered an accurate view of the lavishness of the interior. One anchor weighed 15 ½ tons; one link in the anchor chain weighed 175 lbs., and the rivets which held the ship together contained 1200 tons of steel. The vessel was outfitted with a double bottom and sixteen water tight compartments, thus labeling it "unsinkable." The behemoth required 650 tons of coal a day to propel her at speeds that rivaled any other liner of that day.

The captain of the Titanic had been given several warnings regarding the sightings of icebergs in the shipping lanes of the North Atlantic. He chose to ignore them and even ordered the crew to set an accelerated speed in order to arrive in New York ahead of schedule. In fact, five messages were telegraphed to the Titanic, and when the sixth warning "look out for icebergs" came in, the ship's operator wired back, "Shut up, I'm busy."

There are some applicable comparisons to the construction of America and the giant craft. Our nation has occupied a place in human history which has been replicated by no other; not only in its physical accomplishments but also in its advancements of individual freedom. America has been a bellwether of liberty, leaving an impression for the world to notice. Is this ship unsinkable? "Not even God could sink this ship" is a quote that has been attributed to several...how still were their boasts after April 14, 1912!

During his 2008 campaign Barack Obama asserted that our national debt was a threatening iceberg capable of disastrous consequences but proceeded to double it in eight years...full steam ahead! Border security and a myriad of other issues are floating just beneath the surface bearing the capacity of utter destruction. Had the Titanic's captain heeded the warnings and changed course by even the fewest of degrees, the catastrophe may have been avoided. One post-election headline read "Clinton Campaign Failed to Heed the Warning!" Hillary's opponent marshalled the majority of the 70% of citizens who believe we are in desperate need of a change in direction. Ordinary sailors have a far greater respect for the threat of icebergs than the Harvard elites.

One of the targeted criticisms leveled at Mr. Trump by the Democrats (look who's talking) and a number of Republicans has been some of his apparent character flaws. Caption Edward John Smith may have been a highly principled man or a moral scoundrel...the difference maker was his unwillingness to alter the route. One of the unique characteristics of the Bible is God's inclination to detail the faults and sins of His heroes. Even though the Lord seems to display a general tendency to use "quality folks," He has periodically utilized some real hairballs. Of course, who isn't a rogue in the light of "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (James 2:10)

The Biblical book of Judges illustrates the great scientific law that governs all history which is the "Principle of Human Collapse." The volume chronicles a roller coaster of spiritual declines followed by Israel finding itself in servitude to a variety of enemies. "And when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer" is a familiar phrase throughout the Book. Of thirteen Judges a small minority are said to have had a pious bent leaving the majority as primarily political leaders. It seems God leaves it up to the people to upright their own spiritual ship when He sends them relief.

Samson, the last in the lineup of leaders, was dedicated by his parents to be a Nazarite according to instructions delivered by an angel. The Nazarite lifestyle involved a number of rules intended to demonstrate separation unto holy living. (See Numbers 6) In unusual irony, there is no indication that Samson made any effort to keep any of the commandments and even purposely violated several of them. His entire life was a moral train wreck, yet God strengthened him for twenty years to harass the Philistines who relinquished their power begrudgingly.

Some have been critical of many Evangelicals who voted for Trump. They have failed to realize we have never considered him to be an Isaiah, Jeremiah or John the Baptist...but only a Samson to keep the Liberals at bay. It's up to us to be introspective concerning our own spirituality.

We conclude with a Paul Harvey moment: Samson is listed in God's Hall of Fame (Hebrews 11:32) in spite of committing suicide, taking 3,000 Philistines with him. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord." (Isaiah 55:8) Go figure!

A Sheepdog Barks!

Here we go again. Consider how the LPSDs deal with crisis and self-protection, RUN, HIDE, FIGHT. Really? Run and Hide? BAAA! Fight with what? I-phones, strong words, spitballs? Another gun free zone, another near real tragedy. America needs "Campus Carry" rights for self-protection and America needs them now. This crud will NOT stop. As long as there are tens of thousands of refugees in our schools and our communities our citizens and students will be in danger. It's always the same story, "He was a nice guy." "He was so polite, so friendly." "He was kind of a loner." "Not all Somalis are bad." "Yeah he kinda complained about Muslim things but he seemed like a great guy." "I was shocked." Insane! This jerk just followed the ISIS guidelines. Use vehicles and knives. Kill the infidels. And most of our authorities want to downplay this latest Ohio State University (OSU) Islamic terrorist attack. Forget this "lone wolf" crap! Forget this "self-radicalization" BS! These are not "lone" wolves. They are just "single" wolves out of thousands of wolf packs. If this had happened only ONCE in our history you might assume it was a "lone" wolf. After dozens of attacks "lone" is no longer applicable. They are not "self-radicalized" either. They are "radicalized" by an organized effort within a major religion which starts when they are babies. And they are ALL radicalized. I have listened to several dozen Muslims who have converted to Christianity. They all describe their early life the very same way. They are taught from infancy that Jews are animals, infidels need killed, Jihad is good, homicide bombers are rewarded and honor killings are okay. Stop with the crazy explanation that somehow these young Muslims "radicalize" themselves. Only stupid LPSDs believe that. Excuse me for being redundant. Isn't it odd that as soon as we hear about some bomb going off or some incident like the one at OSU we immediately think of 18 to 40-year-old Muslim men? I don't for one minute believe I am the only one that immediately thinks that. WOOF! Thank God this uncontrolled, unvetted flow of refugees is going to start slowing down. Trump is coming to

the rescue! WOOF!

The meltdown of the mainstream media (MSM) and the Democrat Party continues. They continue to try to make a mountain out of every Trump molehill. The MSM can't stand that he won't kiss their ring so they take every opportunity to denounce him and his actions. Christiane Amanpour, a CNN reporter, almost had a mental breakdown on TV. She claims that under a Trump administration reporters are in actual danger and might even be put in cages. She went on to say that it is time to fight hard and report the truth regardless of the potential harm to them. Isn't that funny? Given a Trump presidency she calls out her colleagues to report the truth. Really? Haven't they always been doing that? Apparently not about Obama or Clinton. A little slip of the truth there. The MSM is as untrustworthy and dishonest as HilLIARY. They are not to be trusted, ever. I hope President-Elect Trump doesn't ever feel like he needs the MSM to "like" him. They won't ever give him a fair shake about anything he does or doesn't do. WOOF!

Five more cops were shot in the last 14 days. Not a peep out of that unpatriotic, racist, bigot occupying the White House. He sure can rush to the microphones and cameras when some "unarmed" black man resisting arrest or attacking the police is killed though. It is shameful. He supports an organization like Black Lives Matter but he can't be seen speaking up for the lives of law enforcement officers who are our leading edge of the sword against lawlessness and anarchy. Sixty policemen were killed in firearm related incidents in 2016. That is a 67 percent increase over 2015. Twenty of those were killed by black men in ambush style attacks. This deplorable behavior lies right at the feet of Obama. He created this mess. Trump will have to clean it up and fast. WOOF!

Here are a few more recent LPSD happenings. Seventy people were shot in Chicago over the Thanksgiving weekend. Chicago is totally controlled by the LPSDs and has been for a long time. We can only assume Mr. Emanuel and the other Democrats there



don't want it any other way WOOF! Good ole Rahm, and the other Democrat mayors, only care about protecting their Sanctuary City status. And the mayors have been joined by the LPSD university and college presidents who say they will remain Sanctuary Schools to "protect" their students. I love this. Let's see how many will stick to their screwed up beliefs when they start losing their federal money. You want to break the law. You need to suffer the consequences. Those mayors and presidents need "perp walked" to court and then incarcerated. NO ONE is above the law. I hope we can count on President Trump and Attorney General Sessions to see to that. WOOF!

My final thought this week is that the louder the LPSDs scream about Trump's administration picks the better he is doing. They have started speaking out already about how they will obstruct everything. The Republicans, in total control, need to steamroll right over them. Senator Schumer is demanding a "mainstream" Supreme Court nominee. What the h3!! does that mean? Not a chance, baby. We want three or four more Scalias. WOOF! Senator Elizabeth Warren, a radical left wing idiot, is now trying to tell America that the election proved that the country wants the Dems in power because the "majority" of America voted for them and HilLIARY. WHAT? She went on to say that the only reason they didn't win the White House and the Senate majority is because they didn't communicate their platform well enough. Delusional! I guess this is why they need a recount. I think you screwed up here HilLIARY. Lock her up, Mr. President-Elect. WOOF!

More Good News. Obama only has 50 days left to screw up America. WOOF!

May God Have Mercy On America! JMH



Colorado Senate GOP Launches New Energy/Environment Committee

by ColoradoPeakPolitics.com

November 30th, Colorado Senate Republicans announced a new committee called the Energy and Environment Committee. According to a press release, the new committee, chaired by Republican state Senator Ray Scott from Grand Junction, “would be free to hold hearings on a wide range of energy and environmental issues facing Colorado, especially in light of expected policy changes from the Trump administration.”

As you may recall, Peak-Nation, Governor Hickenlooper decided to charge ahead with the Clean Power Plan, or a Colorado version, despite 22 states suing the federal government to ask whether it’s

even legal. Hickenlooper issued an executive order to, at the very least, move forward with a Colorado version. With the change in direction a given now that Donald Trump, not Hillary Clinton, is president-elect, there is an opportunity to change the conversation on

state Sen. John Cooke, who will sit on the committee along with newly-elected state Sen. Kevin Priola:

“Energy is one of the two or three top economic engines driving Colorado’s economy, so we must find a way to support those

important to Colorado’s energy consumers and business climate to not pursue a truly all-of-the-above approach, which includes coal, oil and gas, renewables and maybe even nuclear. It’s time to put Colorado energy consumers first by embracing energy policies guided by practical reality, not extreme ideology.”

So, see fractivists— you can be pro-energy development and pro-environment. The two aren’t mutually exclusive, at least not when the GOP is in charge.

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“It’s time to put Colorado energy consumers first by embracing energy policies guided by practical reality...”

the intersection of oil and gas development and the environment.

According to Republican

jobs and revenues while also protecting the natural places that make Colorado special. Reliable and affordable energy are too im-

SPIRIT from page 1

community to increase the Matching Fund for 2016. An additional gift of \$5,000 community to increase the Matching Fund for 2016. An additional gift of \$5,000 will be added to the Matching Fund if the Community Foundation receives \$5,000 in donations identified as matching dollars for this year’s campaign. It is a dollar for dollar match, up to \$5000!

The donation form for contributions to the Spirit Campaign can be downloaded from [www. http://wmvcf.org/](http://wmvcf.org/) and is printed in this edition of the newspaper.

The *Sentinel* will print a feature listing all the qualifying non-profits in next week’s edition.

Community Spirit Campaign Donation Form

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RUNNERS
from page 1

studied his opponents' times to be ready to step up things to make up for the failure [at State]."

Luke's running outfit is a story in itself, his mother went on to say. He loved watching the athletes in the 2016 Summer Olympics. When he spotted the uniform online, he asked her to buy it especially for this race. "Luke has a special love for his country,... a strong hope and love for the red white and blue." Jeremiah and Elias were each dressed in either solid red or blue, so these three boys made quite a statement at Regionals.

The boys ran "unattached" that morning, so it was up to them (and their parents) to be at the starting line on time. They arrived ready for



Bobcat middle school runner, Jeremiah Taylor.

action with a lot of good coaching under their belts. Kim Canon gives Coach Jesse Taylor much credit for his instruction over the course of the cross-country season, for

"having these boys running and knowing just what they needed to do." About the Nationals race in Alabama on December 10th, she says, "We are definitely going I'm

not sure how, but we'll make it happen." Congratulations, Luke Canon! Keep on running, and we'll be waiting to hear the report.



Bobcat freshman, Elias Zeller, places 32nd.

Photos by Jim Silver

SHERIFF
from page 10

Fire Bug: The Wet Mountain Fire Department and a Sheriff's deputy were dispatched to CR 255 to investigate a smoke report. Stephen Burns

of Fairfax, CA, was issued a summons for violating the Stage II Fire Ban.
Arrest: Adelaide Everhart of Silver Cliff was arrested and booked on Violation of Bail Bond Condi-

tions and Resisting Arrest. The subject was transported to a hospital in Pueblo for evaluation and discharged back into the custody of the Sheriff's Office.
11/27/16:

Traffic Summons: Glenda Lesser-Wyles of Westcliffe fo speeding 10 - 19 over.
Slide-Offs: A deputy was dispatched to several slide-offs just east of McKenzie Junction on Highway 96.

Fire Bug: A deputy was dispatched to Lake DeWeese in response to a report of an open fire. Drew Ducharme of Colorado Springs was issued a summons for violating the Stage II Fire Ban.

*And He changes the times
and the seasons;
He removes kings and raises up kings;
He gives wisdom to the wise
And knowledge to those
who have understanding.*
Daniel 2:21 NKJV



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